

CEPF SMALL GRANT FINAL PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

Organization Legal Name:	Ahmed Yehia Ali (Personal Capacity)
Project Title:	Increasing Capacity of NGOs, local community and officials staff on the protected areas Conservation: Training Workshop for Monitoring, Management and Conservation
Date of Report:	May 14, 2015
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CEPF Region: Easter Afromontane biodiversity hotspot

Strategic Direction: Strategic Direction 3: Initiate and support sustainable financing and related actions for the conservation of priority KBAs and corridors.

Investment Priority 3.4: Support the institutional development of civil society organizations in Eritrea, South Sudan and Yemen, and their role in the conservation of KBAs in their respective countries.

Grant Amount: \$18,400 US

Project Dates: 1st September 2014-28th February 2015

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

USDWE. Their involvement was for coordination to carry this course back to back with their course in Amman, and providing logistical support to the activity. Ahmad Yehia provided support to USDWE in finding suitable candidates to attend both trainings.

Conservation Impacts

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

This project directly contributed to the delivery of Strategic Direction 3 of the CEPF investment strategy, and specifically investment priority 3.4 of supporting the institutional development of civil society organizations in Yemen, and their role in the conservation of Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) by delivering training specifically

relevant to the capacity development needs of these CSOs to effectively deliver sound conservation outcomes.

The relationship between the action and the CEPF Strategic Direction 3 can be summarized in the following:

- Environmental CSOs are key players within the ecosystem and do have the potential to implement and support the implementation of conservation outcomes within EAM region in Yemen following proper training on conservation principles;
- Environmental CSOs are key players within the ecosystem and are potential partners / recipients of funds for implementing biodiversity conservation actions/projects, however their capacity (technical and financial) to implement such actions is limited and in-need for enhancement,
- Such improved capacity of environmental CSOs is expected to strengthen individual organizations ability to achieve CEPF conservation outcomes and will also encourage and support improved coordination and collaboration between a network of active CSOs within the ecosystem to achieve CEPF expected results with respect to investment priority number 3.4;
- The result of such capacity building will help CEPF to cost-effectively target larger parts of KBAs within one of the most important biodiversity ecosystems

More specifically the program delivered training to 15 participants representing CSOs from the CEPF region in Yemen received training on monitoring, management and conservation of protected areas. This training succeeded in improving the participants understanding of value of PAs management planning and implementation of PAs management plans, and increased their appreciation of the need to implement scientifically based management planning process and monitoring programs.

The trainees, and though still need more training and support, are now in better position to take part in the implementation of conservation actions within their respective activity areas within the CEPF region in Yemen. They show now better understanding of what the conservation needs in their areas, and what they need to do as CSOs with regard to identifying/addressing conservation challenges.

The program also succeeded in enhancing the coordination and collaboration between the group of participants, and accordingly the participants became more engaged in conservation-oriented discussions through social media and other means of communication between them. These discussions were mainly focusing on the lessons learned from their specific action areas (CEPF region in Yemen) and also from the implemented training.

Unfortunately the oscillation of violence in Yemen and consequently the civil war forced our follow up actions to stop, at least until the war reach an end. Therefore I highly recommend consideration of additional capacity building activities targeting CSOs within the EAM region in Yemen to be implemented once the political/security conditions improves.

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

Overall the total of 15 participants representing CSOs from the CEPF region in Yemen received training on monitoring, management and conservation of protected areas. The training followed Training the trainer Approach where the trainer received advanced training course and then organized and delivered training on the same subject and using the same materials to representatives of Yemeni CSOs.

More Specifically, the training was delivered using the knowledge and skills gained by the trainer from attending a similar course in Jordan which was organized by the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature (Jordan), and builds on local knowledge of the participants about conservation priorities and considerations from their respective KBAs. The participants were trained on the following themes:

- Principles of biodiversity conservation
- Ecosystem services and functions
- Basic research and monitoring schemes
- Planning for biodiversity

This training contributes to the overall buildup of capacity of CSOs in the CEPF region in Yemen to best address conservation priorities within the protected areas in this region, in addition to sustainability of the environment within the ecosystem as a whole.

Another important component of the training was TOT skills where training/exercises on basic TOT skills was delivered for each theme above.

The following table summarizes progress and results against each activity discussed in the log frame.

Activity (from logframe):	Result
1.1 attend a ToT workshop in Jordan (Jordan Academy - RSCN)	Completed successfully, and the trainer received certificate of attendance.
1.2 deliver a ToT training workshop in Yemen	The TOT training was moved to Jordan to be implemented in back-to-back with the USDWE event. The training was fully implemented for 15 trainees representing Yemeni CSOs from the CEPF EAM region.
1.3 work with trainees to establish a conservation forum	A network of CSOs representatives was established and currently the whole group are communicating with each other on conservation issues and aspects of mutual interest with regard to conservation of nature using social media tools. This network is still active, however it is now slower than what it used to be due to the current civil war in Yemen
2.1 follow up with trainees	Follow up activities included communication with the trainees post to the training event, establishing the network and

	<p>maintaining active social media account for the group of trainees in addition to other interested members from Yemen.</p> <p>Communication with USDWE and Enviromatics from Jordan is also ongoing were discussions about conservation issues like the increase killing and capture of the Arabian Leopard as a consequence of security issues and the war.</p>
<p>2.2 reporting to CEPF RIT (performance and financial)</p>	<p>Completed.</p>

Please provide the following information where relevant:

Hectares Protected:
Species Conserved:
Corridors Created:

Not Relevant

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

Though the training was delivered successfully and the capacity build up achieved its short term goals were human resource capacity of the Yemeni CSOs representatives and was enhanced. However their inter-departmental co-operation and commitment in the implementation of the Conservation of the KBAs in Yemen highlands as a major component of the EAM region in the country (as long term objective) is affected by the ongoing war.

Were there any unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?

The above discussed establishment of a network of experts from CSOs (starting with the trainees) was a pleasant unexpected positive impact. The network is desired/planned to continue and grow, and currently communication between the members is ongoing through social media.

It is unfortunate the oscillation of violence in Yemen and the ongoing war caused limitation in follow up and communication with the trainees following the course. Follow ups on strengthening inter-departmental co-operation and commitment in the implementation of the Conservation of the KBAs in Yemen highlands have stopped shortly after the completion of the delivery of training due to the before mentioned war.

This situation is likely to affect the long term impacts desired from the project as the war have introduced additional stressors to biodiversity conservation within the critical ecosystems in Yemen. For instance several observations about capture and kill of the critically endangered Arabian Leopard were received, an indicator of increased environmental crimes to such sensitive environment.

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.

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

The adoption of TOT approach have proved to be cost-effective and perhaps more efficient compared to other approaches as it enabled bringing in best international and regional experience to Yemen along with the local experience of the trainer. This arrangement enabled linking such best practices to local examples, and having the trainer as local expert and native Arabic speaker facilitated more efficient delivery of knowledge and skills to participants with less experience, in particular those who do not have enough command in English.

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

Having the training event implemented as back-to-back to another relevant course (i.e. environmental safeguarding) positively contributed to enhancing the discussions about the management, conservation and monitoring of protected area with more focus on the relationship between protected areas and economic development.

One issue of minor shortcoming is that having such a lengthy back-to-back courses made the participants less comfortable being abroad for longer period of time from their families. This was more relevant to participants with higher management levels and to some of the female participants.

Other lessons learned relevant to conservation community:

Yemeni CSOs are in urgent need for capacity building on many issues and subjects concerned with critical ecosystems, protected areas, environmental protection and management, and sustainable development. More and more training is urgently required to equip the staff of CSOs with the basic knowledge and skills needed to address priority conservation aspects and to enhance their engagement with the government and the public on the management of such priority issues. This conclusion was repeatedly emphasized by almost all participants.

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

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***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.)

Not relevant

Sustainability/Replicability

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

At an institutional level, the training course was designed to help Yemeni CSOs to improve their skills related to environmental conservation and help them to engage with each other and to maintain effective networking for conservation issues within the EAM region in Yemen, so in the long term, the course will facilitate the development of ways to strengthening networking and build partnership between environmental NGOs, CSOs and their partners so they can be more efficient in their efforts for building strategic alliances between groups to share information especially about to biodiversity conservation. Such networking, on long-term basis, provides sustainability of the project as gained knowledge and skills are expected to be passed by the participants to their colleagues and to future employees in their respective organizations.

The project is replicable in Yemen by using national event related to conservation to present targeted training courses in PA management and basic conservation principles. However funding of replications is an issue to be addressed by interested donor organizations.

Summarize any unplanned sustainability or replicability achieved.

None

Safeguard Policy Assessment

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

None

Additional Comments/Recommendations

None

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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*****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.	Not relevant		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?	Not relevant		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.	Not relevant		
4. Did your project effectively introduce or strengthen biodiversity conservation in management practices outside protected areas? If so, please indicate how many hectares.	Not relevant		
5. If your project promotes the sustainable use of natural resources, how many local communities accrued tangible socioeconomic benefits? Please complete Table 1 below.	Not relevant		

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

