

# CEPF FINAL PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

## I. BASIC DATA

**Organization Legal Name:** Nature Conservation Committee of Trashiyangtse

**Project Title (as stated in the grant agreement):** Restoration of the Wintering Habitat of the Black-Necked Crane In and Around Bumdeling Wildlife Sanctuary, Eastern Bhutan through Community-Based Initiatives

**Implementation Partners for this Project:**

The other partner organizations assisting in implementation are:

1. District Administration- facilitated the process and support in terms of technical backstopping of the project develop capacity of the members of the community; facilitate meetings, monitoring and supervision of the project activities. The District administration facilitated the community participation and consultations in designing, planning and formulation of the project activities.
2. Bumdeling Wild life Sanctuary in provided technical support for the implementation of project activities.
3. The SNV of Netherlands provided technical support for the project.
4. The Global Environment Facility through the Small Grant Program of UNDP as co-funded ecotourism development initiatives of the communities and will thus be complimentary to the conservation activities of CEPF grant.
5. The committee members and local communities are the key implementers of the project activities. They have prioritized need-based project activities and operate the budget.
6. WWF Bhutan Program- provided technical support through the CEPF program for all project activities.

**Project Dates (as stated in the grant agreement):** 1 February, 2009- 31 December, 2010

**Date of Report (month/year):** 1 March 2011

## II. OPENING REMARKS

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

The project site is located within the Bumdelling Wild life Sanctuary, which are the habitat areas of Black necked crane in Bhutan. The project has covered 6 km

in length and 450 meters in width area of river training works (from Dungzam to Kangten Zampa) to protect the habitat from flash floods.

A rehabilitation activity of Black-necked Crane habitat in Bumdeling Valley is one of the important objectives of the project. The natural habitat of Black-necked Crane in Bumdeling valley was partially destroyed by successive floods in year 1999, 2003, 2004 & May 26, 2009. Therefore, it has become imperative that BNC habitat be restored for an effective conservation of the globally threatened species, black-necked crane. Therefore, about 1000 acres of paddy field, used as wintering habitat and feeding ground by BNC, are protected by the river training work. In addition about 200 acres of roosting areas has been improved and secured from the wildlife attack and domesticated animals like dogs.

**III. ACHIEVEMENT OF PROJECT IMPACTS**

**Project Impacts:**

**Long Term:** Population of the endangered Black Necked Crane in and around Bumdeling Wildlife Sanctuary in Bhutan maintained at ecologically and demographically viable levels and local communities take stewardship of conserving this important biodiversity area and endangered species.

**Short Term:** The wintering habitat of the endangered Black necked Crane in Bumdeling Wildlife Sanctuary is restored and improved through community based sustainable land use practices.

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

**Were there any unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?**

**IV. PROJECT COMPONENTS**

**Project Components:**

**Planned vs. Actual Performance**

Indicator	Actual at Completion
<b>Output 1: A community based habitat restoration plan developed and implemented in the project area especially in sites inundated by floods.</b>	
<i>Indicator 1.1: 1 habitat restoration plan based on community consultation and planning developed by year 1 of the project.</i>	The habitat restoration plan developed successfully in time and implemented accordingly.
<i>Indicator 1.2: Restoration of 170 ha of Black necked Crane winter</i>	The project has restored more than 1000 acres of wintering habitat of

<i>habitat by year 2 of the project</i>	Black- necked crane
<i>Indicator 1.3: Increase in the number of cranes visiting the Bumdeling Wildlife Sanctuary in winter compared to the current base line by year 2 of the project</i>	Based on the counting by the selected community who are trained on the bird counting, the NCCT found that the number of Black-necked crane visiting the Bumdeling Wildlife Sanctuary has increased by 8nos (2008-09 = 115 and 2009-2010= 123).
<b>Output 2: Alternative livelihood options for conserving the winter habitat of Black Necked crane introduced to local communities</b>	
<i>Indicator 2.1: At least 30% of the households affected by habitat degradation/ inundation of paddy fields benefit from alternative livelihood options by year 2 of the project</i>	Firstly, the river bank protection work itself was a great benefit to the community; the remaining paddy fields are completely protected from flooding. Secondly, 90% of the affected communities by habitat degradation are benefited by the alternative livelihood options provided by the project. The livelihood options are two mechanized agriculture tools, Agriculture seedlings and walnut sapling to benefit as cash crops.
<i>Indicator 2.2: Increase in the willingness of communities from pre-project baseline to leave parts of their cultivable lands fallow for wintering birds by the end of year 2 of the project.</i>	The project able to make the local communities take stewardship in conserving the species, that was the project's great impacts for long term sustainability. The local communities volunteered and contributed a lot in restoring the wintering habitat of Black-necked crane, which means they fully understood the importance of conservation. The community taking care of the BNC and leaving their land fallow for wintering habitat.
<i>Indicator 2.3: Feasibility of linking crane conservation and tourism assessed by year 1 of the project in coordination with the support from other partners.</i>	Strengthening the linkage between conservation and tourism was considered best for long sustainability of the conservation. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information centre for visitors developed</li> <li>• Capacity building for the hoteliers</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Basic facilities such as trails, sign boards, waste disposal were constructed for tourist</li> </ul> <p>The above activities were contributed through provisions of small alternatives, leveraging with other projects (UNDP-GEF Small Grants project) and making links with conservation-livelihoods initiatives.</p>
<p><b>Output 3: A community based monitoring framework for the Black Necked crane developed and implementation initiated to generate awareness and assess the immediate results of habitat restoration in and around Bumdeling Wildlife Sanctuary</b></p>	
<p>Indicator 3.1: Community maintained information and database on Black necked Cranes developed according to the monitoring framework by year 2 of the project</p>	<p>Based on the developed monitoring frame work, the trained community groups are maintaining the information database on the Black-necked Crane.</p>
<p>Indicator 3.2: At least 2 sharing meetings by communities on the status of wintering cranes and their habitat conditions by year 2 of the project.</p>	<p>The sharing meeting on wintering status of the crane conducted and we found that there is increasing trend due the improved habitat.</p>
<p>Indicator 3.3: At least 2 participatory monitoring events organized involving local community members to monitor and count cranes during the winter</p>	<p>The participatory monitoring events organized as per the developed work plan. The trained members will continued in monitoring and counting of the canes even after the project period.</p>

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

This project had delivered all the intended outputs. The most successful one is the restoration of the wintering Habitat of Black -necked Crane, which is the prime agricultural land of local people residing in and around Bumdeling Wildlife Sanctuary. Secondly, project could strengthen and improve the roosting area of Black-necked Crane. Thirdly, local communities are thoroughly convinced in taking stewardship responsibility for conserving this important and endangered species.

The project has following success:

Habitat restoration:

More than 300 acres of Black-necked Crane habitat restored

- 2.6 km barricade constructed for preventing water from silting the habitat
- 6 km of river training work completed to prevent change in river course and habitat destruction
- 4,000 saplings of local species planted along the river bank to prevent erosion
- Creation of a safe roosting site (3 acres) for the cranes
- Increasing trend in the number of cranes wintering in Bumdeling Wildlife Sanctuary (2008-2009 – 115, 2009-2010 – 123.)

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

There were no unrealized outputs at the end of the project period.

## V. SAFEGUARD POLICY ASSESSMENTS

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

It is expected that in the long run the local conservation committee of Bumdeling and Yangtse Block will work with District Administration to form perfect conservation group.

## 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.***

People have desire to address their environmental issues in their local environment but many do not know how to do and how to start, therefore Capacity development of local communities in conservation would be necessary.

Providing awareness and education is found to be very necessary as we have realized that local people take part in conservation activities after they understand more about the environment. It is also important to consider that the projects have direct benefit to the local communities.

Time to time technical monitoring and supervision of the habitat areas, would be the best for future continuation in conservation.

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

The CEPF project has been perfectly designed. The logical framework had made the project implementers focused and to worked precisely to achieve outputs. The fund manager (WWF Bhutan office) at the national level had efficiently delivered their duties.

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

The project was executed without any problems and all the stakeholders provided good support and had contributed to the successful completion of the project.

<b>VII. ADDITIONAL FUNDING</b>
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***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.***

<b>Donor</b>	<b>Type of Funding*</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Notes</b>
SGP, GEF/UNDP	Co-funding	25,000 US \$	

***\*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.***

The nature conservation committee expects to expand and continue the project. Although there are no secured funds to continue, however, we have project proposals ready for fund raising. Moreover, the local community as prime beneficiaries of the project will co-ordinate and may seek guidance from district administration and BWS in continuing the activities of conservation, if felt necessary. Above all, the project has established an excellent institutional working relationship with WWF, Bhutan and thus will facilitate the Dzongkhag in implementation of future conservation programs, WWF being one of the key institutions in conservation actions.

#### **VIII. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

Implementing CEPF project has provided opportunity to conserve Black-neck Crane and at the same time to help local community.

#### **VIII. INFORMATION SHARING**

NCCT is committed to transparent operations and to helping local communities groups share experiences, lessons learned and results.

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