

## CEPF SMALL GRANT FINAL PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

<b>Organization Legal Name:</b>	Snehakunja Trust
<b>Project Title:</b>	Assessing the ecosystem services of newly declared Conservation reserves.
<b>Date of Report:</b>	2015
<b>Report Author and Contact Information</b>	Mr. Balachandra Hegde

**CEPF Region: Western Ghats & Sri Lanka Biodiversity Hotspot (Malnad - Kodagu and Sahyadri Konkan Corridor)**

**CEPF Strategic Direction: 1 - Enable action by diverse communities and partnerships to ensure conservation of key biodiversity areas and enhance connectivity in the corridors.**

**Grant Amount: \$ 19,400.**

**Project Dates: 1<sup>st</sup> October 2013 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2014**

**Implementation Partners for this Project (please explain the level of involvement for each partner):**

**SWIFT, Nilkund**

Sahyadri Wildlife and Forest Conservation Trust (SWIFT) supported in implementation of the projects and field logistics

**LIFE Trust, Sirsi**

LIFE Trust- supported in field logistics Bedthi Conservation Reserve.

**College of Forestry Sirsi**

Students of College of forestry volunteered in collection of data using questionnaires and interviews

**Sanjeevini Trust, Joida**

Sanjeevini Trust supported for field data collection at Hornbill Conservation Reserve

All the partners supported during the data collection time

### Conservation Impacts

***Please explain/describe how your project has contributed to the implementation of the CEPF ecosystem profile.***

This grant matched IP 1.1 **Test pilot models of community and private reserves to achieve conservation outcomes at priority sites and critical links in unprotected areas in the priority corridors.**

The project is build up upon the last two grants, one small grant to Balu Hegde and a large grant to Snehakunja Trust. These projects were successful in declaring the four conservation reserves and developing management developing the management plan for all the conservation reserve formed with the help of the earlier CEPF-ATREE Small Grants. Data collected from this project will support additional documents to the Management plan.

***Please summarize the overall results/impact of your project against the expected results detailed in the approved proposal.***

- 1) Ecosystem services of conservation reserves evaluated, including NTFP ecotourism and carbon values (Appendix 1).
- 2) Formation of Conservation Reserve management committees have been started in three conservation Reserves.
- 3) Follow up for including the suggestions for management plan prepared earlier to be included in respective working plans.

***Please provide the following information where relevant:***

**Hectares Protected:** Not applicable as CRs were already formed before this grant

**Species Conserved:** NIL

**Corridors Created:** NIL

***Describe the success or challenges of the project toward achieving its short-term and long-term impact objectives.***

Assessing Ecosystem services is a new concept in creating awareness among stakeholders for conservation. Conveying this message to this target audience was challenging. Though people understand the concept easily, initially it took time to link the ecosystem services and conservation - for example, while assessing the travel cost method, people took time to understand the link between the distance they travelled while reaching the place, and its link to conservation of place.

Also, calculating Ecosystem services in terms of monetary values may sometime underestimate the cause itself. We have to understand that evaluation of all values is not possible.

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

Too much of time lost in analyzing the data collected. Approach of 'ecosystem services' covers broad range of services. Prioritizing the services useful for conservation and analyzing the data took longer time than expected.

## **Lessons Learned**

***Describe any lessons learned during the design and implementation of the project, as well as any related to organizational development and capacity building. Consider lessons that would inform projects designed or implemented by your organization or others, as well as lessons that might be considered by the global conservation community.***

It is important to assess ecosystem services to convey the conservation message to general public. However, we should also keep in mind that the appropriate scientifically rigorous and robust methodologies need to be adapted to assessing the ecosystem services. Conservation priorities for local people may be different from that of global communities. Balancing these is important.

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

Designing of the methodology and questionnaires for all four ecosystem services were done with four experts from fields. This process provided better insight into the research and at the same time took longer time than expected.

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

Participation by local communities in the process is more important. Involving all stakeholders is also important for successful implementation

***Other lessons learned relevant to conservation community:***

People who support conservation in society are in minority. Hence, conservation communities need to develop tools to communicate with other communities of society for successful implementation of conservation. Results of Ecotourism services were shared with state tourism department and they are happy to implement the recommendations suggested.

Ecosystem services approach is an ideal tool to bridge the gap between society and conservation community.

**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.***

***Nil***

<b>Donor</b>	<b>Type of Funding*</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Notes</b>

***\*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*** Grantee and Partner leveraging (Other donors contribute to your organization or a partner organization as a direct result of successes with this CEPF project.)
- C*** Regional/Portfolio leveraging (Other donors make large investments in a region because of CEPF investment or successes related to this project.)

**Sustainability/Replicability**

***Summarize the success or challenge in achieving planned sustainability or replicability of project components or results.***

The project can be replicated anywhere. However, there needs to be more and more approaches and methodologies that are applicable or adaptable in different settings e.g. valuation of landscape viewpoint, which is appreciated by outsiders, may not be valuable for the local community who lives there. I think, more and more researches can lead to development of further methodologies for valuation of such things.

***Summarize any unplanned sustainability or replicability achieved.***

Nil

## **Safeguard Policy Assessment**

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

Process Framework for Involuntary Restrictions submitted to CEPF-ATREE. Grievance Redressal Poster in local language put up in public places in project area.

## Performance Tracking Report Addendum

### CEPF Global Targets

### (Enter Grant Term)

Provide a numerical amount and brief description of the results achieved by your grant.  
Please respond to only those questions that are relevant to your project.

Project Results	Is this question relevant?	If yes, provide your numerical response for results achieved during the annual period.	Provide your numerical response for project from inception of CEPF support to date.	Describe the principal results achieved from 1 <sup>st</sup> October 2013 to 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2014 (Attach annexes if necessary)
1. Did your project strengthen management of a protected area guided by a sustainable management plan? Please indicate number of hectares improved.	No			Please also include name of the protected area(s). If more than one, please include the number of hectares strengthened for each one.
2. How many hectares of new and/or expanded protected areas did your project help establish through a legal declaration or community agreement?	No			Please also include name of the protected area. If more than one, please include the number of hectares strengthened for each one.
3. Did your project strengthen biodiversity conservation and/or natural resources management inside a key biodiversity area identified in the CEPF ecosystem profile? If so, please indicate how many hectares.	Yes	41404	41404	Data produced by this work will be shared with Forest Department and relevant department, especially Tourism Department. This may help in designing the conservation responsible tourism and sustainable development of the region.
4. Did your project effectively introduce or strengthen biodiversity conservation in management practices outside protected areas? If so, please indicate how many hectares.	No			
5. If your project promotes the sustainable use of natural resources, how many local communities accrued tangible socioeconomic benefits? Please complete Table 1 below.	No			

**If you answered yes to question 5, please complete the following table.**



## **Additional Comments/Recommendations**

## **Information Sharing and CEPF Policy**

CEPF is committed to transparent operations and to helping civil society groups share experiences, lessons learned, and results. Final project completion reports are made available on our Web site, [www.cepf.net](http://www.cepf.net), and publicized in our newsletter and other communications.

### **Please include your full contact details below:**

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### **List of Appendices:**

1. Technical Report