

Small Grants – Final Completion and Impact Report

Organization Legal Name: Skills and Agricultural Development Services (SADS)

Project Title: Sustainable Development of Non-Timber Forest Products in Wonegizi Proposed Protected Area

Grant Number: CEPF-112439

Date of Completion of this Report: March 30, 2022

CEPF Hotspot: Guinean Forests of West Africa

Strategic Direction: N°1 - Empower local communities to engage in sustainable management of 40 priority sites and consolidate ecological connectivity at the landscape scale

Grant Amount: US\$ 24,943.62

Project Dates: September 1, 2021 to February 28, 2022

PART I: Overview

1. Implementation Partners for this Project *(list each partner and explain how they were involved in the project)*

- The Forestry Development Authorities (FDA) representative assigned to this project was responsible for the monthly monitoring and evaluation of activities implementation in the field and advised SADS area of improvement when appropriate. The local authorities (i.e. traditional leaders) were responsible for the identification of people to benefit from the project, provided the land space for the demonstration pilot plots, monitoring beneficiaries and gave feedback to SADS.
- Consultant from SADS provided basic training for the beneficiaries in NTFPs harvesting and management.
- The local communities were responsible for the recruitment of beneficiaries to be trained in the sustainable management, domestication and harvest of NTFPs. There were also responsible to provide the land space for pilot plots of NTFP domestication and monitor those that were recruited from their individual community and give feedback to SADS.

- Local radio stations (i.e. radio Life and Alternative Youth radio) collaborated with SADS to broadcast talk-shows aiming to raise awareness on the importance of biodiversity conservation and sustainable management of NTFPs. The listening audience for these local radio stations is about 40 thousand people and most of them are NTFPs collectors and users.

2. Summarize the overall results of your project

- In total, 12 stakeholders' consultation meetings were conducted in the targeted communities, plus, 2 engagement meetings with the FDA (Park Warden of Wonegizi Proposed Protected Area), 2 engagement meetings with the clan chief of Zeayeama and 4 consultative meetings with the commissioners of Zorzor, Voinjama and Quardu Gbondi Districts. During these consultative meetings with the different stakeholders of the Wonegizi landscape, they expressed their interest and support towards this project led by our organization.
- In close collaboration with the targeted community's leaders, 30 persons were recruited (16 males and 14 females) from 6 communities closed to Wonegizi KBA (Zigida, Donola, Kabata, Barwhen, Tuzu and Litusu) to undergo trainings on the sustainable harvesting and management of NTFPs and overall best, domestication practices of NTFPs (ie. mainly bush peppers and bitter kola).
- 6 demonstration plots as well as 6 nurseries were established for hands on training for the selected trainees ensuring therefore the acquisition of skills and competencies needed.
- The capacity of 30 communities' members has been built in the establishment of NTFPs nursery for domestication purposes. The trainees sowed (60) bitter kola seeds and (190) bush peppers vines in each nursery. In total, 1,140 bush peppers vines and 360 bitter kola seeds were planted. They were also trained in sustainable harvesting techniques and management of NTFPs. By end of the project, the bush peppers vines have germinated and will stay in the nursery until they reach the time of transplanting which ranges from 4-6 months period. However, the bitter kola seeds have started sprouting but have not yet germinated because it takes longer time for this variety to germinate (5-7 months). Once they will reach the stage of transplanting, they will be transplanted in each community pilot plot accordingly from the nursery's sites.
- 30 Memorandum of Understanding were signed between the direct beneficiaries (16 males, 14 females) and SADS for the implementation of the project activities in the 6 targeted communities (ie. Zigida, Donola, Kabata, Barwhen, Tuzu and Litusu).
- 3 radio talk shows were broadcasted on 2 local community radio stations (Radio Life & Alternative Youth Radio) to create awareness on the importance of conservation of natural resources and NTFPs and the sustainable management of NTFPs in the Wonegizi Landscape.
- 4 monthly joined monitoring visits were carried out by SADS, FDA and local authority as well as the communities' leaders to check the beneficiaries as means of measuring the effectiveness of the activities under the project. Those joined monitoring visit were complemented with regular field visits conducted by SADS project team throughout the project implementation.

3. Briefly describe actual progress towards each planned long-term and short-term impact (as stated in the approved proposal)

List each long-term impact from your proposal

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

Impact Description	Impact Summary
6 local communities targeted by sustainable livelihood based on NTFPs income generating activities showed tangible well-being benefits	Based on the trainings for the domestication of NTFPs, 30 beneficiaries from 6 targeted communities have started establishing their personal NTFPs nurseries that will enable them to grow more NTFPs in the next coming years. Furthermore, putting into practices their new acquired knowledge and skills in sustainable management and harvesting of those NTFPs species, beneficiaries are progressively increasing their income and implicitly improving their overall well-being.
The overall management of NTFPs resources in the Wonegizi Proposed Protected Area had improved through the implementation of sustainable harvesting practices and domestication of wild species of NTFPs	Thanks to the project, communities' members from 6 communities closed to the Wonegizi KBA, representing around 20% of these communities' dwellers are now applying sustainable harvesting practices of NTFPs through the domestication process of wild plants species. Consequently, human pressure on natural resources in the Wonegizi landscape is gradually reducing and awareness to sustainable agricultural practices and biodiversity conservation in general is increasing.

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

Impact Description	Impact Summary
At end of the project, at least 3 beneficiaries' communities have increased their income through the commercialization of NTFPs	About 60% of the direct beneficiaries from the 6 targeted communities have increased their income from the commercialization of NTFPs as 18 persons from those 30 direct beneficiaries claimed that before the project, they harvested 3-7 kilograms of NTFPs but by end of the project, they have increased their production to 10-25 kilograms. Products that like the bush pepper can reach on the market the monetary value of \$450.00 Liberian dollars / kilo (or USD 3.00 / kilo).
By the end of the project, at least 50% of the trainees including youth and women, use sustainable harvesting techniques of NTFPs within the Wonegizi Proposed Protected Area	At the end of the project, 60% of the trainees (18 out of 30) are now applying the skills learned during the training and practicing sustainable harvesting techniques of NTFPs within the Wonegizi Proposed Protected Area.

4. Were there any unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?

By end of the project, the 6 beneficiary's communities were showing signs of adoption of the NTFP sustainable management techniques and strong commitment to scale-up the domestication of NTFPs. Indeed, trainees started to share their new skills with others community's member and even supporting communities members' initiatives of domestication of wild bush peppers and bitter kola via the replication of their training.

PART II: Project Products/Deliverables

5. List each product/deliverable as stated in your approved proposal and describe the results for each of them:

#	Deliverable Description	Deliverable Update
1	6 targeted communities demonstrate increased awareness/knowledge with regard to sustainable harvesting of NTFPs	Through the project, 3 radio talk shows were broadcasted on 2 local community radio stations (Radio Life & Alternative Youth Radio) to create awareness on the importance of conservation of natural resources and NTFPs and the sustainable management of NTFPs in the Wonegizi Landscape.
2	3 local communities targeted by the project have increased their income through the commercialization of NTFPs	About 60% of the direct beneficiaries from the 6 targeted communities have increased their income from the commercialization of NTFPs as 18 persons from those 30 direct beneficiaries claimed that before the project, they harvested 3-7 kilograms of NTFPs but by end of the project, they have increased their production to 10-25 kilograms. Products that like the bush pepper can reach on the market the monetary value of \$450.00 Liberian dollars / kilo (or USD 3.00 / kilo).
3	50% of the trainees including youth and women, use sustainable harvesting techniques of NTFPs within the Wonegizi PPA	At the end of the project, 60% of the trainees (18 out of 30) are now applying the skills learned during the training and practicing sustainable harvesting techniques of NTFPs within the Wonegizi Proposed Protected Area.

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

In order to have achieved the results during the project, the following tools were used MOU, which provided the roles and responsibilities for both the communities and SADS signed by

beneficiary participants, manual used for training, radio talk shows to raise awareness and questionnaires or survey to monitor the progress of the beneficiaries.

PART III: Lessons, Sustainability, Safeguards and Financing

Lessons Learned

7. Describe any lessons learned during the design and implementation of the project, as well as any related to organizational development and capacity building.

- Involving key stakeholders at every stage of the project led to better results or successful implementation of the project because everyone was abreast with activities and their roles along the way.
- Other adjacent communities that were not targeted by the project shown great interest in replicating this type of alternative livelihood based on sustainable use of natural resources.

Sustainability / Replication

8. 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 30 participants (beneficiaries) from the 6 beneficiary communities who were trained in sustainable NTFPs harvesting and management are now practicing sustainable harvesting techniques of NTFPs in the Wonegizi Proposed Protected Area. Furthermore, they have started to build on the knowledge gained to provide support to other community dwellers that have interest in NTFPs production.

Safeguards

9. If not listed as a separate Project Component and described above, summarize the implementation of any required action related to social or environmental safeguards that your project may have triggered.

SADS worked in close partnership with key stakeholders throughout the project implementation to carry out the project activities in compliance with safety measures. Therefore, appropriate tools and equipment such as raincoats, boots, buckets..., were provided to the beneficiaries to respond to any event or incident and to minimize any effect on their health.

Furthermore, the demonstration sites were also selected in consultation with the communities' leaders and the target beneficiaries (trainees) to mitigate any involuntary negative social or environmental impacts.

Additional Funding

10. Provide details of any additional funding that you have secured to support this project.

a. Total additional funding (US\$)

No additional funding.

b. Type of funding

Please provide a breakdown of additional funding (counterpart funding and in-kind) by source.

Donor	Type of Funding	Amount
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Additional Comments/Recommendations

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

- The bitter kola seeds have just started sprouting and have not yet germinated for transplanting as well as the bush pepper vines that are on nursery and have germinated but haven't reach the stage of transplanting. To ensure that the seedlings are properly transplanted in the 6 pilot plots SADS recommends extending the project duration to 3 months.
- Other communities in proximity of the Wonegizi Proposed Protected Area have shown interest in being part of this type of livelihood activities. Hence, SADS recommends scaling up this project to other interested communities when more CEPF funds will be available.

PART IV: Impact at Portfolio and Global Level

Contribution to Portfolio Indicators

12. In order to measure the results of CEPF investment strategy at the hotspot level, CEPF uses a set of Portfolio Indicators which are presented in the Ecosystem Profile of each hotspot. Please list these below and report on the project's contribution(s) to them.

Indicator	Actual Numeric Contribution	Actual Contribution Description
At least 30 local communities targeted by the sustainable livelihood/job creation activities or benefit-sharing	06	30 beneficiaries from Zigida, Donola, Kabata, Barwhen, Tuzu and Litusu have been trained in sustainable management, harvest of NTFPs and are engaged in the domestication of wild bush peppers and

mechanisms show tangible wellbeing benefits		bitter kola which resulted in an increased of their revenues and their overall well-being.
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Contribution to Global Indicators

Please report on all Global Indicators that pertain to your project

13. Benefits to Individuals

13a. Number of men and women receiving structured training

Report on the number of men and women that have benefited from structured training due to your project, such as financial management, beekeeping, horticulture, farming, biological surveys, or how to conduct a patrol.

# of men receiving structured training *	# of women receiving structured training *	Topic(s) of Training
16	14	Domestication and sustainable harvesting techniques of NTFP; Establishment of nursery for NTFPs species

**Please do not count the same person more than once. For example, if 5 men received structured training in beekeeping, and 3 of these also received structured training in project management, the total number of men who benefited from structured training should be 5.*

13b. Number of men and women receiving cash benefits

Report on the number of men and women that had an increase in income or cash (monetary) benefits due to your project from activities such as tourism, handicraft production, increased farm output, increased fishery output, medicinal plant harvest, or payment for conducting patrols.

# of men receiving cash benefits*	# of women receiving cash benefits*	Description of Benefits
16	14	Commercialization of NTFPs

**Please do not count the same person more than once. For example, if 5 men received cash benefits due to tourism, and 3 of these also received cash benefits from increased income due to handicrafts, the total number of men who received cash benefits should be 5.*

14. Protected Areas

Number of hectares of protected areas created and/or expanded

Report on the number of hectares of protected areas that have been created or expanded as a result of your project. Protected areas may include private or community reserves, municipal or

provincial parks, or other designations where biodiversity conservation is an official management goal.

Name of PA*	Country(s)	Original # of Hectares**	# of Hectares Newly Protected	Year of Legal Declaration/ Expansion	Longitude***	Latitude***
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* If possible please provide a shape file of the protected area to CEPF.

** Enter the original total size, excluding the results of your project. If the protected area was not existing before your project, then enter zero.

*** Indicate the latitude and longitude of the center of the site, to the extent possible, or send a map or shapefile to CEPF. Give geographic coordinates in decimal degrees; latitudes in the Southern Hemisphere and longitudes in the Western Hemisphere should be denoted with a minus sign (example: Latitude 38.123456 Longitude: -77.123456). To obtain the latitude and longitude of your protected area, use googlemap, right click on the center of your protected area, and select "What's here?", and copy the latitude and longitude appearing in the popup window.

15. Key Biodiversity Area Management

Number of hectares of Key Biodiversity Areas (KBA) with improved management

Report on the number of hectares in KBAs with improved management, where tangible results have been achieved to support conservation, as a result of your project. Examples of improved management include, but are not restricted to: increased patrolling, reduced intensity of snaring, invasive species eradication, reduced incidence of fire, and introduction of sustainable agricultural/fisheries practices. Do not record the entire area covered by the project - only record the number of hectares that have improved management.

If you have recorded part or all of a KBA as newly protected for the indicator entitled "protected areas", and you have also improved its management, you should record the relevant number of hectares for both this indicator and the "protected areas" indicator.

Name of KBA	KBA Code from Ecosystem Profile	# of Hectares Improved *
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* Do not count the same hectares more than once. For example, if 500 hectares were improved due to implementation of a fire management regime in the first year, and 200 of these same 500 hectares were improved due to invasive species removal in the second year, the total number of hectares with improved management would be 500.

16. Production landscapes

Number of hectares of production landscape with strengthened management of biodiversity

Please report on the number of hectares of production landscapes with strengthened management of biodiversity, as a result of your project. A production landscape is defined as a landscape where commercial agriculture, forestry or natural product exploitation occurs.

- For an area to be considered as having "strengthened management of biodiversity," it can benefit from a wide range of interventions such as best practices and guidelines implemented, incentive schemes introduced, sites/products certified, and sustainable harvesting regulations introduced.
- Areas that are protected are not included under this indicator, because their hectares are counted elsewhere.
- A Production Landscape can include part or all of an unprotected KBA.

Name of Production Landscape*	# of Hectares with Strengthened Management**	Latitude***	Longitude***	Description of Intervention
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** If the production landscape does not have a name, provide a brief descriptive name for the landscape.*

***Do not count the same hectares more than once. For example, if 500 hectares were strengthened due to certification in the first year, and 200 of these same 500 hectares were strengthened due to new harvesting regulations in the second year, the total number of hectares strengthened to date would be 500.*

**** Indicate the latitude and longitude of the center of the site, to the extent possible, or send a map or shapefile to CEPF. Give geographic coordinates in decimal degrees; latitudes in the Southern Hemisphere and longitudes in the Western Hemisphere should be denoted with a minus sign (example: Latitude 38.123456 Longitude: -77.123456). To obtain the latitude and longitude of your production landscape, use googlemap, right click on the center of your production landscape, and select "What's here?", and copy the latitude and longitude appearing in the popup window.*

17. Benefits to Communities

CEPF wants to record the non-cash benefits received by communities, which can differ to those received by individuals because the benefits are available to a group. CEPF also wants to record, to the extent possible, the number of people within each community who are benefiting. Please report on the characteristics of the communities, the type of benefits that have been received during the project, and the number of men/boys and women/girls from these communities that have benefited, as a result of your project. If exact numbers are not known, please provide an estimate.

Please provide information for all communities that have benefited from project start to project completion.

Name of Community	Community Characteristics (mark with x)							Country of Community	Type of Benefit (mark with x)							# of Beneficiaries				
	Small landowners	Subsistence economy	Indigenous/ ethnic peoples	Pastoralists / nomadic peoples	Recent migrants	Urban communities	Other*		Increased access to clean water	Increased food security	Increased access to energy	Increased access to public services (e.g. health care, education)	Increased resilience to climate change	Improved land tenure	Improved recognition of traditional knowledge	Improved representation and decision-making in governance forums/structures	Improved access to ecosystem services	# of men and boys benefiting	# of women and girls benefiting	
Zigida	X	X	X					Liberia		X					X			3	2	
Tuzu	X	X	X							X						X			2	3
Kabata	X	X	X							X						X			3	3
Donola	X	X	X							X						X			3	2
Barwhen	X	X	X							X						X			3	2
Litusu	X	X	X							X						X			2	3

*If you marked “Other” to describe the community characteristic, please explain:

18. Policies, Laws and Regulations

Report on policies, laws and regulations with conservation provisions that have been enacted or amended, as a result of your project. “Policies” pertain to statements of intent formally adopted or pursued by a government, including at sectoral or sub-national level. “Laws and regulations” pertain to official rules or orders, prescribed by authority. Any law, regulation, decree or order is eligible to be included.

18a. Name, scope and topic of the policy, law or regulation that has been amended or enacted as a result of your project

No.	Name of Law, Policy or Regulation	Scope (mark with x)			Topic(s) addressed (mark with x)																
		Local	National	International	Agriculture	Climate	Ecosystem Management	Education	Energy	Fisheries	Forestry	Mining and Quarrying	Planning/Zoning	Pollution	Protected Areas	Species Protection	Tourism	Transportation	Wildlife Trade	Other*	

* If you selected “other”, please give a brief description of the main topics addressed by the policy, law or regulation.

18b. For each law, policy or regulation listed above, please provide the requested information in accordance with its assigned number.

No.	Country(s)	Date enacted/ amended MM/DD/YYYY	Expected impact	Action that you performed to achieve this change

19. Biodiversity-friendly Practices

Number of companies that adopt biodiversity-friendly practices

Please list any companies that have adopted biodiversity-friendly practices as a result of your project. While companies take various forms, for the purposes of CEPF, a company is defined as a for-profit business entity. A biodiversity-friendly practice is one that conserves or uses natural resources in a sustainable manner.

No.	Name of Company	Description of biodiversity-friendly practice adopted during the project	Country(s) where the practice has been adopted by the company
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20. Networks & Partnerships

Number of networks and/or partnerships created and/or strengthened

Report on any networks or partnerships between and among civil society groups and other sectors that you have created or strengthened as a result of your project. Networks/partnerships should have some lasting benefit beyond immediate project implementation. Informal networks/partnerships are acceptable. Examples of networks/partnerships include: an alliance of fisher folk to promote sustainable fisheries practices, a network of environmental journalists, a partnership between one or more NGOs with one or more private sector partners to improve biodiversity management on private lands, or a working group focusing on reptile conservation.

Do not list the partnerships you formed with others to implement this project, unless these partnerships will continue after your project ends.

No.	Name of Network / Partnership	Year established	Did your project establish this Network/ Partnership? Y/N	Country(s) covered	Purpose
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21. Sustainable Financing Mechanism

List any functioning sustainable financing mechanisms created or supported by your project. Sustainable financing mechanisms generate funding for the long-term (generally five or more years). These include, but are not limited to, conservation trust funds, debt-for-nature swaps, payment for ecosystem service (PES) schemes, and other revenue, fee or tax schemes that generate long-term funding for conservation. To be included, a mechanism must be delivering funds for conservation.

21a. Details about the mechanism

No.	Name of Financing Mechanism	Purpose of the Mechanism*	Date of Establishment**	Description***	Countries
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*Please provide a succinct description of the mission of the mechanism.

**Please indicate when the sustainable financing mechanism was officially created. If you do not know the exact date, provide a best estimate.

***Description, such as trust fund, endowment, PES scheme, incentive scheme, etc.

21b. Performance of the mechanism

For each Financing Mechanism listed previously, please provide the requested information in accordance with its assigned number.

NO.	Project intervention (mark with x)			Has the mechanism disbursed funds to conservation projects?
	Created a mechanism	Supported an existing mechanism	Created and supported a new mechanism	

22. Red List Species

If the project included direct conservation interventions that benefited globally threatened species (CR, EN, VU), as per the IUCN Red List, add the species below.

Examples of interventions include: preparation or implementation of a conservation action plan, captive breeding programs, species habitat protection, species monitoring, patrolling to halt wildlife trafficking, and removal of invasive species.

Genus	Species	Common Name (Eng)	Status (VU, EN, CR or Extinct in the Wild)	Intervention	Population Trend at Site (increasing, decreasing, stable or unknown)

Part V. Information Sharing and CEPF Policy

CEPF is committed to transparent operations and to helping civil society groups share experiences, lessons learned, and results. Final completion and impact reports are made available on our Web site, www.cepf.net, and publicized in our e-newsletter and other communications.

Provide the contact details of your organization (organization name and generic email address) so that interested parties can request further information about your project.

Organization Name: Skills and Agricultural Development Services (SADS)

Generic email address: sadsinc@yahoo.com