CRITICAL ECOSYSTEM PARTNERSHIP FUND

CEPF Final Project Completion Report

Organization Legal Name:	African Wildlife Foundation
Project Title:	Improved Conservation, Agribusiness and Land Use Planning at Mount Rungwe, Tanzania
Grant Number:	65713
CEPF Region:	Eastern Afromontane
Strategic Direction:	1 Mainstream biodiversity into wider development policies, plans and projects to deliver the co-benefits of biodiversity conservation, improved local livelihoods and economic development in priority corridors.
Grant Amount:	$159,432.00
Project Dates:	February 01, 2015 - January 31, 2017
Date of Report:	March 27, 2017

Implementation Partners

List each partner and explain how they were involved in the project

The *African Wildlife Foundation* (AWF), an international NGO, the main grantee and the project lead responsible to donor and for project administration and overall technical coordination. *Hifadhi ya Mazingira na Utalii Rungwe* (HIMARU) an local environment NGO and project sub-grantee purposely contracted and engaged as a way of developing its capacity in natural resource management planning and implementation. They also provided community level coordination of field activities. *Isangati Agricultural Development Organization* (IADO) a local NGO and sub-grantee contracted to provide extension services to smallholder farmers on biodiversity friendly agriculture. Tanzania Forest Service (TFS), Bujingijila and Ngumbulu Village Councils, Busokelo District Council, Rungwe District Council and Regional Administrative Secretariat for Mbeya were the government entities actively involved in all major project activities so as to enhance local capacity building and sustainability of project activities.

Conservation Impacts

Summarize the overall impact of your project, describing how your project has contributed to the implementation of the CEPF ecosystem profile

Strengthened local capacity in land use and natural resource management planning: one macro-level land use plan for the Tanzania's side of the Northern Lake Nyasa Catchments Corridor (Mt. Rungwe landscape is part of this) was developed. In doing so, the project contributed in strengthening 12 institutions including district governments in Rungwe, Busokelo, Kyela, Ileje, Mbeya Rural, Mbozi and Momba; Mbeya Regional Government; TFS; the National Land Use Planning Commission; CSOs (AWF and HIMARU), and local communities through learning by doing as they actively developed the macro-level plan. This activity identified and analyzed broad land uses within the landscape and recommended land use management interventions that will maximize retention or improvement of ecological services delivery. The CEPF and MacArthur Foundation invested 30% and 70% respectively in this activity. On the other hand, CEPF invested 100% in the development of the Mt. Rungwe Natural Reserve's (MRNR) General Management Plan (GMP) which strengthened capacity of local institutions (TFS zonal office, Mbeya Regional Government, Rungwe and Busokelo district governments, Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), AWF, HIMARU and local communities). In demonstrating the acquired capacity, local stakeholders developed quality forest management plans for Ikhoho and Chumvwi Forest Reserves without external technical support: the cost was covered with a different funding. Capacity of Bujingijila Village Government, Busokelo Council, and HIMARU was strengthened through their active participation in the development of Community-Based Forest Management (CBFM) Plan for Bujingijila Forest Reserve which hosts the Bujingijila Wildlife Corridor.

Increased adoption of biodiversity friendly and high yield agricultural practices: sustainable agriculture was promoted through training among smallholder farmers in the project area. According to impact studies, at the end of project, lead farmers representing 425 of 507 (84%) households switched from using poor to sustainable agricultural practices: of these, 301 (59%) resulted from CEPF investment segregated by gender as 146 men and 155 women. By end of project farmers who received training from CEPF support were 35 men and 81 women. Farmers adopting improved technologies have increased crop productivity up to three-fold and reduced farm inputs costs between 20% and 80%. Despite of drought and snowing; averagely, sustainable farmers increased potato production from 1,500kg/acre to 5,000kgs/acre and maize from 300kg/acre to 900kgs/acre. The size of agricultural land used in the two project villages is estimated at 1,220ha of which 637.5ha (52%) was under improved conservation management by the end of the project. Of these 36% or 436.5ha resulted from CEPF investment.

Institutional strengthening of implementing Civil Society Organizations (CSOs): The project has strengthened AWF, IADO and HIMARU to the extent of enabling them to bring innovative technologies that transformed traditional agriculture into conservation friendly and sustainable farming practices. An example of innovative technologies introduced in the area was production of natural pesticides from locally available raw materials such as neem leaves, Sodom apple, garlic, hot pepper, tefrosa plant and ash. Apart from local government institutions, also the three CSOs and the WCS had benefited in land use planning and natural resource management planning capacity development as described in previous sections. According to self-assessment through Civil Society Tracking Tool (CSTT), HIMARU was strengthened from 32% to 54% while IADO was strengthened from 76% to 78% and AWF field office strengthened from 80% to 82%. AWF has summarized combined CSTT assessment results for the three CSOs (Annex III). Indeed CSTT criteria are so general that some significant increase in CSO capacity is not captured, for instance, collective staff experience of 10 to 50 years falls in one CSTT category with a score of 1: so if 5 key staff each with 5 years' experience are recruited by a CSO despite of the huge strengthening with combined experience of 25 years they add to organization, the score in CSTT remains the same 1 meaning that no capacity was added to the CSO. So we recommend reviewing the tool.

Planned Long-term Impacts - 3+ years (as stated in the approved proposal)

Impact Description	Impact Summary
1 Reduced pressures on the biodiversity and forests of Mount Rungwe Nature Reserve (KBA 182) resulting from unsustainable practices in agricultural production and resource use. 2 Farmers between Mount Rungwe Nature Reserve and Kitulo Plateau National Park (KBA 124) conserve habitat and ecological systems by applying sustainable agriculture practices.	The project contributed to CEPF Strategic Direction 1 by mainstreaming biodiversity conservation into local development and agriculture plans and investment priority 1.1 through promoting civil society (IADO and HIMARU) efforts and mechanism in implementing those plans. The short-term impacts show increasing trend of farmers switching from traditional to more sustainable agricultural practices as well as increasing area of farmland put under sustainable production. These are clear indications that, in the long-term these sustainable methods will be implemented at a scale hence reduce pressure to the Mount Rungwe biodiversity. The increase of capacity among local institutions suggests sustainability in the long run. The development and endorsement of the macro-level land use plan for Tanzania's part of the northern Lake Nyasa catchments corridor (investment priority 1.2) and the development of the GMP for the MRNR are controlling resource use in the reserve hence promoting biodiversity conservation in the long-run. Creation of on-farm micro-habitats such as hedge rows and maintaining others such as streams, ditches or rivers contributed to micro-habitat conservation, and ecological connectivity. Sustainable farming helped to reduce agriculture expansion to nearby habitats.

Planned Short-term Impacts - 1 to 3 years (as stated in the approved proposal)

Impact Description	Impact Summary
Strengthen local government and community-level land use planning in and around Mount Rungwe Nature Reserve to include biodiversity conservation.	In line with CEPF Strategic Direction 2, the project improved the management of the MRNR via Investment Priority 2.1 by developing its GMP and initiating creation of the new Bujingijila Forest Reserve which hosts the wildlife corridor. The process capacitated local governments (Rungwe and Busokelo Councils, Mbeya Regional Government and TFS), AWF, WCS, HIMARU and local communities. The MRNR GMP and its planning process were preferred by TFS and set as standard models for other nature reserves in Tanzania. This is a testimony that, CEPF investment in MRNR produced positive add on benefits throughout the country. Stakeholders demonstrated the increased capacity by developing forest management plans for Ikhoho and Chumvwi Forest Reserves without external technical assistance. In line with CEPF Strategic

	Direction 1 and investment priority 1.1, CEPF and MacArthur Foundation invested 30% and 70% respectively to develop the macro-level land use plan for the Tanzania's side of the Northern Lake Nyasa Catchments Corridor (Mount Rungwe is part of this). This activity increased capacity of seven district governments (Mbeya, Rungwe, Busokelo, Kyela, Ileje Mbozi and Momba), Mbeya regional government, TFS, National Land Use Planning Commission, HIMARU and local communities.
At least 20% of the farmers in Bujingijila and Ngumbulu villages practice sustainable and conservation friendly farm management resulting in increased yields by the end of 2016.	In line with CEPF Strategic Direction 1 and investment priority 1.1 biodiversity conservation was mainstreamed into local agriculture plans, and Investment Priority 1.2 aligned with promoted civil society (AWF and IADO) efforts in driving this intervention. Impact studies revealed 239 farmers (47%) switched from poor to sustainable production methods in year 1 and the number grew to 425 (84%) in year 2. CEPF contribution to this was 301 farmers (59%). Households with men lead-farmers increased from 143 in year 1 to 146 in year 2 while those with women lead-farmers increased from 96 in year 1 to 155 in year 2. Further, men benefiting from CEPF supported training in year 1 were 32 and increased to 35 in year 2 while women were 22 in year 1 and increased to 81 in year 2. The estimated farmland put under improved conservation management increased from 359ha achieved in year 1 to 637.5ha (52% of total land under cultivation) in year 2 with CEPF contributing 436.5ha (36%) on this (Annexes I and II). Despite of poor weather, demo farmers on average increased crop production up to three-fold: potato from 1,500kg/acre to 5,000kgs/acre and maize from 300kg/acre to 900kgs/acre. Farm inputs cost reduced by 20 to 80% as a result of making own organic fertilizers and pesticides.

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

Successes

***Working through existing structures*: during implementation, the project did not create new governance structures but used existing ones. This avoided confusions on roles among different institutions and actors.**

Use of participatory approaches: The project actively involved all key stakeholders in all main activities throughout the project time hence increasing their understanding and buy in.

***Co-benefit values of the project:* the project was easily accepted by local stakeholders as it demonstrated tangible gains in community livelihoods (increased crop yield and reduced production**

costs) while at the same time benefiting biodiversity conservation through use of sustainable agricultural methods.

Site exchange visits: **Visits to exchange knowledge and experiences with institutions pursuing similar objectives stimulated courage and commitment to our stakeholders in implementing the project.**

Engagement of strong and appropriate sub-grantees: **IADO has been supporting extension services to smallholder farmers in the area for more than 12 years something which made them a strong partner to lead the agriculture part of the project. HIMARU is a young environment NGO hence a strong candidate deserving help in capacity development. Based on CSTT self-assessment HIMARU was strengthened from 32 to 54% something which was very significant.**

Challenges

Interference on the conservation initiatives at the Bujingijila Wildlife Corridor: **When at the final approval stage of the CBFM plan for the Bujingijila Wildlife Corridor, the process was interfered by a small group of rich people claiming to have bought plots in the corridor. This particular corridor hosts important water sources, streams and rivers making it "a conservation zone" where activities other than conservation are not allowed by Tanzanian law. In addressing this, after seeing vivid signs of threatening peace and tranquility, AWF reported handed the matter to the District Defense and Security Committee (DDSC) in Rungwe as well as to the Lake Nyasa Basin Water Board (LNBWB) which is responsible for safeguarding water resources in the entire watershed. The DDSC and LNBWB visited the area and agreed that the area should remain a wildlife corridor and water catchment zone. However, before appropriate action was taken, most of DDSC top leaders were either removed from their positions or transferred to other areas as a result of the outcomes of the Tanzanian general elections. The new leaders were completely ignorant of this issue and some of them did not give it adequate priority. AWF decided to escalate the matter to the Mbeya Regional Commissioner (RC) by producing and submitting to him a thorough report on this challenge for further action. Recently, the RC appeared on television instructing district governments throughout Mbeya to remove all people who have invaded water sources and conservation areas. It is likely that conservation will emerge the winner given backups by policy, legislation and correct education provided to target audiences.**

Presence of similar but more sensitive challenges: **there had been similar but more pressing challenges elsewhere in the landscape that were automatically given more priority. While AWF's challenge involves a small group of people residing far from the problem area, there are other challenges involving much larger ecologically sensitive areas and several villages quarrelling over land disputes. Some of these are causing deaths something which caused the authorities in Mbeya to put higher priority in those areas.**

Effects of severe weather on agriculture: **as per our previous reports, in average, agriculture production targets among project's demo farmers and adopters were not fully met due to prolonged drought and excessive snowing. A few potato farmers met the target of producing 7,000kg/acre or above while the majority produced on average 4,040kg/acre in Ngumbulu village and 3,030kg/acre in Bujingijila village. Maize production was also affected and the target for demo farmers of 1,500–2,500kg/acre was not met as the average production in Ngumbulu village was 920kg/acre (though some farmers harvested up to 1,400kg/acre), and 250kg/acre in Bujingijila (some farmers harvested up to 900kg/acre). However, it is important to note that, despite of not meeting the targets, the achieved production was far above what farmers would harvest under business as usual scenario and in favorable weather which is 1,500-3,000kg/acre for potato and 100-300kg/acre for maize.**

Were there any unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?

As the project supported the development of the GMP for MRNR, participants revived the importance of saving two nearby forests that are highly threatened by human activities. One of these is KBA 207, the Poroto Ridge Forest Reserve (11,165ha) and the other is Sawago Forest Reserve (831ha). The two forests were not benefiting from management or conservation actions from the authorities. The best option put forward to save the forests was to upgrade their protection status to Nature Reserves by annexing them to MRNR and consolidate the three reserves under one management regime. In order to ensure financing for the management of the reserves, it was proposed to build a more sustainable financing approach by augmenting public financing with a robust business plan including a tourism management plan. AWF, developed a project proposal for the same and secured funding from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation for the project to upgrade/annexing the two reserves to MRNR which is now on-going. Similarly, the natural resource planning capacity development to local governments and other stakeholders provided by this project had led to local stakeholders developing two management plans for Ikhoho and Chumvwi Forest Reserves in the Rungwe landscape without external technical assistance. The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation funded the costs for development process of the plans.

Another unexpected impact was the fact that: the MRNR GMP and its planning process were taken by TFS as templates and preferred process and set as standard models for other nature reserves in Tanzania. This is a testimony that, CEPF investment in Mount Rungwe KBA produced positive add on benefits throughout the country.

Project Components and Products/Deliverables

Describe the results from each product/deliverable:

Component		Deliverable		
#	Description	#	Description	Results for Deliverable
1	Development of land use and management plans	1.1	Complete one (1) macro level landscape plan for Mount Rungwe and 12 surrounding villages by the end of 2015	One macro-level land use plan for the Tanzania's part of the northern Lake Nyasa catchments corridor (Mount Rungwe Landscape inclusive) was developed and endorsed by stakeholders. Details of this are found in other sections of this report. This activity was co-funded by MacArthur Foundation so as to cover the entire Tanzania's part of the northern Lake Nyasa catchments corridor.
1	Development of land use and management plans	1.2	Complete one (1) village land use plan for Bujingijila village by March 2016.	The project had initially planned to support land use planning in Bujingijila village so as to protect the Bujingijila Wildlife Corridor. However, land use law prohibits the process in areas with land disputes like the current boundary conflict between Bujingijila village and Kitulo National Park. CBFM was taken as a legally backed alternative. The CBFM Plan was developed pending approval by Village General Assembly which was interfered by a small group of people claiming to have bought plots in the Bujingijila corridor. AWF handed the matter to the DDSC in Rungwe after seeing vivid signs of threatening peace and tranquility. Before the problem was resolved, most of DDSC top leaders were removed from their positions or transferred to other areas as a result of new general elections. The new leaders were ignorant of this issue and some did not give it adequate weight. AWF decided to forward the matter to the Mbeya RC by submitting a written report for further action. AWF hopes a solution will be obtained as for now the RC is busy with similar but more critical and sensitive land disputes in much larger ecologically sensitive areas.
1	Development of land use and management plans	1.3	Revise general management plan for Mount Rungwe Nature Reserve linking to community forests in	The project has completed this activity and the GMP was submitted to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism in June 2016 to undergo final government procedures. AWF has been following up with TFS to see if the government procedures are completed but till the time of project close up, AWF has not received an update on this. The plan document consists of four documents; the main GMP and three subsidiary plans (invasive species control plan, fire management plan and tourism

			adjacent village forests by June 2016.	management plan). TFS has taken GMP planning process and MRNR GMP as templates and preferred process and set them as standard model for all other nature reserves in the country. So, the investment of CEPF in one site (Mount Rungwe KBA), had resulted to country-wide impact by influencing natural resource management planning in all nature reserves in Tanzania. The plan is attached as Annex IV a, b, c, d.
2	Design and finance extension services for sustainable agriculture practices in villages between Mount Rungwe Nature Reserve and Kitulo Plateau National Park.	2.1	Partnership agreement with private sector operator sourcing from villages surrounding Mount Rungwe Nature Reserve established by end of 2016.	The essence of partnership between farmers and private sector was to help them improve market access through opening up new markets for their crops and increase access to important information about farm inputs and technical assistance. These measures would have helped farmers to improve productivity, increase reliability of markets and earn more income. However, this initiative was not successful because there were not any private sector entities that were sourcing from project villages. As an alternative to this, AWF and IADO, helped farmers to join the Vodacom Agriculture Club, a service provided by the Vodacom Telephone Company. This is a service whereby Vodacom subscribers can use their mobile phones to dial a certain code, follow instructions and access market information including buyers and prices of crops and farm inputs. However this was challenging as some farmers were not covered by the Vodacom mobile network. Furthermore services were often delayed, farmers sometimes lacking sufficient volume and/or desired quality of produce. However, farmers who were able to actively engage in the club (about 25%) enjoyed a more reliable market and reduced post-harvest loss by about 30%. This figure is expected to increase with time as farmers now are seeing benefits to join.
2	Design and finance extension services for sustainable agriculture practices in villages between Mount Rungwe Nature Reserve and Kitulo Plateau National Park.	2.2	Agricultural extension services (incorporating sustainable soil, water and landscape management) provided to targeted farmers in two (2) villages: Bujingijila and Ngumbulu	Twenty demonstration farmers representing 20 households were trained on sustainable production methods after signing an agreement to adhere to conservation covenants developed by AWF. Conservation covenants are commitments that when applied to any undertaking would protect biodiversity of an area. Many of the other households (425 out of 507 or 84%) of whom 301 (59%) resulted from CEPF investment in the area learned from demo farmers and adopted sustainable production methods. These increased productivity up to three fold while at the same time conserving biodiversity (Annex II).

			throughout the project.	
3	AWF Project management, oversight and policy influencing	3.1	Services contracted	Some services were contracted to two local institutions as the approach to help develop their capacity in conservation planning and management. IADO was contracted to provide conservation agriculture extension services to farmers in the project area. HIMARU was contracted to provide village level coordination and participate in all project activities as a way of developing their capacity in natural resource management. The plan to contract the NLUPC to facilitate land use planning in Bujingijila village did not happen as the land use law prohibit the process to take place in areas with land related disputes, and here, there was a boundary conflict between Bujingijila village and the Kitulo National Park. An alternative option of CBFM was taken and facilitated by AWF and HIMARU.
3	AWF Project management, oversight and policy influencing	3.2	Monitoring, evaluation and reporting	AWF developed a project monitoring plan at the start of the project and the project team was guided by it when carrying out monitoring, evaluation and reporting. This has been very instrumental in keeping the project on track from start to finish. The online reporting via CEPF Grant Writer portal and now Conservation Grant portal had helped the project team to save time and be more focused on the objectives, deliverables and results as they appear in the CEPF Conservation Grant portal. However it should be noticed that the online format and the lack of an offline reporting template has made internal review of reporting prior to submission a bit challenging.
3	AWF Project management, oversight and policy influencing	3.3	Communications, outreach and policy influencing (target SAGCOT processes)	AWF developed a simple project communication and outreach strategy to help communicate more effectively and efficiently. Among interventions include production of a thousand copies of a project poster and same number for brochure half of them in English and the other half in Swahili language; most of them have been distributed to stakeholders and a few kept for office use. AWF shared project successes and challenges in the Southern Agricultural Growth Corridor of Tanzania (SAGCOT) area through meetings occurring in different SAGCOT clusters and at the SAGCOT Secretariat's headquarters in Dar Es Salaam.
3	AWF Project management, oversight and policy	3.4	Sub-grant agreement between AWF and HIMARU	The HIMARU sub-grant agreement was fully implemented and well managed. Disbursements and reporting were made according to schedules in the agreement; procurement and other policies were well followed. The

	influencing		implemented and managed	agreement was concluded.
3	AWF Project management, oversight and policy influencing	3.5	Contract agreement between AWF and National Land Use Planning Committee (NLUPC) implemented and managed	The Land Use Planning Act prohibits the land use planning process to take place in areas with land related conflicts. Initially it was planned to carry out land use planning in Bujingijila village as a measure to protect the Bujingijila Wildlife Corridor. However, a boundary conflict between Bujingijila village and the Kitulo National Park emerged and as a result, and according to law cited above the NLUPC was not contracted. Instead an alternative legally backed option of facilitating CBFM planning was initated by AWF and HIMARU but was not fully completed as explained under the challenges section of this report.
3	AWF Project management, oversight and policy influencing	3.6	Contract agreement between AWF and Isangati Agriculture Development Organisation implemented and managed	The implementation of IADO's sub-grant agreement with AWF was fully implemented and well managed. Disbursements and reporting were made according to schedules in the agreement; procurement and other policies were well followed. IADO was audited and the auditors found nothing negative to comment on and the agreement was concluded.

Please describe and submit any tools, products, or methodologies that resulted from this project or contributed to the results.

Project Communication Strategy: the project developed this strategy to reach targeted audiences and deliver important information about the project including objectives, main activities, achievements, lessons, stakeholders etc. The document was a very good guide on identifying audiences, type of messages to get across to each audience and timeframe (the document has been submitted with previous reports). The General Management Plan for Mount Rungwe Nature Reserve: the GMP for MRNR is one important management tool that the project produced. The plan is used by TFS to manage this KBA for the next five years. The quality of its development process and the plan itself was commended by TFS and other participants and this GMP was made a model plan for the rest of nature reserves to replicate throughout the country. The Global Environment Facility (GEF) has provided funds to TFS to implement many of activities in the GMP (the document is very big exceeding allowable load to transit via Conservation Grants Portal and will be sent separately. Macro-level land use plan: This conservation and land use management planning tool was created after identifying and analyzing broad land uses within the Tanzania's part of the northern Lake Nyasa catchments corridor (Mount Rngwe landscape inclusive) and scenarios that will maximize retention or improvement of ecological services delivery. Recommendations on land use management interventions to improve ecological service delivery and conservation values in the Northern Nyasa Catchments Corridor were also provided. The increased knowledge regarding ecological and social-economic issues gained during the process will support informed decision making on appropriate conservation investment and interventions in the corridor (document already submitted with previous reports). Project brochure and poster: Among products of the project are 1,000 copies of posters and 1,000 copies of brochures

(in English and Swahili languages) that provide information to our target audiences. These have been distributed to our stakeholders and a few copies kept for office use in exhibitions etc.

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:

- Project Design Process *(aspects of the project design that contributed to its success/shortcomings)*
- Project Implementation *(aspects of the project execution that contributed to its success/shortcomings)*
- Describe any other lessons learned relevant to the conservation community

Let people do, don't do for them: **in order for people to value a project deliverable and get the sense of product ownership, facilitate them to actively participate and make informed decisions at the time of product development process. If the product is so technical, let the consultant spend much time with the people, work together and take their opinions and contributions seriously. This lessons was drawn from the process of developing the GMP for MRNR for which contributions from all stakeholders were taken seriously and used to build the GMP which was ultimately appreciated by everybody and furtunately TFS got funding from GEF to implement it.**

Sustainability / Replication

Summarize the success or challenges in ensuring the project will be sustained or replicated, including any unplanned activities that are likely to result in increased sustainability or replicability.

The project had two main result areas, these were; (i) developing sound land use and natural resource management planning capacity in the project area in a way that benefit biodiversity conservation (ii) developing capacity of smallholder farmers in practicing biodiversity friendly high yield agriculture so as to improve their livelihoods. Both areas have proved sustainability and replicability as follows:-
Developed capacity to practice land use and natural resource management planning
Sustainability: local stakeholders from zonal to village levels including civil society and governmental organizations and local communities were given practical training by doing the real development process of the GMP of MRNR. Firstly, the Core Planning Team (CPT) comprised of a full array of local stakeholders to lead the GMP planning process was formed. The leadership of the team was totally from local stakeholders, for instance, the chair person was from the Mbeya Regional Government, the Vice-chair was from the TFS Southern Tanzania Zone, the secretary was from the MRNR office: members of the team were drawn from the bordering KNP, Rungwe District Council, Busokelo District Council, TFS in Southern Tanzania, Regional Administrative Secretariat in Mbeya; and CSOs, that were; HIMARU and Wildlife Conservation Society while AWF was a technical facilitator and coordinator of the process. The CPT was strengthened through a series of technical educative meetings with AWF

technical facilitator. As a result, the natural resource planning capacity in this priority corridor of northern Lake Nyasa catchments was built among the local stakeholders and this was demonstrated by the team successfully leading the development of two forest management plans for Ikhoho and Chumvwi forest reserves without external technical assistance; this has demonstrated sustainability of the planning process with stakeholders utilizing their capacity that was built by the project.
Replication: **The route to replication of this process was cleared by TFS deciding to make the GMP for MRNR and its development process the standard model for all nature reserves in the country. As a result, TFS in the Eastern Zone had already used the same process and format to develop the GMP for Kilombero Nature Reserve hence making the replication of this project's intervention a reality. TFS, has requested AWF to train conservators of all nature reserves in the country on this model of natural resource planning so as to increase their understanding and command on the process. This is enhancing further replication in other nature reserves in the country as well as sustainability of the concept of planning within government agencies.**
Developed capacity of smallholder farmers to practice sustainable agriculture
Sustainability: **The project has invested in people by training smallholder farmers on sustainable production methods, empowering them to access markets through their mobile phones and capacitated them to make key environmentally sound farm inputs (organic fertilizers and pesticides) on their own by using locally available raw materials. This intervention has proved to reduce farm input costs by up to 80% and increase crop productivity up to three-fold hence making it more profitable and affordable by poor smallholder farmers. This intervention has reduced smallholder farmers' dependency (technically and materially) on outsiders hence assuring adequate own capacity to achieve sustained high yield, food security, access to markets and sustainability.**
Replication: **Demonstration farmers agreed to share their knowledge and experience within and outside their areas. In another AWF operational area where 20 villages with demo farmers that have undergone more than one farming season, 80 to 100 new farmers per village per year are visiting the demonstration plots, receiving training from the original demonstration farmers, and adopting sustainable agricultural practices on their own land. At this rate, 1,600 to 2,000 farmers per year are switching to sustainable methods. In the case of this project, AWF's impact study indicated that 47% in year 1 and 84% in year 2 of households switched to sustainable methods. This action by AWF in Mount Rungwe villages is a replication of similar action by AWF in central Tanzania, where maize productivity increased up to 8-fold. The important needs for replication include to have a set of conservation covenants relevant for the area (conservation covenants are commitments that when applied to any undertaking would protect biodiversity of an area), a training manual for the production of sector in question (e.g. maize), trainers and relevant partners.**

Safeguards

If not listed as a separate Project Component and described above, summarize the implementation of any required action related to social, environmental, or pest management safeguards

In implementing this project, AWF, IADO and HIMARU abided by safeguards related to environment, human rights and management systems. During the project period the following respective actions were taken:-
Environmental safeguards:
Conservation of natural habitats and ecosystems**: AWF and HIMARU participated in putting off forest fires which flared up in September 2016 in the Mt. Rungwe Nature Reserve. Further, HIMARU has**

regularly worked with community forest scouts to patrol the Mt. Rungwe forests and conducting environment education to target communities so as to mitigate illegal activities.
Soil management: **IADO continuously monitored farmers to check if soil was properly managed through introduction of sustainable practices such as organic matter enhancement, contour farming, and crop rotation to prevent erosion and land degradation.**
Mitigation of climate change: **IADO trained farmers to make and use organic fertilizers and pesticides so as to minimize use of industrial fertilizers which are associated with release of greenhouse gases. AWF developed conservation covenants that were included in the agreement between demo farmers and AWF that minimize deforestation something which increase potential for carbon sink.**
Water management: **the signed agreement between lead farmers, village leaders and AWF includes conservation covenants that protect water catchments, sources and rivers from degradation and pollution.**
Social safeguard: human rights
Community and traditional rights: **the project protected the rights of local communities, encouraging them to conserve their traditional forests known locally as *Masyeto* so as to continue using them for performing their cultural and ritual activities.**
Child labor: **AWF, IADO and HIMARU prohibited child labor (for anybody under 18 years old) by not including them in committees or groups such as demo farmers or forest patrol teams that involve labor. The project encouraged children to improve their school attendance.**
Discrimination: **the project worked to eliminate any form of discrimination among people by ensuring equal opportunities in all relevant activities during project implementation; e.g. there are almost equal numbers of men and women among demo farmers and environment committees.**
Provision of safe and healthy working environment**: AWF, IADO and HIMARU ensured a safe and healthy working environment to anybody participating in project implementation. For instance, all events such as meetings or trainings took place in safe shelters; food and drinks were always hygienic, clean and safe for human consumption; vehicles were always well maintained for safe travel of project staff and other participants.**
Management systems:
Harvest and post-harvest handling: **Farmers were provided with improved harvest and post-harvest techniques that help them to minimize losses of their crops while on and off-farm. Many farmers now understand how to make hot pepper solution for killing pests that destroy crops in the fields and neem powder (a natural pesticide produced from the locally growing Neem tree) that protect cereals from borers and other destructive pests while in storage facilities.**
Farm inputs and material identity, selection and handling**: The project educated farmers on how to distinguish between genuine and fake farm inputs and to distinguish between products that have been banned from approved ones. Inputs referred to here are mainly seeds, fertilizers and pesticides. Farmers equipped with this kind of knowledge often avoid fake inputs and operate within higher chances of success.**

Additional Comments/Recommendations

Use this space to provide any further comments or recommendations in relation to your project or CEPF

Additional Funding

Provide details of any additional funding that supported this project and any funding secured for the project, organization, or the region, as a result of CEPF investment

Total additional funding (US$)
$500,000.00

Type of funding
Please provide a breakdown of additional funding (counterpart funding and in-kind) by source, categorizing each contribution into one of the following categories:

A Project Co-Financing (other donors or your organization contribute to the direct costs of this 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 funded project)
*C Regional/Portfolio Leveraging (other donors make large investments in a region because of CEPF investm*ent or successes related to this project)

Type of Funding: Category B
AWF leveraged funding from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation to support upgrading protection status of Poroto Ridge Forest Reserve (PRFR) and Sawago Forest Reserve (SFR) which are highly threatened by human activities. This came as a result of CEPF investment in the development the General Management Plan for the Mount Rungwe Nature Reserve (MRNR) through which participants recommended the need to annex the adjacent PRFR and SFR to MRNR and consolidate three reserves under one management structure as a way of saving them from disappearance. The two forests covers about 12,000ha.

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.

1. Please include your full contact details (Name, Organization, Mailing address, Telephone number, E-mail address) below

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