CEPF SMALL GRANT FINAL PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

Organization Legal Name:	Verde Azul Consult
Project Title:	Implementing Adaptive Conservation Strategies in Mt Chiperone, Mozambique
Date of Report:	24th July 2017
Report Author and Contact Information	Kemal Vaz, kvaz@verdeazul.co.mz Ariane Dinis adinis@verdeazul.co.mz Bernabe Langa bernabe.langa@gmail.com

CEPF Region: Mozambique

Strategic Direction:

The two strategies designed are centered on a balanced integration of social classes, gender; poverty reduction; and negative environmental impacts reduction by ensuring long-term ecological integrity of the ecosystem:

- I-Introduction of Conservation Agriculture techniques in the flatland to incentivize the farmers to move down from the mountain to the flatland reducing the pressure on the biodiversity upland; and
- II- Implement an agroforestry system on the mountain to add arboreal component that has been eliminated due to the opening of farms. The agroforestry system will enable the interaction between agricultural and perennial components that will result in the increase of ecological connectivity as well as improve and enhance ecological services simultaneously in the same area.

Grant Amount: USD 19,580

Project Dates: 1st August 2016 to 30th June 2017

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

- Verde Azul Consult was the grant recipient and the main implementing partner.
- Mt. Chiperone's local communities were highly involved throughout the project life cycle, actively participating in all project activities.
- Local authorities in the district of Milange, who are requesting authorization to carry on the project, have responded positively to the request and provided support in some stages of the project.

Conservation Impacts

Please explain/describe how your project has contributed to the implementation of the Critical Ecosytem Partnership Fund (CEPF) ecosystem profile.

The overall objective is to conserve the afro-mountainous biodiversity of Mount Chiperone and to empower communities and promote sustainable livelihoods in the community. One of the contributions is related to the substitution of the subsistence farm and introduction of conservation agriculture. The second contribution is afforestation through agroforestry systems that were completely vacant by farms in the mountain.

The impact of the introduction of conservation agriculture and agroforestry systems with native species supports the long-term objectives of reducing the pressure on mountain use for agriculture. The introduction of these technologies supports the empowerment of the community, through the improvement in production, farmers can obtain production surpluses that could be placed on the market thus obtaining other forms of income, reducing the pressure of the use of natural resources on Mount Chiperone.
There has been training and community empowerment for the introduction of conservation agriculture so that they have access to practical skills as well as education on the dangers of environmental damage due to the use of some of the traditional farming techniques.

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

Empower and Promote sustainable livelihoods in the community

- *Awareness raising in the community* – the community is still practicing traditional agriculture, during the project implementation community members began to introduce some (first) techniques of conservation agriculture to improve yield and contribute to the conservation of the forest.
- *Introduction of conservation agriculture techniques* on the farms that were under fallow located in the flatland. The field team monitored and coached the farmers throughout almost all the production process in the farms, with the exception of the harvesting, because the project closed before the crop production cycle ended. During the implementation of conservation agriculture, a potential to increase agriculture production and productivity in the farms was noted, analyzed by good agriculture development indicators in the community.

- ii) The introduction of Conservation agriculture in the fallow area will improve the communities Quality Life – as it will reduce the time spent to reach far-away new machambas. The fallow land are in the surrounding of the community houses, and are very near to the farmers houses, making it more convenient to them to produce nearby.

Conservation of the Mt. Chiperone afromontane biodiversity

- The communities are strictly dependent and exert a great pressure on natural resources, thus compromising the conservation of the biodiversity around Mount Chiperone. Apart from the project beneficiaries, the community showed interest in changing rudimentary agriculture techniques. There were more participants present in the workshops and coaching than the chosen beneficiaries. In the next agriculture seasons, it is believed that the number of farmers practicing conservation agriculture increases.
- The community also participated actively in the establishment of agro-forestry system.
- This project had a positive impact in community life and is believed that in the long run it will contribute in restoration, protection and conservation in the Chiperone Mountain through conservationist practices disseminated ensuring a sustainable use of resources and improving the life standards of communities.
- Conservation of the forest - showed it was possible to produce in the forest through agro-forestry system, and there is no need to deforest the forest to plant useful crops. The community was very happy to be planting fruit trees in the agroforestry system - the community will be able to improve nutrition, increase income through selling fruit, and learnt that it is possible to produce cultures in the mountain without having to put fire to the forest.

The short term impacts proposed were in general all achieved:

- 33 farmers were trained and applied conservation agriculture techniques in plots. The transformation of rudimentary agriculture techniques (shift cultivation) of farms in the lower areas into sustainable agriculture techniques (conservation agriculture).
- Fallow land reused in flatlands using conservation agriculture. Improved the soil fertility of the 30 selected farms in the flatland area around the mountain.

- Reforest through agroforestry systems (woody plants intercropped with agricultural crops) of 20.000 m2 of areas in the mountain with 1240 trees. Farmers trained and implemented the agroforestry system from producing seedling to planting.

Please provide the following information where relevant:

Hectares Protected: N/A
Species Conserved: N/A
Corridors Created: N/A

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

- Given the timescale of the project, it was not possible to follow all the value chain of established crops, as a result there is no data related to production output or yields from conservation agriculture. During the field coaching and monitoring process, there were visible signs of improvements in the crops growth through the agricultural performance indicators: good crop density, excellent leaf mass index, low index of pest incidence, among others.
- On one hand there was a delay in starting the Agriculture Conservation technics – many areas were flooded due to the heavy rain fall in December and January. On the other hand, the rainfall was very beneficial for the agro-forestry system, as the seedling had a better survival rate and grew stronger.
- The project expected to prepare about 48,153 square meters of land area for the implementation of conservation agriculture in the flat land area. However, due to the heavy rainfall and the size of farms associated with long distances between the farms; there was a need of reducing the number of farms. The beneficiaries were joined in groups of 3 to 4 farmers to work together in one farm. Therefore, only 16033 m2 of flat land area was used for the implementation of the project.

Were there any unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?

- A positive impact was the implementation of the agro-forestry system in two ha, instead of expected 1 ha. We were able to produce more seedling and managed to acquire

seedling than expected. The community was happy to lend to the project one more ha of land for the agro-forestry system.

- Community farmers that didn't belong to the target group were applying Agriculture technics in their fields.
- Only 25% project beneficiaries were women, despite our effort to increase the number of women.
- On average, 28 to 40 participants took part per day in this workshop and the majority of participants were farmers. The female gender was more represented, counting for about 38% of the participants.

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.

- Involve the local leader in the process of planning, implementation and design of the project. More community members participated in the workshops when the community or religious leader invited the community members.
- Motivate a group of local community members (5 to 8 people) to be involved in guiding, translating and supporting all activities.
- Use of videos/images to allow an easier comprehension and perception of the farmers. Observation of images and actions helped the farmers see that the technics are easy to apply and how to apply.
- The rain was an unexpected factor that was also critical to the supply of energy and the process of work. The detailed work agenda had to be reviewed due to both of these constraints.
- Respecting the community's traditions and their member's activities is very important for the project implementation to run smoothly. However, one main objections done by the farmers is that coaching has to be done according to their availability. Managing 30

farmer's time-availability to individually coach them was not easy, creating groups facilitates this process.

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

- The interaction of the field officer with the community during the development of the baseline had a positive impact on the implementation of this project. In addition, the involvement of local and religious authorities has allowed greater community trust and confidence in project acceptance and contribution to community development.
- Use of cultures that are known to the community, for example fruit trees, in the agro-forestry system contributed to the community engagement.
- One field technician living within the community supporting the farmers during a long period has shown results in terms of the confidence and technology use.
- The project has proven/demonstrated to the community and beneficiary farmers that it is possible to produce in fallow flatland; which the farmers thought were infertile and impossible to farm.
- A shortcoming is that we weren't able to end the value chain, and weren't part of the harvesting process. The project should have a longer duration.
- The community will try not to destroy the mountain and try to recover the fallow soils.

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

- Stay in a house within the community rather than an adapted camp revealed simplicity by the field officer, ensuring trust from the community.
- Perform the activities according to the availability of community members; that is, the activities were carried out after the end of their daily activities not to disturb their daily lives and have greater influx of people.
- The involvement of leaders greatly supported the participation of members in different activities. Because they have an authoritative role could influence them and make them realize the advantages of the project.
- Always taking into account factors stemming from the culture, tradition, and beliefs of the communities have influenced the most likely success of the project. For example, to

involve women without obtaining the permission of those responsible for them (parents, husbands and brothers)

Other lessons learned relevant to conservation community:

- Workshops and lectures – show the community the different situations of degradation, whereas they can compare the before and after in other locations.
- Demonstrated that it is possible to produce without using traditional agriculture technics.
- In Chiperone, the agro-forestry system was very innovative, the community didn't think it was possible to produce fruits, etc. without destroying the forest. The agro-forestry system is a technology that brings many benefits to the environment as well as richness in food and wealth.
- Recovery of flatland is possible, CA technologies can recover fallow land.
- The flatland has many advantages – near to the houses (spend less time in distances).

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

***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.

N/A

Summarize any unplanned sustainability or replicability achieved

Before the end on the project, the community leaders and the beneficiaries were informed on the need to encourage the community to change agriculture technology taking into account the biodiversity conservation. As a result, it is expected that they will strengthen and carry on with the development of conservation activities disseminated and implemented by the project.

In addition, all project activities were developed with the knowledge of SDAE authorities in Milange. Therefore, it is also expected that SDAE in Milange will provide guidance for nursery management and will carry on with the implementation of practices along with the extensionistas.

Safeguard Policy Assessment

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

N/A

Additional Comments/Recommendations

Despite the participation and cooperation of the community, there is still a great need for awareness on conservation agriculture and especially on agroforestry systems, since the results take time due to the reduced growth of the tree.

The implementation of adaptive strategies has helped the community to understand the importance of sustainable use of natural resources, but more robust immediate action is needed; there is a need to reach a significant part of the community. Therefore, for these robust projects, their financing must be ensured in order to implement long-term strategies (about 6 years), mainly for the forestry component.

Additionally, recommended that future projects incorporate intensive environmental awareness campaigns involving a large number of beneficiaries, taking into account the need to improve the living conditions of communities, so that the process of biodiversity conservation becomes a viable and natural process, incorporated into the new ways of using and managing Resources.

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:

Name: Kemal Vaz/ Ariane Dinis
Organization name: Verde Azul Consult
Mailing address: Rua Fernando Ganhão, Nº110, C.P. 352 Maputo, Mozambique
Tel: +258 21486213/4
Fax: +258 21 499519
E-mail: info@verdeazul.co.mz, kvaz@verdeazul.co.mz, adinis@gmail.com

please complete the tables on the following pages

Performance Tracking Report Addendum

Project Results	Is this question relevant?	If yes, provide your numerical response for results achieved for project from inception of CEPF support to date	Describe the principal results achieved during project period (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.			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?			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.			
4. Did your project effectively introduce or strengthen biodiversity conservation in management practices outside protected areas? If so, please indicate how many hectares.			
5. If your project promotes the sustainable use of natural resources, how many local communities accrued tangible socioeconomic benefits? Please complete Table 1below.			

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

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: