

## CEPF Final Project Completion Report

<b>Organization Legal Name:</b>	BirdLife Zimbabwe
<b>Project Title:</b>	Transboundary Cooperation in the Chimanimani Mountains of Zimbabwe and Mozambique
<b>Grant Number:</b>	65992
<b>CEPF Region:</b>	Eastern Afromontane
<b>Strategic Direction:</b>	2 Improve the protection and management of the KBA network throughout the hotspot.
<b>Grant Amount:</b>	\$65,000.00
<b>Project Dates:</b>	January 01, 2016 - June 30, 2017
<b>Date of Report:</b>	August 10, 2017

### Implementation Partners

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

**BirdLife Zimbabwe (BLZ):** BirdLife Zimbabwe was implementing this project in collaboration with MICAIA Foundation (a local NGO based in Chimoio, Mozambique). BLZ coordinated all project activities in Chimanimani, Zimbabwe. These included planning and organising of meetings, engagement of stakeholders and training local stakeholders in bird identification and habitat monitoring. Across the border, BLZ provided trainings in bird identification and habitat monitoring to stakeholders in Mozambique. BLZ also maintained its relationship with MICAIA Foundation, and facilitated more networks among Civil Society Organisations, government institutions, communities and researchers in the Chimanimani TFCA.

**MICAIA Foundation:** MICAIA Foundation was our key partner in this project and BLZ worked closely with this organisation. MICAIA Foundation coordinated project activities in Mozambique including identifying stakeholders for the project, engaging them, planning and organising meetings. Since this project was transboundary, MICAIA Foundation coordinated with BLZ in planning for joint activities, local trainings in Mozambique as well as in delivery of the entire project. MICAIA is currently the host for the Chimanimani online resource centre.

### Conservation Impacts

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

This project brought active participation of local stakeholders in the Chimanimani TFCA which is also a KBA cutting across Zimbabwe and Mozambique. Prior to this project there was no cross-border activity taking place in this TFCA, and this initiative by BLZ and MICAIA Foundation, therefore, established networks and improved capacity of local stakeholders for biodiversity monitoring and management in the Chimanimani TFCA. Local stakeholders who included civil society organisations, government institutions and communities received trainings in bird identification and habitat monitoring. The training came at a time when such knowledge and skills were not realised across borders. Active participation of local communities in TFCA issues in Chimanimani under this project was a great achievement. Community involvement in site monitoring in the Chimanimani TFCA was limited due to lack of skills and knowledge in biodiversity monitoring. Chimanimani TFCA is rich in birds, and skills and knowledge acquired by local villagers enabled active involvement of this group of stakeholders in biodiversity conservation in the Chimanimani TFCA. A total of 43 people comprising 34 males and 9 females received training in bird identification and habitat monitoring. The project also provided opportunity for knowledge sharing especially through two site exchange and learning events conducted in each country during the project period. Stakeholders were exposed to conservation and livelihood initiatives linked to biodiversity conservation taking place in the Chimanimani TFCA. They also learnt about potential livelihood programmes such as bee keeping that benefits both humans and biodiversity. There was improved understanding of the status of the Chimanimani TFCA among local stakeholders through open discussions and direct interactions between TFCA officials and all other stakeholders (CSOs, communities, researchers). This project also successfully established an online resource centre where known information about the Chimanimani TFCA was pulled together and can easily be accessed by the local stakeholders.

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

Impact Description	Impact Summary
Biodiversity conserved in the Chimanimani KBA	The project promoted collaboration of local stakeholders in the Chimanimani TFCA/KBA for improved biodiversity conservation. It has involved a total of 8 institutions and one community with six villages from Zimbabwe, and three institutions, five communities from Mozambique whose capacity for biodiversity monitoring and conservation was improved. Decision-making level who included the District authorities, TFCA Coordinator and TFCA administration were also brought on board during the project where recommendations for improved biodiversity conservation was shared with them. Skills development of local stakeholders, information gathering about the Chimanimani TFCA and engaged of various stakeholders in this KBA contributed towards improvement management of the Chimanimani KBA.

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

Impact Description	Impact Summary
<p>Improved networking, skills and knowledge sharing among institutions involved in and impacting on the management of the Chimanimani TFCA at the local level, which includes the Chimanimani KBA. These are: • In Zimbabwe - the Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife Management Authority (ZPWMA); Chimanimani RDC; Chikukwa Community; Chikukwa Ecological Land Use Community Trust (CELUCT) a CBO in Chikukwa; Civil Society Organisations working in and around the KBA (Chikukwa); Chimanimani SMAG key institutions - Forestry Commission (FC), Environmental Management Agency (EMA) and Allied Timbers Zimbabwe (ATZ), and • In Mozambique - The Chimanimani TFCA Administration; the Nyahezi, Mahate, Mpunga, Zomba and Maronga communities, located in the buffer zone of the Chimanimani TFCA whose land and resource use practices can affect the biodiversity of the Chimanimani Reserve, including the KBA; and local government institutions at Rotanda locality, administrative post and district levels whose decisions on land and resource allocation for development purposes (commercial farming, timber harvesting, mining,..) can also impact negatively on the conservation status of the Reserve.</p>	<p>This project resulted in active cross-border learning, networking and skills enhancement of local stakeholders in the Chimanimani TFCA. It created a platform where TFCA knowledge and information gaps were deliberated and recommendations also provided by the stakeholders. Deliberations of this project also reached to decision making people who include the National TFCA Coordinator from Zimbabwe, TFCA administration (Mozambique) and District Officials from the two countries. The biodiversity information on Chimanimani TFCA made available to stakeholders through the biodiversity assessment reports and the online resource centre helped stakeholders improve identification of management gaps. Furthermore, the skills and knowledge obtained by local stakeholders helped them to contribute effectively in site management and biodiversity conservation. The knowledge, skills and networking opportunities across borders and well as effective collaboration of BLZ and MICAIA provided by this project has therefore contributed to improved management and protection of the KBA network throughout the hotspot.</p>
<p>Improved capacity of key institutions in biodiversity management and conservation in the Chimanimani TFCA. • In Zimbabwe they will include: ZPWMA, local authorities (Chimanimani RDC), local government institutions responsible for forestry and environment (FC, EMA), CELUCT, and Chikukwa community in Zimbabwe; and • In Mozambique they are: The Chimanimani TFCA Administration, TFCA community liaison officers on local government institutions at locality, administrative post and district levels and community institutions (natural resources management committees and</p>	<p>Local institutions listed above had their skills in biodiversity monitoring improved through two joint trainings and two local trainings on bird identification and habitat monitoring conducted by BLZ. Since Chimanimani Mountains TFCA is rich in avifauna, this project addressed knowledge gaps in bird identification across-borders for joint monitoring of bird species whose habitats cut across political boundaries. The METT and IBA monitoring tools used in this project have set a common standard for habitat monitoring by local institutions in the Chimanimani TFCA. Improving local capacity in biodiversity management and conservation across-borders as demonstrated by this project has directly contributed to improved protection and management of the Chimanimani KBA network</p>

community rangers), entities that have a direct responsibility in monitoring changes in the local ecosystem.

throughout the hotspot. Cross-border collaboration in skills development has been key in contributing to implementation of this CEPF investment strategy for the Chimanimani Mountains biodiversity hotspot.

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

**Under this project, BLZ and MICAIA Foundation successfully worked with key institutions and communities in the Chimanimani from both countries and engaged them through meetings, trainings, site exchange and networking. The response from the local stakeholders from both Zimbabwe and Mozambique was overwhelming. There was also support from the national TFCA coordinator from Zimbabwe and TFCA administration from Mozambique who participated in key meetings. A relationship between TFCA Officials and other institutions from both countries was therefore enhanced. Management issues in the Chimanimani TFCA which is also a KBA were discussed with the local stakeholders who demonstrated that they are one family are happy to work together. During the training, reading and understanding of English Language on the monitoring forms especially by Mozambican participants was a challenge as their Official language is Portuguese. Meeting the high expectations among stakeholders who were enthusiastic to have identified and discussed gaps such as development of a joint management plan or action plan for the Chimanimani TFCA, research on species outdated data, developing birding tourism and support community livelihoods across borders in this KBA was also a challenge. Although this came out more often during this project, these could not be addressed as they were beyond the scope of the project. However, it is important to note that local stakeholders have a common understanding of what needs to be done to improve biodiversity conservation in the Chimanimani TFCA. Meanwhile, already established networks are working together on basic site monitoring and information sharing for improved management and biodiversity conservation.**

Were there any unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?

**There was increased recognition and appreciation of the role played by BLZ in rejuvenating interest in Chimanimani TFCA by the TFCA Officials. During the project period, BLZ presented this project at a National TFCA Sub-committee meeting held in March 2016 in Harare, Zimbabwe. Project details including activities already conducted were shared with stakeholders at this high level meeting. In addition, the National TFCA Coordinator also shared with stakeholders about the work done in Chimanimani by BLZ in his presentation during the same meeting. BLZ also participated at full Council meetings where we shared brief presentations of our work at district level.**

## Project Components and Products/Deliverables

Describe the results from each product/deliverable:

Component		Deliverable		
#	Description	#	Description	Results for Deliverable
3	Ten representatives of the five key stakeholder institutions trained in biodiversity monitoring and conservation.	3.2	Reports on site exchange visits	Two site exchange and learning events conducted in October 2016 (Zimbabwe) and April 2017 (Mozambique) were successful benefitted 37 males and 18 females. The events provided great opportunity for networking and knowledge sharing among the local stakeholders. During the site visit in Zimbabwe, stakeholders in Chimanimani Mountains shared knowledge on conservation issues that include threats to biodiversity and community involvement in dealing with threats such as fires. There were good discussions among communities who urged each other across borders to cooperate in preventing fires and where it occurs putting out such threats. During this visit, there was also shared knowledge on environmentally friendly livelihood activities such as permaculture, bee keeping, cloth cutting and designing by women groups in Chikukwa and a community eco-tourism initiative. There was also knowledge sharing during the site exchange and learning visit conducted in Mozambique. Of interest were also conservation initiatives such as seed banking of indigenous trees, tree nurseries, bee keeping, eco-tourism and conservation agriculture. During these two events participants also shared knowledge on understanding of the METT and IBA monitoring tools as well as challenges faced in completing these tools.
3	Ten representatives of the five key stakeholder institutions trained in biodiversity monitoring and conservation.	3.3	Completed METTs	Completed METT forms from Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife Management Authority, and Chimanimani Nature Reserve were received by BLZ in April 2017. In addition completed IBA forms from Chikukwa, Maronga, Mahate, Mpunga and Zomba Communities were received by in April 2017.
3	Ten representatives of the five key stakeholder institutions	3.1	Training report on training for ten people	Four trainings on bird identification and habitat monitoring were conducted by BLZ, two of them being joint trainings with participation of stakeholders from both Zimbabwe and Mozambique. The trainings have reached to a total of 34 males and 9 females. Local

	trained in biodiversity monitoring and conservation.			institutions and communities in the Chimanimani Mountains were equipped with skills and knowledge in bird identification and habitat monitoring. In Zimbabwe, institutions trained were the Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife Management Authority, Environmental Management Agency, Chimanimani RDC, Forestry Commission, Allied Timbers Zimbabwe, Chikukwa Ecological Land Use Community Trust (CELUCT), Towards Sustainable Use of Resources Organisation (TSURO) Trust, and Chikukwa Community. In Mozambique the Chimanimani Nature Reserve, Sussundenga District, MICAIA Foundation, and communities of Zomba, Mpunga, Maronga, Nyahezi and Mahate were trained. As result of the training, local stakeholders from both Zimbabwe and Mozambique are able to apply similar tools (METT and IBA framework) for site monitoring in this TFCA which are comparable across borders. The training prepared locals to actively participate in citizen science in the Chimanimani Mountains KBA.
4	BirdLife Zimbabwe strengthened	4.1	CEPF civil society tracking tool completed and priority actions identified.	The CEPF CSTT was completed by BLZ in July 2017. Priority actions for strengthening the organisation were identified and these include human development strategy, improve GIS skills to technical staff, increase our membership base and funding sources.
1	Mechanisms for cross-border learning and skills enhancement in biodiversity conservation among the key local stakeholders developed and implemented in the Chimanimani TFCA.	1.1	Reports on local stakeholder meetings	A planning meeting conducted in February 2016 in Chimanimani was successful. This meeting, also attended by the National TFCA Coordinator from Zimbabwe shared knowledge about the Chimanimani TFCA. BLZ shared and discussed this project with stakeholders where implementation plan and modalities were agreed upon. All identified institutions confirmed their participation to this project. BLZ also facilitated three participatory community meetings with Chikukwa Community in gathering of traditional knowledge on useful plants and cultural norms related to biodiversity conservation in the Chimanimani TFCA.
1	Mechanisms for cross-border learning and skills enhancement in	1.2	Report on meeting between Mozambican and	Three joint meetings were conducted 1) in May 2016 (hosted by MICAIA in Mozambique), 2) December 2016 (hosted by BLZ in Zimbabwe) and 30 in June 2017 (hosted by MICAIA in Mozambique). During the first meeting BLZ and MICAIA Foundation shared this project with

	biodiversity conservation among the key local stakeholders developed and implemented in the Chimanimani TFCA.		Zimbabwean stakeholders and implementation plan	stakeholders, explaining collaborative plans of BLZ and MICAIA and how these two organisations have engaged with stakeholders from each country. The stakeholders provided recommendations for strengthening of this collaborative initiative. Preliminary findings of the biodiversity assessment from Zimbabwe were presented and discussed with stakeholders during this meeting. The second joint meeting focused on sharing of project progress with involvement of key decision making people who included TFCA Officials, district authorities and involved local stakeholders from both Zimbabwe and Mozambique. Networks among government institutions, civil society organisations and communities were strengthened. The final meeting shared on the all the work done on this project and discussed ways for maintaining and enhancing this collaborative initiative spearheaded by BLZ and MICAIA Foundation.
1	Mechanisms for cross-border learning and skills enhancement in biodiversity conservation among the key local stakeholders developed and implemented in the Chimanimani TFCA.	1.3	Report on achievements of local collaborative networks	Two joint reports with deliberations of the collaborative work were produced and shared with the key stakeholders. The joint work spearheaded by BLZ and MICAIA Foundation was reported, and recommendations from stakeholders also captured. The reports were shared with government and civil society organisations in the Chimanimani Mountains. AT national level, the reports were also shared with the national TFCA Coordinator.
2	A Resource Centre established by MICAIA and BLZ housing biodiversity data for Chimanimani TFCA, hosted by MICAIA.	2.1	Report on biodiversity assessment	A biodiversity assessment covering the Zimbabwean site was conducted in April and May 2016. Preliminary findings of this assessment was shared with stakeholders in Chimoio, Mozambique during a joint meeting conducted in May 2016. Input and recommendations from stakeholders were received during this joint meeting. Inputs from the stakeholders and from BLZ were consolidated by the consultant and a final report was produced in June 2016. The biodiversity assessment report which contains information about the Chimanimani, conservation gaps and recommendations was shared with key stakeholders.
2	A Resource Centre	2.2	A consultant hired and a	The online resource centre was established by MICAIA Foundation in collaboration with BLZ. The resource centre

	established by MICAIA and BLZ housing biodiversity data for Chimanimani TFCA, hosted by MICAIA.		computerized system established at MICAIA for the establishment of a Chimanimani TFCA Resource Centre	is now operational, relevant information for the Chimanimani TFCA from both BLZ, MICAIA Foundation and other sources was uploaded. Stakeholders provided more input with regards to how the resource centre is structured during the June 2017 joint meeting.
2	A Resource Centre established by MICAIA and BLZ housing biodiversity data for Chimanimani TFCA, hosted by MICAIA.	2.3	Scientific, traditional and policy oriented information	A biodiversity assessment for Chimanimani Mountains (Zimbabwe side) conducted in May 2016 pulled together scientific information about the Chimanimani Mountains TFCA. Existing and published papers about the Chimanimani TFCA were collated for the virtual library. Three participatory meetings were conducted with communities in Chikukwa where traditional knowledge about useful plants and cultural norms was gathered. This information was also collected through focus group discussions and interviews with key people in the community. Policy oriented issues were discussed with TFCA officials and the other key government institutions during the joint meetings.

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

## 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

**Collaboration of BirdLife Zimbabwe (BLZ) and MICAIA Foundation with consultation of the CEPF RIT during the project design helped us produce a comprehensive proposal that was inclusive, and we learnt that this was a critical step in leading to the success of the project. Consultation of key stakeholders who include the Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife Management Authority, local authorities and communities during project design was essential in ensuring input and support from these**



institutions. The experience of collaboration between BLZ and MICAIA Foundation within the Chimanimani KBA landscape demonstrated the capacity of civil society organisations for strengthening conservation footprint across borders. Despite rich biodiversity and high endemism in the Chimanimani Mountains, this is one of the most neglected TFCA which has been inactive for a long time. The initiative by BLZ and MICAIA Foundation, therefore, rekindled channels of communication and collaboration among stakeholders between the two countries. Overwhelming participation of local institutions during project implementation indicated a high commitment of these stakeholders for actively engaging in biodiversity conservation of the Chimanimani TFCA. As project implementers, we also learnt that local communities should be meaningfully engaged in biodiversity conservation and their capacity continuously developed. This project is one of the rare ones in Chimanimani Mountains TFCA that actively bring onboard technical and non-technical people on the same table where local villagers from both Zimbabwe and Mozambique received technical support from BLZ, MICAIA Foundation and the involved technical institutions. Another lesson learnt was that creating a multi-stakeholder approach for active participation in biodiversity conservation as demonstrated by this project ensured a holistic cross-border approach to biodiversity conservation.

Opportunities for collaborative research, joint biodiversity monitoring and updating of biodiversity information in the Chimanimani KBA was also an important lesson learnt from this project. This came out from the biodiversity assessment as well as discussions done during the joint meetings. Housing of biodiversity information of Chimanimani TFCA in a shared online depository which is an accessible and easy tool for information sharing. During the project, we realised that people were not on the same page with regards what they know about the Chimanimani TFCA, and, therefore, bringing together stakeholders and pulling together shared knowledge across-borders has been very useful in closing this information gap. Considering local knowledge and practices and community across-borders is essential for improved management of biodiversity in this TFCA.

The trainings provided were useful and we learnt that development of local capacity in the Chimanimani was a crucial step in promoting and enhancing citizen science for inclusive biodiversity management in the Chimanimani TFCA. Another lesson was that provided with simplified and user-friendly tools the local villagers in this TFCA have capacity to actively involved in biodiversity monitoring. However, local capacity should be continuously developed taking into consideration new knowledge, socio-economic and environmental changes.

Use of a CSTT in carrying out a self-assessment of our institution was essential for BLZ. We learnt that this is a simple self-evaluation tool which produce meaningful results that help improve capacity of an organisation.

## **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.

There was active participation and appreciation of the project by TFCA officials from both countries, and ensures sustainability of the project as key stakeholders were involved. This initiative by BLZ and MICAIA Foundation has already established active networks whose capacity was improved in the Chimanimani TFCA. Any opportunity that may target trans-boundary work will build from this collaborative activities already set up on the ground. BLZ and MICAIA Foundation will also be at the disposal of the local stakeholders, providing technical support where needed and also jointly work together in mobilising resources to support biodiversity conservation in the Chimanimani KBA. The

project also received support from communities including their traditional leaders and this commitment by locals guarantees sustainability of the project. Trainings in bird identification across borders has been new in this TFCA and has potential for replication in this KBA and beyond within the Eastern Afromontane biodiversity hotspot.

One of the challenges was that community needs (livelihood improvement in particular) linked to biodiversity conservation is not yet fully addressed in this TFCA and a lot needs to be done for communities to realise tangible benefits from the KBA/TFCA.

## 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

## Additional Comments/Recommendations

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

Local collaboration in the Chimanimani TFCA is essential for driving conservation activities in this KBA. In Zimbabwe and other parts of Southern Africa, mountainous areas receive little attention from governments and donors as compared to low lying areas with big game. This project as spearheaded by civil society organisation drew attention of government and other civil society organisations to conservation and importance of a mountainous biodiversity TFCA. Having redirected various stakeholders to this important biodiversity hotspot, as well as prepare communities for active involvement in biodiversity monitoring, there is need for a long-term investment in the Chimanimani KBA for biodiversity conservation, eco-tourism development and community livelihood improvement.

## 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\$)**

\$68,273.00

**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)*

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- 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 investment or successes related to this project)*

**A. Project Co-financing-** BLZ contributed a total of \$USD10, 800 counterpart salaries for Toga and Fadzai during the project. It also contributed \$USD1,350 for audit, \$USD1,623 covering Municipal rates and Office Insurance, \$USD261 for electricity, and a total of \$USD639 for the telephone.

**B. BLZ continued to secure institutional support of a total of \$USD53,600 from the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) during the project period. The success of this project contributed to securing of this institutional support from RSPB by BLZ. This funding from RSPB covered counterpart salaries for Toga (USD5,400), Fadzai (\$USD5,400) and Sylvia (\$USD19,350). Other items covered include Municipal rates (\$USD1,440), telephone line and internet (\$USD1,053) and a total of \$USD210 contributing to electricity.**

## **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.

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

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