

CEPF SMALL GRANT FINAL PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

Organization Legal Name:	Wildlife and Environmental Conservation Society of Zambia
Project Title:	Using formative research to identify key threats of the Mafinga Afromontane Ecosystem and developing locally driven environmental interventions that address these key threats.
Date of Report:	31 January 2016
Report Author and Contact Information	Peter Chisanga; wecsz@coppernet.zm; peterchilufya.chisanga@gmail.com; +260 211 251630; +260 977 110 863

CEPF Region: Eastern Afromontane

Strategic Direction: Strategic direction 1 (Mainstream biodiversity into wider development policies, plans and projects to deliver the co-benefits of biodiversity conservation, improved local livelihoods and economic development in priority corridors).

Grant Amount: \$19, 982

Project Dates: 1st July 2015 to 31st December 2015

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

Local Communities; The local communities were actively involved in field visitations, local communities' consultations, stakeholder's workshop (development of Environmental Action Plan).

Mafinga Municipal Council: The Municipal Council participated in consultative meetings with WECSZ and the stakeholder's workshop (feedback of research results) at national level. The Council is responsible for regional planning (land use planning) of the District.

Agriculture Department: The Department was actively involved in field visitations, institutional consultation, stakeholder's workshop (development of Environmental Action Plan), participation and facilitation of local community meetings. The Department is responsible for facilitating and supporting the development of a sustainable, diversified and competitive agricultural sector that assures food and nutrition security, contributes to job creation and maximizes the sector contribution to GDP.

Forestry Department: The Department was actively involved in field visitation, consultation meetings with WECSZ, stakeholder's workshop (development of Environmental Action Plan), participation and facilitation of community meetings. The Forestry Department is responsible for the management of forestry resources in Zambia.

Fisheries Department; The Department was participated in institutional consultative meetings and local communities meeting. The Fisheries Department's mission is to ensure sustainable exploitation of capture fisheries and development of aquaculture in Zambia.

Zambia Wildlife Authority (ZAWA); ZAWA participated in the institutional consultative meetings. ZAWA is mandated to manage and conserve Zambia's wildlife.

National Heritage Conservation Commission (NHCC); NHCC participated in the institutional consultative meetings. NHCC is entrusted with the conservation of Zambia's natural and cultural heritage.

Conservation Impacts

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

The CEPF Ecosystem Profile identifies the Mafinga Hills as a priority Key Biodiversity Area (KBA). Among the investment priorities of the CEPF Ecosystem Profile (investment priority 1.1) is the enhancing of civil society efforts to develop and implement local government and community level planning processes to mainstream biodiversity conservation, and leverage donor and project funding for livelihood activities that explicitly address the causes of environmental degradation in and around priority KBAs in priority corridors.

One of the project outputs was the development of the Environmental Action Plan (particularly, of Mweniwisi and Mwenichifungwe Chiefdoms) to address causes of environmental degradation in and around the Mafinga Hills.

The Environmental Action Plan, being a product of the local government (namely, the Forestry Department, Agriculture Department and District Council) and local community, which mainstreams biodiversity conservation, is an implementation of CEPF's investment priority 1.1

This project has thus paved way for implementation of the developed local government and community plans to conserve KBA 144 thereby contributing to conservation of the Northern Lake Nyassa Catchment conservation corridor.

Please provide the following information where relevant:

Hectares Protected: This was a project design stage and hence the focus was mainly on assessment

Species Conserved: This was a project design stage and hence the focus was mainly on assessment

Corridors Created: This was a project design stage and hence the focus was mainly on assessment

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

Successes and Challenges toward achieving the project short-term impact objective

The short term impact of this project was the development of a fundable large grant proposal that would address an identified priority threat of biodiversity conservation in the Mafinga Hills. A proposal was developed, titled "Improving Riverine Forests Management and Conservation in headwater catchment areas in the Mafinga Hills". This project will address the expansion of agriculture into marginal and fragile riverine forests at headwater catchment areas.

Success

The greatest success towards achieving the short term impact was the wide consultation process among stakeholders (both from government and Civil Society) at national, provincial and district levels. Primarily driven by what the local communities and local government considered the highest priorities, the project has the support of the local communities including the traditional leadership. Additionally, the project will contribute to achieving results in 2016-2025 Zambia's Second National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP2).

Challenges

Despite the zeal of the paramount Chief (Mweniwisi) in the KBA for the project, the local community and headman at Lulindo (the village closest to the source of the Luangwa River) were not adequately consulted due to the remoteness of the area. Lulindo is four (4) hour's drive from Mweniwisi's Palace. The large grant proposal has thus incorporated sensitization and awareness with special attention to Lulindo to address this challenge.

Successes at output level

Output 1: Up to date Knowledge of Mafinga Hills biodiversity and identification of knowledge gaps and conservation issues;

Due to scanty available knowledge of Mafinga Hills' biodiversity; and scanty knowledge of conservation issues, the project embarked on updating knowledge of Mafinga Hills' biodiversity and identifying knowledge gaps and conservation issues.

This was done via literature review; interviews with identified government departments at national, provincial and district levels; and focus group discussions with the local communities. Additionally, site visits to places of environmental interest as suggested by stakeholders and the local community were conducted. The most urgent of the identified conservation issues was the expansion of agriculture into marginal and fragile riverine forests at headwater catchment areas. Other conservation issues included, illegal logging of the Mukula tree (*Pterocarpus chrysothrix*) in forest areas including the Mafinga National Forest Reserve;

- the apparent disappearance of Vultures and Marabou Storks;
- the decreasing occurrence of cavity nesting birds;
- and reducing water flows of rivers and streams in the KBA.

Research priorities include;

- determining the composition, status and trend of plant species in the Mafinga Hills National Forest No. 296 and headwaters catchment, mushitu (riverine forests) and dambo sponge areas;
- determining of the extent of encroachment, illegal logging and wood collection in the national forest reserve;
- conducting studies on the status and trends of aquatic ecosystem and habitats of the KBA; which should be followed by determining the status and trends of aquatic species; and conducting climate change vulnerability assessment of the KBA.

Challenges included access to information due to local communities' superstitions. For instance information regarding the Malungule Hot Spring is scanty and that there is a strong belief in the community of a '7-headed snake' that lives in the area and that the hot spring is where the snake's 'active head and eye' are located. Related to this, is the existence of a flying snake in the Mafinga Hills. This notion was confirmed by all communities consulted; the creature was reportedly to have been seen only by the

traditional doctors (medicine men) in both Mweniwisi and Mwenichifungwe Chiefdoms. On a positive note, this indigenous knowledge has resulted in the protection of certain portions of the KBA.

Output 2: Stakeholders show commitment towards formulation of an Environmental Action Plan.

The local government showed commitment through the endorsement letters and their active participation in the formulation of the Environmental Action Plan, whilst the local communities committed towards formulation the Environmental Action Plan through their active involvement in the process.

Output 3: Environmental Action Plan for Mafinga Hills (KBA 144) developed.

Stakeholders, particularly, the local communities of Mweniwisi and Mwenichifungwe Chiefdoms with the support of the local government (namely the Forestry Department and Agriculture Department) formulated the environmental action plan. Institutional stakeholders at national level comprising government institutions (namely, the Forestry Department, Agriculture Department, Zambia National Climate Change Secretariat and Mafinga District Council) and Civil Society Organisations (namely, Civil Society Environment Fund, Bird Watch Zambia and Green Living) then reviewed and validated the direction suggested by the local communities as stipulated in their Environmental Action Plan.

However, due to the remoteness of Nachisitu (Headwaters of the Luangwa River), the traditional leadership from Nachisitu did not participate in the formulation of the Environmental Action Plan.

Were there any unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?

1. The project contributed towards the implementation of Zambia's Second National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP2) for 2016 to 2025.

NBSAP2 target 15 states that "By 2022, Zambia takes deliberate actions to protect critical ecosystems of the Zambezi, Kafue and Luangwa watersheds". Key activities include assessing on-going activities in the three river headwaters and identifying activities that are detrimental to biodiversity conservation.

This project included identifying detrimental activities to biodiversity conservation at the headwaters of the Luangwa River. The information gathered by the project will thus be fed into the government's quest of identifying activities at the headwaters of the Luangwa River

2. The Project was also used as a vehicle to sensitize government departments of the NBSAP2. This gesture contributed a great deal to achieving the Ministry of Lands, Natural Resources and Environmental Protection's quest to sensitize all stakeholders including government departments at grassroot level.
3. The project findings were also incorporated in the 2016 Mafinga District Situation Analysis.

The Mafinga District Environmental Planning Office was among the attendees of the Stakeholder Consultative Workshop – National Level, which was conducted in Lusaka. The research identified little known and undocumented heritage sites that included the Malungule Hot Spring in Mweniwisi Chiefdom.

The information was timely and was incorporated into the Mafinga District Situation Analysis that was being formulated.

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.

1. Community meetings, particularly meetings with traditional leaders (village headmen) are held at the palaces of Chief Mwenichifungwe and Mweniwisi. Due to the long distance between Mweniwisi's palace and Nachisitu (nearest settlement to source of the Luangwa River); the traditional leadership from Nachisitu area, which is 4 hours drive from Mweniwisi's palace, did not attend any of the community meetings. In the future there is need to consider conducting a separate meeting for villages in Nachisitu area, after acquiring permission and a Palace Representative from Chief Mweniwisi; or ferrying community representatives from distant places to meeting venues.
2. To successfully capture, socio-economic aspects in the project, there is need for capacity building. This can be achieved either by training or hiring personnel.
3. Protective clothing and field equipment suitable for steep mountainous terrain and dense forests was not planned for. Additionally, Mafinga Hills is said to be a hub of venomous snakes. There is thus need to be cautious and apply all necessary safety practices.
4. The consultation protocol of local community traditional leadership demands that the Chief and Village Headmen are met.
5. Need to build capacity in the area of communication to enhance information dissemination.

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

Inadequate prior knowledge of the project area; thus the project did not take into account holding more meetings to cater for remote areas such as Nachisitu/Lulindo (the community closest to headwaters of the Luangwa River)

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

Language was limiting. In as much as the locals could express themselves in common languages such as Bemba. The locals are Tumbuka, Lambya and Nyika speaking people.

Other lessons learned relevant to conservation community:

A lack of awareness among the public of the relationships among biodiversity, ecosystem services, livelihoods and poverty was greatly emphasized by the traditional leadership. There is therefore need to incorporate public education and awareness in the various conservation activities that the conservation community will be implementing in order to achieve biodiversity conservation in the hotspot.

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
None	None	None	None

**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.

Successes

The Environmental Action Plan will guide conservation projects for not only WECSZ but also other Conservation Organisations.

The project has achieved results under the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP 2)

The project findings were incorporated into the 2016 Mafinga District Situation Analysis.

Challenges

Mafinga being a new district has no offices such as NHCC, ZAWA hence comprises the sustainability of project results.

Safeguard Policy Assessment

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

The project did not involve any activities that had or would likely have had any adverse impacts on the environment and local communities.

Additional Comments/Recommendations

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.ceph.net, and publicized in our newsletter and other communications.

Please include your full contact details below:

Name: Patrick Shawa

Organization name: Wildlife and Environmental Conservation Society of Zambia

Mailing address: P.O Box 30255, Lusaka

Tel:+260 211 251630

Fax:+260 211 251630

E-mail:wecsz@coppernet.zm; wecszam@gmail.com

*****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.	No		Please also include name of the protected area(s). If more than one, please include the number of hectares strengthened for each one.
2. How many hectares of new and/or expanded protected areas did your project help establish through a legal declaration or community agreement?	No		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.	No		
4. Did your project effectively introduce or strengthen biodiversity conservation in management practices outside protected areas? If so, please indicate how many hectares.	No		
5. If your project promotes the sustainable use of natural resources, how many local communities accrued tangible socioeconomic benefits? Please complete Table 1 below.	Yes	29 local communities in and around the Mafinga Hills accrued tangible socioeconomic benefits	<p>The KBA's Environmental Action Plan was developed by representatives from these 29 local communities in and around the Mafinga Hills.</p> <p>The process of formulating the Environmental Action Plan encouraged and strengthened participatory decision making in the 29 local communities.</p>

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

Mutindya Village		X	X			X													X	
Ilunga Village		X	X			X													X	
Buluma Village		X	X			X													X	
Musama Village		X	X			X													X	
NZimu Village		X	X			X													X	
Wimba Village		X	X			X													X	
Total		2	2			29													29	

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

