

CEPF SMALL GRANT FINAL PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

Organization Legal Name:	Conservation Lake Tanganyika
Project Title:	Facilitation of elections of Village Action Groups for the Nsama Community Resource Board and subsequent training
Date of Report:	20 th August 2015
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CEPF Region: Eastern Afromontane

Strategic Direction: Strategic Direction 2

Grant Amount: USD8,864

Project Dates: October 2014 – August 2015

Implementation Partners for this Project (please explain the level of involvement for each partner):

Zambia Wildlife Authority (ZAWA):

the roles of VAGs and CRBs are implemented and recognised through the Zambia Wildlife Act 1998 in which ZAWA was formed and established. Senior officers of ZAWA are trained in CBNRM and their principal partner in this is Community Resource Boards (CRB) which this project had has its primary objective to provide the resources for the election of a CBR in Nsama Chiefdom. The project had several components including the formation of an electoral committee, designation of VAGs and dissemination of information regarding the roles and responsibilities of VAGs in all VAGs, record nominations of candidates, conduct elections, form a CRB, and conduct training for each VAG and CRB. All of these activities were carried out principally by senior ZAWA officers in conjunction with other partners. The ZAWA area warden or in this case his nominee (Park Ranger) sat on the electoral committee.

Nsama District Council

New CRB election guidelines were provided country wide in 2014 and these specified that that the electoral committee should be chaired by the Council Secretary and that members of this committee should act as election officials and preferably be civil servants from within the council and from relevant ministries with regard to CBNRM. Council members of this electoral committee participated in all project components as outlined above.

Nsama Royal Establishment

The Senior Chief Nsama or his representative was required to sit on the same committee and participate in all activities as outlined above. Additionally the chief or his representative automatically retains a seat on the final CRB and participates in post-election training.

Conservation Lake Tanganyika

Election guidelines provide for an NGO representative to be part of the electoral committee and participate in all activities outlined above. In the case of this specific

project the NGO in question is also the grantee of the CEPF grant to fund the project and undertook duties to ensure effective implementation of the project.

Conservation Impacts

Please explain/describe how your project has contributed to the implementation of the CEPF ecosystem profile.

This project has contributed to an increased protection of an identified KBA (Sumbu National Park and Tondwa GMA) through ensuring the management structures in place are representative of local communities and formed through correct legal procedure. The Zambia Wildlife Act 1998 recognizes the role of CRBs towards:

- Negotiate co-management agreements with tourism companies
- Manage wildlife in the area
- Appoint Village Scouts
- Develop GMA management plans
- Support social and economic development

These activities are broadly aligned with the conservation targets of reducing biodiversity loss within the hotspot.

The implementation of strategic direction 2 and investment priorities 2.1 and 2.2 in the ecosystem profile with regards to Sumbu National Park and Tondwa GMA will not be possible without the active participation of Nsama CRB. Therefore the establishment of the Nsama CRB is critical towards implementing the ecosystem profile.

Please summarize the overall results/impact of your project against the expected results detailed in the approved proposal.

The expected results of this project and their achievement to date are summarized as:

Increased representation in CRBs

In the past the Nsama CRB was composed of 5 VAGs which represented the major communities included in the CRB. However some of these VAGs included large geographical areas with large human populations. This project increased the number of VAGs from 5 to 8 VAGs. This increase provided more specific representation for individual communities living in and around the KBA.

Increased participation of all community members in the CRB process

Past VAG elections were conducted only in 5 polling stations, one being situated in each VAG. This project conducted elections by creating a total of 19 polling stations in 8 VAGs. This allowed a vastly increased number of (1) community members to stand for election and (2) number of community members to cast votes for VAG candidates (1,442).

Conduct VAG elections in 10 VAGs

This project proposed to increase the number of VAGs from 5 to 10 within the Nsama CRB. However the final increase was to a total of 8 VAGs instead of the proposed 10. This reduction was due to disagreements between the Nsama Royal Establishment, ZAWA and local communities in 2 of the proposed VAGs. Whilst efforts were made to find common ground and include the last 2 proposed VAGs this was not possible within the time frame and the decision was made to exclude the last 2 VAGs rather than delay the entire process.

Form a final Community Resource Board.

The final Community Resource Board (CRB) was formed according to laid out procedure in the elections guidelines provided by ZAWA. The Nsama CRB is composed of 10 members being one representative from each VAG and a Chief's representative. Due to the fact that only 8 VAGs were elected there are 2 representatives from Nsama VAG and 2 from Kapiysha VAG. Positions within the CRB were designated through a simple in house election of all CRB members.

Please provide the following information where relevant:

Hectares Protected: to total of 271,282 Hectares are included in Sumbu NP and Tondwa GMA that will be protected.

Species Conserved: NA (although the KBAs contain multiple species)

Corridors Created: NA although the KBAs contribute to the integrity of Mount Kabobo-Marungu Highlands corridor.

Describe the success or challenges of the project toward achieving its short-term and long-term impact objectives.

The project was successful in achieving its short term impact objectives of reduced detected illegal activities in the KBAs. The existence of the CRB has allowed negotiations and co management activities to take place effectively with community participation and input. This is specifically relevant to (1) fishing activities that take place in Sumbu NP and Tondwa GMA under agreements for consumptive utilization between ZAWA and the CRB and (2) the regulation and transparency of hunting in Tondwa GMA to provide meat and revenue for surrounding communities. These activities are taking place under the direct supervision of the CRB and have undermined the same activities being done illegally and unsustainable which was occurring in the absence of the CRB.

Long Term impacts of this project towards are yet to measured and compared to past records. It is too early to identify success of the stated long term success of objectives.

Were there any unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?

The major unexpected impact was the identification of a major challenge in the west of Tondwa GMA, there is lack of agreement between the government, royal establishment and CRB on the legal utilizations and protected area boundaries relating to Lake Chishi. Local communities insist on the right to fishing in Lake Chishi, while the government and and CRB consider Lake Chishi to be within the national park boundary. This disagreement led to an impasse and ultimately the failure to include the final 2 VAGs in the election process. While the outcome of this impasse is currently negative (no VAGs), ultimately it has brought attention to that fact that the situation needs to be attended to by all stakeholders and a long term agreement made.

Lessons Learned

Describe any lessons learned during the design and implementation of the project, as well as any related to organizational development and capacity building. Consider lessons that would inform projects designed or implemented by your organization or others, as well as lessons that might be considered by the global conservation community.

Project Design Process: (aspects of the project design that contributed to its success/shortcomings)

The project design was adequate in addressing the identified problem of a lack of adequate community involvement in natural resource management. Guidelines provided by ZAWA for CRB elections were accurate and achievable towards these goals. Shortfalls included:

- 1) The budgetary allocation for the election committee personnel. The project design (and guidelines provided) did not take into account conditions of service of civil servants who were assigned to be part of the election process. While this shortfall would ideally have been taken into account by government departments; this was not the case and the recommended budget (and budget request by ZAWA) for this project was inadequate to ensure all conditions of service were met. District council and civil servants are not typically included in day to day CBNRM projects, however they have a role to play in ensuring transparency and legality, the costs of this should be considered in future projects.
- 2) The failure in achieving the total 10 VAGS was only identified late in the process. An additional component in the design process could have identified the issues that contributed to this shortfall and attempted to address them before the main project was implemented. It is suggested that there should have been a significant investigative activity prior to election sensitization in order to identify limiting factors within communities as to why they would not want to participate in the election. Whilst this was broadly done by ZAWA country wide before the provision of election guidelines, it was not done on a site specific basis.

Project Implementation: (aspects of the project execution that contributed to its success/shortcomings)

The project was successfully implemented as a whole. The increase in the number of polling stations was crucial towards achievement of the project goals; however there is room for even more polling stations. The nature of rural communities means most people are unable to travel distances to polling stations in order to cast their votes.

A significant success was the increase in the number of votes cast, this election saw some 1,442 votes cast in all VAGs, as opposed to less than 200 in previous VAG/CRB elections.

Shortcomings included:

- Inadequate travel logistics for all election committee members to conduct duties. The large geographical area covered by this project meant challenges were faced in providing adequate time in each area for sensitization. This could have been addressed by designating more election officials and a higher number of vehicles to be at the disposal of the election committee.
- Lack of interest by civil servants. Whilst election guidelines stipulated the use of civil servants, this requirement was not made available to council through established procedure and meant there was not high participation of civil servants in the election process.
- Disagreement between the Senior Chief and community members. All nominations for VAG and CRB positions are required to be approved by the Chief before they can stand for positions. There were limited cases where the nominated persons were not approved by the chief despite the desire of the community to see those persons stand and be elected. This led to a reduced participation of voters and

apathy for the process. There should be a process included in the design of the project in order to address this issue as it may arise in a fair and transparent manner.

Other lessons learned relevant to conservation community:

- 1) Despite the presumption that country wide processes such as CRB elections have undergone adequate planning and consideration by the government department in order to provide guidelines, this should not be made. Before project implementation it would be desirable to carry out a consultative phase where community leaders are exposed to the project design, expected outputs and expected participation of community members and where necessary adjustments made that do not conflict with overall processes but may facilitate increased success on a local scale.
- 2) It is generally assumed that traditional leaders such as the Senior Chief representing the Nsama Royal establishment have strong ties to the communities they lead, there is often discord. It is not desirable to exclude chiefs opinions but it is also undesirable to give Chiefs total veto powers.
- 3) It can be extremely difficult to implement projects that require cooperation between multiple government departments such as ZAWA and Council. The experience from this project is that departments that do not have a vested interest (Council in this case) can be difficult to cooperate with and get commitments from. Without financial incentive many low level civil servants have no interest to support Natural Resource Management.

ADDITIONAL FUNDING

Provide details of any additional donors who supported this project and any funding secured for the project as a result of the CEPF grant or success of the project.

Donor	Type of Funding*	Amount	Notes
TGLF	B	\$11,000	Grant towards achieving shared goals with this project and in line with the strategic directions of CEPF.

***Additional funding should be reported using the following categories:**

- A** *Project co-financing (Other donors contribute to the direct costs of this CEPF project)*
- B** *Grantee and Partner leveraging (Other donors contribute to your organization or a partner organization as a direct result of successes with this CEPF project.)*
- C** *Regional/Portfolio leveraging (Other donors make large investments in a region because of CEPF investment or successes related to this project.)*

Sustainability/Replicability

Summarize the success or challenge in achieving planned sustainability or replicability of project components or results.

VAG and CRB processes and existence is somewhat entrenched in CBNRM in Zambia and is considered to be essential in achieving biodiversity conservation throughout the country. This project has proved that there is a desire by communities to participate under this existing structure and it should be broadened with support from government. The concept of increased inclusion of community members through increased numbers of VAGs, polling stations and increased sensitization should be replicated in the future for further CRB elections and can be replicated for other areas of conservation interest such as fishery management.

The major challenge remains in Zambia to ensure that the communities involved are actively consulted in management decisions, and that there are tangible benefits to the concerned communities living in close proximity to biodiversity rich areas. There needs to be an ongoing and concerted effort to devolve ownership of natural resources from the state towards communities. This project allows for the formation of structures that can be used to achieve this, however there needs to be further efforts in ensuring this is done in a sustainable manner and that the community groups such as CRBs are given adequate training and tools to achieve the goals of CBNRM.

Summarize any unplanned sustainability or replicability achieved.

NA

Safeguard Policy Assessment

Provide a summary of the implementation of any required action toward the environmental and social safeguard policies within the project.

There should be ongoing monitoring of all CRB activities to ensure that the VAGs and CRB in general do not begin implementing processes that are detrimental to the environment. This is especially concerning due the expectation that VAGs and CRBs can and should engage in income generating activities for social development projects. There is a danger that these income generating activities may be in stark contrast to conservation principals and include such activities as granting unsustainable logging, fishing and hunting permits without adequate knowledge of what is required to ensure the resource remains capable of regeneration and sustained provision of benefits. This should include proactive training and sensitization programs and the support of truly sustainable income generating activities.

Additionally there should be a concerted effort to lobby government to devolve rights and responsibilities to local communities with regards to sustainable resource utilization.

Additional Comments/Recommendations

Whilst the formation and legal recognition of CRB is well known in Zambia, the major challenge remains to ensure that CRBs and VAGs are actively involved in management aspects of natural resources. There remains a weakness in this aspect due to growing apathy by government to address environmental degradation including deforestation, poaching and overfishing. The CRB can be an effective engine for tackling these issues, however there needs to be attention and funding for this to happen. CRB falls under the Management department of ZAWA and extensions offices are supposed to engage with communities through the CRB. However, for example in Northern Zambia there is only 1 official extension officer servicing 3 national parks and 6 GMAs, with virtually no budget. Communities on the ground are willing to address these issues but there needs to be serious and ongoing commitment from government to do so and allow the communities to have powers to do so. By laws are in existence in many communities to address environmental challenges but these are not supported by government and the legal system. It is recommended that there should be a project to engage the government over these issues with the aim of creating full legal rights of ownership for communities over for natural resources.

Information Sharing and CEPF Policy

CEPF is committed to transparent operations and to helping civil society groups share experiences, lessons learned, and results. Final project completion reports are made available on our Web site, www.cepf.net, and publicized in our newsletter and other communications.

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*****please complete the tables on the following pages*****

Performance Tracking Report Addendum

Project Results	Is this question relevant?	If yes, provide your numerical response for results achieved for project from inception of CEPF support to date	Describe the principal results achieved during project period (Attach annexes if necessary)
1. Did your project strengthen management of a protected area guided by a sustainable management plan? Please indicate number of hectares improved.	Y	271,385	Sumbu National Park (2,020km sq) Tondwa GMA (400 km sq)
2. How many hectares of new and/or expanded protected areas did your project help establish through a legal declaration or community agreement?	N		Please also include name of the protected area. If more than one, please include the number of hectares strengthened for each one.
3. Did your project strengthen biodiversity conservation and/or natural resources management inside a key biodiversity area identified in the CEPF ecosystem profile? If so, please indicate how many hectares.	Y	271,385	The election of the Nsama Community Resource Board
4. Did your project effectively introduce or strengthen biodiversity conservation in management practices outside protected areas? If so, please indicate how many hectares.	Y	+- 100,000	The CRB operates in communities living in proximity to Pas where there are significant resources under threat, their activities are conducted both within and outside the Pas.
5. If your project promotes the sustainable use of natural resources, how many local communities accrued tangible socioeconomic benefits? Please complete Table 1 below.	Y		

If you answered yes to question 5, please complete the following table.

Table 1. Socioeconomic Benefits to Target Communities

Please complete this table if your project provided concrete socioeconomic benefits to local communities. List the name of each community in column one. In the subsequent columns under Community Characteristics and Nature of Socioeconomic Benefit, place an X in all relevant boxes. In the bottom row, provide the totals of the Xs for each column.

Name of Community	Community Characteristics							Nature of Socioeconomic Benefit														
	Small landowners	Subsistence economy	Indigenous/ ethnic peoples	Pastoralists/nomadic peoples	Recent migrants	Urban communities	Communities falling below the poverty rate	Other	Increased Income due to:				Increased food security due to the adoption of sustainable fishing, hunting, or agricultural practices	More secure access to water resources	Improved tenure in land or other natural resource due to titling, reduction of colonization, etc.	Reduced risk of natural disasters (fires, landslides, flooding, etc)	More secure sources of energy	Increased access to public services, such as education, health, or credit	Improved use of traditional knowledge for environmental management	More participatory decision-making due to strengthened civil society and governance.	Other	
									Adoption of sustainable natural resources management practices	Ecotourism revenues	Park management activities	Payment for environmental services										
People of the Nsama Chiefdon		X					X			X	X		X								X	
Total		1					1			1	1		1								1	

If you marked "Other", please provide detail on the nature of the Community Characteristic and Socioeconomic Benefit:

Grantee Note on Table 1: the name of the community is designated as Nsama Chiefdom, this community is loosely related on tribal lines as all are of Tabwa origin, however the Chiefdom is geographically very large and includes communities living along the shores of Lake Tanganyika as well as within the catchment area of the lake and involved in different livelihoods.