CEPF Final Completion and Impact Report

Organization's Legal Name:	United Purpose
Project Title:	Integrated Mangrove Forest Management and Livelihoods in Nigeria (IMFOMALN) Project
Grant Number:	CEPF-103913
Hotspot:	Guinean Forests of West Africa
Strategic Direction:	1 Empower local communities to engage in sustainable management of 40 priority sites and consolidate ecological connectivity at the landscape scale
Grant Amount:	$155,520.88
Project Dates:	July 01, 2018 - June 30, 2021
Date of Report:	November 29, 2021

IMPLEMENTATION PARTNERS

The Integrated Mangrove Association of Nigeria (IMWAN), created and registered during the project, is dedicated to driving sustainable community-level mangrove management. As a Community-Based Organization (CBO), members were responsible for project activities, especially implementation of forest management plans. IMWAN representatives at the cluster level led the development/elaboration process with support from the Local Government and Forestry Commission.
IMWAN directors and cluster heads, and community/village heads were responsible for mangrove regeneration. The IMWAN Director supported in an oversight and monitoring capacity. The village head and community IMWANs nominated trained members to engage in regeneration field work, including site selection and preparation; seedling collection; and replanting.
20 IMWAN members—10 each from cooperative groups and forest management groups—were in each of the 15 communities. The cooperative group were trained on business development plans and responsible for the livelihood aspect in their communities, according to the project design, to ensure sustainability and encourage alternative livelihood options.
The NGO Coalition for Environment (NGOCE) were facilitating mangrove regeneration and planting fast-growing trees in woodlots for logging and firewood purposes. During project implementation, the relationship with this partner became dysfunctional due to a number of factors notably with the regeneration of the mangroves and woodlots. As a result the management of UP, through a rigorous procurement process contracted EGOTZIN to provide technical support, including producing, collecting, and transplanting seedlings. They worked in a collaborative manner, transferring technical expertise to the community and project team. UP and NGOCE oversaw and coordinated. The communities selected sites and tree varieties, and IMWAN and EGOTZIN developed nursery woodlots and transplanted woodlot and mangrove species

CONSERVATION IMPACTS

Planned Long-Term Impacts: 3+ years (as stated in the approved proposal)

Impact Description	Impact Summary
Impact 1.3: Communities develop Sustainable Mangrove Forest Management Plans for an area the size of 48,000 hectares after 5 years.	Each Community has a Sustainable Mangrove Forest Management Plan covering the community's agreed upon regeneration hectares. This Forest management plan is a 5-year plan. It takes cognizance of other existing policies relating to land and land use, tenure, agriculture, fisheries, energy, environment, mining, wildlife, and water. It also embraces collaborative and participatory approaches in natural resources governance that leads to ownership of the initiatives by the stakeholders.
Impact 2.2: Mangrove Action Watch operates as independent watchdog and driver of sustainable forest management initiatives in Cross River State's mangrove areas, linking 50 communities (75,000 people) after 5 years.	Integrated Mangrove Association of Nigeria (IMWAN) was created and registered during the project. IMWANs should work on consolidating their executive bureau in order to move forward and be a key player in the conversation of mangroves and uplifting communities.
Impact 3.2: A 30% reduction in the number of households exclusively reliant on mangrove resources after 5 years.	The livelihood alternative aspect was not carried out. The project suffered from multiple delays (staff turnover, CEPF and UP investigations, COVID19) and from inadequate delivery in light of the original proposal (the project also suffered dysfunctional relationship with some partners to UP, under performances of consultancies for the boreholes and the restoration/woodlot).
Impact 4.2: Mangrove regeneration in three (3) sites results in increased mangrove forest cover of at least 50 hectares after 5 years.	An estimated 9,000 (i.e., 60%) of the 15,000 earmarked Mangroves were successfully regenerated covering two hectares.

Planned Short-Term Impacts: 1 to 3 years (as stated in the approved proposal)

Impact Description	Impact Summary
Impact 1.1: 1,500 men, women, youth and children have increased awareness on and are better able to relate to mangrove ecosystem conservation needs by December 2020	934 people have increased awareness of and are better able to relate to mangrove ecosystem conservation needs. This number includes an additional 616 recorded community members including men, women and youth; and 318 school children. 1,310 men and women were reached through bi-monthly community meetings, routine training and re-training of pupils in schools and printing of IECs distributed in 15 project communities. Others include the distribution of mangrove branded T-shirts with important conservation messages.

Impact Description	Impact Summary
	There was also the formation of environmental clubs in schools—one school each of the three clusters—the objective was to use schoolchildren to spread information on their biodiversity and how it is being affected through lack of protection and uncontrolled logging.
Impact 1.2: Three (3) clusters develop Sustainable Mangrove Forest Management Plans for an area the size of 150 hectares by December 2018.	Each of the three Clusters has a Sustainable Mangrove Forest Management Plan to regenerate 3 hectares by February 2019
Impact 2.1: Mangrove Action Watch works with fifteen (15) communities, Traditional Leaders and State and Local Government to implement and enforce Mangrove Forest Management Plans and community by-laws on mangrove utilization for an area the size of 150 hectares.	IMWAN cooperated with the 15 communities, traditional leaders, and State and Local Government to implement and enforce Mangrove Forest Management Plans and community by-laws.
Impact 3.1: At least 150 households in 15 communities have established cooperatives and businesses, increasing household income by at least 40% after 2,5 years.	The 15 beneficiary communities had 15 cooperatives established in them and they received training on business development plans to help increase household income. The other aspect of the training on livelihood options that was to commemorate this plans according to project design, for each community was not achieved as a result of early project termination.
Impact 4.1: At least 20% of households use sustainably harvested firewood sources by December 2020.	The percentage of woodlot that survived the regeneration process was estimated to be about 10%. This was owing to a number of issues which include, regeneration being done during the dry season and lack of proper care of the nurseries.
Impact 5: Fifteen (15) communities have been established as centres of excellence for sustainable and integrated mangrove management in the South East Niger Delta region of Nigeria by December 2020.	This did not occur. The project was terminated before we could get to this level of implementation.

Unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?

There were two major unexpected positive impacts from the project:
1. The significant changes in the mangrove dependent communities: As a result of the 3,500 mangroves planted in Calabar South, community members acknowledged that their communities are no longer over-flooded by the river. In addition, the restored regenerated mangroves resulted in an increase in periwinkles (a species of small edible whelk or sea snail, a marine gastropod mollusk).

2. Economic impact: Through the regeneration process, there was significant one off increase in economic activity in the community as most IMWANs were engaged in the supplying and planting of the mangroves in the communities. IMWANs in host mangrove regeneration communities for the time being where gainfully employed for the supply and planting of the mangroves and woodlots.

There were three major unexpected negative impacts from the project:

1. The suspension of the project by donor: When the project was suspended by the donor for about 6 months, to investigate procurement and internal processes, the community's trust in UP was significantly lowered, which affected the working relationship with respective communities. After the suspension was lifted, UP organized a reengagement meeting with community members to re-win their trust and explain the reasons behind the suspension. Even though this meeting helped reignite community approval to continue with project implementation, community response to activities was slow, as was expression in the attitude towards the project.

2. The changes on the deliverables: Most conservation projects that have been implemented so far in these mangrove dependent communities have had a pattern of not being fulfilled in terms of their promised deliverables to the community. This has caused the communities to have a lackadaisical attitude towards agreements with donor agencies. The delay and constant changes in implementation of the agreed livelihood structures for community members, along with the unfulfilled construction and provision of this component, have reinforced the communities' previous experiences.

3. COVID 19 affected the project as it prevented interactions with communities for a certain time.

PROJECT RESULTS/DELIVERABLES

Overall results of the project:
The project supported the regeneration of 32,070 mangroves and woodlot seedlings (21,870 mangrove seedlings and 10,200 woodlot seedlings). The regeneration activities by community persons and constant meetings with community stakeholders on conservation has improved community awareness on mangrove conservation. It has also helped communities to take actions to cushion the deplorable state of their mangrove forest thereby positioning themselves in a level to sustainably manage their mangrove forests.

Out of the numbers planted, about 9,000 mangroves and 1,500 woodlots were verified to have survived, which accounts for roughly 40% success. There are quite a number of factors responsible for this, including an unfavorable planting season, lack of maintenance of nurseries by community IMWANs, COVID 19 pandemic, and the audit period by donor partners etc.

The development of three Participatory Forest Management Plan (PFMPs) for each of the clusters of communities helped better position them to sustainably use and manage their mangrove forest resources. The implementation of the PFMP was supervised by IMWAN, which is made up of representatives from the communities. Community forest by-laws were established on both the community and cluster levels. Any individual or household that breaks the law must face the penalties as stated in the by-laws. For example, in Ikot Ewa Effiom, Esuk Effiom and Ikot Okon Etim Ewa communities, anyone caught cutting mangroves in the community must pay a fine determined by the community. These laws served communities to reduce illegal loggers that cuts the trees.

Ten of the fifteen communities benefitted from access to safe water sources through the construction of 10 motorized boreholes, which are now serving as sources of safe drinking water and are positioned to supply water for future livelihood projects for the communities.

Component 1: Demonstrate a model for sustainable participatory mangrove forest management and promotion of mangrove-friendly behavior.

A series of educational outreach and awareness actions—an important component in achieving lasting behavior change—were undertaken in the communities in 2019 through town hall meetings, with relevant state actors present to support the process. Information, Communication, and Educational (IEC) materials, such as Forest Management Plans were distributed, as well as t-shirts and posters, to the 15 targeted communities. Children and youth were also included in these outreach activities through visits to each of the three primary and secondary schools in the project Local Government Areas. Mangrove conservation issues were discussed with the students and school management. Children were interviewed on the importance of mangrove conservation for the project documentary shared with donor and local partners. The headteacher promised to carry on the message of mangrove conservation within the school, the communities, and beyond.
UP celebrated Mangrove Day on July 26, 2020 by raising awareness on mangrove-friendly behaviors. The Project engaged the general public through one day public lectures on mangroves. In attendance were government partners and community stakeholders. Further to this, IMWAN was live on radio in an interactive session with the public commemorating the day.

Component 2: Build capacity of Mangrove Action Watch to drive sustainable forest management and voice community demands for conservation.
One major result is the establishment, registration, and substantial capacity-building of the Integrated Mangrove Watch Association of Nigeria – IMWAN (formerly the Mangrove Action Watch) as an official Community Forest Management Association at the National Level. This registration has given IMWAN recognition and relevance with stakeholders across the sector and they are now able to implement and enforce future Sustainable Forest Management Plans. This registration also positions them to fundraise and independently carry out activities related to mangrove conservation, which are crucial for scale-up and sustainability of project activities and results. With the registration, IMWAN sought partnerships with other organizations and government bodies, such as the Niger Delta Development Council (NDDC) to support training for women, farmers, and vulnerable people in that region; the Ministry of Petroleum Resources, to provide alternative fuel for energy; and the Federal Ministry of Agriculture, for funds for cassava farmer's organizations in the clusters.
Several participatory trainings on advocacy, project development and management, and organizational management and leadership were provided for IMWAN to build their capacity in these areas and to be self-sufficient after the end of the project to ensure sustainability.

Component 3: Supporting viable and sustainable livelihoods not reliant on mangrove resources
The project team worked with the 15 cooperatives to identify alternative livelihood options they would like to be supported on (poultry, pig production, fish production, or palm oil processing). A total of 10 water boreholes were drilled and installed in project communities to enable these livelihoods options. These water points are also providing safe drinking water to households in the communities. A contracting and supply error occurred early in the project but was remedied—incorrect generators of 2.5KVA initially procured have been replaced with the proper 3.5KVA generators as per specifications.

Component 4: Facilitate mangrove regeneration and management of woodlots for sustainable firewood harvesting
The mangrove regeneration and firewood woodlot activities were carried out using a Participatory Forest Management Plan (PFMP). Regeneration works only occurred in areas that previously hosted indigenous mangrove species and after ecological, social, and cultural factors and perspectives had been properly assessed. Out of the numbers planted mentioned above, about 9,000 mangroves and 1,500 woodlots were verified to have survived, which accounts for roughly 40% success.

Results for each deliverable:

Component		Deliverable		
#	**Description**	**#**	**Description**	**Results for Deliverable**
1.0	Demonstrate a model for sustainable participatory mangrove forest management and promote mangrove-friendly behaviour.	1.1	Inception Meeting Activity Reports	To begin project implementation, United Purpose (UP) and their partner NGO Coalition for Environment organized one-day inception meetings in all 15 target communities. A total of 619 (263 Female and 356 Males) community representatives including women, men, youth, and community leaders attended the inception meetings across the 15 target communities. The project also included stakeholders from the Cross River State Forestry Commission, Ministry of Climate Change and Forestry, Ministry of Sustainable Development, Cross River National Park, private sector, Civil Society, and the Media. Each of the 15 inception meetings provided a first step to sharing information about the project, managing stakeholders' expectations, defining roles, and getting communities' and other stakeholders' Inputs in the implementation plan. Representatives from government especially emphasized on the relevance of the project, linking improved livelihoods to sustainable forest and biodiversity conservation and the policy implications of positive outcomes from the project implementation. It was useful for the project that from the onset, there is high social/cultural and political acceptance and willingness to support a successful

Component		Deliverable		
#	Description	#	Description	Results for Deliverable
				implementation. Report of the inception meetings exist as separate documents.
1.0	Demonstrate a model for sustainable participatory mangrove forest management and promote mangrove-friendly behaviour.	1.2	3 Sustainable Forest Management Audit reports; 3 Elaborated and operational Sustainable Forest Management Plans; 3 Clusters maps	The project team undertook a participatory environmental audit within the three clusters of the project. This resulted in an audit report that shows the forest management status among the communities in the clusters. A total of 41 women and 62 men including Chiefs, women leaders, youths, LGA Forest Officer-(Forestry Commission) and Mangrove Action Watch members took part in these series of cluster meetings. The findings of the audit revealed that none of the clusters had an existing forest management plan. Following the audit, the team facilitated the development of three Forest Management Plans and the development of 10 community maps. Mangrove Watch played a central role in the planning process, helping to build capacity within the community supporting key stakeholders consultation and feedback. The Forestry Commission played technical advisory role in the planning process and will continue to support the development of by-laws and eventual implementation of the Plans.
1.0	Demonstrate a model for sustainable participatory mangrove forest management and promote mangrove-friendly behaviour.	1.3	3 Sustainable Forest Management Plans implemented as demonstrated in monthly reports by Mangrove Action	15 beneficiary communities have and are operationalizing their forest management plans

Component		Deliverable		
#	Description	#	Description	Results for Deliverable
			Watch and support visits reports	
1.0	Demonstrate a model for sustainable participatory mangrove forest management and promote mangrove-friendly behaviour.	1.4	15 communities, as well as fishermen and government actors with increased awareness as demonstrated by pre and post assessments	The project conducted a KAP-type (Knowledge, Attitude, and Practice) rapid assessment across the 15 communities, sampled fishing settlements and government stakeholders to update existing practices, perceptions, and policy environment that the project needs to address or take advantage of to realize its objectives. Outcome of this assessment was applied in developing messages for the various engagement with communities and other stakeholders in the project, and in the development of the IEC materials. The Mangrove Watch participated in this activity and is strategically including the information gathered in their grassroots mobilization and awareness creation even up to Bakassi communities- beyond the target areas of this project. As it relates to fishermen it showed that 100% of the respondents were aware of the importance of mangrove conservation. Their Perception towards mangrove conservation development among the respondents, 89.2% of them agreed that the mangrove forest is critically endangered and needs to be preserved.
2.0	Build capacity of Mangrove Action Watch to drive sustainable forest management and voice	2.1	Registration record/certificate (Mangrove Action Watch)	The project supported the formation (where non existed) and strengthening (where they existed) of 15 rural livelihoods cooperatives. Each of these cooperatives have received

Component		Deliverable		
#	Description	#	Description	Results for Deliverable
	community demands for conservation.			training in cooperative development and management; and are registered with with the Cross-River State Ministry of Sustainable Development and Social Welfare. Cooperative certificates have been issued to each of the cooperative groups. All issues was handled in the end as IMWANs the corrections were made and published in the papers.
2.0	Build capacity of Mangrove Action Watch to drive sustainable forest management and voice community demands for conservation.	2.2	Training Reports, Advocacy plan/guide and baseline and final CSTT for MAW	Integrated Mangrove Association of Nigeria (IMWAN) was created and registered during the project. The advocacy training was carried out. Due to the early termination of the project, no final assessment was obtained.
2.0	Build capacity of Mangrove Action Watch to drive sustainable forest management and voice community demands for conservation.	2.3	Meeting minutes/reports and action plans to foster participatory forest governance	Meeting with the directors of IMWAN to develop a workplan for the regeneration of 12,000 woodlots and 9,000 mangroves across the three clusters was held. The outcome of this meeting was a draft plan which was further stepped down at community level.
3.0	Supporting viable and sustainable livelihoods not reliant on mangrove resources	3.3	15 communities with fully constructed and operational/stocked agricultural production and/or processing infrastructure as per pictures	The procurement process for the construction of infrastructure and services required for the livelihood options across the 15 communities was stalled. This was as a result of a number of factors ranging from project suspension, to COVID 19 lock down, MoU with the IMWANs etc.
3.0	Supporting viable and sustainable livelihoods not reliant on mangrove resources	3.1	15 Cooperative Registration Certificates	Cooperative Registration certificates have been finalized and obtained for 15 cooperatives of the project. The cooperatives are now duly registered with the Cross-River

Component		Deliverable		
#	Description	#	Description	Results for Deliverable
				State Ministry of Sustainable Development and Social Welfare.
3.0	Supporting viable and sustainable livelihoods not reliant on mangrove resources	3.2	15 Business plans (community cooperatives)	Business development training was organized for the 15 target communities of the project. The result of this training is the development of a business plan by each of the project communities.
3.0	Supporting viable and sustainable livelihoods not reliant on mangrove resources	3.4	15 communities with increased sustainable livelihood management capacities as per training reports	This activity was not done with reasons being that UP's approach to development sustainability is grass root community implementation. That way there will be more ownership of the project, but we were unable to establish a working relationship with some factions of the IMWANs and make them understand on the importance of this approach method as a hard lesson learnt in the first replanting and this went on till the project ended.
3.0	Supporting viable and sustainable livelihoods not reliant on mangrove resources	3.5	Progress reports and harvest and sales records	Livelihood activities never fully commenced
4.0	Facilitate mangrove regeneration and management of woodlots for sustainable firewood harvesting	4.1	GPS locations of sites (regeneration/woodlot) selected	Woodlots sites have been allocated for the regeneration by community Leadership across the three project clusters. The GPS Coordinates for the three sites are: Calabar South LGA Latitude: 4.94465167 Longitude: 8.30726833 Odukpani LGA

Component		Deliverable		
#	Description	#	Description	Results for Deliverable
				Latitude: 4.98514167 Longitude: 8.27776500 Akpabuyo LGA Latitude: 4.86583667 Longitude: 8.40633833
4.0	Facilitate mangrove regeneration and management of woodlots for sustainable firewood harvesting	4.2	Forestry Law Training Report	This activity was conducted using community Forest Management Plans. Community forest byelaws was developed at the end of this training in 15 communities.
4.0	Facilitate mangrove regeneration and management of woodlots for sustainable firewood harvesting	4.3	Mangrove regeneration and woodlot development Progress Reports for each of the three clusters	According to the contractor's report, a total of 32,070 mangroves and woodlot seedlings were planted (21,870 mangrove seedlings and 10,200 woodlot seedlings). Out of the numbers planted, about 9,000 mangroves and 1,500 woodlots were verified to have survived. These regeneration activities, coupled with improved awareness on mangrove conservation, has helped communities to a certain extent, cushion the deplorable state of their mangrove forest of their mangrove forest thereby positioning themselves in a level to sustainably manage their mangrove forests
5.0	Build evidence base on models for participatory forest management and alternative livelihoods approaches in mangrove areas.	5.1	Baseline study report and monitoring plan	Achieved and uploaded in previous report

Component		Deliverable		
#	Description	#	Description	Results for Deliverable
5.0	Build evidence base on models for participatory forest management and alternative livelihoods approaches in mangrove areas.	5.2	Activity Reports including concise report on lessons learned and shared	Out of the numbers planted, about 9,000 mangroves and 1,500 woodlots were verified to have survived, which accounts for roughly 33% success. There are quite a number of factors responsible for this, including an unfavorable planting season, lack of maintenance of nurseries by community IMWANs, COVID 19 pandemic, and the audit period by donor partners etc.
5.0	Build evidence base on models for participatory forest management and alternative livelihoods approaches in mangrove areas.	5.4	At least 5 Monitoring Reports	Activity reports was submitted by partners after every activity.
5.0	Build evidence base on models for participatory forest management and alternative livelihoods approaches in mangrove areas.	5.5	Final Report and Knowledge Products by UP (including fact sheets, lessons learned, stories, documentary)	A 12 minutes video documentary of the project was produced that includes stories, facts and lessons that was shared with relevant partners
7.0	CEPF project management and monitoring for compliance	7.1	Increased understanding of gender issues within United Purpose, as evidenced by comparison of Gender Tracking Tools' scores at project start and end	At the inception of the project the Gender Tracking tools was administered with United Purpose Staff. Below is score on Gender Tracking Tool for United Purpose. Gender Tracking Tool Organization Score United Purpose 10

Component		Deliverable		
#	Description	#	Description	Results for Deliverable
				The baseline Civil Society Tracking Tools and Gender Tracking tool has been administered to NGOCE and Mangrove Action Watch. The tools have been uploaded in the CEPF Portal. See below more information on Civil Society Organizational Capacity Tracking Tool for NGOCE and Mangrove Action Watch.
7.0	CEPF project management and monitoring for compliance	7.2	Increased institutional capacity and understanding of gender issues of NGOCE and Mangrove Action Watch, as evidenced by comparison of Civil Society Tracking Tool and Gender Tracking	Due to the early termination of the project, no final assessment was obtained.
7.0	CEPF project management and monitoring for compliance	7.3	Environmental and Impact Assessment and Health and Safety Plans effectively implemented and monitored as evidenced by the annual report uploaded as annex to the programmatic report submitted every July to CEPF	At the inception of the project, an environmental and social impact assessment was done. This further informed and refined the environmental and social safeguarding plan through. During the commencement of the nursery development & woodlot regeneration, field visits were done to assess any relevant environmental concerns and conditions on sites. In addition, while the Borehole Drilling was being implemented, the Environmental and Impact Assessment and Health and Safety was assessed.
7.0	CEPF project management and monitoring for compliance	7.4	CEPF financial and programmatic reports submitted online on time and accurately	

Component		Deliverable		
#	Description	#	Description	Results for Deliverable
7.0	CEPF project management and monitoring for compliance	7.5	Project impacts monitored and reported online at project end as evidenced by the Final Impact Report	An estimated 33% of the 32,070 earmarked Mangroves and Woodlot were successfully regenerated in two clusters. 150 cooperatives were established in 15 communities and trained on business development plans to help increase household income.
7.0	CEPF project management and monitoring for compliance	7.6	Communication materials are shared with the RIT per email or other online data transfer software	Communication materials have been shared with the regional implementing team by e-mail
6.0	Sub-grant to NGO Coalition for Environment (NGOCE)	6.2	Monthly Technical and Financial Reports	Financial reporting was done on a monthly basis and project expenditures reviewed. Planned activities for the next months are reviewed with both Programme staff and the finance team.
6.0	Sub-grant to NGO Coalition for Environment (NGOCE)	6.1	Signed subgrant agreement with NGOCE	With approval from CEPF, this partner's contract was terminated.
5.0	Build evidence base on models for participatory forest management and alternative livelihoods approaches in mangrove areas.	5.3	Environmental and Social Impact Assessment	The project team from inception developed a Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) in a simplified form and in a language that will be understood by the communities and presented same to all the 15 communities. The environmental and social safeguards documents was also discussed with the communities and a hard copy of the document also been shared with the 15 communities. These aim to regulate activities that the project is engaged in within the communities. So far, based on the Environmental and Social Assessment carried out by the project team,

Component		Deliverable		
#	Description	#	Description	Results for Deliverable
				we are yet to receive any concern from the community that triggers any of the environmental and social concerns.

Tools, products or methodologies that resulted from the project or contributed to the results:

- Materials were developed and produced for the trainings, including manuals and other materials.
- Posters and T-shirts were printed and distributed to community members from all 15 communities in the three clusters.
- Participatory Forest Management Plan (PFMP) was developed, printed and shared for each community.
- Covid-19 SOP was used for meetings, including World Mangrove Day.
- Need assessments were used by households to select livelihood options for their respective communities.

PORTFOLIO INDICATORS

Portfolio Indicator Number	Portfolio Indicator Description	Expected Numerical Contribution	Expected Contribution Description	Actual Numerical Contribution	Actual Contribution Description
4.1	Number of local civil society organizations, including at least 10 Indigenous People?s organizations, demonstrate strengthened capacity with regard to financial, institutional and project management, organizational governance, and fundraising (target: At least 50).			1	The Integrated Mangrove Watch Association of Nigeria (IMWAN) was formed and registered under the Nigerian Cooperate Affairs Commission under the ministry of Sustainable Development and Social Welfare

Portfolio Indicator Number	Portfolio Indicator Description	Expected Numerical Contribution	Expected Contribution Description	Actual Numerical Contribution	Actual Contribution Description
1	Number of Key Biodiversity Areas targeted by CEPF grants have new or strengthened protection and management (target: At least 20).			0	
1.1	Number of local land-use plans elaborated and implemented to facilitate good governance in the management of community and private reserves and concessions (target: At least 15).			15	All 15 beneficiary communities developed land use plans
1.2	Number of local and indigenous communities are trained to initiate and advocate for land tenure and forestry reforms in relation to management of community and private reserves and concessions (target: At least 10).			15	Integrated Mangrove Watch Association of Nigeria (IMWAN) in 15 beneficiary communities.
1.4	Number of local communities targeted by			0	The livelihood options were not provided for the community hence this

Portfolio Indicator Number	Portfolio Indicator Description	Expected Numerical Contribution	Expected Contribution Description	Actual Numerical Contribution	Actual Contribution Description
	sustainable livelihood/job creation activities or benefit-sharing mechanisms show tangible wellbeing benefits (target: At least 30).				section could not be ascertained.

GLOBAL INDICATORS

Protected Areas

Protected areas that have been created and/or expanded as a result of the project. Protected areas may include private or community reserves, municipal or provincial parks, or other designations where biodiversity conservation is an official management goal.

Name of Protected Area	WDPA ID*	Latitude	Longitude	Country	Original Total Size (Hectares) **	New Protected Hectares ***	Year of Legal Declaration or Expansion

*World Database of Protected Areas

**If this is a new protected area, 0 should appear in this column

*** This column excludes the original total size of the protected area.

Key Biodiversity Area Management

Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) under improved management—where tangible results have been achieved to support conservation—as a result of the project.

KBA Name	KBA Code	Size of KBA	Number of Hectares with Improved Management

Production Landscapes

Production landscapes with strengthened management of biodiversity as a result of the project.

A production landscape is defined as a site outside a protected area where commercial agriculture, forestry or natural product exploitation occurs.

Name of Production Landscape	Latitude	Longitude	Hectares Strengthened	Intervention

Benefits to Individuals

- **Structured Training:**

Number of Men Trained	Number of Women Trained	Topics of Training
150	150	Advocacy Trainings - Understanding of Advocacy and Stages in the Advocacy Process - Identifying Advocacy Issues and Objectives - Message Development, Delivery, and Action Plan Development Business Development Plan Training - Business Development Strategy - Community Business Development Plan - Account & Bookkeeping

- **Cash Benefits:**

Number of Men – Cash Benefits	Number of Women – Cash Benefits	Description of Benefits
0	0	

Benefits to Communities

View the **characteristics** column below with the following corresponding codes:	View the **benefits** column below with the following corresponding codes:
1- Small Landowners	a. Increased Access to Clean Water
2- Subsistence Economy	b. Increased Food Security
3- Indigenous/ Ethnic Peoples	c. Increased Access to Energy
4- Pastoralists / Nomadic Peoples	d. Increased Access to Public Services
5- Recent Migrants	e. Increased Resilience to Climate Change
6- Urban Communities	f. Improved Land Tenure
7- Other	g. Improved Use of Traditional Knowledge
	h. Improved Decision-Making
	i. Improved Access to Ecosystem Services

Community Name	**Community Characteristics**							**Type of Benefit**									**Country**	**Number of Males Benefitting**	**Number of Females Benefitting**
	1	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**6**	**7**	**a**	**b**	**c**	**d**	**e**	**f**	**g**	**h**	**i**			
Akwa Esuk Eyamba	☒	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒	Nigeria	184	177
Nkakat Eyamba	☒	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒	Nigeria	181	180
Ikonk Nkok Anie	☒	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒	Nigeria	187	174
Onono Iba	☒	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒	Nigeria	179	172
Ikot Ewa Effiom Esierebom	☒	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒	Nigeria	189	182
Ikot Okon Etim Ewa	☒	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒	Nigeria	183	176
Adak Uko, Creek Town	☒	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒	Nigeria	185	178
Efut Ifako, Creek Town	☒	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒	Nigeria	177	170
Efut Abua, Creek Town	☒	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒	Nigeria	191	184
Akim Akim	☒	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒	Nigeria	181	180

Characteristics of "Other" Communities:

Policies, Laws and Regulations

View the **topics** column below with the following corresponding codes:			
A- Agriculture	E- Energy	I- Planning/Zoning	M- Tourism
B- Climate	F- Fisheries	J- Pollution	N- Transportation
C- Ecosystem Management	G- Forestry	K- Protected Areas	O- Wildlife Trade
D- Education	H- Mining and Quarrying	L- Species Protection	P- Other

No.	Name of Law	Scope	Topics														
			A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P

"Other" Topics Addressed by the Policy, Law or Regulation:

No.	Country/ Countries	Date Enacted/ Amended	Expected impact	Action Performed to Achieve the Enactment/ Amendment

Companies Adopting Biodiversity-friendly Practices

A company is defined as a for-profit business entity. A biodiversity-friendly practice is one that conserves or uses natural resources in a sustainable manner.

Name of Company	Description of Biodiversity-Friendly Practice	Country/Countries where Practice was Adopted

Networks and Partnerships

Networks/partnerships should have some lasting benefit beyond immediate project implementation. Informal networks/partnerships are acceptable.

Name of Network/Partnership	Year Established	Country/ Countries	Established by Project?	Purpose

Sustainable Financing

Sustainable financing mechanisms generate funding for the long-term (generally five or more years). These include, but are not limited to, conservation trust funds, debt-for-nature swaps, payment for ecosystem services (PES) schemes, and other revenue, fee or tax schemes that generate long-term funding for conservation.

Name of Mechanism	Purpose	Date Established	Description	Country/ Countries	Project Intervention	Delivery of Funds?

Globally Threatened Species

Globally threatened species (CR, EN, VU) on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, benefitting from the project.

Genus	Species	Common Name (English)	Status	Intervention	Population Trend at Site

LESSONS LEARNED

UP is responsible for some weaknesses in terms of implementation timing and generating community ownership during initial implementation in 2019. UP proposed to put in place low-cost remedial actions based on lessons learned, putting community ownership at the forefront of these remedial actions to increase sustainability. We hope that CEPF agrees that errors, learning, and adjustments are an inevitable and positive part of any project, but especially so given the considerable constraints of working in an extremely challenging context, being unable to manage the dysfunctional relationship with partners as described above. IMWAN already had an existing relationship with the previous partner, NGOCE, hence most of the issues we encountered working with NGOCE we also encountered with the directors (representative of the overall IMWANs). As a result we could not come to agreement on the process of implementation in the communities for the regeneration of mangroves and livelihood options in the communities. While UP wanted believed for sustainability purposes, it will be best to use the community IMWANs, supervised by the IMWAN directors and community Chiefs. The directors of IMWANs on the other hand wanted to be the ones to carry out the implementation directly, this differences in approach led to the dysfunctional relationship described above.

The poor survival rate of mangroves and trees was the result of wrong timing for planting, and inconclusive consultation with the partners and communities. "UP agrees that the survival rate is highly associated with the timing of the initial planting activities and the level of community ownership achieved by the project team during the activities and in follow-up support. UP identified weaknesses in planning and follow-up support for this activity, which provided useful learning."

At the forefront of the issues was that the approach for mangrove planting was top-down and did not sufficiently include communities in the planting and regeneration process, so ownership and sustainability were not achieved. Going forward, best practices would prioritize replanting and regeneration processes that are community-driven. This approach would assist communities to identify environmental issues, which would then trigger communities to act, while UP provides technical support. In addition, community-based organizations are of the upmost importance to projects' success because they have an existing structure, are based in and have a presence in the community, and have a vested interest in the process as they are also affected by the issue. Going forward, best practices would include placing CBOs as a lead focal point for these processes.

During the project, UP also discovered that there was insufficient provision and planning for the monitoring and routine clearing of the regeneration sites. To remedy this, it should be addressed during the planning phase, during which there should be provisions for the purchase of supplies, such as rain boots, machetes, and boat hires for a period of time (suggested time of six months) for the IMWANs to monitor the regeneration sites.

There is significant opportunity to improve the community behavior change, awareness raising, and wider advocacy components of the project. The project has a significant level of community engagement, but the community behavior change communication (BCC) component is not as comprehensive as those UP has implemented in our other programs (e.g. WASH). There is also opportunity to conduct more direct advocacy and awareness raising with local government departments/functions that have the potential to impact negatively or positively on the local mangrove ecosystems. Both would contribute to greater sustainability.

SUSTAINABILITY/REPLICATION

The forest management plans developed by communities will help serve as a guide on how communities can manage and use their mangrove forest resources in a sustainable way and in line with global best practices. The plan will also serve as a guide on how communities will use their land and other resources within their respective communities.

This management plan addresses the lack of ecosystem-based management approaches for mangroves in communities, and supports sustainable utilization of mangrove resources while enhancing biodiversity conservation and ecosystem integrity. The Plan takes cognizance of other existing policies relating to land and land use, tenure, agriculture, fisheries, energy, environment, mining, wildlife, and water. It also embraces collaborative and participatory approaches in natural resources governance that leads to ownership of the initiatives by the stakeholders.

ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL SAFEGUARDS/STANDARDS

Excessive water abstraction, when water consumption is greater than the borehole yield, is a major risk associated with the creation of new boreholes (water wells). More than one borehole abstracting water from the same groundwater source is a possibility. To mitigate this risk, the boreholes were intended only for livelihood activities in the communities, not for commercial large-scale agriculture. The annual rainfall in the project area is high and groundwater replenishment is good, so if not excessively abstracted or used, there will still be optimal ground water in the region. Due diligence was considered to ensure there were not many boreholes in the area sharing the same aquifer. Another risk associated with borehole drilling was the level of water quality. Unknown pollutants leaching into the groundwater was a possibility. To address this, an analysis consisting of physical, chemical, and bacteriological parameters was conducted to determine if the water from the boreholes meet the Nigerian Drinking Water Quality Standards (NSDWQ). The risk of pollution of the surrounding environment was mitigated through the hiring of qualified contractors to carry out the work, as well as diligent monitoring of the construction process.

Piggery, Poultry and Fishery options: The main environmental risks from these planned livelihoods activities stemmed from possible pollution of land and water resources from the process of drilling water wells (boreholes), construction of physical infrastructure (fish tanks, pig sheds, etc.), and animal waste produced by each livelihood option. The design of Piggery, Poultry and Fishery infrastructure and associated training would have incorporated best practice for the containment and management of waste (including reuse where possible) produced by these livelihood options. The infrastructure was planned to be located >50 meters from the nearest water source, and on sites containing ground water, at least 2 meters deep.

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to pose a major safeguarding issue for the project team, project partners, and partner communities. UP has been mitigating, and continues to mitigate, through the development of detailed COVID-19 Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for all activities involving interactions between people. The SOPs are essentially detailed protocols to ensure social distancing and use of adequate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) during all such activities, according to WHO standards.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS/RECOMMENDATIONS

This project suffered from multiple delays (staff turnover, internal and external investigations, suspension by donor, COVID-19, etc.) and from inadequate delivery in light of the original proposal (dysfunctional relationship with NGOCE and underperformances of consultancies for the boreholes and the restorations and woodlots).

Progress on project implementation during the reporting period was significantly hampered by a gap in the Project Coordinator position after the resignation of the previous Coordinator in August 2019 and the difficulty in finding a qualified replacement. There was also a prolonged gap in the Country Director position.

Project activities were also paused while UP reviewed an allegation of wrongdoing by UP staff in relation to a borehole construction contract. There had been differences between the contracted specifications and delivered specifications of electricity generators installed by a contractor at drilled boreholes. During routine monitoring, a UP monitoring officer discovered that one of UP's contractors had installed generators with a lower specification than what was agreed in the contract. While problems with the quality/specifications of equipment provided by suppliers is a relatively common issue in field work, in this case the matter was escalated to UP HQ because the monitoring officer also alleged that the difference in specifications was the result of collusion with members of UP staff. In response, UP HQ reviewed the documentation and process for the procurement of generators and commissioned an external consultant to conduct a review of all procurement on the IMFOMALN project.

UP's review confirmed that alternative power generators provided by one drilling contractor, CUO & Sons Hydrotechnology Ltd., had lower specifications than the specifications in their contract. Based on our review and the findings of the external consultant, we found that this discrepancy in generator specifications was a contractor performance issue and there was no evidence of wrongdoing by UP staff. We raised the discrepancy with the contractor and they subsequently provided new generators that met the contact specifications (at no additional cost).

While the procurement review did not find a conflict of interest in the procurement process or wrongdoing by staff, it did highlight some weaknesses in the application of existing procurement guidelines, including clarity of documentation, the need for quality certification by qualified staff before payment, and the need to build UP Nigeria understanding of how and when to declare any conflict of interest. We have put a robust action plan in place to address all the review recommendations in order to strengthen existing procurement processes and tools.

There were significant periods of suspension imposed by CEPF and Conservation International. After a notification in December 2019 from UP to CEPF of a corruption allegation, CEPF suspended the project temporarily on 21 January 2020. This suspension was lifted on 01 February 2020 after: (i) UP commissioned an independent review of procurement on the project, which found weaknesses but no evidence of wrongdoing; (ii) UP put in place an action plan to address the issues identified in the review; (iii) CEPF reviewed all high value transaction/procurement files from the previous reporting period. Subsequently, on 14 February 2020 Conservation International decided to conduct a separate review of the project's procurement process, during which all significant spending on the project was suspended. This review was hampered and delayed by the COVID-19 pandemic, but the findings of the review were satisfactory, and this partial suspension was eventually lifted on 10 June 2020.

Another major challenge for the project was the COVID-19 pandemic, which resulted in significant restrictions for UP staff, as both the Nigerian government and UP imposed restrictions on movement and social distancing to reduce the risk of transmission. UP responded by developing and delivering new COVID-19 response activities (funded by other donors) including multi-channel public health messaging and various hygiene promotion activities; adjusting planning for remaining project activities; and requiring strict adherence to detailed COVID-19 standard operating procedures for all project activities/events/meetings that involved proximity with other people, such as community consultations and IMWAN meetings. These standard operating procedures provided clear instructions to ensure adequate distancing and personal protective equipment for all such interactions.

The livelihood options and revision discussed with CEPF did not come to fruition.
The following factors were responsible for the livelihood option not being implemented:

- The boreholes were constructed in the communities for the livelihood components, the standard of these boreholes however, did not meet the agreed quality as stated in the contract. It required the implementing agency and contractor to make the necessary corrections to the water facilities and this process took a lot of time in the project.

- The change in the number of options from the original design was another hindering factor.
- The adjustment and reduction in the cost for the construction of the super structure led to the livelihood option not taking off. As a result, it was decided, that for sustainability purposes, the contributions made by each selected community through construction of their own pig pens and poultry for the livelihood structure would be matched with feeds and seed-animals. This adjustments was described for each beneficiary community and they were all on board for commencement before the early termination.
- Construction of the livelihood structures (e.g. pigpen, poultry coop, fishery, and palm oil processing facility) included in the initial livelihood plan across the 15 project communities were delayed due to the onset of rainy season. Most of the communities in the coastal region are waterlogged during rainy season, and it was a challenge to reach and engage community members.
- The revised livelihood implementation plan was challenging and time-consuming, as the project coordinator needed to consult with each community separately on the livelihood options. This was a necessary process, however, as community buy-in was needed.
- The livelihood activities were not completed because of COVID-19, pandemic, dysfunctional relationship between UP and representatives of IMWANs

- Consistent issues with partners and CBOs persisted.

Below is a summary of the revised plan, which UP believes still has merit and should, if possible, be incorporated into future phases of the project.

The revised approach focused on developing community capacity for improved husbandry of poultry and at household level, to be achieved through a simple "pay it forward" style approach. Each initially targeted household would be given ownership of project-supplied livestock (3-4 pigs or 50-80 chickens). In return, they would commit to donating 50% of the livestock offspring to a second households 6 months after initial distribution, and to a third household after 12 months. The program would have a cost-effective multiplier effect after the project period that would eventually provide significant alternative livelihoods options to >80% of households in each targeted community. The distribution of inputs was to be

complemented by the delivery of comprehensive poultry and pig husbandry training for all interested households. This is a proven approach used by other INGO in the region, with a dispersed environment footprint. The system was to be managed by the community IMWAN cooperative, with initial setup support and longer-term backing from UP.

ADDITIONAL FUNDING

Total Amount of Additional Funding Actually Secured (USD)	$0.00
Breakdown of Additional Funding	

INFORMATION SHARING AND CEPF POLICY

CEPF is committed to transparent operations and to helping civil society groups share experiences, lessons learned and results. For more information about this project, you may contact the organization and/or individual listed below.

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