

CEPF Final Project Completion Report

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| Organization Legal Name | Misuku Beekeepers Hills Association (MBA) |
| Project Title | Misuku Hills Indigenous Forest Project |
| CEPF GEM No. | 64392 |
| Date of Report | 31 July 2016 |
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CEPF Region: Eastern Afromontane

Strategic Direction: 1. Mainstream Biodiversity in Development

Grant Amount: US\$60,000

Project Dates: June 1, 2014-May 31, 2016

1. Implementation Partners for this Project (*list each partner and explain how they were involved in the project*)

Misuku Hills Beekeepers Association (MBA) engaged Chitipa District Department of Forestry Office, Sustainable Rural Growth and Development Initiative (SRGDI) and Action for Environmental Sustainability (AfES) as key stakeholders in the project. The partners played a vital role in the success of the project as indicated below;

- **Chitipa District Department of Forestry Office:** The department provided technical support in Participatory Forest Management. It will facilitate field trainings and demonstrations. The Forestry department facilitated the demarcation of new VFAs, drawing of PFMPs, Signing of agreements and provision of licenses.
- **Sustainable Rural Growth and Development Initiative:** Provided technical support in business management/entrepreneurship, value addition and marketing. This will include organizing meetings between Misuku Beekeepers Association and Buyers, identification of new markets, securing producer/buyer agreements, facilitating trainings on quality standards, processing and value addition.
- **Action for Environmental Sustainability (AfES) -** AfES has played its part in establishment and supporting Village Savings And Loans (VSL)/Community Bank system to support the sustainable use of natural resources. A total of 20 VSL groups with more than 350 community members have been established in 41 communities around the reserve.

Conservation Impacts

2. Describe how your project has contributed to the implementation of the CEPF ecosystem profile

The Misuku Hills Indigenous Forest Project was implemented in the Misuku Hills Forest Reserves (including Mugesse) [KBA nr 164 which is one of the priority KBA in the CEPF Investment Strategy. The project contributed the following Strategic Direction and Investment Priority;

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.

Investment Priority 1.3 - Support civil society to build positive relationships with the private sector to develop sustainable, long-term economic activities that will benefit biodiversity and reduce poverty in priority corridors

The project supported alternative livelihoods options of beekeeping; honey processing, making beeswax products, processing and marketing of indigenous ecosystem based non wood products from the Mugesse, Wilindi and Matipa Forests. These activities have a direct and measurable impact on biodiversity. The project increased the number of beekeepers benefiting from biodiversity conservation of Misuku Hills from the current 250 households to 350 households. The project trained beekeepers in honey and wax processing and supported them with beehives and smokers and facilitated proper packaging and marketing.

The 350 targeted beekeepers have collectively sold 15.2 tonnes of honey as an association for the period of two years. The entire membership of Misuku Beekeepers Association has produced 54.6tonnes of honey for a period of two years. This has geerated \$58,240 for the community. A total of 47,000 meliferous plant seedlings have been planted to boost honey production. At least 2 producer-buyer agreements for honey were signed. Misuku Honey is in the final stage of acquiring the Permit for use of Malawi Bureau of Standards(MBS) Quality Mark. This scheme certifies products which comply with Malawi Standards. Under the scheme, units manufacturing products covered by specific Malawi standards are inspected periodically and when the products consistently comply with the relevant standards, they are certified whereby Permit Certificates are issued to allow the use of the MBS Quality Mark. Through beekeeping, candle making and selling non-wood products the income of 350 households has increased by 80%. At least 64% of the households acquired assets which include; farm inputs, piece of land, bicycles, goats, chickens, beekeeping and honey processing tools.

MBA has participated in the National Agriculture Trade Fair and other marketing platforms which have linked the beekeepers to various sources of support for their business including markets, inputs and linked MBA to Honey Value Chain Actors.

The project has also facilitated the Involvement of Misuku Hills Beekeepers Association in existing local development planning process of Chitipa District Development Plans to ensure a better integration of biodiversity in priority KBA of Hills Forest Reserves (including Mugesse) [KBA nr 164. Misuku Hills Beekeepers Association is now a member of the Local Forest Management Board, Chitipa District Executive Committee (DEC) and in particular the District

Environment and Natural Resources Coordinating Committee. Participatory Forest Management Plans which have been developed through this project have been integrated in the Chitipa District Development Plans. A total of 7 co-management agreements have been signed and licenses issued were issued by March 2016. A total of 7 trained Village Natural Resources Management Committees (VNRMCs) have been introduced and are currently co-managing six blocks inside the reserve. The project has provided skills and knowledge to the Local Forest Management Board (LFMB) in Participatory Forest Management. The project also supported the LFMB to review its strategic plan. The board has a revised strategic plan and trained members and has regular meetings. The project has also advocated for more representation of women and community participation in decision making process of the board. Misuku Hills Beekeepers Association Plans have been integrated in the Village Forest Areas and Co-Management Plans. They have also been integrated Strategic Forest Area Plan for Wilindi-Matipa-Mughese forest reserves in Misuku Hills.

This has ensured that 2762 hectares of the Misuku Hills Forest reserve is under proper management. The project has contributed towards the conservation of 5 target species namely; *Rytigynia pawekiae*, *Habenaria petraea*, *Habenaria pubidens*, *Hirundo atrocaerule* and *Pavetta comostyla*

3. Summarize the overall results/impact of your project

| | Planned long-term Impacts - 3+ years | Actual progress towards long-term Impacts - 3+ years |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Biodiversity value of Misuku Hills Forest Reserve Conserved | <p>Biodiversity value of Misuku Hills Forest Reserve Conserved</p> <p>A total of 2,762 hectares of the Misuku Hills Forest reserve is under proper management. The project has also established and strengthened 7 Village Natural Resources Management Committees (VNRMCs) that are currently co-managing six blocks inside the reserve. This has ensured that 2762 hectares of the Misuku Hills Forest reserve is under proper management. These are as follows;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Mughese East (365 Hectares) 2) Mughese West (365 Hectares) 3) Wilindi -Malambwa (472hectares) 4) Wilindi-(Nalufumbi) (472hectares) 5) Matipa-Mahimbi (544hectares) 6) Matipa – Nyendwa (544 Hectares) <p>A total of 7 co-management agreements and licenses issued were issued by March 2016. By-laws have been developed, validated and signed by the communities to assist with conservation of Misuku Hills Reserve. The project also supported the LFMB to review its strategic plan. The board has a revised strategic plan and trained members and has regular meetings. The project has also advocated for more representation of women and community participation in decision making process of the board.</p> |

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|---|---|---|
| | | In order to reduce the pressure on Misuku Hills Forest Reserve, the project has established seven (7) Village Forest Areas (VFAs) namely Lupalang'ombe Kapiyira, Mwenga, Nangalamu, Chipala, Arthur and Chiwi which are currently being managed by the communities. The VFAs have signed co-management and developed Participatory Forest Management Plans which are currently being implemented. |
| 2 | Poverty levels of 350 households living in Misuku Hills reduced | Poverty levels of 350 households living in Misuku Hills reduced Through beekeeping, candle making and selling non-wood products the income of 350 households has increased by 80%. At least 64% of the households acquired assets which include; farm inputs, piece of land, bicycles, goats, chickens, beekeeping and honey processing tools. The households have been linked to sustainable markets and honey value chain players such suppliers and regulators. The village savings and loans implemented by AFES are helping the households to save their income earnings and also access microfinance for their beekeeping and non-wood products business. This has greatly reduced poverty levels for the 350 households. |
| 3 | Strengthen the Local Forest Management Board | The project has supported the Local Forest Management Board to review its strategic plan. This revised management plan has also taken on board activities under Misuku Hills Beekeepers Association. The project also developed and reviewed management plans for village forest areas. Local Forest Management Board uses the strategic plan and the management plans to monitor the implementation of conservation activities in Misuku Hills. |

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

List each short-term impact from Grant Writer proposal

| | Planned Short-term Impacts - 1 to 3 years | Actual progress toward short-term impacts at completion |
|---|--|---|
| 1 | 100ha within the 6 blocks within Wilindi, Matipa and Mughese Forest reserves well managed by 71 villages | 2762 hectares of the Misuku Hills Forest reserve is under proper management managed by 71 villages |
| 2 | 100ha of Village Forest Areas under regeneration and tree planting within 71 target villages | 485.92 ha of Village Forest Areas under regeneration and tree planting within 61 target villages |
| 3 | 90% increase in income for 350 community beekeepers | The income of 350 households has increased by 80% |

| | | |
|---|--|--|
| 4 | A functional, vibrant and inclusive Local Forest Management Board in Misuku Hills Forest Reserve | A trained, functional, vibrant and inclusive Local Forest Management Board in Misuku Hills Forest Reserve with a revised strategic plan |
|---|--|--|

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

Achievements:

The project planned to have 100ha within the 6 blocks within Wilindi, Matipa and Mughese Forest reserves well managed by 71 villages. It managed to have 2762 hectares of the Misuku Hills Forest reserve under proper management managed by 71 villages. This was achieved by establishing and training Village Natural Resources Management Committees in all the six blocks. Involvement of local leaders and partnering with district forest office, local institutions enabled the project to have this achievement. The same applies to the success in establishment of Village Forest Areas. The project planned to 100ha of Village Forest Areas under regeneration and tree planting within 71 target villages. However the project established 7 VFAs which covered **485.92 ha**.

There has been 80% increase in income for poor households through beekeeping and selling of non-wood products. Capacity has been improved and developed for beekeepers, local forest management board and committees in participatory forest management.

Below is a table showing the Village Forest Areas established and strengthened through this project.

| No. | Village Forest Area (VFA) | No. Of Villages Involved | Area Covered (Hectares) |
|-------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 | Lupalang'ombe | 13 | 19ha |
| 2 | Kapiyira | 10 | 52.2ha |
| 3 | Mwenga | 6 | 115ha |
| 4 | Nangalamu | 10 | 32ha |
| 5 | Chipala | 9 | 82.72ha |
| 6 | Alther | 5 | 15ha |
| 7 | Chibi | 8 | 170ha |
| TOTAL | | 61 | 485.92 ha |

Challenges;

- The key challenge has been transportation. Misuku hills have a very difficult terrain, with steep slopes, poor and seasonal roads. With no vehicle, it has been so tough for project team to conduct some activities in other hard to reach areas. Transport problems also affected the transportation of honey to markets.
- Corruption is still a key challenge in co-management of Misuku Hills Forest Reserve. Government /Authorities give logging licenses to traders. These people cut down huge trees in the blocks without the consent of the communities. Usually these loggers bribe government officials
- Encroachment of protected areas for farming is also a big challenge often perpetuated by communities surrounding Misuku Hills and Village Forest Areas. Some pockets of local communities are still clearing land for cultivation in the protected areas.
- Limited and short-term funding does not allow the project to achieve better results since the process of transforming the community is abandoned on the way. A five year funding period would bring better results.

5. Unexpected Impacts

The project had the following unexpected results;

- a) Capacity Development of Misuku Hills Beekeepers Association (MBA) has been enhanced. Through the project CEPF and Tropical Biology Association (TBA) conducted two capacity building and networking sessions in Mbeya, Tanzania and Nairobi Kenya. These events have increased technical capacity in terms of project management skills and also conservation science. MBA has improved its technical capacity
- b) MBA has been linked and networked with other conservation organizations in Africa and within Malawi. Misuku Hills Beekeepers Association was nominated by Tropical Biology Association for a site visit and learning exchange hosting Ms. Pendo Niyukuli from Save Tanzania Forests (SATAFO). During the site visit, MBA arranged a series of activities aimed at sharing best practices in practical engagement of local communities in sustainable livelihood activities to help Pendo achieve her learning objectives. Pendo was also expected to share lessons from Tanzania.

- c) Through the project Misuku Hills Beekeepers Association was linked to Markets. Chitipa District Council nominated MBA to represent the district at the National Agricultural Trade Fair in Blantyre. MBA showcased its honey at the National Trade Fair where it received orders and business connections.
- d) Through the project MBA was awarded a small grant from Tilitonse Fund to enhance governance in conservation of Misuku Hills Forest Reserve. Tilitonse Fund also facilitated institutional capacity development of MBA by assisting the association to develop organizational policies, strategic plan, Theory of Change and other Standard Operating Procedures. MBA has now enhanced its organizational capacity

Project Components and Products/Deliverables

Results for Component 1

Firstly, the project will increase land area under protection and sustainable management in Misuku Hills Forest Reserves (inc. Mugesse)KBA . A total of 100ha will be put under protection and sustainable and participatory management in the reserve through Blocks and 100ha outside the reserve through village forest areas.

6. Describe the results from Component 1 and each product/deliverable

| | Product/deliverable | Result |
|---|---|--|
| 1 | 7 new VFA (Village Forest Areas) with signed co-management agreements in Misuku Hills Forest Reserves established by March 2016 | Seven (7) Village Forest Areas (VFAs) namely Lupalang’ombe Kapiyira, Mwenga, Nangalamu, Chipala, Arthur and Chiwi which are currently being managed by the communities |
| 2 | 7 new VNRMCs with PFMPs introduced by March 2016 | 7 trained Village Natural Resources Management Committees (VNRMCs) have been introduced and are currently co-managing six blocks inside the reserve. |
| 3 | 7 co-management agreement and licenses issued by January 2016 | 7 co-management agreement and licenses issued were issued by March 2016 |
| 4 | Bye laws that discourage unsustainable activities in Misuku Hills KBA adopted by communities. | By-laws have been developed, validated and signed by the communities. These have been included in Management Plans. The bye laws have also been translated in the local Ndali language |

Results for Component 2

Secondly, the project will increase income earned from biodiversity conservation by 90% through development of beekeeping enterprises among 350 beekeepers in Misuku Hills.

| | Product/deliverable | Result |
|--|--|--|
| | Increased number of beekeepers benefiting from biodiversity conservation of Misuku Hills from the current 250 households to 350 households by March 2015 | The number of households was increased to 350 (100% achievement) |
| | At least 350 beekeepers in Misuku Hills trained in Beekeeping, Honey Processing, Wax Extraction, candle making and Business/entrepreneurship by September 2015 | A total of 350 households have been trained in Beekeeping, Honey Processing, Wax Extraction, candle making and Business/entrepreneurship (100% achievement) |
| | At least 3 producer-buyer agreements for honey signed by December 2014 | 2 producer-buyer agreements for honey were signed (67% achievement) |
| | Certification for Honey and Candles acquired from The Malawi Bureau of Standards by the Association. The certification of honey will be done by December 2014 and for Candles by August 2015 | Misuku Honey is in the final stage of acquiring the Permit for use of MBS Quality Mark. This scheme certifies products which comply with Malawi Standards. Under the scheme, units manufacturing products covered by specific Malawi standards are inspected periodically and when the products consistently comply with the relevant standards, they are certified whereby Permit Certificates are issued to allow the use of the MBS Quality Mark. |
| | At least 280,000 melliferous plant seedlings will be planted to boost honey production by March 2015 | A total of 47,000 melliferous plant seedlings have been planted to boost honey production by March 2015 |
| | At least 120 tonnes of honey produced and sold in two years by Misuku Beekeepers Association | The 350 targeted beekeepers have collectively sold 15.2 tonnes of honey as an association for the period of two years. The entire membership of Misuku Beekeepers Association has produced 54.6 tonnes of honey for a period of two years. |

7. Results for component 3

Thirdly the project will facilitate the Involvement of Misuku Hills Beekeepers Association in existing local development planning process of Chitipa District Development Plans to ensure a better integration of biodiversity in priority KBA of Hills Forest Reserves (including Mugesse) [KBA nr 164

| | Product/deliverable | Result |
|---|--|---|
| 1 | Misuku Hills Beekeepers Association Plans integrated in the Strategic Forest Area Plan and Chitipa District Development Plan by December 2015 | Misuku Hills Beekeepers Association Plans have been integrated in the Village Forest Areas and Co-Management Plans. They have also been integrated Strategic Forest Area Plan for Wilindi-Matipa-Mughese forest reserves in Misuku Hills. |
| 2 | The Local Forest Management Board (LFMB) strengthened. The LFMB was formed to monitor the implementation of the strategic plan and bring together multi-stakeholder bodies that includes: community representatives, traditional leadership representatives, civil society groups (NGOs, CBOs, religious groups), District Assembly Structures and Central Government. | The project has provided skills and knowledge to the Local Forest Management Board (LFMB) in Participatory Forest Management. The project also supported the LFMB to review its strategic plan. The board has a revised strategic plan and trained members and has regular meetings. The project has also advocated for more representation of women and community participation in decision making process of the board. |
| 3 | Thirdly the project will facilitate the Involvement of Misuku Hills Beekeepers Association in existing local development planning process of Chitipa District Development Plans to ensure a better integration of biodiversity in priority KBA of Hills Forest Reserves (including Mughese) [KBA nr 164 | Misuku Hills Beekeepers Association is now a member of the Local Forest Management Board, Chitipa District Executive Committee (DEC) and in particular the District Environment and Natural Resources Coordinating Committee. Participatory Forest Management Plans which have been developed through this project have been integrated in the Chitipa District Development Plans. These are now form part of the Village Development Committees and Area Development Committees activities |

Results for Component 4

| | Product/deliverable | Result |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Local community leaders and provincial authorities approve of the project implementation prior to field work commencing | The project had consultation meeting with Local Leaders prior to implementation. The project was also approved by the District Forest Office, Chitipa District Executive Committee and the Local Forest Management Board. Local leaders made their inputs and committed to support and mobilize their people and locally available resources to support the project. |
| 2 | Compliance with CEPF social safeguard policies | This project had no negative impacts on the environment and natural habitats. Negative effects were monitored. The project created new village forest areas and also strengthen conservation and more sustainable management of forests and other natural habitats. The project supported Indigenous Peoples in this case, the Sukwa and Ndali. The two local tribes live in Misuku Hills. These tribes were involved at all stages of the project provisions for evaluating the potential impacts on their communities and plans were integrated in the project plan. The project ensured that there was no removal or alteration of any physical cultural resources. Misuku Hills has shrines and other places that form history of the Sukwa and Ndali People. The development and management plans and bye laws included the protection and preservation of physical cultural resources. Beekeepers and communities cultivating in Misuku Hills were discouraged to use pesticides and trained in proper pest management. The project ensured that no community member was resettled involuntarily, in fact no one was resettled by the project |
| 3 | Compliance with social assessment monitored and reported to CEPF | The project monitored and reported compliance with social assessment every 6months to CEPF. |

8. If you did not complete any component or deliverable, how did this affect the overall impact of the project?

The failure to complete certification of Misuku Honey affected the marketing of honey and signing of agreements with buyers. This further affected the production of honey and income earned by beekeepers. The prices were relatively low. Due The failure to complete certification was lack of water piped water at the processing facility. Misuku Hills Beekeepers Association applied for connection by the Water Supply Authority (Northern Region Water Board) has taken time to connect. This is beyond the association's control.

9. Please describe and submit any tools, products, or methodologies that resulted from this project or contributed to the results

The project used National Trade Fairs to market Misuku Hills Honey (Find attached Report)

CEPF Global Monitoring Data

Respond to the questions and complete the tables below. If a question is not relevant to your project, please make an entry of 0 (zero) or n/a (not applicable).

10. Did your organization complete the CEPF Civil Society Tracking Tool (CSTT) at the beginning and end of your project? Yes/No

If yes, please be sure to submit the final CSTT tool to CEPF if you haven't already done so.

11. List any vulnerable, endangered, or critically endangered species conserved due to your project

Hectares under Improved Management

| | Species Scientific Name | Taxa Group | IUCN Category |
|---|-----------------------------|------------|---------------|
| 1 | <i>Habenaria petraea</i> | PLANT | Not Evaluated |
| 2 | <i>Habenaria pubidens</i> | PLANT | Not Evaluated |
| 3 | <i>Hirundo atrocaerulea</i> | AVES | Vulnerable |
| 4 | <i>Pavetta comostyla</i> | PLANT | Vulnerable |
| 5 | <i>Rytigynia pawekiae</i> | PLANT | Vulnerable |

| Project Results | Hectares* | Comments |
|---|-----------|---|
| 12. Did your project strengthen the management of an existing protected area? | 2762 | <i>List the name of each protected area</i> 1) Mughese East (365 Hectares) 2) Mughese West (365 Hectares) 3) Wilindi -Malambwa) (472hectares) 4) Wilindi-(Nalufumbi) (472hectares) 5) Matipa-Mahimbi (544hectares) 6) Matipa – Nyendwa (544 Hectares) |
| 13. Did your project create a new protected area or expand an existing protected area? | NO | <i>List the name of each protected area, the date of proclamation, and the type of proclamation (e.g., legal declaration, community agreement, stewardship agreement)</i> |
| 14. Did your project strengthen the management of a key biodiversity area named | 2762 | <i>List the name of each key biodiversity area</i> Misuku Hills Forest Reserves (including Mugesse) is one of the priority KBA in the CEPF Investment |

| | | |
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| in the CEPF Ecosystem Profile (hectares may be the same as questions above) | | Strategy. |
| 15. Did your project improve the management of a production landscape for biodiversity conservation | NO | List the name or describe the location of the production landscape |

* Include total hectares from project inception to completion

16. In relation to the two questions above on protected areas, did your project complete a Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT), or facilitate the completion of a METT by protected area authorities? If so, complete the table below. (Note that there will often be more than one METT for an individual protected area.)

This is not applicable

| Protected area | Date of METT | Composite METT Score | Date of METT | Composite METT Score | Date of METT | Composite METT Score |
|----------------|--------------|----------------------|--------------|----------------------|--------------|----------------------|
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |

17. List the name of any corridor (named in the Ecosystem Profile) in which you worked and how you contributed to its improved management, if applicable.

Corridor: Northern Lake NIASSA

Direct Beneficiaries: Training and Education

| Did your project provide training or education for . . . | Male | Female | Total | Brief Description |
|--|------|--------|-------|---|
| 18. Adults for community leadership or resource management positions | 28 | 42 | 70 | A total of 70 members of the Village Natural Resources Management Committees were trained |
| 19. Adults for livelihoods or increased income | 227 | 123 | 350 | A total of 350 beekeepers were training in beekeeping, honey processing and marketing |
| 20. School-aged children | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| 21. Other –Local Forest Management Board | 6 | 4 | 10 | 10 members of Local Forest Management |

| | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|--|
| | | | | Board were trained in Participatory Forest Management |
|--|--|--|--|--|

22. List the name and approximate population size of any “community” that benefited from the project.

The project worked with 71 villages. These villages cover a population of approximately 6,867 people. Misuku Hills Beekeepers Association has over 1500 beekeepers as members. The following communities were direct beneficiaries of the project;

- a) Lupalang’ombe is situated to the South of Misuku Trading Centre. It covers 13 villages. It is situated in Chitipa District in the northern region of Malawi.
- b) Kapiyira is situated to the North of Misuku Trading Centre. It is 4-5 kilometres away from Misuku Centre and natural trees only. It is situated in Chitipa District in the northern region of Malawi.
- c) Mwenga is situated South West of Misuku 33 kilometres away from Misuku and is covering 6 villages and has natural trees only. It is situated in Chitipa District in the northern region of Malawi.
- d) Nangalamu is also situated south West of Misuku and covers 10 villages. It is situated in Chitipa District in the northern region of Malawi.
- e) Chipala is situated to the South of Misuku and covers 9 villages. It is 15 kilometers away from Misuku Centre. It is situated in Chitipa District in the northern region of Malawi.
- f) Arthur is situated to the South of Misuku Centre and covers 5 villages. The distance from Misuku is 35 kilometer’s. It is situated in Chitipa District in the northern region of Malawi.
- g) Chiwi is situated to the East of Misuku behind Mughese forest reserve. It is almost 23 kilometres away from Misuku Centre. It covers 8 villages. It is situated in Chitipa District in the northern region of Malawi.

23. Socioeconomic Benefits to Target Communities

Based on the list of communities above, write the name of the communities in the left column below. In the subsequent columns under Community Characteristics and Nature of Socioeconomic Benefit, place an X in all relevant boxes.

| Community Name | 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 line | 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 | | | | | | | | | |
| Lupalang'ombe | X | X | X | | | | X | | X | | | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | |
| Kapiyira, | X | X | X | | | | X | | X | | | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | |
| Mwenga, | X | X | X | | | | X | | X | | | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | |
| Nangalamu, | X | X | X | | | | X | | X | | | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | |
| Chipala, | X | X | X | | | | X | | X | | | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | |
| Arthur | X | X | X | | | | X | | X | | | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | |
| Chiwi | X | X | X | | | | X | | X | | | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | |

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

Lessons Learned

24. 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

The support offered by other organizations such as SRGDI, TBA and AfES was very vital in ensuring that Misuku Hills Beekeepers Association delivers this project. Working with CEPF has left MBA better than before. Misuku has better connection to the government and communities. Capacity Building should be one of the key components of future projects in Misuku. Governance and advocacy should be enhanced. There is also a need train communities to identify and know which species are critical. These should be given priority and bylaws should be established to protect the species.

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

The project was designed with communities and stakeholders in Misuku Hills. It was going to be impossible to facilitate conservation of ecosystems Misuku Hills Forest Reserve and Mughese without addressing poverty and poor governance. In Misuku Hills communities were being forced to deplete species for survival. It was also discovered that leaders/government were engaged in corruption and also abuse of power which result in loss of ecosystems. The design of the project addressed three key issues. These were; a) governance b) poverty and c) business/entrepreneurship. These issues were addressed as a package with other conservational activities.

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

The project was implemented by a Team. Village Natural Resources Management Committees (VNRMCs) were key to implementation of activities. They facilitated day to day activities in the blocks (within the forest reserve) and also Village Forest Areas (VFAs). Local/Community leaders were very critical in mobilizing communities, enforcement of by-laws and assisting with conflict resolution. Misuku Hills Beekeepers Association was involved in project management, supervision, monitoring, evaluation, and reporting and knowledge management. Sustainable Rural Growth and Development Initiative (SRGDI) assisted with the business aspects of honey/beeswax candles and non-wood products. The District Forest Office facilitated conservation related trainings and also demarcation of VFAs, facilitating agreements, licenses, Local Forest Management Board Meetings. The project used awareness & education meetings, trainings, advocacy, exchange visits, Focus Group Discussions, Debates, and Field Demonstrations to enhance learning. The project also established and signed by-laws, producer-buyer agreements and licenses. Certification schemes were also introduced to ensure that beekeeping products were up to standards

27. Describe any other lessons learned relevant to the conservation community

There is a very urgent need to address governance issues in conservation, especially where co-management is practiced. There huge problems that we observed in Misuku. Corruption is one big issue that is threatening ecosystems. The management of these partially protected areas sometimes come under corrupted government officials and local leaders at the expense of local communities. Even those

that get benefits at local communities may not share to women and children. Unless this corruption is addressed any conservational activity is in vain especially in poor regions like Misuku where poverty and illiteracy is high.

Sustainability / Replication

28. Summarize the success or challenges in ensuring the project will be sustained or replicated

- Signing of producer-buyer agreements has guaranteed access to markets for beekeepers for their honey and beeswax products. This has triggered increased productivity and incomes.
- Acquisition of certification for honey and beeswax candles will be able to bargain for better prices.
- MBAs participation in the National Agriculture Trade Fair and other marketing platforms has linked the beekeepers to various sources of support for their business including markets, inputs and linked MBA to Honey Value chain Actors
- The introduction of bye-laws in conservation has improved management of Misuku Hills Beekeepers Association

29. Summarize any unplanned activities that are likely to result in increased sustainability or reliability.

Linking communities and beekeepers to microfinance (Village Savings and Loan groups) has ensured that communities can save earnings from beekeeping and non-wood products enterprises and also they can have access to loans to invest in their businesses. This has contributed to poverty reduction and also reduced pressure on unsustainable consumption of natural resources in Misuku Hills Forest Reserve for survival.

Safeguards

30. If not listed as a separate Project Component and described above, summarize the implementation of any required action related to social, environmental, or pest management safeguards

This has been listed as a project component.

Additional Comments/Recommendations

31. Use this space to provide any further comments or recommendations in relation to your project or CEPF

The CEPF is a great initiative. However CEPF need to develop long term relationships with grantees. This will ensure that the investment that has been done can begin to realize ecosystems protection results/outcomes.

Additional Funding

32. Provide details of any additional funding that supported this project and any funding secured for the project, organization, or the region, as a result of CEPF investment

| Donor | Type of Funding* | Amount | Notes |
|--|------------------|----------|---|
| \$40,000 has been secured from the Global Environment Facility(GEF) Small Grants Programme through UNDP Malawi Office. | B | \$40,000 | <p>The GEF SGP funds contributed towards the following areas;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expansion of Misuku Indigenous Honey and Wax processing unit • Training of Beekeepers harvesting of Non-wood Products and Traditional Biodiversity Conservation Practices • Awareness Campaigns on resource tenure and participatory forest management • Lesson sharing and knowledge management activities (Exchange Visits and Field Days and Documentation) • Organizational Capacity building of Misuku Association (Financial management and Governance) and networking activities |
| Tilitonse Fund | B | \$10,000 | <p>The participatory forest governance project was a one year project which was being funded by Tilitonse Fund through the Community Based Organization (CBO) window. The Goal of the project was to improve forest governance and accountability through participatory forestry management in Misuku Hills. The project purpose aimed at increasing participation of Misuku residents in the management of Misuku hills forest.</p> <p>The project had three outputs and these include</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Structure of the Village Forest Area (VFA) structures strengthened. • Develop and strengthening of bye-laws • Monitoring and Evaluation |

* Categorize the type of funding as:

- A Project Co-Financing (other donors or your organization contribute to the direct costs of this 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 funded project)
- C Regional/Portfolio Leveraging (other donors make large investments in a region because of CEPF investment or successes related to this project)

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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