CEPF Final Project Completion Report

Instructions to grantees: please complete all fields, and respond to all questions, below.

Organization Legal Name	Rainforest Alliance, Inc.
Project Title	Connecting Conservationists in the Caribbean Islands Hotspot
CEPF GEM No.	60943
Date of Report	7/15/16
Report Author	Melissa Normann
Author Contact Information	mnormann@ra.org

CEPF Region: Caribbean Islands

Strategic Direction: Strategic Direction 3 - Support Caribbean civil society to achieve biodiversity conservation by building local and regional institutional capacity and by fostering stakeholder collaboration. Investment Priority 3.2 - Enable local and regional networking, learning and best-practice sharing approaches to strengthen stakeholder involvement in biodiversity conservation.

Grant Amount: $116938.05

Project Dates: 2012/4/1 -- 2016/4/30

1. **Implementation Partners for this Project** *(list each partner and explain how they were involved in the project)*

All CEPF grantees in the Caribbean Island hotspot were project partners/stakeholders as they submitted and updated their Eco-Index profiles. A number of them participated in feature interviews and articles, and many participated in our webinar series.

We co-developed and co-presented two webinars with our fellow grantees at Panos Caribbean – "Be Heard: Pitching Stories to the Media for Conservation NGOs" and "Social Media Strategy for Conservation NGOs Webinar".

We also consider the CEPF RIT to have been a valuable project partner, as we asked them to provide up-to-date contact information for grantees and to promote use of the project's communications and training tools. The RIT was also instrumental in helping to identify the subject matter and content for the grantee and expert webinars.

Conservation Impacts

2. **Describe how your project has contributed to the implementation of the CEPF ecosystem profile**

This project supported CEPF Strategic Direction 3 – "Support Caribbean civil society to achieve biodiversity conservation by building local and regional institutional capacity and by fostering stakeholder collaboration", specifically Investment Priority 3.2, "Enable local and regional networking, learning and best-practice sharing approaches to strengthen stakeholder involvement in biodiversity conservation" by providing grantees in the Caribbean Island hotspot countries – Antigua and Barbuda, the Bahamas, Barbados, Dominica, the Dominican Republic, Grenada, Haiti, Jamaica, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines – with a platform to share their project information, best practices, and lessons learned.

The Caribbean Islands Ecosystem Profile reveals that "…many of the region's environmental and community organizations still work in relative isolation from each other…the effectiveness of the region's civil society could be improved by more linkage, liaison and partnerships and particularly support for networks and development of common strategies." In addition, "…there is often a lack of accurate up-to-date information which limits effective evidence-based decision-making for biodiversity conservation, the ability to prepare effective land-use plans, EIAs and environmental monitoring, and complicates the enforcement of regulations. Information is also frequently scattered and difficult to access and with poor coordination/linage between databases." The Eco-Index is a trilingual, easy to use vehicle for organizations, government agencies, and research institutions to share and access high-quality information. Project profiles are presented in a consistent, easy-to-read format and include project summary and objectives, project duration, funders and budget, accomplished goals, lessons learned and conclusions, as well as web links related to the project. Participants can share data, reports, and studies, which are posted in PDF format directly on the project profile. Each year, Eco-Index staff solicit updates from project directors until the project is concluded, ensuring that the information available on the site is as up-to-date as possible. All information on the Eco-Index is available in both English and Spanish, and CEPF grantee profiles are also published in French, ensuring that conservation colleagues across the Caribbean region can learn about each other's work across geographic and language barriers.

The "Major Threats" section of the Ecosystem Profile indicates that "…there is a poor awareness and limited understanding of the ecological, economic, social and cultural values of biodiversity, costs of its loss and its critical importance to human wealth and well-being among decision-makers and the general public in the Caribbean". The Eco-Index's blog features interviews with conservationists about their experiences, lessons learned, and the rewards of their work, raising awareness about innovative conservation initiatives and success stories in the Americas and the Caribbean. By publishing feature interviews and articles about CEPF-funded projects in the Caribbean in English, Spanish and French and disseminating them to regional media, the Rainforest Alliance helped to raise awareness about conservation challenges and successes in the Caribbean Islands hotspot.

The Profile emphasizes that "There are few examples of key biodiversity areas being used sustainably for agriculture or for non-timber forest products", and "investment in innovative and alternative models of sustainable management of forest resources (timber and non-timber) needs to be encouraged." It also indicates that "opportunities for sustainable rural livelihoods and diversifying agricultural products…need to be better promoted and systems established to enable greater uptake of such initiatives" (e.g., improved access to micro-credit, technical training, etc.). The Rainforest Alliance is a recognized leader in developing best practices in sustainable agriculture, forestry and tourism and has developed an extensive suite of high-

quality training materials that can help meet identified needs in the Caribbean hotspot. Through this project, we shared links to our online training resources, including multilingual online courses related to best practices in sustainable agriculture (reducing use of chemicals, protecting forests and wildlife, controlling soil erosion and maintaining soil fertility, monitoring carbon on farms, etc.), climate change (developing sound carbon sequestration projects and enhancing understanding on REDD+ among farmers and forest-dependent communities), environmental education activities for children, and more.

3. Summarize the overall results/impact of your project

See below.

Planned Long-term Impacts - 3+ years (as stated in the approved proposal)
List each long-term impact from Grant Writer proposal

1. Develop an archive of CEPF's efforts to support biodiversity conservation in the Caribbean region.

2. Create a network of conservation stakeholders in the Caribbean that are familiar with each other's work and have the platform to continue to coordinate efforts and share information after CEPF funding has ended.

4. Actual progress toward long-term impacts at completion

1. 45 trilingual project profiles published, establishing an online archive of CEPF-funded projects in the Caribbean.
2. By widely disseminating links to the portfolio's Eco-Index project profiles, publishing feature articles and interviews, and organizing six webinars about topics of strategic interest among Caribbean grantees and the larger conservation community, we have helped grantees learn about each other's work and provided platform to share successes and lessons learned.

Planned Short-term Impacts - 1 to 3 years (as stated in the approved proposal)
List each short-term impact from Grant Writer proposal

1. Trilingual profiles for 40 projects in the CEPF Caribbean Islands Hotspot portfolio permanently available to the conservation community. Profiles will be updated on an annual basis until the project is concluded in order to present up-to-date project accomplishments and lessons learned.

2. 100% of CEPF Caribbean Eco-Index profiles promoted to the greater conservation community via email newsletters, social media, and CEPF/CANARI websites.

3. 85% of CEPF grantees without a website have a trilingual Eco-Index NGO web page.

4. 100% of CEPF grantees invited to participate in six "grantee" and "expert" webinars.

5. Media outreach conducted in all 11 countries of the Caribbean Islands hotspot.

6. 100% of grantees given access to high-quality online training materials.

5. **Actual progress toward short-term impacts at completion**

    1. 45 trilingual profiles published.

    2. 100% of profiles promoted in Eco-Index Monthly Update newsletter, in Capacite emails and on CEPF website; 100% of new and updated profiles published this reporting period promoted on Eco-Index social media outlets.

    3. Four grantees do not have websites; two (50%) were published during this project.

    4. 100% of grantees invited to participate in six webinars - three in English (99 total participants), two in Spanish (25 total participants), and one in French (11 participants).

    5. Five interviews/articles published; links to English, Spanish and French versions shared with regional media.

    6. Links to Rainforest Alliance online training materials published in September 2015 Capacite email newsletter.

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

    The project was successful in creating a trilingual archive of 45 CEPF projects in the Caribbean region – five more than what was outlined in our proposal.   All 45 of these projects were promoted to the CEPF grantee community and the larger Caribbean conservation community through dissemination on the Eco-Index and CANARI email newsletters, social media outlets, and the CEPF website. Our six webinars were well-attended and had a high level of participation. One challenge we had was in receiving completed questionnaires for grantees that did not have a website; we were only able to create 50%, rather than the proposed 85%. Only four grantees do not have a website; the two that did not participate did respond to our emails, but failed to submit a completed questionnaire.

7. **Were there any unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?**

    Although we did publish more project profiles than originally planned, we did notice that there was a lesser degree of grantee response in this project, as compared to similar projects we've run in other CEPF hotspots. We attribute this to the fact that we did not send out a regular email newsletter specifically promoting Eco-Index content, which in the past has led to greater grantee awareness of and responsiveness to our requests for their information.

Project Components and Products/Deliverables

Component 1 (as stated in the approved proposal)
List each component and product/deliverable from Grant Writer

Activity 1.1.
Product / Deliverable 1.1:
- Translate Eco-Index questionnaire and profile template into French.
- Work with web programmer to expand Eco-Index database to house and display project profiles in French.
- Coordinate with RIT to select 40 grantees to participate in Eco-Index and gather contact information.
- Send Eco-Index questionnaire in relevant languages to 40 CEPF grantees.
- Edit and translate profiles so that they are available in English Spanish and French.
- Publish profiles in three languages for up to 40* CEPF-funded projects in the Caribbean hotspot.
- Update all profiles on an annual basis until the project is concluded.

Product / Deliverable 1.2:
- Feature at least 50% of CEPF-funded projects on Eco-Index social media outlets.
- Add all migratory-species related CEPF-funded projects to the WHMSI Pathway database and promote in quarterly WHMSI Pathway email newsletter.
- Select six CEPF-funded projects to receive an Eco-Index Monthly award, promote on Eco-Index home page and in established Eco-Index Monthly Update email newsletter.

Product / Deliverable 1.3:
- Design NGO page template in French.
- Identify which grantees do not have their own website and work with RIT to determine which should receive free NGO pages in English, Spanish and French.
- Collect relevant information from grantees, translate and publish in three languages.

8. Describe the results from Component 1 and each product/deliverable

Product / Deliverable 1.1:
- Eco-Index questionnaire and profile template translated into French.
- Eco-Index database expanded to house and display project profiles in French.
- RIT selected 40 grantees to participate in Eco-Index.
- Eco-Index questionnaire sent in relevant languages to 40 CEPF grantees.
- Edited and translated profiles so that they are available in English, Spanish and French.
- 45 project profiles published in English, Spanish and French.
- Solicitations sent to project directors to update profiles on an annual basis.

Product / Deliverable 1.2:
- 100% of CEPF-funded projects featured on Eco-Index social media outlets.

- All migratory-species related CEPF-funded projects to the WHMSI Pathway database, until the website was closed down due to issues outside of Rainforest Alliance's control (WHMSI budget constraints).
- 18 CEPF-funded projects received an Eco-Index Monthly award, which was promoted on Eco-Index home page and Eco-Index Monthly Update email newsletter.

Product / Deliverable 1.3:
- NGO page template designed in French.
- Four grantees without websites identified; sent invitations to participate.
- Two web pages published in English, Spanish and French. http://www.eco-index.org/ong/diamond-eng.cfm and http://www.eco-index.org/ong/cwa-eng.cfm

Component 2 (as stated in the approved proposal)
List each component and product/deliverable from Grant Writer

Activity 2.1.
Product / Deliverable 2.1:
- Interview grantees and write, translate and publish six feature interviews or articles.
- Send links to feature interviews and articles to Caribbean journalists and media outlets.
- Promote interviews and articles on Eco-Index home page and in the Eco-Index's established "Monthly Update" email newsletter and social media outlets.
- Send links to feature interviews and articles to CANARI and CEPF staff for inclusion in the RIT's quarterly CEPF Caribbean e-newsletter, CANARI's CEPF Caribbean web page, and CEPF's website.

9. Describe the results from Component 2 and each product/deliverable

Product / Deliverable 2.1:
- Five feature interviews / articles published.
- Links sent to Caribbean journalists and media outlets.
- 100% of interviews promoted on Eco-Index home page, Monthly Update email newsletter, and Eco-Index social media outlets.
- Links to feature interviews and articles sent to CANARI and CEPF staff for inclusion in Capacite and CEPF Grants Database.

Component 3 (as stated in the approved proposal)
List each component and product/deliverable from Grant Writer

Activity 3.1.
Product / Deliverable 3.1:
- Work with RIT staff to identify three relevant topics of interest and list of participants for grantee-focused webinars.
- Schedule, send invitations and moderate webinars.
- Work with RIT to identify grantees in capital cities of each country to offer venues for some grantees to view the webinar, as relevant.

- Record all webinars and make them readily available to interested grantees.

Product / Deliverable 3.2:
- Work with RIT staff to identify three experts in fields of relevance to CEPF project portfolio.
- Secure the participation of experts.
- Schedule, send invitations and moderate webinars.
- Work with RIT to identify grantees in capital cities of each country to offer venues for some grantees to view the webinar, as relevant.
- Record all webinars and make them readily available to interested grantees.

Product / Deliverable 3.3:
- Send invitations and instruction on how to use Rainforest Alliance University to CEPF grantees.
- Include links to relevant training materials in CEPF Caribbean e-newsletters.

Product / Deliverable 3.4:
- Webinars saved in .wmv format.
- Rainforest Alliance staff burn at least 30 copies of each webinar onto DVDs.
- Packs of 10 DVDs mailed via USPS to RIT staff in Haiti, Jamaica and the Dominican Republic.
- Up to 30 individual DVDs mailed via USPS to interested grantees.

10. Describe the results from Component 3 and each product/deliverable

Product / Deliverable 3.1:
- Worked with RIT staff to identify relevant topics of interest.
- Scheduled, sent invitations and moderated four grantee webinars.
- Recorded all webinars, published links online, and shared link with all grantees and webinar participants: http://www.eco-index.org/cepf/webinars/index.cfm, http://www.eco-index.org/cepf/webinars/index_es.cfm and http://www.eco-index.org/cepf/webinars/indexf.cfm.

Product / Deliverable 3.2:
- Work with RIT staff to identify two experts in fields of relevance to CEPF project portfolio – ecotourism and protected areas financing.
- Secured the participation of experts.
- Scheduled, sent invitations and moderated webinars.
- Recorded all webinars, published links online, and shared link with all grantees and webinar participants: http://www.eco-index.org/cepf/webinars/index.cfm, http://www.eco-index.org/cepf/webinars/index_es.cfm and http://www.eco-index.org/cepf/webinars/indexf.cfm.

Product / Deliverable 3.3:
- Included invitation to access the Rainforest Alliance University's online training materials in September 2015 issue of Capacite: http://www.canari.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/CAPACITE-13-English-Final.pdf

Product / Deliverable 3.4:
- Recorded all webinars in .wmv format, published links online, and shared link with all grantees and webinar participants: http://www.eco-index.org/cepf/webinars/index.cfm, http://www.eco-index.org/cepf/webinars/index_es.cfm and http://www.eco-index.org/cepf/webinars/indexf.cfm.
- 15 CEPF-branded USB drives sent to RIT office in Jamaica, 13 sent to RIT office in Dominican Republic, 1 sent to CANARI and 1 to CEPF, all containing video recordings of all webinars given in English and Spanish. Decision was made to send USBs instead of DVDs, as they would easily be re-used by grantees and not create waste. As only 1 webinar was given in French, the decision was made by RIT to not send recordings to Haiti office.

Component 4 (as stated in the approved proposal)
List each component and product/deliverable from Grant Writer

Activity 4.1.

Product / Deliverable 4.1:
- Discuss Eco-Index participation for new grantees.
- Coordinate the inclusion of Eco-Index content that features CEPF grantees in the RIT's quarterly CEPF Caribbean e-newsletter and on CANARI's CEPF Caribbean web page.
- Identify topics and participants for 3 "grantee" webinars.
- Identify topics, presenter, and participants for 3 "expert" webinars.
- Discuss which grantees to feature in Eco-Index interviews and articles, etc.

Product / Deliverable 4.2:
- Links to all new Eco-Index profiles for CEPF Caribbean grantees sent to RIT/CANARI and CEPF staff for inclusion in RIT's quarterly CEPF Caribbean e-newsletter, CANARI's CEPF Caribbean web page, and CEPF's Grants Database.
- Links to all feature interviews and articles sent to RIT/CANARI and CEPF staff for inclusion in the RIT's quarterly CEPF Caribbean e-newsletter, CANARI's CEPF Caribbean web page, and CEPF's Grants Database.

Project / Deliverable 4.3:
- Moderate relevant discussion threads / groups on the CANARI online forum related to environmental media outreach, social media best practices, information sharing, etc.

Project / Deliverable 4.4:
- Plan a conference call with the Panos Institute/Panos Caribbean to discuss our respective projects.
- Identify potential areas for coordination, if possible.
- Coordinate efforts, as relevant.

Product / Deliverable 4.5:
- Coordinate communications outreach in preparation for the CEPF mid-term assessment.

- Coordinate communications outreach in preparation of CEPF final assessment.

11. Describe the results from Component 4 and each product/deliverable

Product / Deliverable 4.1:
- Sent links to all new CEPF Caribbean content published on the Eco-Index to RIT staff, for inclusion in each issue of Capacite.
- Topics and participants identified for 4 "grantee" webinars.
- Topics, presenters and participants Identified for 2 "expert" webinars.
- Discussed which grantees to feature in Eco-Index interviews and articles.

Product / Deliverable 4.2:
- Links to all new Eco-Index profiles sent to RIT/CANARI and CEPF staff for inclusion in Capacite and CEPF's Grants Database.
- Links to all feature interviews and articles sent to RIT/CANARI and CEPF staff for inclusion in Capacite and CEPF's Grants Database.

Project / Deliverable 4.3:
- CANARI didn't set up this forum -- N/A.

Project / Deliverable 4.4:
- Multiple planning calls held with Panos Caribbean to plan two joint "grantee" webinars.

Product / Deliverable 4.5:
- See Activity 5.1.

Component 5 (as stated in the approved proposal)
List each component and product/deliverable from Grant Writer

Activity 5.1.
[AMENDMENT August 2015]

Product / Deliverable 5.1:
- Develop list of 7-10 survey questions; share with CEPF/RIT staff for refinement and approval.
- Translate questions into English, Spanish and French.
- Format questionnaire on online platform and distribute to grantees.
- Compile results into Google doc; share with CEPF/RIT staff.

Product / Deliverable 5.2:
- Using CEPF-generated list of 53 chosen projects, compile Google spreadsheet organized by country to compile and organize information.
- Search online Grants Database to find links to grantees' final reports; request any that are not available online from CEPF/RIT staff.
- Read and analyze final reports.
- Write one or two paragraph summary; translate into English as necessary.
- Add to Google spreadsheet.

- Share Google spreadsheet with CEPF/RIT staff.

Product / Deliverable 5.3:
- Review all grantee final reports and for each project, identify the name of each community benefitted, the total number of communities benefitted, and the total number of beneficiaries.
- Populate the Google spreadsheet with this information.
- Share Google spreadsheet with CEPF/RIT staff.

Product / Deliverable 5.4:
- Identify final reports for 10 projects chosen by CEPF/RIT staff.
- Read and analyze final reports.
- Compile information including: grantee contact information, project context, objectives, impacts, facts and figures.
- Call or email grantees to request quote and project photos.
- Ask grantees to identify project beneficiary and share contact information.
- Contact project beneficiary to obtain project testimonial.
- Synthesize information into one-page document.
- Share documents with CEPF/RIT staff.

12. Describe the results from Component 5 and each product/deliverable

Product / Deliverable 5.1:
- Survey developed and finalized by CEPF/RIT staff.
- Questions translated into English, Spanish and French.
- Questionnaire set up on Google forms in English, Spanish and French and distributed to grantees.
- Results compiled into Google doc and shared with CEPF/RIT staff: https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/15mDN6aJnNbUsR131GGQ_iFEEkv69Qa7lMtIZoQLb7eU/edit#gid=832578176

Product / Deliverable 5.2:
- Using CEPF-generated list of 53 chosen projects, compiled Google spreadsheet organized by country to organize information.
- Searched online Grants Database to find links to grantees' final reports; requested any that were not available online from CEPF/RIT staff.
- Read and analyzed final reports.
- Wrote 50 one or two paragraph summaries; translated into English as necessary.
- Added to Google spreadsheet: https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1-0mKLr6irsCrtceoBgkuN-fLhEYti4di2KXBw3znxOU/edit#gid=88644512.
- Shared Google spreadsheet with CEPF/RIT staff.

Product / Deliverable 5.3:
- Reviewed all grantee final reports and for each project, identified the name of each community benefitted, the total number of communities benefitted, and the total number of beneficiaries.

- Populated the Google spreadsheet:
  https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/15mDN6aJnNbUsR131GGQ_iFEEkv69Qa7lMtIZoQLb7eU/edit#gid=832578176.
- Shared Google spreadsheet with CEPF/RIT staff.

Product / Deliverable 5.4:
- Identified final reports for 10 projects chosen by CEPF/RIT staff.
- Read and analyzed seven final reports.
- Compiled information including: grantee contact information, project context, objectives, impacts, facts and figures.
- Called / emailed grantees to request quotes and project photos.
- Asked grantees to identify project beneficiaries and share contact information.
- Contacted project beneficiaries to obtain project testimonial.
- Synthesized information into seven one-page documents.
- Shared documents with CEPF/RIT staff:
  https://drive.google.com/folderview?id=0B28uDg7f2GC2U1JvV2t1Q0h5c0U&usp=sharing

13. If you did not complete any component or deliverable, how did this affect the overall impact of the project?

We only published two NGO pages whereas we had initially planned to publish five. All four of the grantees without websites are based in Haiti, where we noticed it is harder to establish and maintain the communication needed to publish information with grantees.

We also only published five articles whereas we had initially planned to publish six. We had hoped to publish an "On the Record" interview about the hotspot's successes and lessons learned with Michele Zador and Anna Cadiz, but were unable to due to the CEPF/RIT's workload with the regional workshops and holiday season.

We were only able to write 7 of 10 one-page case studies, falling short of the 85% target. This was due to one project director not responding, the inability to get a testimonial from a project beneficiary for a second project, and a third project's final report not being available.

In addition, we fell one project short of the 85% target for gathering socio-economic data from all available project final reports, as many grantees' final reports were not yet available when we completed our project.

14. Please describe and submit any tools, products, or methodologies that resulted from this project or contributed to the results

No new tools were developed through this project.

CEPF Global Monitoring Data

Respond to the questions and complete the tables below. If a question is not relevant to your project, please make an entry of 0 (zero) or n/a (not applicable).

15. Did your organization complete the CEPF Civil Society Tracking Tool (CSTT) at the beginning and end of your project? Yes/No
If yes, please be sure to submit the final CSTT tool to CEPF if you haven't already done so.

n/a

16. List any vulnerable, endangered, or critically endangered species conserved due to your project

n/a

Hectares Under Improved Management

Project Results	Hectares*	Comments
17. Did your project strengthen the management of an existing protected area?	n/a	*List the name of each protected area*
18. Did your project create a new protected area or expand an existing protected area?	n/a	*List the name of each protected area, the date of proclamation, and the type of proclamation (e.g., legal declaration, community agreement, stewardship agreement)*
19. Did your project strengthen the management of a key biodiversity area named in the CEPF Ecosystem Profile (hectares may be the same as questions above)	n/a	*List the name of each key biodiversity area*
20. Did your project improve the management of a production landscape for biodiversity conservation	n/a	*List the name or describe the location of the production landscape*

* Include total hectares from project inception to completion

21. In relation to the two questions above on protected areas, did your project complete a Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT), or facilitate the completion of a METT by protected area authorities? If so, complete the table below. *(Note that there will often be more than one METT for an individual protected area.)*

n/a

Protected area	Date of METT	Composite METT Score	Date of METT	Composite METT Score	Date of METT	Composite METT Score

22. List the name of any corridor (named in the Ecosystem Profile) in which you worked and how you contributed to its improved management, if applicable.

n/a

Direct Beneficiaries: Training and Education

Did your project provide training or education for . . .	Male	Female	Total	Brief Description
23. Adults for community leadership or resource management positions				
24. Adults for livelihoods or increased income				
25. School-aged children				
26. Other				

27. List the name and approximate population size of any "community" that benefited from the project.

Community name, surrounding district, surrounding province, country   *Population size*

n/a

28. Socioeconomic Benefits to Target Communities

Based on the list of communities above, write the name of the communities in the left column below. In the subsequent columns under Community Characteristics and Nature of Socioeconomic Benefit, place an X in all relevant boxes.

Community Name	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 line	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

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

Lessons Learned

29. 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

See below.

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

Based on our experience with past CEPF projects, primarily in Latin America, we were careful to set realistic targets based on a percentage of profiles rather than a total number.

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

As we've learned in past CEPF-funded projects, it is fundamental that RIT staff send out an introduction to grantees that have been selected to participate in the Eco-Index. This really helps to motivate grantees to participate. Anna Cadiz sent "nudge" emails to grantees who had not yet participated in the Eco-Index, and we saw an almost immediate response from a number of NGOs. We understand that project directors are extremely busy and often need extra encouragement to set time aside to complete project questionnaires.

It was very challenging to secure the participation of experts to plan and present webinars. This led to a delay in executing our first webinar. Scheduling extra time in the project schedule to allow some flexibility would be recommended.

We've found that in past grants, sending out a periodic email newsletter from the Eco-Index, with links to recently added profiles and/or published interviews or articles helped to boost participation. We had included this in our initial proposal, but later removed it as CANARI was already sending out a Capacite email newsletter. We did include links to recently published content in Capacite, but we believe we would have had an even higher response rate if we sent out a proprietary e-newsletter as well.

Some grantees could benefit from training to improve their report writing skills. Some reports were very challenging to read -- sometimes due to language barriers -- making it difficult to clearly understand project results. This is unfortunate because most projects in the portfolio achieved great results, but their reports did not necessarily highlight their excellent work.

Interviewing project directors and community members can be quite an odyssey due to their location in remote areas -- often with difficult access to phones, Internet and computers -- and limited availability. These challenges need to be taken into account when planning communications and promotion strategies.

It would also be beneficial to communicate more with smaller grantees upfront about the importance of reporting results and cooperating with others working on similar/common efforts. Many grantees did not understand why they needed to invest time in writing or updating Eco-Index profiles, or giving interviews for stories. These smaller grantees/projects stood in stark contrast to some larger

grantees/projects, who knew very well the importance of communications strategies, were particularly responsive to RA, and in many cases, conducted a lot of media outreach work.

Grantees appreciate being "awarded". Most of the organizations that received an Eco-Index monthly award were especially happy about it and shared it on their social media accounts and websites. In writing the one-page case studies, organizations appreciated hearing that CEPF had chosen their project as one of the ten best projects in the Caribbean region. These elements should be maintained and can even be further promoted to keep grantees motivated.

The webinars were also welcomed and very much appreciated. Although it was sometimes difficult to get significant participation, this was due mostly to time constraints and limited Internet access. The grantees who did attend consistently showed great interest.

32. Describe any other lessons learned relevant to the conservation community

Sustainability / Replication

33. Summarize the success or challenges in ensuring the project will be sustained or replicated

N/A

34. Summarize any unplanned activities that are likely to result in increased sustainability or replicability

N/A

Safeguards

35. If not listed as a separate Project Component and described above, summarize the implementation of any required action related to social, environmental, or pest management safeguards

N/A

Additional Comments/Recommendations

36. Use this space to provide any further comments or recommendations in relation to your project or CEPF

Additional Funding

37. Provide details of any additional funding that supported this project and any funding secured for the project, organization, or the region, as a result of CEPF investment

Donor	Type of Funding*	Amount	Notes
Spray Foundation	Unrestricted funds	$57,175	Staff time and benefits, office allocation, communications allocation, indirect allocation
Rainforest Alliance	Unrestricted funds	$18,500	Office allocation, communications allocation, indirect allocation
In-kind	In-kind	$21,500	Web programming services (as indicated on proposal)

Categorize the type of funding as:

A   *Project Co-Financing (other donors or your organization contribute to the direct costs of this 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 funded project)*
C   *Regional/Portfolio Leveraging (other donors make large investments in a region because of CEPF investm*ent or successes related to this project)

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: Melissa Normann
Organization: Rainforest Alliance
Mailing address: 233 Broadway, 28th Floor, New York, NY 10279
Telephone number: 212-677-1900
E-mail address: mnormann@ra.org