

CEPF FINAL PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

I. BASIC DATA

Organization Legal Name: World Wildlife Fund, Inc.

Project Title (as stated in the grant agreement): Biological Corridor Framework for the Kingdom of Bhutan

Implementation Partners for this Project:

1. Nature Conservation Division, Dept. Of Forests, Ministry Of Agriculture.
2. Forest territorial Divisions, Dept of Forests, Ministry of Agriculture.
3. Protected area authorities.
4. Dzongkhag (district) administrations.
5. Local communtiy groups.
6. Non governmental organizations
7. In country donor organizations

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

Date of Report (month/year): December 2010

II. OPENING REMARKS

With the generous support from CEPF, WWF supported the royal government of Bhutan to develop a corridor management framework for the country. This framework will now serve as a guiding document for the government and any other agencies working in the Bhutan biological corridor complex to design and implement a program that will contribute towards effective management of biological corridors in Bhutan.

III. ACHIEVEMENT OF PROJECT PURPOSE

Project Purpose:

Planned vs. Actual Performance

| Indicator | Actual at Completion |
|---|---|
| Purpose-level: Corridor Management Framework serves as a guidance for the government, non-government and donors for effective management of biological corridors in Bhutan | A corridor management framework has been developed and now will serve as a guiding document for all relevant stakeholders for effective management of biological corridors in Bhutan. |
| Indicator 1: A mechanism for effective management of the corridors through improved institutional networking and knowledge sharing among potential stakeholders operating in the corridors 2 years after the project period | Regional consultations were held to refine and develop a policy framework. WWF is working towards establishing a mechanism for improved institutional networking and knowledge sharing among the stakeholders. |
| Indicator 2: At least 2 corridor management plans based on the corridor management framework developed 3 years after the project period | Two corridors connecting Jigme Singe Wangchuk National Park to Wangchuk Centennial Park and Thrumingla National Park to Jigme Singe Wangchuk National Park and Royal Manas National Park have been identified for developing management plans. The process will begin in near future. |
| Indicator 3: | |

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

The project was completely successful in achieving its intended objective. The main outcome of this project – a corridor management framework for Bhutan was developed following a participatory approach. The framework has been endorsed by the royal government of Bhutan and is now serving as a main guiding document for relevant stakeholders to design and implement activities contributing to effective management of biological corridors in Bhutan. A mechanism that promotes institutional networking and sharing of knowledge among the relevant stakeholders is in progress. Two corridors have already been identified by WWF and the royal government of Bhutan for which to prepare management plans following the corridor management framework prepared under this project.

IV. PROJECT OUTPUTS

Project Outputs:

Planned vs. Actual Performance

| Indicator | Actual at Completion |
|---|--|
| Output 1: Policy guidance for ensuring ecosystem integrity and connectivity of 366,000 ha. of biological corridor within B2C2 landscape developed | A Biological corridor management framework for Bhutan has been prepared that will ensure ecosystem integrity and connectivity of B2C2 landscape |
| Indicator 1.1: Biological Corridor Management Framework developed | The biological corridor management framework is in place. |
| Indicator 1.2: 6 consultative workshops for development of the corridor management framework by Year 2 | Numerous consultative workshops were held and outputs were refined for designing the draft framework. |
| Indicator 1.3: A situation analysis document of the current status of the biological corridors with regards to other sectoral plans, policies, threats, human footprints by Year 2 of the project | Current situation report has been compiled by the Consultant where review of the existing literature was undertaken. |
| Indicator 1.4: Scientific reports available on Bhutan's critical biological corridor. | The corridor linking JDNP and JSWNP was identified as a critical corridor and fieldwork carried out to establish baseline information. |
| Output 2: Biological corridor Management Framework endorsed by the Royal Government of Bhutan for implementation | Biological Corridor management Framework endorsed by the Government and published. |
| Indicator 2.1: Biological Corridor Management Framework becomes a part of the management authority's strategy by the end of the project | The biological corridor management framework endorsed by the royal government of Bhutan will serve as a major guiding document for the relevant stakeholder entrusted with the responsibility of managing the corridors. |

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

The 18 month project was successfully carried out with the final delivery made in the form of the policy document of Biological Corridors which was endorsed by the Government of Bhutan's Ministry of Agriculture and Forests. This project apart from fulfilling the requirement for Biological

Corridors also gave basis to the formulation of a second policy document: the Draft Protected Area and Wildlife Bill.

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

All the outputs as set forth in the project document have been met.

V. SAFEGUARD POLICY ASSESSMENTS

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

The regulatory framework outlines the requirement to operationalize all corridors by January 2015 through development of a science based management plan in collaboration with stakeholders.

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.

Important lessons learnt from the project include:

- Implementation of management strategies will have to be tailored differently for different corridors;
- Important factors for consideration could include: size of corridor, population density, forest cover, threats, etc.;
- Corridor design in the past was based on areas avoided by human use thereby lacking diversity of soil and topographic elements necessary to support meta populations, gene flow, range shift by wild animals and plants; and,
- Necessary to modify corridor boundaries to ensure ecosystem integrity and adapt to the impacts of climate change.

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

The project was designed through the collaborative efforts of three agencies, namely CEPF, WWF Bhutan Program and Wildlife Conservation Division (then NCD) with the later agency identified to be the main implementer of the project from the side of Bhutan Government. This process made all the concerned officials in the project well informed of the actual content of the various elements in the project document and its subsequent implementation.

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

The consultative and participatory approach of the project execution led to its success. However the project experienced some delay in the initial phase owing to several reasons, some of which are mentioned below.

- CEPF requirement to have a minimum of 3 quotes to qualify for bids was a challenge in Bhutan due to lack of adequate quality service providers
- Mis-communication about CEPF's policy on granting to the government. The funds earlier granted to royal government of Bhutan had to be withdrawn after an alert of the relevant

policy by CI. This involved a lot of discussion and negotiation with the government leading to delay in start of the project.

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 |
|----------------|-------------------------|---------------|--------------|
| Not applicable | | | |
| | | | |
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***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.

VIII. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

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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