CEPF SMALL GRANT FINAL PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

Organization Legal Name:	Biome Conservation Foundation
Project Title:	**Networking and information support for conservation of rocky plateaus in the Sahyadri-Konkan corridor**
Date of Report:	26/6/2013
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CEPF Region: Western Ghats (Sahyadri-Konkan Corridor)

Strategic Direction:

CEPF Strategic Directions 1 - Enable action by diverse communities and partnerships to ensure conservation of key biodiversity areas and enhance connectivity in the corridors.

Grant Amount: $ 13,872/-

Project Dates: February 2012 to March 2013

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

Project was led by Biome Conservation Foundation

It was a networking and information support project. Diverse organizations and individuals from across the landscape were part of the network and partners in carrying out various aspects. Although a specific partnership agreement was not worked out, the organizations and many individuals in them freely shared ideas, information and expertise within the group to boost rocky plateau conservation efforts in the region.

List of organizations:

1. **Malabar Nature Conservation Club, Amboli :** Data collection and information about Amboli plateaus and species
2. **Mhadei Research Centre, Chorla:** Data collection and information about Chorla plateaus and species
3. **Devrai, Envirolegal Forum Kolhapur:** Data collection and information about Kolhapur plateaus. Help with legal issues (esp. mining related), regional planning, interactions with HLMC Mahabaleshwar, State Environmental Assessment Committee to exchange information about upcoming industrial project on rocky plateaus
4. **Bombay Environmental Action Group, Mumbai:** Data collection and information about Mahabaleshwar-Panchgani ecosensitive area plateaus. Help with legal issues (esp. tourism and land conversion related), strategic advocacy planning, regional planning, interactions with HLMC Mahabaleshwar
5. **Raanwata , Satara, Terre Pune:** Social awareness in Satara area, part of a focus group for Kas plateau conservation, monitoring and interactions with local forest department and villages
6. **Nature walk, Pune:** Advocacy regarding Kas conservation, liaison with the local politicians and revenue department

7. **Shashwat, Manchar:** information collection and social interactions in Bhimashankar area
8. **Envirosearch Pune:** information regarding bauxite mining past and present history, restoration work for plateaus
9. **Oikos, Pune** : social awareness in Satara area, part of a focus group for Kas plateau conservation, advocacy for conservation, conservation planning
10. **Dr. Sanjay Rahangadale (Waghire college Otur), Dr. Savita Rahangadale, (Ale phata College):** Data collection and information about Junnar area plateaus. Floristic data collection and documentation with students
11. **Nature Conservation Society**: Data collection and information about Nashik area plateaus. Interacting with Nashik forest department for conservation activities in Anjaneri (Support from Nashik forest dept research grant)
12. **IISER, Pune:** Data collection and information sharing regarding species ecology and seed traits.
13. **Kalpavriksh:** assessing policy requirements and conservation status designation help
14. **Maharashtra State Forest Department**: provided all help and support for the work related to forest lands

List of individuals

Apart from these organizations, some individuals contributed time and energy in the working of the project. They did not belong to formal organizations

1. Suhas Gurjar: Advocacy, people interactions, data management for Kas focus group
2. Saniya Kirloskar : Advocacy, people interactions, data management for Kas focus group
3. Poorva Joshi, Rhishikesh Patil, Amruta Joglekar : Workshop Management, participant interactions, report preparation, inputs from WGEEP
4. Prerna Agarwal: monitoring vegetation, interaction with local people, forest department, JFMC and local NGOs for Kas plateau focus group, study of tourism management (Support from Rufford Grant)
   Research Students who did focused research work
5. Apeksha Patil : MSc environmental sciences (Kas : Solid Waste Management)
6. Yatish Lele : MSc environmental sciences (Kas : Conservation Management)
7. Siddharth Kulkarni, Satara : MSc Computational Biology (Spider listing and ecology)
8. Pratiksha Panaskar, Satara: BSc Biotech (Spider listing and ecology)
9. Archana Guleria : MSc. Biodiversity (Lonawala lichens)

Taxonomy experts:

1. Dr. Hemant Ghate, Modern College and team
2. Dr. Neelesh Dahanukar , IISER
3. Dr. Varad Giri, BNHS
4. Shri. Sanjay Thakur , Biome Conservation Foundation
5. Dr. Swapna Prabhu, BNHS

AND MANY OTHERS including people of the villages who contributed valuable information which helped in completion of the project work.

Conservation Impacts

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

CEPF Strategic Directions 1 - Enable action by diverse communities and partnerships to ensure conservation of key biodiversity areas and enhance connectivity in the corridors.

Rocky Plateaus are ecologically least studied habitats in the Western Ghats. The research so far clearly shows that they are key biodiversity areas in terms of endemic plant and animal species in multiple taxa. The combination of physical and biological characters shown by this habitat is truly

unique to the Northern Western Ghats and Konkan region. However, lack of appreciation of the special characters of these habitats, even by individuals and organizations with long-term experience in research and conservation in these areas was identified as the key problem. In the absence of this, the conservational efforts were isolated, scattered or unfocused and often without scientific backing required for good conservation and management planning of special habitat.

It has contributed to the implementation of CEPF Ecosystem Profile by: -

1. Creating an issue based network spanning Sahyadri-Konkan corridor and beyond
2. Raising awareness regarding importance of a highly specialized habitat and creating baseline information needed to develop conservation management plans for critical sites
3. Create linkages between partners for long-term conservation action
4. Building capacity, especially of youngsters, to understand and implement social, legal, policy level conservation measures across the region

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

The expected outputs of the project as detailed in the approved proposal were as follows:

1. The above information will be in public domain as well as in the form of research publications and could be useful for the conservation planning.

Network with around 10 network partners , including local groups, organizations and communities working or studying the plateaus from Sahyadri-Konkan corridorAchieved: The project has successfully created linkages between individuals and organizations (scientists, researchers, citizens, NGOs and research organizations) which will continue beyond the project timeframe. A Facebook group “Rock Outcrops of India” with 150+ members is used for communication between the group members.

2. Biodiversity and ecological profile for 15 sites with emphasis on threatened taxa including details of geology, geography (coordinates), flora, fauna, vegetation types, socioeconomic dependence of local community, special ecological features, current and potential threats, administrative details (ownership, management), researchers working, published literature and other relevant details.

Achieved: Previously unrecorded primary and secondary information has been collated and is made available for all the sites and selected threatened species. The site profiles are uploaded on the India Biodiversity Portal.

3. **Site specific plans for enhancing legal protection and management** Tangible output will be formulation of management guidelines specific to each of the selected sites, and complete biodiversity profile of each site, this will be used to try and enhance the legal status as ecosensitive area or community conserved area, depending on the response of the concerned authorities

Achieved: Each site profile includes recommendations for management and conservation of the unique elements.

A. In the case of Panchgani tableland, the information has already served to get a verdict from the Bombay High Court favoring the ecological conservation. The profiles of Mahabaleshwar plateau will be used for making regional development plan by the High Level Monitoring Committee.
B. Management guidelines given by the group working on Anjaneri Plateau Nashik have been used to draw up a Conservation Reserve plan by the CCF Nashik.
C. The site profile of Dhangarwadi Plateau, Kolhapur helped the PCCF, Maharashtra to rule against grant of forest clearance for bauxite mining at the site. It was also referred in the report of the special committee of the National Green Tribunal set up to settle the dispute between Hindalco and Maharashtra Forest Department.

We hope the sites profiles will give clear directions for management planning in case of other plateaus which fall under diverse administrations.

Publication of data: in the form of report, vernacular publications, and data on the Western Ghats Biodiversity Portal as site and species information sheets.

- In addition to the site profiles added to the WGBP, members of the network were also encouraged to communicate scientific research papers as well as articles. As a result diverse articles have been written and are already published or will be published on rocky plateaus in journals and subject specific magazines even after project completion.

Notable amongst these are:

a. Article in Marathi on Kas plateau in Sakav magazine published by AERF, Pune
b. Article in Heritage India on Kas by Prerna Agarwal and on Nashik rock outcrops by Saili Palandhe of MNCC (http://heritage-india.com/publications/mu-jan-march-2014/) (http://www.dnaindia.com/pune/report-kaas-plateau-your-favourite-wallpaper-is-fading-away-1899034)
c. Research paper on a new species of spider from Chalkewadi plateau published by Siddharth Kulkarni (http://threatenedtaxa.org/ZooPrintJournal/2014/March/o360626iii145558-5561.pdf)
d. Research paper on Lichens of Panchgani, Mahabaleshwar plateaus: by Gayatri Chitale, in Journal of Threatened Taxa (http://threatenedtaxa.org/ZooPrintJournal/2014/May/o378426v145784-5791.pdf)
e. Research paper on a Durgawadi and Naneghat plateau flora by Dr Sanjay and Dr. Savita Rahangdale, in Journal of Threatened Taxa (http://threatenedtaxa.org/ZooPrintJournal/2014/April/o361626iv145593-5612.pdf)
f. Publication of New records: Immersaria and Koerberiella, two new generic records to India Pandit GS (One is from KAas, another from Panchgani) (http://www.creamjournal.org/PDFs/Cream_4_1_12.pdf)
g. Research article on a Coastal Plateaus of Maharashtra by Dr Swapna Prabhu in Hornbill, BNHS. (Annex 6)
h. Article on ecorestoration of Bauxite mining areas by Envirosearch has been published
i. Popular article by Gangadharan Menon (http://www.thebetterindia.com/8391/tbi-travel-conservation-kaas-maharashtras-very-own-valley-of-flowers/)

- Capacity building for conservation of this special habitat has been achieved. The habitat in general has now gained more visibility and 4 new projects have been started aiming at conservation.

  This project involved various levels of formal and informal interactions, communication through various media, participatory observations and social action which was a planned capacity building exercise for the entire group, to function cohesively as an issue-based network.

  For young researchers, it get opportunity to work and interact closely with senior scientists which built capacity for research on the biodiversity of the special habitat . Siddharth Kulkarni, Prerna Agarwal, Jui Pethe, Pratiksha Panashikar, Apeksha Patil, Yatish Lele were some of the students who benefitted by interacting with senior scientists. They completed their masters dissertations and projects on the subject.

  For advocacy groups such as Envirolegal Forum, BEAG it was capacity building in scientific advocacy, as they argued conservation cases successfully on the basis of information from the scientists.

  For the scientists it was capacity building in social action, as they (and personally I) learnt about collating and presenting scientific data in the form which is useful for advocacy and especially legal matters as in the case of Panchgani tableland High Court case.

  For all of us together, it definitely built up capacity to interact freely and openly as a group to work as pressure group for conservation.

  Reactions from forest department were mixed. On the whole it was positive as the PCCF of Maharashtra Shri. Joshi wholeheartedly supported the programme and interacted on

various issues and used the information for conservation. Same was the case of CCF Pune and CCF Nashik who supported local groups for conservation of sites in their jurisdiction. However, in case of delicate issues such as tourism on plateaus and mining in Kolhapur, Satara areas, there was much disagreement amongst the group members and the CCF Kolhapur (now ex-CCF). However, we remain hopeful and continue to work with forest department for positive action.
In case of Kas, a JFMC has been formed and Prerna Agarwal worked with the JFMC for two monsoons to build capacity as nature guides and ensure better solid waste management. Jui Pethe worked with JFMC of Anjaneri to ensure better protection of endangered and medicinal species on Anjaneri plateau in Nashik. Through her continuous work, the area is on the verge of being declared as conservation reserve and sensitive ecotourism has being planned.

At the start of the project	**At the end of the project**	**Expected results detailed in outputs section of the proposal**
Most of the partners listed above did not even know each other	Fourteen organizations 9 individuals and five experts remain regularly in touch and have formed positive linkages with each other for information sharing, legal and advocacy advice, early warning system for impacts. Two projects have started and 5 research projects have been completed Facebook group ROCK OUTCROPS OF INDIA with 100+ members	Network partners as detailed above
Data on the flora and fauna was scattered. Not available in public domain.	A complete documentation of each of the sites (plateau groups) based on the data available so far is prepared and is to be hosted on the WG Biodiversity portal. Location, areas, biodiversity profile, threatened taxa, ecological services and conservation values of each site are detailed. The profiles contain primary information, previously undocumented as well as secondary information, previously scattered. Species profile of 70 organisms specific to plateau areas has been added on WG Portal.	Biodiversity and ecological profile for 15 sites with emphasis on threatened taxa
With the exception of Panchgani and Mahabaleshwar tablelands (MPESZ), none of the sites had any legal recognition.	Conservation and management guidelines for all the plateaus have been published in a scientific paper. Suggestions for upgrading the status of the sites have been submitted to the State Wildlife Advisory Board, and PCCF (Wildlife), Maharashtra. Specific suggestions for sites Anjaneri, Kas, Panchgani, Amboli, Zenda, Durgawadi, Naneghat have been handed over to the administrative agencies (Forest Dept and HLMC). All the partners had contributed extensively to the WGEEP report and written specifically to the MoEF regarding the review of the same. Twelve out of 15 sites are listed in the List of Villages in ESA of the Western Ghats (Appendix 3) of Kasturiragan report and details of management can be worked out once the Guidelines are finalized from MoEF.	Site specific plans for enhancing legal protection and management Formulation of management guidelines try and enhance the legal status as ecosensitive area or community conserved area, Management suggestions for grazing, fires, biodiversity management in windfarms, tourism planning and management /ecorestoration of mining areas.
Data on only a few sites (Panchgani, Kas) was available in scientific papers.	Report of the policy level workshop Report of the project Informative booklet on plateaus (being translated) Species profiles and location data uploaded Site profiles will be uploaded	Publication of data: Report Vernacular publication WGBP

Please provide the following information where relevant:

Hectares Protected: Nil

Species Conserved: Nil

Corridors Created: Nil

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

Successes:

- Networking achieved.
- Linkages formed
- Capacity building of young conservationists from local areas
- Site and species profiles in public domain
- Site specific guidelines for conservation and management being prepared
- Scientific data published and used for legal action towards conservation
- Social support for conservation

Challenges:

- Bringing a special identity to the plateau habitats so that a single policy can be developed for protection across its range is a challenge considering the scarcity of information.
- Due to the diversity in administrative regimes, and diversity of threats, it is a challenge to create a single all encompassing policy for this special habitat over a larger landscape similar to plateau of NW Ghats. However, with support and wide recognition of the special habitat in Maharashtra positive results will be achieved.
- Corporate interests are very strong in case of mining, wind farms and land development as well as tourism. However, with wide networking, public awareness and generation of research based information, these can be countered for long-term conservation.

Were there any unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?

Positive unexpected impact:

<u>Increased awareness regarding other biodiversity rich but widely neglected habitats</u>

- Dr. Asad Rehmani of BNHS, specifically drew attention of media and scientific community towards plateaus and also other similar neglected habitats. He has proposed a seminar on India's other neglected habitats (such as sand dunes etc.) which has been supported by research community largely all over the country. If this is achieved, it will be a significant step towards due recognition of Indian biodiversity outside of the forest habitats and neglected / lesser known taxa.

<u>Publication of research papers</u>

- The publicity achieved by the habitat led to bringing of data in public domain from people who were not part of the original network. A total of three papers have been published on Kas plateau alone within last one year. Interactions amongst research groups, local organizations is leading to sharing of data specifically needed for conservation of the region

- Dr. Sanjay Molur, Journal of Threatened Taxa has proposed a special issue of the journal for the papers on rocky plateaus

Lessons Learned

Describe any lessons learned during the design and implementation of the project, as well as any related to organizational development and capacity building. Consider lessons that would inform projects designed or implemented by your organization or others, as well as lessons that might be considered by the global conservation community.

Social and legal sustainability of conservation and management plans is the key

During the course of this project, it was seen in many cases that, sites already have some recognition for their biodiversity in the form of natural heritage site, conservation zone, Medicinal plant conservation area/ reserve forest/ corridor/ buffer zone for sanctuary or national park etc. However, the conservation and management plans have failed to address biodiversity issues in multiple ways.

Example 1: Initial designation of Panchgani tableland as natural heritage site under Mahabaleshwar-Panchgani ecosensitive zone, Satara regional plan, has not in any way covered the biodiversity values of this area or elaborated on monitoring or measurement of them. As a result, the site has been converted into a recreational ground with many economic interest. It took a long convincing argument about the need of preserving of "biodiversity values" of the site and not only the physical area itself in getting the High Court to give an order of changing the present management of the region. I fear that this will happen in case of Kas plateau also, as the legal and social elements are not clearly built into the management of this area- and it is to be treated only as RF area, even after recognized as World Heritage Site.

Example 2:
In case of Zenda-Dhangarwadi plateau mining case of Hindalco, the area is part of the identified Sahyadri-Konkan corridor as per CEPF document on Western Ghats. This was referred to in arguing against the mining of this region in front of the National Green Tribunal committee. However, it was pointed out by Dr. Bharucha (committee member) that the corridor has no legal recognition.

Therefore the lesson learnt by us is that for long-term sustainability, social recognition of the biodiversity rich sites is a must, but it should be followed by clear legal recognition of conservation and management plan which clearly puts forth objectives of biodiversity conservation and details out a management framework.

As per the comment of the reviewers, an article is being planned in reputed journal to highlight the key learnings given above.

- ***Monetary gains cannot be driving force for conservation***

In many, if not most cases, economic incentives cannot be shown in short-term or long-term planning of conservation. A large number of people and communities, of locals as well as nature lovers, are not motivated towards conservation by economic gains but by different values such as righteousness, love, aesthetic value, entertainment value, pride, publicity etc. It is impossible to measure these. However, conservation can definitely be built upon it.

For example: Kas plateaus became a world heritage site (July, 2012). Forest department erected a chainlink fence of several kilometers long around the plateau to control the hordes of tourists. The ultimate sufferers were the local grazers of 6 villages around the plateaus whose traditional access rights were infringed. There was a lot of friction between the NGOs and forest department

over it. In spite of this, the local people of the region, said, we have suffered in many ways because of tourism, but we are proud of the fact that our area is globally recognized and so many people come here to see it. Except a few people from the Joint Forest Management committee, none is currently receiving any monetary benefits from it, and even in future, few of the total population only will gain directly from conservation. But pride over the global recognition seems to be a strong emotion in favour of conservation of this region. We are hoping to plan the future conservation strategy specifically based on this value.

- ***Social networking amongst motivated individuals***

Social networking (on and off the internet) can be very effective. Strengthening individual level networking and resolving a difficulty in interpersonal communication is far more important than organization level MOUs and formalization of participation in activities. In simple words, - *individuals lead, institutions follow.* In this project the focus was to build strong personal relations, friendships, interactions often beyond the nature conservation agenda, which led to lasting relations between people. In addition, focus was given on understanding information and support needs of people and local conservation, and tailoring the dissemination accordingly. Very early in the project it was realized that in any organization or group, enthusiastic people are present and would like to work for a certain goal. They need to be directly supported, and involved in conservation instead of waiting for the organization to get formally involved, which is often a slow process. Although it would be important for long-term establishment to ensure participation at organizational level, this can be efficiently done by involving individuals first.

- ***Mentoring is required for capacity building of students and local organizations***

Another key learning was that there are many individuals and local groups in the region with keen interest in conservation at local level. However, they are unaware about scientific, social, legal, policy approaches to conservation. It is necessary to mentor them in every possible way for building capacity for conservation. In our project we worked with diverse group and local students, helping them in any way possible to document, to write, to communicate and interact with experts, bureaucrats and society in general to further their conservation goals.

For the future of conservation of nature in the Western Ghats region, it is necessary to identify young people with interest in conservation and mentor them effectively to ensure that they will become future leaders in conservation science, management, planning, reporting, advocacy etc. for this region.

Networking is an effective way to start this. Many times networks and mailing groups only highlight issues and concerns and ensure wide knowledge of the same. But the new networking modules should go beyond this and help people in positive action towards conservation.

It is first necessary to develop a number of mentors across the region who would be keen on training of young people for this. It is necessary to move beyond personal or institutional agendas and work with individuals' interests in mind, and to ensure that they are of regional conservation interests as well.

As a part of this project, we worked with eight young students, and helped them in their conservation work. Three of them have their own regional projects, which we helped them to write and get funds. Two of these are on conservation planning, one of conservation monitoring, but linked to the Biome's interest of rocky plateau conservation. Five other young MSc students were mentored in our project, and we will continue to mentor them to build their careers in conservation in future.

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

A. Workshops (first for people to meet each other)

Interactive workshops were part of the project design. In the planning, the first workshop was only of the grassroots workers and organizations with ALREADY demonstrated work on the habitat/localities. It wasn't an open workshop which helped focusing on the main issues.

No government representative was invited for this workshop. Thus conflict between NGOs, individuals and government officers (which often sidetracks the main issue) was avoided.

Media was not invited. This helped participants to discuss many social, political and legal issues freely without fear of being misquoted or being politically incorrect.

Media was not involved due to extreme sensitivity of some plateaus esp. wrt mining and tourism. Thus the main project was not covered in the news- and it was by design. Instead the participants were encouraged to write, publicize and hold consultations regarding specific issues (such as Kas fencing or windfarms) in local media which was much more relevant for conservation action.

The second workshop was planned for interaction of conservation groups with policy makers. Only those groups which had demonstrated consistency, positive action towards plateaus and plans of long-term conservation were invited and made to interact with very senior government officers and policy makers. This helped tremendously in formalizing the concepts of the groups of what actually needs to be done for conservation on ground.

Even in this workshop media was not involved beyond a press release, mainly as very senior government officials cannot participate in discussions freely in front of media. This did work out well and the interactions were uninhibited due to this.

We requested all to publicize the issue as they deem fit, and Dr. Asad Rehmani, Dr. Swapna Prabhu, ERC, Western Ghat group and many others covered the issue with focused articles highlighting the importance of plateaus.

B. Mentoring and capacity building-

Mentoring of young researchers (as described above) was specifically built into the project proposal (under the heading of capacity building). It was specifically planned that capacity building would focus on developing skills of the selected individuals and helping them in furthering *their* goals, rather than focusing on organizational goals. As stated in first assessment of Biome Conservation Foundation, our objective is to build individual capacity for research, planning, management and action, and only to serve as a platform for people. In this first project itself we have demonstrated our mentoring capacity by capacity building of students to do things in a systematic way to further the regional conservation goals as well as their own careers. In this we were helped by senior scientists like Dr. Jay Samant, Dr. Bachulkar, Dr. Hemant Ghate, Dr. Varad Giri, and Sanjay Thakur shared experiences with the young workers and interacted for positive action.

We specifically encouraged the students to write funding proposals through local organizations or as individuals and not through our own organization, as we truly believe that motivated people who operate individually but as a part of issue-based network are far more effective in conservation rather than large organizations.

It can be viewed as a short-coming that Biome CF as organization has not received any grant on the subject. However, with the network of people committed to the issue we are now sure that the rocky plateau conservation issue will always be highlighted in this region. We have achieved social sustainability for the issue (and in cases like Panchgani tableland, legal sustainability as well) which I rank as the biggest outcome of the project.

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

Tailoring the information to suit local conservation goals:

The scientific information is often not collated according to the region, which makes it difficult to access and use for local management. We have helped by developing site profiles as baseline documents to help in the planning.

Field interactions

Many visits to the sites were planned with involvement of local researchers which helped all of us to understand each other's views and plan for action. As a group, our capacity has increased with many personal interactions to deal with potential threats to the rocky plateaus and take positive conservation action.

Other lessons learned relevant to conservation community:

- Conservation community should work towards building close personal interactions, and information sharing for common goals. It is extremely important and useful to encourage people to maintain their own identity and express opinions individually on the subject, rather than unifying them under one umbrella or one organization
- Many individuals now speak about environmental problems, mismanagement etc. this is important for activism and advocacy. However, equal or more attention now needs to be given to actual planning, management of conservation and biodiversity on the ground- which can truly strengthen the regional conservation. Very few at present are trained to use data for this purpose and it's necessary that this issue – conservation and management plan preparation – should be given top priority.
- Primary Scientific information is the most important component of conservation action.

  I had a decade of primary data on biodiversity of the selected sites. In addition, other researchers had also collected data on many aspects for sites like Kas. This proved of tremendous value for planning. In case of Panchgani tableland court case, Kas heritage site protection, Zenda plateau mining issues the scientific information the information was the primary resource used for arguing immediate conservation action.
- It is extremely important to understand and wisely use the legal ways for conservation action. Many laws are supportive and the media can play a big role. However, it is very important to involve a lawyer in consultation regarding conservation plans who can help with the wording, approach and actual implementation using tools given by the environmental laws. We were linked to three lawyers (Adv. Guruprasad Malkar, Adv. Kedar Munishwar, Adv. Hema Ramani) with long experience of environmental law and its practical implementation.
- The development of Kas as tourist site has proved detrimental to conservation as it was promoted without assessing the impacts of tourism on environment. More plateaus in Radhanagari WLS and Chandoli NP are now being promoted by forest department for commercial interest and misguided notions of ecotourism. It is extremely necessary that the conservation community intervenes for scientific planning of the effort. The media and commercial tourism interests are very powerful in this region and are supported by tourism department which is not truly sensitive towards the conservation issues. My efforts to contact the Maharashtra Tourism Development Corporation failed repeatedly as they continued to promote Kas through popular media. It is necessary that we insist on social as well as environmental impact assessment of tourism in the Western Ghats area and build up scientific data on the same.

ADDITIONAL FUNDING

Provide details of any additional donors who supported this project and any funding secured for the project as a result of the CEPF grant or success of the project.

Donor	Type of Funding*	Amount	Notes
Project co-financing			
Dr. Sharad Kulkarni, Narayan Ashram Koloshi	**A** Use of project vehicle-Maruti Omni for the project period.		This project vehicle was extensively used for the field trips. Only the servicing and maintenance costs were paid for one time through the project
Bombay Environmental Action Group	**A** Travel for people	Rs. 20000 approx.	BEAG bore all the costs for persons attending the workshops and also for two field trips to Mahabaleshwar –Panchgani
BNHS	**A** Travel for people		Travel costs of 8 people attending the workshop were borne by BNHS
Dr. V.G. Watve	**A** Desktop computer	Rs. 25000	for central digital repository of rocky plateau information
Sanjay Thakur and Aparna Watve as Biome CF trustees	**A** Use of Equipment, (Two Digital Cameras, GPS, voice recorder)	Equipment worth Rs. 1,00,000 approximately was used	In addition to this the trustees have spent much more time than was budgeted in the expenses for the project.
Many individuals spent their time, money to discuss, interact and plan conservation action, lobby on our behalf with the administration, courts etc. From MOEF joint secretary to villagers, it included diversity of people motivated for conservation for its own sake. It is impossible to assess this social capital in terms of funding. It is priceless and raises hopes for the future of this habitat. Perhaps an assessment of social capital can be built into CEPF evaluations in future.			
Grantee and Partner leveraging			
Forest Department (territorial) Nashik	**B** *Research Project of Digital Herbarium of Anjaneri area awarded to Jui Pethe* Nature Conservation Society	Rs. 200000	Information for use in conservation and management planning of Anjaneri plateau, Nashik
Rufford's small grant	**B** For study of Impact of Tourism on Kas vegetation has been awarded to Prerna Agarwal	Rs. 5,00,000 approx.	setting up monitoring of vegetation, ecotourism, nature guide's trainings, home-stay planning
Persistent corporate funding	**B** Grampari, awarded project for conservation of lateritic springs	Rs. 500000	lateritic spring system biodiversity will be monitored as indicator of water quality

****Additional funding should be reported using the following categories:***

A *Project co-financing (Other donors contribute to the direct costs of this CEPF project)*

B *Grantee and Partner leveraging (Other donors contribute to your organization or a partner organization as a direct result of successes with this CEPF project.)*

C *Regional/Portfolio leveraging (Other donors make large investments in a region because of CEPF investment or successes related to this project.)*

Sustainability/Replicability

Summarize the success or challenge in achieving planned sustainability or replicability of project components or results.

The project will continue due to highly motivated individuals. We all are struggling for social, legal, policy sustainability. A proposal of large grant was submitted as a network specifically to cover these issues. It was built upon research and monitoring required for conservation planning, awareness generation and policy interventions. However, it was turned down as it did not fit the CEPF's priorities. This is a major challenge for our network group. Most of us have been working on this issue for past decade or even more, often with self funding. Hence, I am quite confident that we will be successful in continuing the same in future sustainably and even replicate it in future for more sites, even those outside of CEPF's designated Sahyadri-Konkan corridor, which deserve special attention.

Even after the project period, our regular interactions as network of people continue through mails, facebook, and other communication methods. We are now planning short workshops for social, legal and advocacy issues in conservation planning for rocky plateaus, which will enhance the capacity of the group.

Summarize any unplanned sustainability or replicability achieved.

The issue has drawn attention of senior scientists, policy makers and administrators. This is helping in unexpected ways in conservation action on ground. In fact scientists are discussing importance of neglected habitats in general for Indian biodiversity.

Safeguard Policy Assessment

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

Environmental safeguard policies are being developed especially for wind farms, mining and tourism industry of the region- which are major threats. A workshop is being organized by CSE to formulate norms for EIA of wind farms, in which we will be contributing specific norms to be followed for rocky plateaus in Western Ghat areas which have high sensitivity and rich biodiversity.

Performance Tracking Report Addendum

CEPF Global Targets

(Enter Grant Term)

Provide a numerical amount and brief description of the results achieved by your grant.
Please respond to only those questions that are relevant to your project.

Project Results	Is this question relevant?	If yes, provide your numerical response for results achieved during the annual period.	Provide your numerical response for project from inception of CEPF support to date.	Describe the principal results achieved from February 2012 to March 2013. (Attach annexes if necessary)
1. Did your project strengthen management of a protected area guided by a sustainable management plan? Please indicate number of hectares improved.	NO			Please also include name of the protected area(s). If more than one, please include the number of hectares strengthened for each one.
2. How many hectares of new and/or expanded protected areas did your project help establish through a legal declaration or community agreement?	NO			Please also include name of the protected area. If more than one, please include the number of hectares strengthened for each one.
3. Did your project strengthen biodiversity conservation and/or natural resources management inside a key biodiversity area identified in the CEPF ecosystem profile? If so, please indicate how many hectares.	YES	161.9 sq kms	161.9 sq kms	Potential to strengthen if administrators use the conservation suggestions (forest department, MOEF)
4. Did your project effectively introduce or strengthen biodiversity conservation in management practices outside protected areas? If so, please indicate how many hectares.	YES	165.2536 sq kms	165.2536 sq kms	Potential to strengthen if administrators use the conservation suggestions (forest department, MOEF)
5. If your project promotes the sustainable use of natural resources, how many local communities accrued tangible socioeconomic benefits? Please complete Table 1below.	NO			

If you answered yes to question 5, please complete the following table. NO

Table 1. Socioeconomic Benefits to Target Communities

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

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

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

Additional Comments/Recommendations

Science for management of conservation in multiple use zones (stakeholders mixed from local communities, forest department, revenue department, corporate, urban land users etc.) needs to be promoted and organized on urgent basis.

Science for social and environmental impact assessment especially cumulative impact assessment needs to be strengthened and formalized. At present we do not have good methodology or frameworks appropriate for Western Ghats and high sensitivity regions.

A sensitization in area managers, forest department, and revenue department regarding use of scientific information needs to be undertaken. Very often scientists are seen as impediment in management rather than help.

Information Sharing and CEPF Policy

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

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We would like to share the important output of the project, as follows:

Annex 1. Species profiles (70 species)
Link: Submitted to Western Ghats Biodiversity Portal

Annex 2. Site profiles (15 sites of plateau groups)
Link: http://thewesternghats.in/biodiv/content/documents/document-3cea71c6-ba0b-4d48-a21e-3a1cd3f8dca8/267.pdf

Annex 3. Training Guide Manual for workshop 1
Link: Attached

Annex 4. Report of the workshop 1 and 2
Links:
http://thewesternghats.indiabiodiversity.org/document/show/170
http://thewesternghats.indiabiodiversity.org/document/show/169

Annex 5. Review Paper published
Link : http://www.threatenedtaxa.org/ZooPrintJournal/2013/March/o337226iii133935-3962.pdf