

CEPF FINAL PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

I. BASIC DATA

Organization Legal Name: Environmental Foundation for Africa -- Sierra Leone

Project Title (as stated in the grant agreement): *Stimulating a Coordinated and Informed Approach to Biodiversity Conservation in Sierra Leone through Capacity Building of EFA and the Forum for Environmental Action*

Implementation Partners for this Project:

Project Dates (as stated in the grant agreement): July 1, 2004 – March 31, 2006

Date of Report (month/year): September 2005

II. OPENING REMARKS

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

As SL moves through the transition from humanitarian relief to development, the heavy reliance on the dwindling forests and mineral resources for the people's subsistence and kick-starting the economy has placed enormous pressure on the country's fragile ecosystem. Government investments to address environmental issues have been minimal, despite a public recognition of the extent of the problem. Therefore the need for improved coordination of efforts among environmental activists in the short run, and consolidated cooperation between government and civil society in the medium and long terms has never been greater. With increasing funding opportunities for conservation / environmental protection in the country, the Forum for Environmental Action is now best placed to serve as an active body for coordination, to enhance pooling of resources (human and material) and collaboration between the main actors.

III. ACHIEVEMENT OF PROJECT PURPOSE

Planned vs. Actual Performance

Indicator	Actual at Completion
Purpose-level:	
Existence of a fully functional Forum for Env'l Action with an established membership, a secretariat and consolidated program for collective biodiversity conservation activities in SL and the Upper Guinea Forest Ecosystem	Forum is now fully established and recognized by government of SL. Also a leading member of the Green Actors of West Africa Network involving 10 countries in WA and whose coordinator is also chairing the Forum.

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

Since its creation, the forum has succeeded in bringing together all environmental organizations working in SL as well as the two universities, all of whom are now registered members of the forum. Beginning with the hosting of a national environment conference in October 2004 and the development of a government document, the forum has articulated a national action program which it is now implementing. Activities include technical supervision of a UNDP/Ministry of Youth and Sport - funded Youth Employment Project involving the creating of extensive firewood plantations to supply the city, while easing the pressure on the western area peninsula forest. The forum has been a key contributor to all government initiated action plans, including the formation of the National Commission for Environment and Forestry and development of a consolidated plan for conservation activities in all of SL's protected areas.

In April 2006, the Forum in collaboration with EFA successfully hosted a CEPF evaluation workshop involving CEPF grantees from West Africa, Europe and the US. The Forum was able to secure the participation of the Head of State and other dignitaries in the event. The forum is now regularly consulted by every national and international entity intending to embark on activities related to conservation or environmental management on a national scale.

Additionally the forum has succeeded in attracting financial support from other conservation donors to undertake practical activities, intended to enhance the degree of co-operation among its members. One such project is the national awareness programme on bushfires and the creation of a fire belt in the grassland areas of northern SL where bushfire are quite common and extremely destructive.

Were there any unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?

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: Establishment of a functional Environmental Information Resource Centre at the headquarters of EFA-SL, equipped with SatLink Internet Facility, computer equipment and other essential information resources.	Information resource centre fully established and functional, with all equipment and satlink in good working order.
1.1. Licence from Ministry of Telecoms obtained and Satellite Internet Link	Licence acquired with provisions for periodic renewals.

acquired and installed.	
1.2. Information technology and related equipment (computers systems, furniture, etc..) acquired and installed.	7 computers, 2 printers and a copier acquired and working. Adequate furniture available in resource centre also serving as library.
1.3. Technical Assistant employed, to maintain IT equipment and Information Centre operations	Full time technical assistant in employment and salary for 2006-7 paid by EFA.
1.4. Essential information resources (videos, books, maps, manuals, etc..) identified and acquisition plan developed.	5000 Euros worth books and other educational materials provided by EFA – Ireland with co-funding from Irish Aid
1.5. Business plan for Internet Facility (including access plan, user guidelines and fees) developed and implemented.	Business plan and user guidelines developed and are being implemented.
1.6. Environmental Education and Information Resource Centre running costs and realities streamlined into EFA operations	All costs related to maintaining the facilities have been streamlined into EFA's operational costs.
1.7. Use of center's resources monitored and evaluated.	Monitoring of use of use is ongoing. No evaluation carried out so far.
Output 2: Resource Centre is staffed and serves as a coordination centre to support capacity building for the Forum as well as an IT base for biodiversity research, training and general environmental education to achieve sustainable biodiversity conservation in Sierra Leone.	
2.1. Forum focal point identified and recruited to coordinate activities of the forum.	Full time focal point for forum in employment with salary guaranteed until September 2006.
2.2. As a coordination centre for Forum activities, the resource centre compiles a membership database with regularly updated institutional and activity profiles of individual forum members and other Green Actors maintained.	Membership database compiled and regularly updated by forum focal point.
2.3. Forum focal point based at the Information center coordinates consultations between forum members to establish their needs for information resources and educational	There is an elected executive board with Chairman, Vice Chairman and Treasure serving a two year term. The board is responsible for directing the activities of the forum focal point.

materials to promote biodiversity conservation in SL.	
2.4. Through the established information resource centre, Forum Focal Point facilitates recruitment and coordinates the work of Consultants to develop appropriate environmental awareness campaign materials.	Three consultants have worked with forum conducting training in fundraising and project development, video editing, website development and maintenance, as well as establishment of a website (www.gawa.nu) and assisted in developing educational materials.
2.5. Regular Forum members' coordination meetings and related training programs and other activities are organised at the centre.	Regular meetings (fortnightly) held by forum. One day working meetings held every quarter to review and revise activity programme.
Output 3: First National Conference organised by the Forum to critically examine key priorities for biodiversity conservation and environmental protection as outlined in the National Biodiversity Strategy Action Plan (NBSAP) as well as other priority setting exercises and a firm foundation laid for all the stakeholders, especially the Green Actors, to address the identified problems and priorities in a coordinated and cooperative manner.	National Conference held and Action plan articulated, and endorsed by the GoSL. Find raising ongoing to secure funds for implementation of various activities.
3.1. As part of preparations for the conference, extensive research, pictorial information gathering and general consultations with a wide range of stake holders undertaken nationally, by the forum to determine, and in some cases verify the current nature and extent of environmental problems highlighted in previous studies.	Extensive data base exists resulting from materials gathered in preparation for the conference. Some of the materials have been used by the National Commission for Environment and Forestry to develop its own plan of action.
3.2. An organising committee established by the forum to oversee preparations for the conference, including developing the program / agenda, identification and recruitment of facilitators, invitation of participants, compilation / editing / printing of materials and overseeing the administrative and logistical arrangements for the conference.	
3.3. Main conservation and environmental problems and issues thoroughly debated at	

the conference with emphases on: governmental legislation, institutional and technical capacities / needs of all actors, available / potential financial and material resources.	
Output 4: Framework for an action plan developed at the conference with a firm mandate endorsed by the Government and Donors, empowering the Forum to spearhead national efforts to reverse forest destruction and environmental degradation in Sierra Leone.	Action plan developed and circulated. Priorities for action include protection of the Western Area Peninsula Forest, advocacy and lobbying of lawmakers and governmental institutions to review obsolete environmental laws and policies.
4.1. On the basis of the conference discussions and recommendations, a coordinated framework for biodiversity conservation action is produced, outlining the roles and responsibilities of all key stakeholders, particularly The Government, Donors, UN/NGOs, Business Sector, Local Community leaderships and the Green Actors.	

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

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

Only output not realized is the evaluation of the resource center and compilation of an evaluation report.

V. SAFEGUARD POLICY ASSESSMENTS

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

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.

Although it was abundantly evident initially, that the nature and extent of environmental problems in Sierra Leone required a coordinated approach and partnership between all the actors in effecting positive change, the priorities of the various actors have often been quite different. Some are involved just for the money, publicity and travel opportunities,

some for political reasons and others simply for want of a job. Reaching consensus on the simplest of issues has therefore not been an easy task. However the perseverance and dedication of a few committed actors served as a bonding factor in maintaining interest and momentum. One key lesson worth noting is that partnerships of this nature can grow and be effective only when there are ample opportunities for the various members of the coalition to engage in practical activities related to the causes they are promoting. In future therefore, financial assistance to establish such coalitions should include a cost element for undertaking practical project activities as a collective. It is a great way to learn from each other, build trust and genuine lasting friendships and develop a sense of selflessness in service for the common good.

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

The project design was simple and straightforward, and required organizing a single event and purchasing equipment for the resource centre with administrative costs to support the forum and maintaining the centre for one year. The capacity building and training elements of the project were all one off activities that were simple to organize with clearly defined outputs all of which were achieved.

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

Good working relations between the donor and implementing agency were instrumental in ensuring success. A flexible approach by the donor in providing supplementary grants and showing understanding when there were delays in achieving certain milestones made all the difference. Not having too high expectations and being realistic about the degree of cooperation to be expected from the various partners is also part of the flexible approach demonstrated by CEPF.

Another crucial element is the fact that EFA provided the institutional base for setting up the resource centre at no additional costs to the donor or the other forum members and is further prepared the streamline the costs for future maintenance of the facilities in its operational costs, while allowing access to the other forum members for nominal fees.

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
IUCN NL	A	2000 Euros	Towards the conference
UNDP	A	\$3000	Towards the conference
GTZ	A	\$1000	Towards the conference
Irish Aid / EFA Ireland	A	5000 Euros	Books and other educational amterials for Library

****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 funded 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 funded 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.

This project will most certainly continue. Already the forum has earned \$2000 for assisting with hosting the CEPF grantees meetings in April 2006 and a further 10,000 Euros has been approved in project funding for a national awareness campaign on bushfires. All forum members will take part in this project. The forum is also engaged in discussions with the USFS and the National Commission for Environment and Forestry to play an active role in the ongoing efforts to protect the peninsula forest, the main source of the capital city's water supply.

VIII. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The forum is extremely grateful to CEPF for making this investment that has allowed a previously insignificant group of green actors to make headway in determining the future of bio-diversity conservation in Sierra Leone. Without CEPF funding, it is unlikely that the forum would have been able to achieve this much progress. A solid foundation is now laid upon which the forum partners and others keen on sensible environmental management are able to build in to the future.

Recommendation:

The results demonstrated by this project have proved that coordination of efforts between actors in a national setting can be very effective in leveraging funding and other kinds of support for conservation efforts. Given the current status of ENFORAC, it is

recommended that CEPF consider using the available institutional memory and human resources currently available in SL to assist in any future plans to support similar partnerships in the WA sub-region.

VIII. 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 _____

No _____

If yes, please also complete the following:

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