

CEPF SMALL GRANT FINAL PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

I. BASIC DATA

Organization Legal Name: Skills and Agriculture Development Services, Inc.

Project Title (as stated in the grant agreement): Building Sustainable Livelihoods around the Wologizi and Wonegizi proposed protected areas.

Implementation Partners for This Project: None

Project Dates (as stated in the grant agreement): November 1, 2005- July 31, 2006

Date of Report (month/year): September 2006

II. OPENING REMARKS

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

The Wologizi and Wonegizi proposed protected areas of conservation are located in the North Lorma national forest region between Zorzor and Voinjama districts, Lofa county- Liberia, West Africa. These proposed protected areas are comprised of about forty (40) towns and villages with an average population of more than one hundred thousand local dwellers. The majority of these dwellers are engaged in livelihood activities that are of serious threat to conservation and biodiversity.

Therefore, SADS with funding from CEPF embarked on a nine month program geared at building sustainable livelihoods support in four communities as a means of conserving and protecting the biodiversity of these proposed protected areas. These communities include Konia Town, Ziggida Town, Barziwen Town and Luyeama Town.

This project was divided into two phases. The first phase started with conservation awareness and sensitization, while the second phase focused on sustainable livelihoods vocational short-term training in soap making and animal rearing for a period of four months. The total targeted direct beneficiaries were eighty (80) communities with twenty (20) participants from each project community.

With the help of this CEPF small grant, the majority of the four project communities' dwellers are able to exercise measures that tend to conserve and protect biodiversity and create new alternative sustainable livelihoods methods of support. These have influenced their Knowledge, Attitude and Practices (KAPs) on activities that concern biodiversity.

III. NARRATIVE QUESTIONS

1. What was the initial objective of this project?

The initial objectives of this project are:

- ❖ Assessment and sensitization in key communities using the Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) methodology.
- ❖ Selection and formation of forest protection cooperative groups.
- ❖ Livelihood training addressing PRA results.

2. Did the objectives of your project change during implementation? If so, please explain why and how.

No.

3. How was your project successful in achieving the expected objectives?

My project was successful in achieving the expected objectives by undertaking the following activities:

- ❖ PRA surveys.
- ❖ Education and Awareness workshops held.
- ❖ Identified key people/ groups (i.e. stake holders and participants)
- ❖ Identified and established training centers.
- ❖ Defined objectives of groups.
- ❖ Defined the structure, role and responsibilities of groups.
- ❖ Coordinated with authorities (local authorities, FDA, etc.)
- ❖ Trained in specific livelihood activities and Graduation held.
- ❖ Providing initial start-up cost (cash, supplies).
- ❖ Trained in management of the cooperative groups.
- ❖ Monitored cooperative groups for three-month period leading up to graduation program.

4. Did your team experience any disappointments or failures during implementation? If so, please explain and comment on how the team addressed these disappointments and/or failures.

During the project implementation period, my team experienced the following:

- ❖ Transportation: The problem of transportation became one major issue that arose during the project life span. Due to the bad road network and the lack of organization personal vehicle, transport cost inflated two times the amount stipulated in the budget line of the proposal. With the level of hard working team members I had, we most often addressed this problem by walking sometime from one location to another locally to be able to successfully complete the project implementation.

5. Describe any positive or negative lessons learned from this project that would be useful to share with other organizations interested in implementing a similar project.

There were many lessons learnt that one may either consider positive or negative. Some of which are the issue of full communities involvement in project. We found it very difficult for community leaders to convince their members to contribute to the success of the project. They mostly believe that the project implementers are been paid and must shoulder 100% responsibility of the project and allow them the fullest benefits. Again, it is also advisable for project implementers to operate in region that they know, and to understand at least the most popular dialect. Secondly, the community's members must feel ownership of the project to be implemented.

6. Describe any follow-up activities related to this project.

Below are listed follow-up activities that relate to this project:

- Regular visitations of various forest protection corporative groups to ensure that the group members are kept together and group objectives are maintained.
- Regular dissemination of information to local leaders that has to do with forest conservation issues.
- Engage other communities to get involved with alternative livelihoods support projects as a way of building their hope for income generation.

7. Please provide any additional information to assist CEPF in understanding any other aspects of your completed project.

Other aspects of my project had to do with building community's members to become proactive on addressing matters that concern conservation and environmental protection education at community level. In view of this, women were found out as one of the most effective elements that could be used, most especially those that head families in gathering daily livelihoods support for survival.

IV. ACHIEVEMENT OF PROJECT PURPOSE

Project Purpose:

This project was intended to build a sustainable livelihoods alternative support for communities' dwellers and enlighten their knowledge at a sustainable level on the conservation and protection of biodiversity. It also exposed activities that are the causes of habitat loss for our wildlife and how its influences affect biodiversity negatively.

Planned vs. Actual Performance

Indicator	Actual at Completion
Goals and Objectives:	
<i>PRA surveys conducted.</i>	PRA surveys conducted in four (4) communities.
<i>Forest conservation Education and Awareness workshops held.</i>	Education and Awareness on forest conservation held in four communities involving local authorities, politicians and religious leaders.
<i>Identified key people/groups.</i>	Identified eighty (80) participants, twenty from each of the four project communities.
<i>Identified and established training centers.</i>	Identified and established four training centers, each in project communities.
<i>Forest protection cooperative groups selected and formulated.</i>	Four (4) forest protection cooperative groups selected and formulated in the four project communities.
<i>Defined objective of groups</i>	Each group objective clearly defined.
<i>Defined group structure, roles and responsibilities.</i>	Each group has a leadership set-up with specific roles and responsibilities defined.
<i>Coordination with authorities (local authorities, FDA, etc.) held.</i>	FDA and Local authorities aware of groups and their activities.
<i>Trained in specific livelihood activities and Graduation held.</i>	Eighty people trained and graduated in soap making and animal rearing.
<i>Initial start-up cost (cash, supplies) provided.</i>	Each group received two pairs goat, one pair pig, ten pairs chickens, ten pairs ducks, two bags caustic, fifteen gallons palm oil and accessories.
<i>Trained in management of the cooperative groups.</i>	Four people from each group trained in-group management.
<i>Monitored cooperative groups for three-month period leading up to graduation program.</i>	Each group monitored for three-month period and graduation held.

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

The project was highly successful in terms of achieving its intended impact, objective and performance indicators. The project successes in term of achievements comprised the following:

- It helps to build an alternate livelihoods income-generating supports to local communities' dwellers. At first, most of these local dwellers were depending wholly and directly on forest material harvesting and selling to generate income for sustainability. Most especially the various family heads believe in the forest so much that they depended on it for life.
- It reduces the pressure on bush meat hunting, most especially the wildlife. The project educated the locals on the risks involved in wildlife hunting and at the same time the benefits in learning new marketable skills that will tend to improve their livelihoods better than hunting. As a result, the community's members along with their local heads established local network through which they be able to regulate hunting activities within their region, the Ziama Clan. This network is referred to as the Ziama Hunters Association and it constitutes all hunters that reside within this forest region.
- It encourages the community's dwellers in the rearing of domestic animals for commercial and consumptions purposes. As a result, this will avoid the shortages of meat on local market for community's members and other visitors thus discouraging hunting.
- It also helps in the reduction of poverty among community's dwellers, especially women, at sustainable level. Women are now able to engage in venture that can generate income for livelihoods support, as they are breadwinners for most of the local households in this region.

Were there any unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?

Yes, positively there were some unexpected impacts most especially when it comes to the involvement of women. The women took this project very seriously and as we speak, they have embarked on teaching and sharing of knowledge gained with their fellow community's members, most especially women.

V. PROJECT OUTPUTS

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

Planned vs. Actual Performance

Indicator	Actual at Completion
Outcome 1: Assessment and sensitization in key communities using the participatory rural appraisal (PRA) methodology.	Assessment and sensitization in key communities using the participatory rural appraisal (PRA) methodology was held.
Indicator1: PRA surveys conducted in four communities.	PRA survey conducted in Konia, Luyeama, Ziggida and Barziwen Towns.
Indicator 2: Participants learn about Forest conservation Education and Awareness through four workshops.	Four Workshops was held on forest conservation education and awareness in each project communities.
Indicator 3: Identified and established four training centers in project communities.	One training center was built in each of the project communities.
Outcome 2: Selection and formation of four forest protection cooperative groups.	Four Forest protection groups selected and formed.
Indicator 1: Defined objective of four forest protection groups.	Each group objectives was made defined.
Indicator 2: Defined group structure, roles and responsibilities	Each group structure, roles and responsibilities was clearly defined.
Indicator 3: Coordination with authorities (local authorities, FDA, etc.) held.	Each group coordinated with both local authorities and the FDA.

Outcome 3: Livelihood training addressing PRA result.	Livelihood training held addressing PRA result.
Indicator 1: Eighty participants Trained in specific livelihood activities.	Twenty participants from each of the four project communities were trained for four month in specific livelihoods activities.
Indicator2: Initial start-up cost (cash, supplies) amounting to 100USD is provided to every group.	Each group received two pairs goat, one pair pig, ten pairs chickens, ten pairs ducks, two bags caustic, fifteen gallons palm oil and accessories.
Indicator3: Four members from each group Trained in management of the cooperative groups.	Group leaders trained in group management training.
Indicator4: Monitored cooperative groups for three-month period leading up to graduation program.	Each group was monitored for a period of three month before graduation.
Indicator5: Eighty participants graduated in soap and animal rearing.	Fifty-two person received certificates in soap making and twenty- eight persons received certificates in animal rearing from the four project communities.

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

The project was very much successful and its impact was highly felt among target groups and communities members/dwellers in this region.

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

None.

VI. 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

***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. Similar projects will have to be implemented in this region in order to extend the CEPF objectives for communities' dwellers living in this forest region as a means of protecting its biodiversity. But, this will involve the solicitation of funding from CEPF or other funding agencies.

VII. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Liberia is a country that is just coming out of fifteen years of civil unrest. Majority of its citizens are barely living on handouts from either overseas support or support from family members working with international organizations or businesses. The civil servants who constitute the majority of the working force monthly earning cannot sustain their families. It is now clear that Liberia is poor country in Sahara Africa with majorities of its population living in abject poverty. With the coming in of a female president, Liberia is trying to restore to its pre-war status. This is where the international actors are given the opportunities to contribute positively to the post conflict reconstruction process of Liberia through its national and community based stakeholders.

Nevertheless, the regions that lie around the protected and proposed protected areas and national forest areas are of an exception. In fact, the cases here are more like worst with its inhabitants. For instance, majority of the dwellers in communities that lie around the Wologizi and Wonegizi proposed protected areas and the North Lorma national Forest region are all returnees from either internal displace camps or out country refugees centers. They have been accustomed to free receiving of basic needs for sustainability. The return has caused the environments especially the forest left vulnerable, with the emergence of unauthorized and unfair harvesting of the forest for livelihoods support and reconstructions. There is on other means through which they can or may use as alternative measures.

Therefore, the effort of CEPF through SADS and other grantees in Liberia, most especially around protected and proposed protected areas are highly commendable in the restoration process of Liberia. Moreover, it is now a challenge for all of the stakeholders both national and international to explore every and all avenues as an effort of soliciting support for the protection and conservation of over forest biodiversity.

With all that is said above, SADS wishes to recommend the following to be considered based on our experiences below:

- Donors should rank priority in funding activities that aim to increase women's participation, empowerment and total involvement as a means of reducing poverty and conserving and protecting biodiversity.
- Due to inability of the government now to provide all of the basic social services to its citizens, especially road reconstruction, SADS is recommending that donors take into consideration the availability of transport facilities like vehicles, motorbikes, etc; to avoid the problem of transportation in rural communities.
- Donor should encourage institutional capacity building and exchange among its grantees, as recipes of experience exchanging.
- Donor should consider successful grantees, especially those under the small grant program, the opportunities to apply for a bigger grant.

SADS Photo Gallery (see other pictures in GEM



Group's photos of graduates from the various Town

VI. INFORMATION SHARING

CEPF aims to increase sharing of experiences, lessons learned and results among our grant recipients and the wider conservation and donor communities. One way we do this is by making the text of final project completion reports available on our Web site, www.cepf.net, and by marketing these reports in our newsletter and other communications. Please indicate whether you would agree to publicly sharing your final project report with others in this way.

✓ Yes

If yes, please also complete the following:

For more information about this project, please contact:

Name: Peter G. Mulbah

Mailing address: Executive Director
Skills and Agriculture Development Services, Inc
C/O: CI-Liberia
Smythe road, Old road
Monrovia, Liberia.

Tel: +231-6-545758

Fax:

E-mail: sads_inc@yahoo.com