

CEPF SMALL GRANT FINAL PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

Organization Legal Name:	Manda Wilderness Agriculture Project (MWAP)
Project Title:	Protecting Biodiversity with Conservation Agriculture
Date of Report:	30 Dec 2014
Report Author and Contact Information	Jeremy Toye Chairman, MWCT/MWAP jemtoye@gmail.com

CEPF Region: Eastern Afromontane

Strategic Direction: 1

Grant Amount: \$20,000

Project Dates: Dec 1 2013 – Nov 30 2014

Implementation Partners for this Project (please explain the level of involvement for each partner): Manda Wilderness Agriculture Project (planning, implementation and assessment.) Manda Wilderness Community Trust (financial support through employment and payment of supplementary salaries)

Conservation Impacts

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

The overall objectives of the Project were to reduce local human pressure on the biodiversity and natural resources, support the economic development and improve livelihood activities in the area along the Lake Niassa shoreline and in the surrounding hinterland, part of the Lake Malawi/Niassa priority site.

The principle contribution of the Project has been to introduce some 360 subsistence farmers and their families to the concepts of conservation and sustainable agricultural practices. The impact of the training supports the long-term aims of reducing local pressure on the fragile biodiversity and natural resources of the Manda Wilderness area, a zone of approximately 250,000 hectares with a population estimated at 20,000. The application of training methods also supports the economic development of the villagers who have relied on growing a single crop and clearing land of indigenous trees. Three-day training sessions in each of the 13 villages taking part have given participants access to practical skills as well as education on the dangers of environmental damage from some traditional farming techniques such as slash-and-burn. Trainees have been provided with native agro-forestry seeds to encourage them to use their new skills in their own surroundings. The project has led to plans for a larger-scale two-year scheme to include the application of techniques to food production for themselves and the limited available markets in the area serving the aim of improving the livelihoods of the people living on the Lake Niassa shoreline and the surrounding hinterland.

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

1. *Involvement of local authorities and raised awareness for the protection of the natural resources in the targeted area.*

Although individual officials, at both village and district level, have shown keen interest and support for the Project, there has been limited amounts of contact with authorities higher up the chain. This is likely to change as demonstrable results emerge from the Project. One apparent effect is that the agriculture ministry's extension workers have shown new interest in working with communities, including schools, to encourage better use of resources and practice of new techniques.

2. *Increased capacity skills and knowledge on conservation agriculture methods within the local communities from the 15 villages.*

Workshops were completed in the 13 villages which agreed to take part in the Project, with 360 people each receiving two three-day sessions. Visits to villages in recent weeks have revealed a keen interest by both farmers, their families and community leaders in applying the methods involved, to the extent that there is an increasing demand for more training and greater support. (Note: the Project was launched when the Manda Wilderness Community Project involved 15 villages. An additional village was added to the overall Community Project, but not included in the MWAP Project due to its remoteness and difficulty of access).

3. *Enhancement of family income generation, nutrition and rural development through sustainable economic activities in partnership with private sector.*

The Project concentrated on agroforestry, including the distribution to each training participant of a small number of seeds to allow them to practice what they had learned. The success of the training and the enthusiasm it engendered has led to increasing requests for support with vegetable and other seeds. A pilot scheme to distribute a limited quantity of such seeds to the villages has been started, with the aim of testing such techniques as multi-cropping and shade agriculture in the villages themselves. This aspect of linking sustainable agroforestry with efficient, varied food crops is one that will be expanded when the next stage of the project is implemented over the next two years.

4. *Combat to desertification and preservation of the Eastern Miombo Woodland eco-region.*

The concentration on agro-forestry ahead of domestic crops has created an awareness of the distant risks of desertification and the need to preserve woodland areas endangered by indiscriminate slash-and-burn techniques. The extent to which the training has been implemented by the farmers themselves will need to await results, to be assessed in a general meeting of communities in June 2015.

Please provide the following information where relevant:

Hectares Protected: 250,000 – this is the extent of the Manda Wilderness Conservation area agreed with Mozambican authorities at the start of the Nkwichi Lodge project.

Species Conserved: Distribution of agro-forestry seeds such as : *Acacia polyacantha* and *Azelia quanzensis*.

Corridors Created: Not applicable

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

Training an unprecedented number of individuals in both the theory and practice of sustainable agriculture and conservation has been the high point of the project, with encouraging results in terms of enthusiasm and willingness to learn. Distance and available time have been factors in reducing the amount of time spent in each village,

but this was not felt to reduce the impact. The delayed start to the project meant that it was out of sync with the growing season, meaning that results were not able to be measured practically during the original time-scale. MWAP has concluded that the long-term achievement of results will be only be achieved by the extension and expansion of the project, starting with a new two-year scheme to include a closer match between economic growth for villagers and the further use of techniques for environment protection.

Were there any unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?

The degree of enthusiasm for the project among farmers was a very welcome positive impact. The extent to which the impact will be felt going forward will depend on positive results and the further extension of work to ensure that villagers have a continuing interest in practicing the methods employed.

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.

Measurement of results proved more difficult than anticipated, given the time-scales involved and the lack of local skills for documenting achievements. This will be addressed in the second phase of the project, including provision of administrative skills at village level. The extent to which a larger audience can be reached was over-estimated, given the difficulty in organizing meetings which take villagers and officials away from their work. This will be addressed by creating more trained resources at local level to reduce the need for extensive travel by forming sub-sets of farmers and community officials.

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

The Project was set out in considerable detail, with time frames and costings. More attention may have been needed to the time available to both trainers and their audiences.

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

Unexpected delays to the start of the project meant that the bulk of the work had to be done in the later stages of the scheme. This was achieved, but it placed time pressure on all involved.

Other lessons learned relevant to conservation community:

The self-interest of individual members of the community needs to be considered when introducing new methods and goals: families living in a subsistence economy can ill-afford to introduce practices which might have long-term positive impacts but would affect their ability to feed their families in the short-term. The provision of agro-forestry seeds raised questions of why seeds for short-term food production and greater variety of diet were not included. This in turn raised questions on the extent to which a project of this size can meet expectations for rapid improvement in, for example, the supply of seeds to exploit local markets.

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
Manda Wilderness Community Trust	In kind through employment and payment of support staff at the Farm where the Project was based.	\$12000	Agreed project co-financing.

***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 Project provided a timely reminder for village communities of the need to protect what they had and where possible reverse negative trends. The results achieved will need to be monitored carefully to ensure that the communities themselves recognize the benefits of following different methods.

Summarize any unplanned sustainability or replicability achieved.

None able to be identified so far.

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, concentrating as it did on training, raised no identified threats to the safeguards set out in the original plan.

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

Please include your full contact details below:

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Organization name: Manda Wilderness Agriculture Project

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Fax:

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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.	Yes	250,000 hectares	Please also include name of the protected area(s). If more than one, please include the number of hectares strengthened for each one. Manda Wilderness
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.	Yes	250,000 hectares	
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	1	

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										
Ngofi		X					X		X					X								
Uchessi		X					X		X					X								
Chigoma		X					X		X					X								
Mataka		X					X		X					X								
Utonga		X					X		X					X								
Mala/Namisi		X					X		X					X								
Mbueca		X					X		X					X								
Magachi		X					X		X					X								
Matepwe		X					X		X					X								
Mcondece		X					X		X					X								
Litanka		X					X		X					X								
Mandambuzi		X					X		X					X								
Chissindo		X					X		X					X								
Total																						

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

