

Small Grants – Final Completion and Impact Report

Instructions: CEPF requires that each grantee report on project results and impacts at the end of their grant. To monitor CEPF's global indicators, CEPF will aggregate the data that you submit with data from other grantees, to determine the overall impact of CEPF investment. The aggregated results of all grantees will be reported on in our annual impact report and other communications materials. Your Final Completion and Impact Report will be posted on the CEPF website.

Ensure that the information provided pertains to the entire project, from start date to project end date.

Please complete all fields and respond to all questions listed below.

Organization Legal Name: Development Concern (DEVCON) Project Title: Strengthening Communities' Indigenous Coalition for Effective Forest Governance Grant Number: CEPF-112433. Date of Completion of this Report: 20th march, 2022 CEPF Hotspot: Strategic Direction: 4 Grant Amount: 24,530 USD Project Dates: 1st September, 2021 to 30th April, 2022

PART I: Overview

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

EKIAO Forest Conservation Initiative: was a major beneficiary of the project and also participated the environmental awareness activities in the communities facilitating the community entry of the project.

2. Summarize the overall results of your project

This project successfully trained and developed the capacity of 45 community members including 18 management committee members of EKIAO forest conservation Initiative in organizational governance, project implementation, and financial management. The organization is now better organized and holding better coordinated meetings among themselves without external support. The group have developed meaningful measures to guide the sustainable management of their forest. These measures include regular meetings to discuss conservation challenges confronting the different communities with the view to

proffering solution. Establish forest management committees, eco-guards in all the communities for forest surveillance and Source for opportunities for livelihood options for community members who are predominantly forest defendants.

The project reached out to the 14 communities that make up EKIAO Initiative through their representatives with the message of forest conservation, and collectively held town hall meetings in two communities (Iko Ekperem and Ifumkpa).

over 700 community members spread across the 14 communities now appreciate the value of forest and the need for conservation as a result of the awareness raising campaign. Significantly, the awareness raising activity moved Ifumkpa to request that they be officially registered as member of EKIAO Conservation Initiative. Communities without forest management committee and eco-guards have officially written to DEVCON for support in the setting up of forest management committee and eco-guards.

A workshop on understanding the Cross River State forestry laws was held for EKIAO Initiative with over 50 other community members attending. The result was an indebt understanding of the forestry law especially the sections related to community role and rights in forest management. The workshop ended with a communique which articulated the communities' feelings on the present situation of forest in the state and their recommendations. The communique was given wide publicity through the print media targeting especially the state forestry commission and state government and development partners who could also help in advocacy. The communique also gave salient points that resulted in the development of a policy brief which is an expected output from this project.

Following series of meetings with the management team of EKIAO Initiative and other community members a policy brief which articulated their concerns and positions on the illegal forest activities in the state was developed. The policy brief was distributed to relevant ministries like the ministry of climate change and forestry, ministry of environment, and environment NGOs. The website of DEVCON will also be updated to include among other information, the policy brief.

The project also recorded some very remarkable unexpected outcome.

- The women attest that because of the development trainings held with the Chief in the course of this project back home they are now better integrated into the decision-making meetings which hitherto had been exclusively men's matter.
- Conflict situation on forest ownership between two member communities was reported to EKIAO Initiative from one of the communities seeking the intervention of the group. This significantly demonstrates the confidence the communities now have in the group and the potential the group has in ensuring that conflicts among member communities are not allowed to escalate. The EKIAO Chief's advisory council has detailed a committee to investigate the matter and present their recommendation to the larger house on an agree date.

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
280,000 hectares community forest of	As a result of this project a total of about 280,000
Ekuri-Iko forest bloc sustainably	ha of forest in the 14 communities has improved
managed as a result of community	legal protection, protecting biodiversity and
awareness and strengthening of the	important ecosystem functions. The capacity of the
management capacity of EKIAO	indigenous communities' coalition has been built
Initiative.	and effectively coordinating sustainable forest
	management activities in 14 communities. Thus a
	significant contribution to the long-term impact on
	CEPF Strategic Direction 4 " Building capacity of
	local civil society organizations including indigenous
	peoples, women's and young groups to conserve
	and manage globally important biodiversity.

Impact Description	Impact Summary
45 community representatives and	EKIAO Forest Conservation Initiative effectively
management team of EKIAO	coordinating community meetings and raising
Conservation Initiative's capacity	awareness on sustainable forest management.
strengthened in organizational	
governance, project implementation	Resolutions on sustainable community forest
and financial management leading to	management in place in the communities.
the sustainable management of	The setting up of effective forest management
280,000 hectares community forest	committee and Eco-guards on going in the
	communities.
	The EKIAO Forest Initiative management team
	demonstrating increase capacity in organizational
	governance and project management through
	coordinated awareness meetings with communities
	coming up with a resolution to jointly work towards
	the sustenance of their forest in line with
	community forest management plan
	developed/reviewed.
	These actions have led to a drastic reduction in the
	level of illegal and unsustainable forest activities in
	the communities' forest.
the 14 communities in the Ekuri-Iko	Awareness raising meetings held in deferent
forest bloc are better informed on	communities with strong community resolution to
sustainable forest management	sustainably manage their forest.
practices resulting to sustainable	The following measure for sustainable forest
management of the 280,000-	The following measure for sustainable forest
community forest	management in place:
	 Establishment of forest management
	committee.

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

	• Setting up of community eco-guards to carryout forest surveillance around the community forest
	 Review the existing forest management plan and bye law.
	The above measures have led to institutionalization
	of sustainable forest management system in the
	communities, regulating forest activities and
	protecting the forest from further degradation.
14 communities with increased	Communities are now better informed on the Cross
knowledge on Cross River State	River state forestry law. This resulted in the
forestry law resulting to a more	development of a communique highlighting the
inclusive community forest governance	gaps in the forestry law with special emphases on
system	community rights, and participation in forest
	management. This communique was presented to
	the Cross River State forestry commission calling for
	ideal community forestry practice by government

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

The project recorded the following unexpected impacts:

- Women are now more involved in decision making in the communities as a result of the trainings. Following these trainings, the chiefs are better informed and now appreciate more the role of women in community governance. More women are now integrated into the decision-making meetings which hitherto had been exclusively men's matter
- Conflict management: EKIAO Initiative within this project period was confronted with a conflict situation for forest use between two member communities lyamitat and Agoi Ekpo, a case that was reported to the organization by the community leader of Agoi Ekpo seeking the intervention of the group. A committee of 5 members, made up of 4 male and 1 female, was set up to investigate the matter and report to the general meeting on a scheduled date. Significantly, this is a demonstration of the conflict. Apparently, this is the result from the capacity trainings provided to the EKIAO Initiative leadership.

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	45 community representatives and management team of EKIAO Conservation Initiative trained on organizational governance, project	EKIAO Initiative now have a better coordinated leadership system that supports the sustainable management of their forest. Regular meetings are	

	implementation and financial	held where communities' forest protection is
	management	discussed.
2	Awareness on sustainable forest	With the awareness meetings across the 14
	management raised in 14 communities	communities a good number of the community
	in the Ekuri-Iko forest bloc	people are getting involved in activities of
		conservation. Young men, including women are
		volunteering as eco-guards and Forest management
		committee members to support community forest
		management and surveillance activities.
3	14 communities trained on Cross River	There is better understanding of the Cross River
	State forestry laws	State Forestry laws especially in the areas that
		concern community participation and rights. This
		understanding is demonstrated in the communique
		developed at the end of the training calling on
		government to support them to take charge of their
		forest.

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

The project came up with the following.

- A communique at the end of the training on the Cross River State Forestry Law which clearly articulated the communities' appreciation of the forestry law and their recommendations to address the administrative gaps in the implementation of the law.
- The project developed a policy brief which is a submission of the participants on the issue of sustainable forest management in Cross River State.

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.

"Lessons learned" are experiences you have gained that you think would be valuable successes worth replicating or practices that you would do differently if you had the chance. Consider lessons that would inform project design and implementation, and any other lessons relevant to the conservation community. CEPF Lessons Learned Guidelines are available here: <u>https://www.cepf.net/sites/default/files/cepf-lessons-learned-guidelines-english.pdf</u>. Through the design and implementation of this project guided by the trainings and mentorship the following lessons were learnt:

• The skills of the DEVCON staff involved in the CEPF trainings on project management, proposal writing has improved..

- You never realize how knowledgeable the community people are until you engage them, and project impacts are more meaningful when the community people are in the center of the project implementation. This we have come to realize in the process of implementing this project where communities' institution and representatives are the major beneficiaries and co facilitators.
- The project opened up opportunity for networking and collaboration among participating NGOs across the Guinean forests region. We have taken advantage of this platform to establish partnerships in other countries of the region.

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 sustainability of this project lies in the following:

- The project is driven by EKIAO Initiative a community established coalition following traditional benefit sharing system in appointment and other benefits, with the interest of both women and youths taken into consideration. This gives the larger communities sense of ownership. The project is coordinated by them and driven by them through their representatives. The implementing committee can be held accountable through their traditional methods which they respect and has always worked for them. This level of inclusiveness assures the sustainability of the project
- The capacities of elected members are built to manage the organization. Weak capacity of the management team of any organization will lead to the collapse of that organization. The team with the needed capacity will be able to guide the organization to achieve her goal. The organization will remain focus and will continue to enjoy the support of all stakeholders. Moreso, with the capacity of communities' representative built, this capacity will also be stepped down to other community members thereby replicating that skill and capacity to more people ensuring that the organization continues to grow.

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.

This project has not triggered any social or environmental safeguard.

Additional Funding

- 10. Provide details of any additional funding that you have secured to support this project.
 - a. Total additional funding (US\$)
 - b. Type of funding

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

No additional funding received

Donor	Type of Funding	Amount

Additional Comments/Recommendations

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

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
Number of hectares within production landscapes managed for biodiversity conservation or sustainable use	Approximately 280,000 hectares of forest collectively belonging to 14 neighbouring communities	The 14 communities that formed the EKIAO Initiative coalition together have 280,000 hectares community own forest which they are determined to sustainably manage. The capacity development training received by EKIAO initiative has led to the setting up of community structures (Forest Management Committee, Community Eco-guards, Forest Management Plan, and bye laws) that enables

		sustainable management of the approximately 280,000 hectares communities' forest.
Number of local community empowered for sustainable management of priority sites or landscape ecological connectivity	14 communities are directly impacted by this project	14 communities in the Ekuri- Iko forest block are receiving capacity development training for the sustainable management of their 280,000-community forest. So far, they have received trainings on organisational and leadership development which has positioned them for better coordination and management of their forest.

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
13	5	 Leadership development Organizational management Financial management

*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
Nil	Nil	

*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.

P	Name of PA*	Country(s)	Original # of Hectares**	# of Hectares Newly Protected	Year of Legal Declaration/ Expansion	Longitude***	Latitude***

* 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 *	

* 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

* 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.

Name of Community		Cor	nmunity (marl			stics		Country of Community					of Be rk wi	enefit th x)			# of B	eneficiaries
	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.	Increased resilience to climate change	Improved land tenure	Improved recognition of traditional	Improved representation and decision- making in governance forums/structures	# of men and boys benefitting	# of women and girls benefitting
Iko-esai	х	х						Nigeria								х	500	200
Iko-Ekperem	х	х														Х		
Owai	х	х														Х		
Ifumkpa	х	х														Х		
Agoi-Ekpo	х	х														Х		
Agoi-Ibami	х	х														Х		

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

lyamitat	х	х							Х		
Old Ekuri	х	х							Х		
New Ekuri	х	х							Х		
Okokori	х	х							Х		
Edondon	х	х							Х		
Etara	х	х							Х		
Eyeyen	х	х							Х		
Okuni	х	х							Х		

*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.

No.			Scop ark w	e ith x)						Т	opic(s (ma	s) add rk wit		d						
	Name of Law, Policy or Regulation	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*
1																				
2																				

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										1 '

* 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
1				
2				
3				

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
1	Nil		
2	Nil		

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 fisherfolk 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
1	EKIAO Forest Conservation Initiative	2019	Νο	Nigeria	A coalition organization for 14 neighbouring communities for sustainable forest management and community development

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
1	Nil				
2					
3					

*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 int (mark with			Has the mechanism disbursed funds to conservation projects?
	Created a mechanism	Supported an existing mechanism	Created and supported a new mechanism	
1				
2				
3				

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: Development Concern (DEVCON) Generic email address: devconnig@yahoo.com