CEPF SMALL GRANT FINAL PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

Organization Legal Name:	University of Oxford – Ethiopian Wolf Conservation Programme
Project Title:	Rabies emergency response for Ethiopian wolves
Date of Report:	10/12/2015
Report Author and Contact Information	Prof. Claudio Sillero / Eric Bedin (+251 911 864628 / 221 190923)

CEPF Region: Eastern Afromontane Hotspot

Strategic Direction: CEPF Strategic Direction 2, Investment Priority 2.2 ('rapid response fund')

Grant Amount: 9,939 USD

Project Dates: October 2014 –March 2015 (extension to October 2015)

Implementation Partners for this Project (please explain the level of involvement for each partner):
Bale Mountain National Park: Scouts and junior experts
Ethiopian Wildlife Conservation Authority: Senior veterinarian
Frankfurt Zoological Society: vehicle with driver and cost associated to facilitate movements, logistics and communication between all partners

Conservation Impacts

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

Ethiopia hosts nearly 80% of all African Afro-alpine ecosystems. These habitats are of un-valuable importance not only in terms of biodiversity but also for of millions of people living in the highlands and beyond t. The Bale Mountains system, the largest Afro-alpine habitat in Ethiopia, acts as a water reservoir for the Horn of Africa - with all major rivers in South Ethiopia and Somalia having their sources in from the Bale Mountains National Park (BMNP).

The Ethiopian wolf is a flagship species for the protection of Afro-alpine habitats all over Ethiopia in this time of climate change, when highlands need more acute protection. The expansion of humans into the fertile highlands of Ethiopia has accelerated the processes of habitat loss and fragmentation that restricted Ethiopian wolves to mountaintops due to climate change since the last glaciation. Today, the threats to Ethiopian wolf are all human-induced, and among them are diseases such as rabies and canine distemper that are transmitted by domestic dogs. Rabies has been implicated in dramatic die-offs among Ethiopian wolves in the Bale Mountains. The first outbreak detected was in the early 1990s, when approximately 75% of population affected died over a short period of time. In subsequent epizootics reactive vaccinations of Ethiopian wolves have helped control the spread of the disease, in addition to ongoing vaccinations of domestic (EWCP vaccinate routinely between 4,000 and 5,000 dogs each year).

With the help of CEPF we increased dog vaccinations against rabies in Bale after a rabies outbreak that affected wolves in the Sanetti plateau in 2014-15. These additional vaccination effort helped decrease the incidence of rabies among domestic dogs in and around the BMNP, therefore contributing to reduce the potential for rabies to spread into the wolf population in the future. In this

way CEPF helped to protect one of the most endangered and emblematic canid in the world, and by extension the protection of the increasingly endangered Afro-alpine habitats.

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

The CEPF-funded vaccinations contributed to a larger emergency response plan to counteract the rabies outbreak among the wolf population of the Sanetti plateau in the BMNP, detected in July-August 2014. A second outbreak (from a different origin) was detected in West Morebawa in February 2015. EWCP resources focused on fighting these two outbreaks for nearly 8 months inside the BMNP.

Funds received from CEPF were dedicated to increase our capacity to vaccinate dog populations around the BMNP against rabies, by organizing and training a second vaccination team. Between June and September 2015 the additional team spent 66 days in the field vaccinating dogs not only against rabies but also against canine distemper virus (CDV) following as reports of CDV among dogs around the BMNP in July 2015.

During seven vaccination trips, the team covered 8 different kebeles in 3 woredas, vaccinated 1,783 dogs, out of 2,090 recorded dogs in these areas (85.3%), which is a great achievement.

With CEPF support we could dramatically increase the number of dogs vaccinated, in addition to those vaccinated inside the BMNP (totaling 1,363 dogs out of 1,604 dogs recorded, or 85%).

As a result, EWCP was able to vaccinate 3,146 dogs over three months, which represents nearly 70% of a normal year coverage.

Please provide the following information where relevant:

Hectares Protected: -
Species Conserved: Ethiopian wolf *Canis simensis*, and incidentally any wild mammals which are susceptible to be affected by Rabies
Corridors Created: -

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

The CEPF emergency project was designed as a rapid response to the threat of rabies spreading further into domestic dogs and Ethiopian wolf populations in the Bale Mountains. The CEPF funded activities were designed to have an immediate impact by doubling the capacity of EWCP to vaccinate dogs against rabies and CDV. These objectives were fully attained, with nearly 2,000 dogs supplementary vaccinated in comparison to a normal year. These dogs could not have been vaccinated without the support of CEPF.

The unusual length of the 2014 rabies outbreak in Sanetti, and the occurrence of a second rabies outbreak early 2015 in West Morebawa, forced EWCP to focus its resources in the wolf vaccination and monitoring campaign. This enables us to organize and train the additional vaccination team by the end of 2014 as originally planned. The CEPF activities were therefore implemented soon after the West Morebawa rabies event was over, in June 2015.

The vaccine protects dogs against rabies for at least two years. Thus rabies occurrence in dogs in the kebeles targeted by the vaccination is expected to be lower in the mid-term, and the additional awareness activities, implemented during the vaccination trips by the EWCP community officer, should contribute towards rabies control in the longer term. Concomitantly the EWCP community

officer visited the local health centers and recorded reports of people treated after being bitten by a rabid animal among the local populations. The link between EWCP and the health centers will permit a long term epidemiologic study on the occurrence of rabies among vaccinated kebeles and woredas, and it provides a network and alert chain to inform and react to rabies emergences around the park.

Were there any unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?

The presence in the field of this second team allowed us to detect and describe an extended CDV outbreak among dog populations in the vicinity of the BMNP, all along the northern border of the park from Robe to Dinsho woreda in July 2015.

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 project was an extension of the dog vaccination programme that EWCP runs routinely in and around the BMNP since 2003. More than 12 years of experience made it easier to design and implement the project, counting already with important support and awareness among the local communities.

The key components for a successful vaccination campaign were: having strong links with the target communities; involving kebele chairmen in the vaccination process, community advertising, and the inclusion of the EWCP community officer as part of the vaccination team.

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

Vaccination days were carefully chosen to reach a maximum of audience –for example as avoiding market days when possible, or harvesting days in some places.

The community officer visited the target community to meet the kebele chairman and religious leader, one or two days prior the venue of the vaccination team to create prior awareness.

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.

Donor	Type of Funding*	Amount	Notes
Wildlife Conservation Network	A	51,000 USD	Funds raised for the rabies outbreak
Born Free Foundation	A	10,000 USD	EWCP core fund

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.

Project is easily replicable pending funds and the availability of a veterinary officer. A long term vaccination team would roughly cost around 30,000 USD/year. The associated costs are the costs of the vaccines, camping materials and logistic

.

The human component is probably the most challenging, as trained veterinarians are not willing to work in harsh and difficult weather conditions in the mountains. For this project, it took nearly a full month to find a motivated veterinarian officer.

Summarize any unplanned sustainability or replicability achieved.

The presence of a vaccination team created awareness among communities and improved links between them, EWCP and the BMNP.

Safeguard Policy Assessment

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

Additional Comments/Recommendations

Reducing rabies occurrence among domestic dogs is of major public health concern. For a few years, the Ethiopian government is starting to value this public health issue. While the CEPF supported project covered a small scale area, it increased dramatically dog vaccination efforts around the BMNP and awareness.

At the same time, EWCP has been advocating for several years a pro-active rabies oral vaccination for the Ethiopian wolf populations in Bale. CEPF funds contributed to cover the organization costs of a meeting where the results of an oral vaccination trial were presented to the authorities, which we hope will pave the way for a pro-active approach to protect Ethiopian wolves from diseases.

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.	Yes, 100,000 ha	i) Nearly 1,000 dogs vaccinated inside BMNP against rabies and CDV; ii) Nearly 2,500 dogs vaccinated outside the park; iii) Highlight increasing dog population	Bale Mountains National Park
2. How many hectares of new and/or expanded protected areas did your project help establish through a legal declaration or community agreement?	x		
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, 100,000 ha	i) see remark 1; ii) 106 wolves vaccinated against rabies iii) no wolf pack “lost” in Sanetti and Morebawa areas	Bale Mountains National Park
4. Did your project effectively introduce or strengthen biodiversity conservation in management practices outside protected areas? If so, please indicate how many hectares.	x		
5. If your project promotes the sustainable use of natural resources, how many local communities accrued tangible socioeconomic benefits? Please complete Table 1below.	x		

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: