CEPF SMALL GRANT FINAL PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

Organization Legal Name:	Mettu University, Ethiopia
Project Title:	Rapid faunal assessment (amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals) in the Nono-Sale and Garba-Dima forest priority areas, Ilu-Ababor zone, southwestern Ethiopia.
Date of Report:	December, 2017
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CEPF Region: Eastern Afromontane Biodiversity Hotspots

Strategic Direction 2: Improve the protection and management of the KBA network throughout the hotspots.

Investment Priorities 2.3: Advance the identification and prioritization of KBAs in Africa and the Arabian Peninsula, including those that have irreplaceable plant diversity.

Grant Amount: $18,901.03

Project Dates: 1st October 2016 ---31st August 2017 (the report submission date excessively delayed for the security reasons, particularly in Universities located in Oromiya National Regional State).

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

Mettu University: Host the project, sign agreement, center of principal investigators, search and form research team (co-investigators) from different institutions for the survey, logistic support and submission of report to the concerned partners and follow up the implementation of recommendations

EWCA: (Ethiopian Wildlife Conservation Authority): Provision of research work permit, provision of export permits for tissues and take part in implementing final recommendations

OFWE (Oromiya forest and wildlife Enterprise): Research work permits in the two montane forest areas, the main implementer of the recommendation that involve upgrading conservation strategy from forest priority area to the appropriate protected area (PA) category and establish the management strategy.

OFWE Ilu Ababor branch and Ilu-Ababora zonal administration: Work permits and official letters to the two districts, facilitate the actual survey, acknowledging the resource of the two forest priority area, accept the recommendations, prevent any type of investment permissions that alter the unique biodiversity in the two areas and facilitate the upgrading process to the appropriate PA category.

BINCO (Biodiversity Inventory for Conservation): Assigning expert for Herpetofaunal survey, provision of herpetofaunal field techniques and specimen identification

Jimma and Addis Ababa Universities and IDEA-WILD: Provision of field equipments

Conservation Impacts

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

The project inventories and report land vertebrates (frogs, reptiles, mammals and birds) in the two large standing montane forests within the Eastern Afromontane biodiversity hotspot area. These unique forest areas are the two largest forests designated "forest priority areas" by the Oromiya National Regional government and protected by low. The designation and protection involves only vegetation. The faunal diversity and status of the unique montane forest has never been assessed and understood (the first step towards designation of appropriate conservation strategy). Results after this quick survey showed the faunistic potential of the area for the recommendation of better and inclusive biodiversity conservation strategy (appropriate protected area category) than the earlier more loose and specific "forest priority area" category. Hence, the present project directly in line with the CEPF strategic direction 2: (improving the protection and management of the KBA network throughout the hotspot), and its investment priority 2.3: Advance the identification and prioritization of KBAs in Africa and the Arabian Peninsula, including those that have irreplaceable plant diversity.

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

Summary of number of species in taxa identified during the survey, and record strategies implemented: Do=Direct observations, As= Active survey, Tr=Trapping, C=calls, Cm=Characteristic mound, Rk=Road kill, Hm=hoof mark, PM=pug mark, Dr=droppings, Pr=predation, R=roaring, B=burrows, Q=quills, Gb=gnawed bark, Cv=Civetry)

Taxa	Nº. of species	Survey techniques
Herpetofauna		
- Amphibians	17	As
- Reptiles	10	Do
Mammals		
- Small mammals	13	Tr, Cm, Rk, Do
Medium & large mammals	34	Do, C, Rk, Hm, Pm, Dr, Pr, R, Q, Gb,Cv
Birds	224	Do
Plants	159	Quadrant survey

Ten of the seventeen amphibians, 3 of the 10 reptiles, 9 of the 224 birds recorded are endemic to Ethiopian highlands, some of which are under threatened status of the IUCN report. From these forests, the gliding rodent (Anomalorud) was reported for the 1st time in Ethiopia. Among the faunistic records, some are savanna grassland species but managed to intrude into the forest ecosystem.

Please provide the following information where Host Species Conserved:

The species whose survival depends on the forest condition deserve conservation. Among these mega herbivores (such as the unique forest buffalo and giant forest hog), Primates (Blue and De Braza's monkeys and bush baby), large cats (lion and leopards), the Serval cats and canids such as side striped jackals (unique for the forest). The flying rodent is unique to the montane forest. The wetlands in the forest deed conservation because they harbored endemic and threatened species of amphibians. To identify flagship species, however, further species level studies required.

Corridors Created: Nono-Sale and Garba-Dima forests, to the west, bordered by the lowland wooded grassland ecosystem of the Gambele Regional State. In the buffer areas,

both forest and savanna species were abundant. Hence, part of the montane forests of these areas serves as a corridor or seasonal home to species of adjacent ecosystems.

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

The successes:

As a short term success, major vertebrate fauna of the forests were recorded. From the level of the recorded diversity, the areas qualify the KBA category. The abundance of wetlands within the montane forest is unique and showed that long term detailed assessment may produce uniquely evolved species. It was observed that marginal areas of the forest harbored both forest and savanna species as well. The regional government acknowledged the resources and no attempts of allocating any portion of the area for investment.

Long term objectives and challenges: From the nature of biosphere reserves and poor acceptance from the society, proposing and pushing for the establishment of wildlife biosphere reserve as a long term objective, doesn't apply. Rather recommending and urging all the concerned for the establishment of PA is more feasible. Forest centered PAs are few in Ethiopia. From the location advantage the montane forests in this study area have over the others (being adjacent to savanna ecosystem) establishing such PA in this unique area becomes an appropriate, more feasible and advantageous for the forest, fauna and the ecosystem. However, as we go further from the center, for the prevailing poor understanding and little value given to wildlife conservation, fast response and actions may become a challenge.

Instability and poor security during the wet season survey (that was the case throughout Oromiya zones at the time), penetrating deep into the forest and accessing all wetlands for herpetofaunal survey was a challenge during the field work.

Were there any unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?

Positive attitude towards the establishment of PA among the officials and the society instead of establishing biosphere reserve experienced in nearby areas.

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.

This was the first project that Mettu University has been involved in. It has given the staff lifelong lesson. Above all the coaching and unreserved advisory services from EWNHS coordinators at Addis Ababa and field follow-ups was great opportunity to learn how to run a project. The formats are descriptive and guiding. For the field work people from different institutions come together, form a team, share experience and support each other's work. Training for herpetofaunal survey and animal handling techniques, techniques for small mammals (including voucher specimen preparation) and techniques for bird survey was given for the group by experts. The experts were part of the survey team; hence, each member got the theoretical and practical training for the field works for all faunal categories (herpetofauna, small, medium and large mammals and birds).

As a project leader, this project taught me a lot about the how of managing a time bound projects. While planning for such projects, one has to have all the experts at the institution. Searching for appropriate expert and scheduling the field work was a challenge. It also taught me that running biological projects involving field works should not a part-time job. It should be a full time job at least for a month per season. Budget allocation for different activities was also a challenge out of which we learnt a lot. Poor predictions for uncertainties were the challenge that gave us good lesson as well.

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

Deep knowledge of the CEPF reviewing team about the proposed works and their guidance at every point in the project helped a lot.

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

The strict follow-ups of project execution was extremely appreciated, contributed a lot for timely completion and success of the projects. However, it was good if room was left for uncertainties.

Other lessons learned relevant to conservation community:

Acknowledging and incorporating traditional knowledge into modern scientific conservation strategies for faster and better attainment of conservation objectives. (E.g. KOBO forest conservation strategy experienced by the indigenous societies in the present study areas)

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
No			

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 success of the project is as explained above and its sustainability lies on the capacity built among the project leaders, researchers and the institution. The project will be replicated in more detailed and species level ecological studies. And with the built capacity similar projects will be designed and implemented in the remaining montane forest areas in the SW portion of the country. The speed of implementation of the long term objectives of this project and its sustainability depends on the speed of responses from the concerned federal and regional authorities.

Summarize any unplanned sustainability or replicability achieved.

Safeguard Policy Assessment

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

Additional Comments/Recommendations

We appreciate the focus, concerns and supports from CEPF for biodiversity conservation in the region.

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, and publicized in our newsletter and other communications.

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*****please complete the tables on the following pages*****

Performance Tracking Report Addendum

Project Results	Is this question relevant?	If yes, provide your numerical response for results achieved for project from inception of CEPF support to date	Describe the principal results achieved during project period (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.			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?	Yes	Establishment of new PA, covering over 400,000 ha	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,	Over 400,000 ha both areas together	
4. Did your project effectively introduce or strengthen biodiversity conservation in management practices outside protected areas? If so, please indicate how many hectares.	--		
5. If your project promotes the sustainable use of natural resources, how many local communities accrued tangible socioeconomic benefits? Please complete Table 1below.	Not yet identified		

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

Table 1. Socioeconomic Benefits to Target Communities

Please complete this table if your project provided concrete socioeconomic benefits to local communities. List the name of each community in column one. In the subsequent columns under Community Characteristics and Nature of Socioeconomic Benefit, place an X in all relevant boxes. In the bottom row, provide the totals of the Xs for each column.

Name of Community	Community Characteristics								Nature of Socioeconomic Benefit												
									Increased Income due to:												
	Small landowners	Subsistence economy	Indigenous/ ethnic peoples	Pastoralists/nomadic peoples	Recent migrants	Urban communities	Communities falling below the poverty rate	Other	Adoption of sustainable natural resources management practices	Ecotourism revenues	Park management activities	Payment for environmental services	Increased food security due to the adoption of sustainable fishing, hunting, or agricultural practices	More secure access to water resources	Improved tenure in land or other natural resource due to titling, reduction of colonization, etc.	Reduced risk of natural disasters (fires, landslides, flooding, etc)	More secure sources of energy	Increased access to public services, such as education, health, or credit	Improved use of traditional knowledge for environmental management	More participatory decision-making due to strengthened civil society and governance.	Other
Total																					

If you marked "Other", please provide detail on the nature of the Community Characteristic and Socioeconomic Benefit: