

CEPF FINAL PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

I. BASIC DATA

Organization Legal Name: Nature Conservation Centre/ Doga Koruma Merkezi

Project Title (as stated in the grant agreement): Training for Conservation - Biodiversity Assessment and Monitoring Training Programme in the Turkish Caucasus

Implementation Partners for this Project:

Project Dates (as stated in the grant agreement): 1 September 2006 – 30 June 2008

Date of Report (month/year): August 2008

II. OPENING REMARKS

Provide any opening remarks that may assist in the review of this report.

The project needed to go for a modification of purpose and outputs throughout its cycle. The modifications were accepted by CEPF. The final project template contained the former purpose. We modified the purpose to show the new, correct version.

III. ACHIEVEMENT OF PROJECT PURPOSE

Project Purpose Directorate General of Forestry staff in the North Eastern Turkey are using their new capacity to manage forests taking biodiversity into consideration and start a simple biodiversity monitoring program.

Planned vs. Actual Performance

Indicator	Actual at Completion
Purpose-level: Directorate General of Forestry convinced of the importance of biodiversity in forests and continues to disseminate the information to the rest of its staff through organizing more of the biodiversity trainings offered in this project.	The Directory General of Forestry is very much convinced of the importance of biodiversity in forests. It is stating this fact at every public and private opportunity. The DGF is constantly trying to find budget lines in other projects to replicate the course that was designed with this CEPF project. DGF and DKM will apply to FAO as a next step to look more funding to replicate this course country-wide.

Describe the success of the project in terms of achieving its intended impact objective and performance indicators.

We can definitely say that the project achieved its purpose, more than we could have hoped for at the beginning of the project.

Many indicators are showing that the DGF is now convinced of the importance of biodiversity in forest and continues to disseminate the information to the rest of its staff:

- the DGF made it a requirement that selected foresters (42 in total) fully attend the 5 day course
- The DGF supported the course politically by providing high-level staff attendance (including department heads and regional directors)
- The DGF asked DKM to find more funds to replicate the course
- The DGF is itself looking for more funds to replicate the course
- Many DGF staff that did not take the course is asking when will it be offered next
- The course material received 70 hits within the first two hours it was published on the DGF website
- The DGF asked DKM to make the course material into a book so as to better disseminate the information to its staff.

Were there any unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?

There was one very positive unexpected impact of the project. DKM and DGF fostered extremely good working relations. Both institutions started to trust each other more. The DGF wanted to work with NGOs, and this provided a good opportunity for them to start working with NGOs. DKM is now gearing more of its projects to work with the DGF rather than other government bodies that have been less welcoming to NGOs. The DGF and DKM are in the process of implementing and preparing many more fruitful projects.

IV. PROJECT OUTPUTS

Project Outputs: Enter the project outputs from the Logical Framework for the project

Planned vs. Actual Performance

Indicator	Actual at Completion
Output 1: A structured course forest biodiversity, biodiversity friendly silvicultural techniques and simple biodiversity monitoring scheme in forests is ready and being delivered	Course ready and delivered
1.1 An easy to understand and to follow course material and booklet on the importance of forest biodiversity and simple monitoring schemes custom-prepared for the West Lesser Caucasus Forests by	Custom prepared course ready Course material ready Book ready. ISBN number 978-605-89908-0-7. A simple monitoring scheme for the Lesser Caucasus Forests is given in the original course material to the course participants.
1.2 A course on the importance of biodiversity monitoring and assessment is delivered to at least 25 Turkish foresters working in the West Lesser Caucasus Ecoregion and at least one forester from Azerbaijan by a group of experts on different taxa by the end of the project.	The course delivered by a group of experts on different taxa and ecology to 42 Turkish foresters and one Azeri conservationist.
Output 2: A training CD made of video clips from the course showing the different lectures on different topics ready as course refresher material	Video clips ready
2.1 The training CD ready by end of February 2008.	Training CD ready as of February 2008
Output 3: Connections made with Georgia and Azerbaijan for extending the course in these countries. Turkish speaking Georgian and Azeri foresters participate to the course.	Connections made, though not successful. One Azeri conservationist participated to the course
3.1 Contacts from NGOs in Azerbaijan and Georgia are aware of this project and are contributing to it by providing guidance on how to proceed if the course is to be adapted to their countries and help in identifying candidates to participate to the first course taking place in Turkey.	Although contacts were made with Azerbaijan and Georgia, there was not much interest in replicating the course in these countries. An Azeri conservationist who spoke Turkish attended the course. We could not find a Georgian

	forester/conservationist who spoke Turkish to attend the course.
Output 4: A monitoring and evaluation system for all outputs and Purpose, with feedback loops	
<i>4.1 The monitoring system of the project outputs will include quality control of the outputs through questionnaires, keep track of the timing and budget of the project activities with Excel database from day 1 until the end of the project.</i>	<p>The success of the course and course material was assessed by questionnaires and one to one interviews. The course and the material were deemed very successful. Most trainers and subjects received high grades. One of the most common comments in the questionnaire was that `though we were already careful about biodiversity, this course helped us remember what we must do. I would advise my colleagues to take it.` We must note here that Turkish field foresters have the belief of actually knowing absolutely everything there is to know about forests. Thus the first part of the comment.</p> <p>Financial and performance reports were completed.</p>

Describe the success of the project in terms of delivering the intended outputs.

The project delivered more than the outputs it initially committed to. Because the course was such a success, the foresters asked DKM to write a book that contained all the information.

DKM managed its CEPF funds such that it was able to finance for the writing of a book and publishing 500 copies.

The book is a first of its kind in Turkey. It is called Forest and Biodiversity. It incorporates all different levels of biodiversity in a forest, and describes forestry techniques that are biodiversity friendly. It is a 220 page book with the ISBN number 978*605-89908-0-7.

The DGF has requested at least 2000 copies of the book. Because there was not enough funds left in the CEPF project budget for 2000 copies, DKM applied for a UNDP Small Grants project only to cover the extra publication cost of the book.

The book was published in November 2008 and mailed directly to all the field foresters in Turkey. Copies were also distributed to the Directorate General of Forestry, Directorate General of National Parks, NGOs, and Forestry Faculties of Universities.

Were any outputs unrealized? If so, how has this affected the overall impact of the project?

Contacts with Azerbaijan and Georgia were not very successful (Output 3). There are a few reasons that lead to this.

First, it was difficult enough to overcome the initial barriers within Turkey to do this kind of a project. Our priority was to prepare a smooth working atmosphere and most of our energy was spent within the country. It would have been better to prepare this course for Turkey only (as it ended up being), and once the course was mainstreamed in Turkish Forestry, invite the other countries to see how it works, and to inspire them.

Another possible reason for this is that though we have working relationships with conservationists from the other two countries, we believe that priorities at the moments may be different. The language also created a barrier for more Georgian and Azeri foresters to attend the course.

V. SAFEGUARD POLICY ASSESSMENTS

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

There were no need for such action.

VI. LESSONS LEARNED FROM THE PROJECT

Describe any lessons learned during the various phases of the project. Consider lessons both for future projects, as well as for CEPF's future performance.

The CEPF project delivered more than it promised. Although there was not an activity about a publication of a book, DKM managed the funds so that we were able to write and publish a book in Turkish about the biodiversity in Turkish Forests.

Thanks to the CEPF funds, DKM was able to show its good will, its technical capacity, and its worldwide networks for forest conservation. Because we wanted to prepare a book that was tailor made to the needs of Turkish foresters, we worked very closely with the DGF over the past two years. We have gotten to know and understand each other much better. And we saw that the DGF actually respects groups of people who are good willed and have a strong technical capacity to offer them.

Lesson Learned: Thanks to this project, we found a government body that is actually proud to work with an NGO that is willing and able to increase their technical capacity. Our experience is that there are very few government bodies that honor these faculties.

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

The flexibility of the CEPF funds was critical to this success. The project first noticed that foresters were not ready for the project as it was initially designed. Rather than insisting on it proceeding with an unrealistic purpose, the CEPF accepted the request of change in the project purpose and outputs. The purpose and outputs did not diminish, but they were better adapted to the needs of the foresters. For instance, a few months into the project, the project team realized that the initial purpose, which was to teach biodiversity monitoring techniques to foresters was unrealistic as the field foresters were neither aware of what biodiversity was, nor aware of its importance for the forests. So the new purpose, which was to make DGF aware of the importance of biodiversity was much better suited to the needs of the foresters, and therefore the project was able to achieve its purpose.

Second, the CEPF project structure also allowed for the flexible use of funds, which means that though there was not an initial budget for the writing or publishing of a book, we were able to manage the funds (with approval from CEPF) to make it happen.

We found the CEPF project management extremely project-friendly.

Project Execution: (aspects of the project execution that contributed to its success/failure)

DKM worked very closely with both the technical people of the DGF to prepare the contents of the book and course, and with the administration level, for them to provide political support for the course and book within the DGF. This strategy worked very well.

VII. 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
UNDP Small Grants	A	10.000 USD	For Publishing more copies of the book produced in the CEPF project.

***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** *Complementary funding (Other donors contribute to partner organizations that are working on a project linked with this CEPF project)*
- C** *Grantee and Partner leveraging (Other donors contribute to your organization or a partner organization as a direct result of successes with this CEPF project.)*
- D** *Regional/Portfolio leveraging (Other donors make large investments in a region because of CEPF investment or successes related to this project.)*

Provide details of whether this project will continue in the future and if so, how any additional funding already secured or fundraising plans will help ensure its sustainability.

Both DKM and the DGF want to replicate the course throughout Turkey. Though both institutions are looking for funds to do so, we have not been successful in securing funds yet.

VIII. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

We found the CEPF very easy and helpful to work with. We hope that the CEPF's success in achieving its goals are increased by the helpful environment it is providing to its grantees. We help a private company manage its conservation funds and we would like share the CEPF approach in management with them.

We hope that the CEPF continues with its current approach and influences other donors as we found it worked very well with us.

VIII. INFORMATION SHARING

CEPF is committed to transparent operations and to helping civil society groups share experiences, lessons learned and results. One way we do this is by making programmatic project documents available on our Web site, www.cepf.net, and by marketing these in our newsletter and other communications.

These documents are accessed frequently by other CEPF grantees, potential partners, and the wider conservation community.

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