CEPF SMALL GRANT FINAL PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

Organization Legal Name:	Straightfoward Development Services
Project Title:	**Feasibility study on the value of honey bees for sustainable livelihood and biodiversity conservation: Case of Nyungwe landscape.**
Date of Report:	July,2014
Report Author and Contact Information	Ndimukaga Marc Treasury and Director of research SDS Ltd Kigali Rwanda Phone: +250787230642 E-mail: lavamar50@yahoo.fr

CEPF Region: EASTERN AFROMONTANE BIODIVERSITY HOTSPOT

Strategic Direction: 1

Grant Amount: $5,000

Project Dates: 1 January-30 June, 2014

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

Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS)

WCS has facilitated this study to get to key informants in the study area most specifically in Kitabi region.

.

Conservation Impacts

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

Given the socio-economic conditions in Rwanda, Nyungwe landscape which includes Nyungwe National Park and its surroundings is closely linked to community issues and community management of natural resources.

This feasibility study has contributed to the description of the role of honeybees in sustaining forests and forest dependent livelihoods where in the normal context remains poorly known and appreciated and the market potential and value of ecosystem services provided by honeybees not well understood. The investigation showed how beekeeping would get associated to forest conservation and livelihood improvement. The study has investigated challenges and opportunities associated to beekeeping development in Nyungwe landscape. It has shown how beekeeping projects are an ideal tool to raise awareness about the value of forests and engage people in conscious protection, conservation and sustainable resource management. In this regard, a number of cases of illegal activities inside the Nyungwe National Park were reported to the park managers by beekeepers operating in the vicinity of the park.

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

The aim of this feasibility study was to evaluate the relative effectiveness of beekeeping in Nyungwe landscape to reduce poverty levels and to determine the influence of the activity on forest conservation.

This study has described the many roles that bees can play in forest conservation particularly Nyungwe National Park and the positive impact that beekeeping can have on the lives of population surrounding this park. It has allowed exploring existing information regarding beekeeping development. In this regard, types of honeybees found in Rwanda were documented as well as the past and current state of beekeeping in Rwanda.

Results from the field survey showed that beekeeping was and is still an activity that people around Nyungwe National Park associate to the forest as an alternative to supplement their income. Other activities identified which are associeted to Nyungwe National Park either directly or indirectly include tourism and collection of medecinal plants. Illegal activities were reported to still occur but at a low level i.e. honey hunting, poaching and mining. Activities with no direct connection to the forest are dominated by agriculture which is the main economic activity in the area.

Challenges to beekeeping development around Nyungwe National Park were explored and these include low return from beekeeping which is sometimes associated to the use of traditional hives mostly log hives and operating outside the park boundaries, poor in bee floral sources. This practice is exercebated by poor colony management. Other challenges observed included bee predation by man and chimpanzees as well as bee diseases mostly paralysis. Pesticides also cause huge loss to beekeepers in some parts of Nyungwe landscape.

Finally, SWOT analysis and gaps regarding beekeeping development in the Nyungwe landscape were conducted.

Results from this study would help in preparing a project on beekeeping development in the Nyungwe landscape that would be scaled up to other areas in the country. In addition, a business plan was also developed based on tangible information gathered during this study.

Please provide the following information where relevant:

Hectares Protected: N/A
Species Conserved: N/A
Corridors Created: N/A

This study would help to the protection of Nyungwe National Park and its biota in case its recommendations are taken into consideration.

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

At the end of this study, a technical report compiling all the findings from the feasibility study was prepared and is being distributed to different stakeholders. Same findings are being utilized in a beekeeping project that is being implemented on behalf of Rwanda Management Authority in the Gishwati landscape, having commonalities with the Nyungwe landscape. This project is being implemented in the framework to link beekeeping as a tool for livelihood improvement, adaptation to climate change and biodiversity conservation. In the long term, this study would help to

developing a beekeeping based business that would benefit both humans in targeted areas and natural environment. Challenges would be integrating beekeeping in forest program in establishing bee-reserves with exclusive access for beekeepers, as has been done in some countries like the United Republic of Tanzania by institutions in charge.

Were there any unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?

No

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)

This project was initially designed to build capacity of beekeepers in the Nyungwe landscape that would in the end be part of a beekeeping based business. It was advised to first carry out a feasibility study that would explore beekeeping potentials and analyze gaps existing in the sector before engaging the project itself. This helped understand the state of beekeeping in the study area as well as its connection to Nyungwe National Park.

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

The study enabled interaction with different stakeholders most particularly beneficiaries at grassroots level as well as conservationists and beekeeping technicians.

Other lessons learned relevant to conservation community:

Recognizing the contribution of bees to the livelihoods of communities, beekeeping can get integrated in forestry programs to make communities aware of the precious value of forests and the need to safeguard them. By learning about the unique role of bees in the complex mechanism of ecosystems, and the contributions of beekeeping to their daily life, people can better understand and appreciate the value of forests and ecosystems, and recognize the importance of bees and the need to protect and safeguard them. Beekeeping can therefore be considered a viable commercial and protective measure always to be considered and integrated in national forest programs and other development strategy planning.

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
SDS Ltd	B	6,000$	For a beekeeping-based business start up

***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.

The feasibility study on the potential of honeybees for livelihood improvement and biodiversity conservation was an important prerequisite for launching a beekeeping industry in any locality or any forest conservation program in Rwanda. This study has helped to develop a large scale project plan on beekeeping for sustainable livelihood and biodiversity conservation. The concept has already been discussed and appreciated by some stakeholders. In this regard, a replica of this initiative is being tried in the Gishwati landscape where beekeeping is being utilized as a tool for livelihood improvement and forest conservation in an ecosystem similar to that of Nyungwe landscape. The idea is to encourage reforestation with indigenous plants emphasizing on melliferous plants and these places will get proposed “Bee reserves” with access only to beekeepers. This idea was also discussed with some stakeholders where beekeeping would be integrated with Nyungwe National Park where a portion of this park would be demarcated “bee reserve” and the idea was highly appreciated.

In connection to this study, a business plan was developed and the beekeeping business is at its start up.

Challenges would be some government agencies that would resist the concept i.e. park managers. This is partly due to fact that the concept is new with only a negative attitude because of damages (wildfire) to forests caused by honey hunters.

Summarize any unplanned sustainability or replicability achieved.

It is surprising and encouraging to get some government agencies i.e Rwanda Environment Management Authority adopting this concept and replicating it while developing forest conservation programs.

Safeguard Policy Assessment

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

In some places in the assessed area, pesticides uses were found problematic to beekeeping development as well as other pollinators. Honey hunting would be also problematic which is the most cause of forest fires and decline in honeybee population.

Additional Comments/Recommendations

Nyungwe landscape has potentials for beekeeping development which would have a positive effect on people's livelihood improvement inhabiting the landscape, the overall economy as well as biodiversity and conservation once it is well developed by all development partners.

It is therefore recommended that:

1. Bee-reserves can be established with exclusive access for beekeepers, as has been done in the United Republic of Tanzania.

2. Beekeeping can also be introduced in reforestation projects, paying special attention to the use of native and melliferous plants that provide a rich and varied source of nectar and pollen.

3. Beekeeping can also be promoted as an alternative activity for communities living near forest rehabilitation programmes during which access to the forest may be forbidden or limited. The products of the beehives (honey, pollen, propolis and wax) are a rich source of nutrients that could replace the nutrients which communities would obtain by collecting edible forest products.

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.

Please include your full contact details below:

Name: Ndimukaga Marc
Organization name: Straightforward Development Services Ltd
Mailing address: Kigali, Rwanda
Tel: +250787230642
Fax:
E-mail: lavamar50@yahoo.fr

*****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	N/A	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	N/A	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	N/A	
4. Did your project effectively introduce or strengthen biodiversity conservation in management practices outside protected areas? If so, please indicate how many hectares.	No	N/A	
5. If your project promotes the sustainable use of natural resources, how many local communities accrued tangible socioeconomic benefits? Please complete Table 1below.	No	N/A	

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													
									Increased Income due to:													
	Small landowners	Subsistence economy	Indigenous/ ethnic peoples	Pastoralists/nomadic peoples	Recent migrants	Urban communities	Communities falling below the poverty rate	Other	Adoption of sustainable natural resources management practices	Ecotourism revenues	Park management activities	Payment for environmental services	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
Total																						

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