

CEPF SMALL GRANT FINAL PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

Organization Legal Name:	Nature Conservation Foundation
Project Title:	Showcasing the Western Ghats at the Society for Conservation Biology (Asia) Conference and Beyond.
Date of Report:	
Report Author and Contact Information	Pavithra Sankaran

CEPF Region: Western Ghats (Mysore-Nilgiri Corridor)

Strategic Direction:

CEPF Strategic Directions 2 - Improve the conservation of globally threatened species through systematic conservation planning and action.

Grant Amount: \$ 19,992.00

Project Dates: March 2012 to August 2012

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

Siruthuli, Coimbatore : Siruthuli (<http://www.siruthuli.com/>) an NGO based in Coimbatore, working on urban water conservation issues, hosted the 'Hidden Treasures' exhibition developed by NCF with support from this grant. Siruthuli transported over 3000 students from urban and rural areas around Coimbatore, from both English and Tamil mediums schools. They also picked and trained college students as volunteers to guide school children through the exhibition.

Conservation Impacts

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

This project contributed to *Investment Priority 2.4 Support interdisciplinary efforts to analyze and disseminate biodiversity data* of CEPF's focus areas, through the creation, curation and public exhibition of a set of static and interactive displays on the Western Ghats. Over 4500 members of the public have viewed the Hidden Treasures exhibition (Appendix 1). Beyond showcasing the lesser-known species of the Western Ghats, the exhibition also explains key concepts like endemism and fragmentation, as well as crucial ecosystem processes like pollination and energy cycles. Without an appreciation for these concepts and processes, it is often difficult for even the interested lay person to fully understand conservation concerns and to support the right policy decisions affecting wild species and landscapes.

Through this CEPF grant, NCF also facilitated the participation of five persons working on conservation issues in the Western Ghats in the SCB Asia meeting (Appendix 2).

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

In our proposal we had said that we hoped to create a wider sense of understanding as well as ownership of the Ghats in the interested public. We also hoped to create opportunities for grassroots conservation practitioners to meet colleagues and share experiences as well as learning.

While it is difficult to objectively measure the success of our work, we believe we have achieved what we set out to do, on the basis of feedback received from visitors to the exhibition.

A sample:

Excellent Show. In future, we need more collection from other parts of India. Very informative and interesting.

Ideal Mount Litera Zee School

The exhibition was very interesting and informative. We gained many informations about Western Ghats and the living organisms there. We would like to tahnk you for giving this opportunity on behalf of RSMHSS

Ruth Sylvia, Ramnagar Suburban MHSSS

It has been a marvellous day for us to visit the exhibition and attend the movie. Not only was it informative, it was innovative as well.

Bhumika Patel, Air Force School

We learnt a lot through this exhibition. We enjoyed it. Hats off to all the Annas and Akkas who explained the details to us.

Harish, ELGI MHSS

Superb, fabulous and exciting. We learned a lot. We will and should follow it.

Vaishali, GRD CPF Matric HSS

Wonderful, especially the poetry of descriptions and the active photos. Great to see focus on lesser known taxa. Very, very well done!

Valerie Hicken, World Bank

It was an informative show. They explained many things about the natural environment. The pictures were displayed beautifully. It was a wonderful trip to Siruthuli.

GRD Public School

Please provide the following information where relevant:

Hectares Protected: NOT APPLICABLE

Species Conserved: NOT APPLICABLE

Corridors Created: NOT APPLICABLE

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

We believe the short-term objectives of the exhibition have been achieved. The long-term objective, which is to create a more aware public that will support conservation initiatives is difficult not only to achieve, but even more to measure. Given the utter lack of information about public attitudes to nature, wildlife and conservation in India, we also lack baselines against which to measure impact of such work.

Were there any unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?

NOT APPLICABLE

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.

Bulk of the exhibits had content contributed by other individuals from other organisations working on the Western Ghats. This was the first time we at NCF were curating rather than developing content in-house. We found this both challenging as well as rewarding. Challenging because it is difficult to have uniformity of style and approach when there are over 20 different individuals from seven organisations participating (Appendix 3). The rewards were obvious – the exhibition was not ‘owned’ by us alone and thus created a much wider sense of ownership within the conservation community. We would also like to believe that the experience of contributing allowed contributors to learn a little bit about this approach to public communication.

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

See above.

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

See above.

Other lessons learned relevant to conservation community:

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.

NONE

Donor	Type of Funding*	Amount	Notes

***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.

Summarize any unplanned sustainability or replicability achieved.

While replicability is not an issue with an exhibition such as this, sustainability is certainly in question. We are in talks with the CEPF-funded Western Ghats Portal (<http://westernghats.in/>) to make our materials available online, in order to reach different and more diverse audiences. But we do need to think about other ways to reach more numbers of people, as well as to have simple means of making the material available in regional languages. The exhibits are currently housed at our Valparai and Ooty centres.

Safeguard Policy Assessment

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

NOT APPLICABLE.

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 July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2008. (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.	No			
4. Did your project effectively introduce or strengthen biodiversity conservation in management practices outside protected areas? If so, please indicate how many hectares.	No			
5. If your project promotes the sustainable use of natural resources, how many local communities accrued tangible socioeconomic benefits? Please complete Table 1 below.	No			

If you answered yes to question 5, please complete the following table.

Additional Comments/Recommendations

Recommendations for CEPF:

Please include a section in your funding priorities list on nature education. When explicitly listed as a funding area, more people will be encouraged to take up such projects. Education projects suffer from a vicious cycle – lack of funding means fewer projects are planned, and because so few education projects are planned, funding agencies often overlook this important aspect of making conservation sustainable.

Recommendation for others who will attempt something similar:

The collaborative nature of this project was hugely rewarding. When education projects are run by a single organization, they often find it difficult to include a diversity of both subjects as well as conservation perspectives. We would encourage everyone undertaking nature and conservation outreach projects to collaborate widely and also to put all products and outputs on the public domain under Creative Commons licensing.

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.

Please include your full contact details below:

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APPENDIX 3

Selection criteria for awarding fellowships

All the applications were judged blind by a panel of three conservation scientists: Dr. Bhaskar Acharya of ATREE, Sindhu Radhakrishna of National Institute of Advanced Studies and Dr. Sanjay Gubbi of Nature Conservation Foundation.

There were three criteria on which each applicant was marked on a scale of 1-10. They were:

1. *Significance of conservation work applicant is involved in*
2. *Potential impact on applicant from attending SCB*
3. *Ability to contribute to SCB through participation*

Based on the results, five fellowships were awarded:

NAME	AFFILIATION
Robert Stewart	Vattakanal Conservation Trust
Amitha Bachan K.H. PhD	Western Ghats Hornbill Foundation
K. Senthil Prasad	Keystone Foundation
Tanuja Dasharath Haunsbhavi	Independent Conservation Practitioner
Praveen BR	Wildlife Matters

CONTRIBUTORS TO THE CEPF-FUNDED 'WESTERN GHATS HIDDEN TREASURES' EXHIBITION

Project title: **Showcasing the Western Ghats at the Society for Conservation Biology (Asia) Conference and Beyond.**

Vidhyadhar Atkore, Jagdish Krishnaswamy	ATREE	Malaprabha: story of a river
Ishan Agarwal Saunak Pal Navendu Page Varun Torsekar Kartik Shanker Jahnvi Joshi Aniruddh Datta-Roy Dr Rohini Balakrishnan	CES, IISc	Posters on amphibians, reptiles (geckos, skinks, etc.), trees and other flora, centipedes, crickets.
MO Anand	National Centre for Biological Sciences	Pollination, Ecosystem services, Sacred groves
Varad Giri	Bombay Natural History Society	Amphibians
Team of researchers and interns at ARRS	Agumbe Rainforest Research Station	Reptiles (snakes), Scorpions, Lizards, Leeches
Claire Wordley	University of Leeds, UK	Bats
Vena Kapoor	Cambridge Conservation Initiative, UK	Spiders
Smitha Krishnan	Institute of Terrestrial Ecosystems, Department of Environmental Sciences, ETH Zürich, Switzerland	Pollination and ecosystem Services
Dr C. Kushalappa, Dr. Satisha BN	Forestry College, Ponnampet	Sacred groves
Robin Abraham	Independent researcher	Rivers and freshwater fauna