

CEPF Final Project Completion Report

Organization Legal Name:	Organization for Rehabilitation and Development in Amhara
Project Title:	Community Based Biodiversity Conservation in Mount Guna Area
Grant Number:	65712
CEPF Region:	Eastern Afromontane
Strategic Direction:	2 Improve the protection and management of the KBA network throughout the hotspot.
Grant Amount:	\$145,024.00
Project Dates:	February 01, 2015 - June 30, 2017
Date of Report:	August 30, 2017

Implementation Partners

List each partner and explain how they were involved in the project

Implementation partner of Community Based Biodiversity Conservation in Mount Guna Area project were the following: (1) Offices of agriculture provided technical support on livelihood promotion activities like hope and apple seedling planting, potato tuber distribution and sowing techniques, provided trainings on apple and potato production, participated on workshops and experience sharing tour and participated in selection of target beneficiaries on livelihood promotion inputs like hope and apple seedlings ; and improved potato tube (2) offices of Environment Protection Land Administration and Use provided training and technical support on General Management Plan Preparation and Resource Assessment, participated on validation workshop conducted for Guna Mountain Community Conservation Area (3) Offices of Culture and Tourism provided technical support on General Management Plan Preparation and Resource Assessment, participated on Validation Workshop to approve and give inputs for the General Management Plan (4) Offices of Administration, Justice, Police and Security offices provided technical support on administrative issues in relation to Guna Mountain Community Conservation Area Demarcation and Administrative Determination and supporting Community Based Institutions.

Conservation Impacts

Summarize the overall impact of your project, describing how your project has contributed to the implementation of the CEPF ecosystem profile

Community Based Biodiversity Conservation in Mount Guna Area Project had been implemented from 2015 to 2017 with the financial support of Critical Ecosystem Fund and registered commendable overall results/ impacts in conserving Mount Guna. The project resulted in restoring status of the local plant and animal species in Guna Community Conservation Area. For instance, Erica arborea forests, Hypericum and Lobelia species, Festuca grass species are emerging and getting denser and denser from time to time. Gelada baboon(Endemic to Ethiopia), bird species and common Jackals are frequently seen in the Community Conservation Area . ' We are waiting to the Abssinian wolf to come and occupy its home'. The locals say that they saw Red fox(Simen Canensis) in Mount Guna before eight years for the last time. The project also resulted in increasing the attraction of the area for visitors in that the diversity of the area is restoring. The natural, scenic, social, cultural and religious valus attract visitors. Though, much has to be done to link conservation and eco-tourism activities. It also resulted in improving livelihood of the beneficiaries in that the average productivity of improved potato was 228 quintals per hectare in Estie district, 217 quintals in Lay Gayint district and 204 quintals per hectare in Farta district as compared to 129 quintals per hectare of the Zone.

Guna Mountain Community Conservation delineated and demarcated. The Amhara Region Council issued and approved the Guna Mountain Community Conservation Area Boundary Demarcation and Administrative Determination Regulation. The commitment of the government increased, Amhara National Regional State Environment Forest and Wildlife Conservation and Development Authority established an institution called Guna Mountain Community Conservation Area Office and Guna Mountain Community Conservation Council, a management body responsible for overseeing the overall administration of the vconservation area represents user communities, Zone and woreda stakeholders. The awareness of the community and government key stakeholders has been improved.

Planned Long-term Impacts - 3+ years (as stated in the approved proposal)

Impact Description	Impact Summary
Mount Guna protected and its ecosystem functioned	Mount Guna is located in Amhara Region in three woredas of South Gonder Zone namely; Estie, Lay Gayint and Farta districts. The mountain is home to many plant and animal species. In the latest, resource assessment done, 30 mammal species belonging to 14 families and 8 orders. Besides, 139 Bird species belonging to 41 families and 14 orders are found. It is also source of many springs and rivers. It contributes 40% of water to Lake Tana, which is the biggest lake in Ethiopia. Amid all these natural resources, this habitat was miss used due to over grazing, expansion of agriculture and deforestation. Releasing these challenges, this project was designed and had been implemented since 2015. It contributed a lot in reducing the challenges faced this habitat. For instance, the project helped to aware the communities

	and stakeholders on Mount Guna delineation and demarcation, preparing General Management Plan and conducting Resource Assessment for Community Conservation Area, having legal framework, increased the governments commitment in that institution established and Guna Mountain Community Conservation Area Office opened to administer, protecting and providing technical support to Guna Mountain Protection and Conservation Council. Stable situation created.
Number of Fauna and Flora species increased	Mount Guna Biodiversity is improving from time to time following its delineation and demarcation and the approval of Guna Mountain Community Conservation Area Boundary Demarcation and Administrative Determination Regulation. Free grazing stopped from the community conservation area. Fauna and floral species are restored and changed the beauty of Mount Guna land scape. For instance, Erica arborea forests became dense and revegetated, local grassess species are also restored and emerging. As a result, wild lives are increasing and frequently seen in the community conservation area.
The livelihood of the commuinity improved	The livelihood of the community improved through engaging the community on environmentally friendly income generating activities specifically through provision of improved potato tuber, engaging on apple and hope development. Last year's planted hope seedlings survived 82% and managed properly. Almost all apple seedlings survived. With regard to potato production, in the assessment done with collaboration of office of agriculture staffs, the average productivity of potato obtained was in Estie district 228 Quintals/ha, in Lay Gayint district 204 quintal per hectare, and in Farta district 217 quintal per hectare as compared to the average productivity of Potato of South Gonder Zone 129 quintals per hectare.
Mount Guna became one of tourist attration area	Mount Guna became one of the tourist attraction area. In June 2017, the Region celebrated World Environment Day (WED) through visiting Mount Guna and conducting panel discussion. During this event, the participants observed changes visible as result of delineation and demarcation of Mount Guna Community Conservation Area. Mount Guna Community Conservation Area has natural value comprising diiferent plant and animal species, Culture and Tourism Burea(2012) studied 96 plant species, 30 mammal and 139 bird species. It creates scenic beauty for tourists with its impressive landscapes, alpine and

	afro-alpine ecosystems, sounds of birds, lifestyle of the community, and cultural attractions such as Gafat, Semerneha palace, Erigb Washa, and rock-hewn churches around it. Local tree and shrub and grass species vegetated. For instance, Erica arborea forests and Lobelia species are restored. As a result, many wild lives are emerging potential for tourist attraction like common Jackals and bird species. Free grazing stopped at Guna Mountain Community Conservation Area.
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Planned Short-term Impacts - 1 to 3 years (as stated in the approved proposal)

Impact Description	Impact Summary
Improved knowledge and skill of 55 community and Government stakeholders on Ecosystem management by end of 2015	Community and government stakeholders staffs knowledge and skill improved on Ecosystem management through trainings provided on Participatory Resource Assessment and General Management Plan preparation and conducting Experience Sharing Tour. In this regard, 20 Zone and Woreda experts(3 females and 17 males) and 80 community members, 11 kebele administrators, and 68 government staffs (5 females and 63 males). The objective of the training was to fill the knowledge gap of communities and key government stakeholder staffs on conducting participatory Resource Assessment and preparing General Management Plan Protected areas specifically on community conservation areas. The purpose of conducting Experience Sharing Tour was to(1) gain experience on managing Community Conservation Area at Menze Gera Midir District (2) gain experience on development of eco-tourism activities (3) learn and adapt Community Conservation Area Approaches and strategies (4) bring experiences on how integrate stakeholders on managing community conservation area.
11 Established community institution functioned for protection and management of Mount Guna in the mid of 2015	Established 11 Community Based Institutions are functioned for protection and management of Guna Mountain Community Conservation. titus have a bylaw formulated and approved to manage Guna watersheds and Guna Mountain Community Conservation Area. They protect their respective Community Conservation Area from illegal persons and bring them to their social court. They also mobilize the community to do soil and water conservation structures in the buffer zone of Guna watersheds.
110 Household knowledge and skill improved and engaed in environmentally friendly income generatiion activities by the end of 2016	334 farmers (106 females and 228 males) from Estie and Lay Gayint improved skill and knowledge on environmentally friendly income generation activities specifically through the training provided on apple

	development and potato production. 116 farmers (4 females and 112 males) engaged on potato production and sowed 295 quintals of improved potato tuber; 486 farmers (19 females and 467 males) engaged on hope development and planted 15, 513 hope seedlings; and 33 farmers(2 females and 31 males) engaged on apple development and planted 1077apple seedlings. The apple seedlings planted were 957 Anna and 120 Golden Dorcet varieties. In total, 635 farmers(25 females and 610 males) engaged on potato production, and apple and hope development.
One Simple and adaptable management plan developed for Mount Guna by the end 2016	A 10 years, General Management Plan for Guna Mountain Community Conservation Area has been prepared, validated, published and distributed to key stakeholder staffs. The General Management plan is simple and adaptable to implement. A three year action plan was also prepared to implement the objectives, activities set out in the management plan. Key stakeholders participated and validated General Management Plan on the workshop held and provided inputs and incorporated to the document. Besides, Resource Assessment was done to Guna Mountain Community Conservation Area that used an initial document for preparing the General Management plan.
12 higher official agreed to approve the draft proclamation	Higher Officials of the Amhara National Regional State approved Mount Guna Community Conservation Area Boundary Demarcation and Administration Regulation. Besides, government Institution has been established called Guna Mountain Community Conservation Area Office by Amhara National Regional State Environment Forest and Wildlife Authority responsible for administering, developing and providing technical support to Guna Mountain Community Conservation Area. Besides, Guna Mountain Development and Conservation Council a management body representing representatives from Community Conservation Area users, Zone and Woreda who oversee the over all administration of the Community Conservation Area also established. Staffs of the Office are hired and started working.
The Regional council approved Mount Guna Proclamation by the end of 2015 which has a size 4615 hectar	The Rgional Council has approved Mount Guna Mountain Conservation Area Boundary Demarcation and Administration Determination Regulation. The Conservation Area has an area of 4615 hectares.
Impoved awarness of 210 Communities and government staffs on Environmental protection, land admintration , Forest resource and by the end of	Since 2015, start of the project, it was tried to improve the awareness of communities and government staffs on Environmental protection, land administration, forest resource and biodiversity conservation,


2016 biodiversity conservation, Communal land management and utilization policies and proclamations

Communal land management and utilization policies and proclamations. 389 participants (19 females) participated in awareness creation workshops and panel discussions. The participants were able to understand the importance of protecting community conservation areas. They were also familiarized and aware of policies and regulations to administer community conservation areas. The participants were influential community representatives, Kebele managers and administrators came from 11 kebeles adjacent to Guna Mountain Community Conservation Area. Besides, staffs of key government stakeholders from office of Agriculture, Cooperatives, Culture and Tourism, Environment Protection Land Administration and Use, Justice, Administration and Police were participated.

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

Some of the major successes towards achieving its short term and long term impacts as a result of implementing the project are the following.

- **The Amhara National Regional State (ANRS) has issued and approved the Guna Mountain Community Conservation Area Boundary Demarcation and Administrative Determination Regulation.**
- **Guna Mountain Community Conservation Area Office opened at district level by Environment Forest and Wildlife Conservation and Development Authority for administering, developing and providing technical support to Guna Mountain Community Conservation Area and for the Guna Mountain Development and Conservation Council which is a management body of the community conservation area that represents representatives Guna Mountain Resource User Communities, Woreda and Zone stakeholders which is responsible to manage and administer the development and protection of the community conservation area in executive capacity.**
- **Different awareness trainings, Workshops and Experience sharing Tour have been conducted and brought significant attitude change among the community members and stakeholders:**
 - **Sensitization Platform for higher officials has been conducted on approved Regulation of Guna Mountain Community Conservation Area Boundary Demarcation and Administrative Determination**
 - **Validation Workshop was conducted and concerned bodies familiarized on the General Management Plan Prepared and Resource Assessment conducted for Guna Mountain Community Conservation Area.**
 - **Experience Sharing tour was organized to Menze Gera Midir district, North Shoa Zone, Amhara Region and 67 persons (4 females) attended and got good experience on community conservation area management and eco-tourism development activities**
 - **11 community based institutions established in the 11 intervention kebeles, they formulated bylaw for administering and managing their watersheds and community conservation area**
 - **Training was provided on conducting Participatory Resource Assessment and General Management Plan preparation.**

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- **Conducted Expertize Consultative Workshop. On 29 September 2016, Expertize Consultative Workshop was held for one day on the draft General Management Plan. On the workshop it was possible to brainstorm ideas and suggestions and incorporate them in the document which are appropriate and participants were familiarized about the general management plan.**
 - **295 quintals of potato tuber for 116 intended beneficiaries (4 Females and 112 males); 15,513 Hop seedlings for 486 households (19 females and 467 males); 1077 apple seedlings for 33 households (2 females and 31 males) were distributed, and sown and planted.**

Were there any unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?

Lower unit price of hop seedlings enable us to address more farmers. It was planned to provide 1000 seedlings for 100 farmers during the project life time and achieved 15, 515 seedlings for 486 farmers (19 females and 467 males). On the contrary, higher price for apple seedlings forced us to address less number of farmers which had negative impact. It was planned to provide 2980 apple seedlings for 149 household farmers and achieved 1077 apple seedlings for 31 households(2 females and 31 males). Moreover, Amhara National Regional State Environment Forest and Wildlife Conservation and Development Authority established an Guna Mountain Community Conservation Area Office which is responsible for administering, developing and providing technical support for Guna Mountain Conservation and Development Council. The Council is a management body comprising user community representatives, woreda and Zone stakeholders and responsible for administer and manage for the protection and development of community conservation area at executive capacity. The government has allocated budget for the institution and staffs are hired for administering the community conservation area.

Project Components and Products/Deliverables

Describe the results from each product/deliverable:

Component		Deliverable		
#	Description	#	Description	Results for Deliverable
1	Establish Legalized community institution	1.2	List of participant	Training on Participatory Ecosystem Management and biodiversity conservation special emphasis about Guna Community Conservation Area was provided for 567 participants (32 females and 535 males) drawn out from Kebele level forest task forces, Kebele Cabinet, Kebele level land administration and use committee, Kebele Security forces, Religious leaders, influential community representatives, Development agents, and Kebele managers. The training was provided on respective kebeles of Estie district (Elet Dibana, Wuchiba Senqua, Liwaye and Dat Giorgis kebeles) Lay Gayint (Titira, Yitba Akabet, Dera Kefoye, and Guna Gedeba Kebeles) and Farta district (Soras, Mokish, and Ariga Didim kebeles). The awareness of the community on Community Conservation Area improved and started to protect it from illegal cutters and free grazing.
1	Establish Legalized community institution	1.3	Copy of the bylaw	Bylaw formulated and approved by community members. 11 Community Based Institutions are using the bylaw to manage their respective watersheds and community conservation area. These institutions have been established in Estie district four kebeles namely; Dat Giorgis, Liwaye, Elet Dibana and Wuchiba Senqua kebeles; in Lay Gayint district at Dera Kefefoye, Titira, Yitba Akabet, and Guna Gedeba kebeles; similarly in Farta district three kebeles at Mokish, Soras and and Ariga Didim kebeles.
1	Establish Legalized community institution	1.4	List of participant	Experience Sharing Visit was conducted to Menze Gera Midir District in North Shoa Zone, Amhara Region from 26 March to 02 April 2017. The objective of the Experience Sharing Tour was to (1) gain experience on Community Conservation Area management (2) gain experience on the development of eco-tourism activities (3) learn and adapt innovative Community Conservation Area approaches and tools (4) gain experience on integration of stakeholders on Community Conservation Area management. On this experience Sharing Tour, 67 persons(4 females and 63 males) were participated and out of these 54 were community representatives drawn out from 11 kebeles adjacent to Guna Mountain

				Community Conservation Area. The participants got good lesson from Menze Guasa Community Conservation Area.
1	Establish Legalized community institution	1.1	Legal certificate of the institution	Established 11 Community Based Institutions got official letter from respective offices. These institutions were established in the three districts namely at Estie(Dat Giorgis, Wuchiba Senqua, Elet Dibana and Liwaye kebeles) in Lay Gayint(Dera Kefoye, Yitba Akabet, Titira and Guna Gedeba kebeles) and Farta (Soras, Mokish and Arga Didim Kebeles). They are actively involving in protecting the community conservation area.
1	Establish Legalized community institution	1.5	Legal certificate	The Community Based Biodiversity Committees are legal institutions got official letter from respective offices. The Community representatives are elected in a participatory way by the community users of respective kebeles adjacent to Guna Mountain Community Conservation Area.
2	Guna mountain Ecosystem management plan developed	2.1	List of trainees	Training on Participatory Resource Assessment and General Management Plan Preparation for Mount Guna Community Conservation Area was provided for 18 zone and woreda experts (3 females and 15 females), 68 Kebele government staffs (5 females and 63 males), 26 community members and 11 kebele administrators. The objective of the training was to fill knowledge and skill gap on conducting participatory resource assessment and preparing General Management Plan for Community Conservation Area. The trainers were from Environment Forest and Wildlife Conservation and Development Authority.
2	Guna mountain Ecosystem management plan developed	2.2	Draft copy of Management plan document published	General Management Plan for Guna Mountain Community Conservation Area has been prepared, validated, published and distributed to key stakeholder staffs. Resource Assessment has also been prepared by private local consultancy firm and the document published and distributed to local key stakeholder staffs. To enhance the quality of the documents, expertize consultative workshop was held on 29 September 2016 on the draft General Management plan prepared and Resource assessment document produced on Mount Guna Community Conservation Area. On the workshop, in total 42 participants(5 females and 37 males) participated and valuable inputs obtained and incorporated to these documents.
2	Guna mountain Ecosystem management	2.3	List of work shop participants	Validation Workshop was held on General Management Plan prepared and Resource Assessment done for Guna Mountain Community Conservation Area at Woreta on 06


	plan developed		with Photos	February 2017. This task was outsourced for Wombela Private Consultancy Firm. The aim of the workshop was to (1) validate the General Management Plan prepared and Resource Assessment done for Guna Mountain Conservation Area (2) aware key stakeholders about the General Management Plan prepared and Resource Assessment Conducted (3) reach consensus among stakeholders on General Management Plan prepared and Resource Assessment Conducted. The participants of the workshop were staffs drawn out from Office of Agriculture, Culture and Tourism, Environment Protection Land Administration and Use, Cooperatives, Justice, Administration, Police, and Administration and Security. In total, 83 persons (5 females and 78 males) attended the workshop. The participants forwarded valuable comments and incorporated in the respective documents.
2	Guna mountain Ecosystem management plan developed	2.4	Final copy of the management plan	General Management Plan had been Prepared for Guna Mountain Community Conservation Area. The Management Plan had been validated, published and distributed to key stakeholders to use in implementing activities in the conservation area and development and buffer zones. Besides, Resource Assessment was done for Guna Mountain Community Conservation Area and published and distributed to key stakeholders. The Final Copy of the General Management Plan documented in soft and hard copy.
2	Guna mountain Ecosystem management plan developed	2.5	List of participants	Expertize Consultative Workshop was held on the draft General Management Plan and Resource Assessment documents prepared for Mount Guna Community Conservation Area on 29 September 2016. The objective of this workshop to (1) familiarize the General Management plan and Resource Assessment documents prepared (2) collect valuable comments to improve the quality of these documents. In this regard, 42 participants (5 females and 37 males) attended the workshop. These experts were composed of agronomist, livestock, natural resource, wildlife, culture and tourism, lecturers and drawn from Region Zone, and Woreda offices of Agriculture, Environment Protection Land Administration and Use, Culture and Tourism and from universities. The inputs provided had been incorporated. List of participants and photos are documented.
3	Guna mountain Legally Protected	3.1	List of participants	Woreda level Sensitization and Familiarization Workshop was conducted on Guna Mountain Ecosystem at Farta, Lay Gayint and Estie districts on 27th July 2015, 30th July

				and 04 August 2015, Respectively. On this Workshop, in total, 50 persons (8 females and 42 males) were participated. On the hand, Zonal and Regional Sensitization and Familiarization Workshop was conducted at Woreta town 05 September 2015 participating 27 persons (1 female and 26 males). On these both Workshops, in total, 77 participants (9 females and 68 males) were participated. The participants on both Zonal and Regional, and Woreda level Workshops were composed of heads of Agriculture, Environment Protection Land Administration and Use, Cooperatives, Culture and Tourism, Justice, Administration, police, Administration and Security, Women and Youth, and Debretabor University.
3	Guna mountain Legally Protected	3.2	Copy of the proclamation	The Issued and Approved Regulation of Guna Mountain Area Boundary Demarcation and Administrative Demarcation is documented in soft copy. The Hard Copy is on process for printing in the Regional Zikre-Hig Gazette news paper.
3	Guna mountain Legally Protected	3.3	Copy of the gazette	The Amhara National Regionall State Council approved Guna Mountain Community Conservation Area Boundary Demarcation and Administrative Boundary Regulation. The soft copy of full document of the Regulation with supportive documents documented. The Hard Copy is waiting for Printing in Regional Zikire-Hig Gazatte News Letter.
3	Guna mountain Legally Protected	3.4	List of participants	The Amhara National Regional State Council issued Guna Mountain Community Conservation Area Boundary Demarcation and Administrative Determination. Sensitization Workshop was conducted on the Approved Guna Mountain Community Conservation Area Regulation for Zone and Woreda key stakeholder Office staffs. On this Workshop, 60 persons (2 females and 58 males) were participated. Lists of participants and photos documented.
4	Policy Advocated	4.1	List of participants	Policy Advocacy promoted. In this regard, Workshop was conducted on safeguarding Mount Guna from 29-30 April 2016. The participants of the Workshop were those key stakeholders namely; offices of Agriculture, Environment Protection Land Administration and Use, Cooperatives, Justice, Administration, Police, Administration and Security, Kebele managers, Kebele administrators, and influential community representatives. The objective of this workshop was to familiarize key stakeholders on biodiversity conservation, environmental protection,

				communal land management and utilization regulations and policies. Besides, Panel discussion at Debretabor and site visit at Guna Community Conservation Area was conducted on 10 June 2017 in celebrating World Environment Day of 2017. The theme of 2017 World Environment Day was Connecting People to Nature. Both events, purpose of conserving mount Guna and challenges discussed and way forward recommended. On both workshops, 389 persons (19 females and 370 males) were participated.
5	Alternative livelihood Promoted	5.1	Number of farmers engaged and amount of seedlings planted	So far, 635 farmers (25 females and 610 males) engaged on environmentally friendly income generating activities specifically on potato production and apple and hope development. 116 farmers (4 females and 112 males) engaged on potato production and sowed 295 quintals; 370 farmers (19 females and 467 males) engaged on hope development and planted 15, 513 hope seedlings; and 33 farmers (2 females and 31 males) engaged on apple development and planted 1077 apple seedlings. Of the planted apple seedlings, Anna and Golden Dorcet varieties account for 957 apple seedlings and apple 120 seedlings, respectively. Survival Count was conducted for Hop seedlings and found 82%.
6	Apply CEPF safeguards on involuntary restrictions on access to resources	6.1	Final process framework	The Final Process framework was completed by Abebaw on behalf of ORDA. It is included the progress report of the reporting period and Final Completion Report in safeguards tab.
6	Apply CEPF safeguards on involuntary restrictions on access to resources	6.2	Reports on implementation of process framework	Annual Reports on the implementation of process framework was done as per the plan. Both progress reports and Final Completion Report submitted as planned comprising process framework.

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

Community Based Biodiversity Conservation in Mount Guna Area project had been facilitating the preparation of General Management Plan and Resource Assessment for Guna Mountain Community Conservation Area. First these documents or products, validated, published and distributed to key stakeholders for planning and implementation of activities in the conservation area. Secondly, 'Logical Framework Approach' have been adapted and used in preparing the General Management Plan, which has been proven to be the most effective approach for conservation are planning. This approach ensures explicit and logical linkages between all components of the General Management



Plan(GMP). This provides an efficient, accountable and rationale for planning and facilitates implementation, monitoring and evaluation. So, this tool is very useful to us wherever we want to do conservation area planning we can adapt and apply. Thirdly, Participatory Resource Assessment is also another piece of approach and was used to prepare the General Management Plan as a result we got experience on this tool. Frequent capacity building and policy advocacy activities had also strong linkages to the results of this project. Other tools experienced from implementing Community Based Biodiversity Conservation in Mount Guna Area Project was online reporting system through Grant writer and new conservation grant portal. These tools helped to display the works of the project easily access to networks of partners in short period of time. The tools help to document the information safely and keeping data consistency.

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:

- Project Design Process (*aspects of the project design that contributed to its success/shortcomings*)
- Project Implementation (*aspects of the project execution that contributed to its success/shortcomings*)
- Describe any other lessons learned relevant to the conservation community

During project design and implementation of the project, good lessons have been drawn out:

During project design, ORDA learned and has been familiarized about Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund's (CEPF) project design Template and Project Design Process. The Project Design process requires different pre-conditions such as commitment letter from key actors, from communities leaders and stakeholder offices. The requirement of Process Framework for assuring safeguard for social and Environmental issues to the community

During implementation of the project,

- **Integrating livelihood and conservation activities helped to persuade communities easily. Communities value projects or activities, if conservation activities are linked with income generating activities.**
- **Frequent capacity building activities helped to change the awareness of the community in managing community conservation area**
- **With limited human resource, it was possible to implement projects like Community Based Biodiversity Conservation Area in Mount Guna Area Project with collaboration of stakeholders; the project had only one permanent staff.**
- **Participating key stakeholders in the planning, design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation stage of project helped to identify roles and responsibilities and accomplished the project effectively**

Sustainability / Replication

Summarize the success or challenges in ensuring the project will be sustained or replicated, including any unplanned activities that are likely to result in increased sustainability or replicability.

In ensuring project sustainability or replicability, the following major successes were accomplished (1) The Amhara National Regional State Council approved Guna Mountain Community Conservation Area Boundary Demarcation and Administrative Determination Regulation to manage an area of 4615 hectares afro alpine ecosystem of Guna Mountain (2) General Management Plan prepared for Guna Mountain Community Conservation Area and published and distributed to key stakeholders (3) Participatory Resource Assessment was conducted for Mount Guna and resources are studied and documented (4) The awareness of the community and key government stakeholders improved through workshops and trainings provided; conducted validation workshop on the General Management Plan prepared for Guna Mountain Community Conservation Area participating 83 persons (5 females and 78 males); conducted Sensitization Workshop on approve Guna Mountain Community Conservation Area Boundary Demarcation and Administrative Determination Regulation, Conducted training on Participatory Resource Assessment and General Management Plan Preparation, Provided training on apple and potato production, Conducted project close out workshop for hand overing project results and accomplished and unaccomplished activities,(5) Amhara National Regional State Environment Forest and Wildlife Conservation and Development Authority has established Guna Mountain Community Conservation Area Office which is responsible for administering, developing and providing technical support for Guna Mountain Community Development and Conservation Council. The Council is a management body established from user community of Guna Community Conservation Area, Districts and Zone stakeholders which is responsible for the protection of communtiy conservation area. The Regional government has hired staffs for the office and allocated budget to administer it.

Safeguards

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

Social Impact

From ownership point of view according to the land legislation generally this kind of lands like Guna mountain belongs to the state. Private lands are lands which belong to private or communities that they have land certificate for ownership. But, nearby communities to Guna Mountain had customary use right for livestock management.

Guna Mountain Community Conservation Area demarcation had been taken place in a participatory manner with the involvement of community representatives and team of technical expert drawn out from different sector offices. In this respect, 4615 hectares of Mount Guna Conservation Area(GMCCA). The Amhara National Regional state has issued and approved Guna Mountain Community Conservation Area Boundary Demarcation and Adminnstrative Determination Regulation to administer this resource wisely.

The project resulted in reduced or restricted access to the resources in a protected area espeially with regard to free grazing of domestic animals. The adjacent local community was not displaced away from the protected area. Majority of the community members and all key government offices have reached consensus and agreed on the demarcation and protection of Mount Guna Community

Conservation area. However few target communities were not interested in demarcating and protecting hot spots areas of Mount Guna considering their intrinsic benefit. The local community resided adjacent to Mount Guna afro-alpine land were using as a livestock grazing land for a long time with free access which is now demarcated as Guna Mountain Community Conservation Area (GMCCA). Overgrazing is one of the challenges caused Mount Guna to deteriorate.

The resistance has been mitigated through patient and participatory processes through assessing the willingness of the local community, offering alternative livelihoods and enforcing the land legislation. In this regard, different discussions, from Zone and District to Community level were held. On the community discussions, community members mentioned that they knew Mount Guna is the water tower and their dignity. They also believed that Mount Guna should be protected and conserved. They are clear about the importance of the Mountain for their existence. But, with regard to prohibition of free access for grazing on GMCCA some communities resided around and used it for free grazing need to have enough forage and fodder for their livestock. Currently, they do not have enough fodder and forage, and their knowledge on modern technologies for forage and fodder production is very low. In accommodating the concern of the local community members, the local government has decided the following safeguard measures for communities resided adjacent to Guna Mountain Community Conservation Area. The local government stakeholders allow partial free access temporarily for target beneficiaries directly dependent and resided very close to the periphery of GMCCA in their respective village portion of afro-alpine land for free grazing which is part of GMCCA. However, as long term solution (1) communities should start to grow enough fodder and forage for their livestock on their private lands (2) they will harvest grasses in the protected core zone of the afro-alpine Mount Guna eco-system which has restriction for free grazing based on approved regulation (3) they should also believe to reduce their livestock number with introducing highly productive improved breeds. Office of agriculture is responsible to supply improved breeds and improve knowledge on modern forage and fodder production technologies.

Communities are observing the changes brought on the protected core zone of the Guna Mountain. They understood that they can use the grass through cut and carry system in every two years as stated in Guna Mountain Community Conservation Area Boundary Demarcation and Administrative Determination regulation. In conclusion, first and foremost as it is witnessed by communities, government stakeholders and visitors, the protected large portion of GMCCA is rehabilitated. Different grass species and tree/ shrub species are being restored and revegetated like Erica arborea and Hypericum species. The attitude of the community is also being changed from time to time seeing the restoration taking place in the afro-alpine core zone (GMCCA). Guna Mountain Community Conservation Area Office is opened, a commitment from a government to protect and conserve Mount Guna besides approval of Guna Mountain Community Conservation Area Boundary Demarcation and Administrative Determination Regulation.

Environment Impact

Community Based Biodiversity Conservation in Mount Guna Area Project was environment friendly and did not have any adverse effect. Besides, it did not support any physical construction or rehabilitation. The impact from the CEPF grant did not affect livelihood of the community negatively. It did not promote to use any of use of insecticides, pesticides, and any other form of poison damages the biodiversity. Moreover, it did not pay for the manufacture, acquisition, transport, application, storage, or disposal of pesticides, including the costs of materials, equipment and labour. Finally, the project was not involved in the removal or alteration of any physical cultural resources (defined as movable or immovable objects, sites, structures, and natural features and landscapes that have archaeological, paleontological, historical, architectural, religious, aesthetic, or other cultural significance).

Additional Comments/Recommendations

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

We thank Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund(CEPF) for providing us grant to implement Community Based Biodiversity Conservation in Mount Guna Area Project in conserving Mount Guna. Almost all project deliverables planned were addressed. But, further development interventions should be dealt among others Ecotourism development should get attention and be linked to conservation objectives and activities. The government should take the lion share to implement the interventions pointed out in the general management plan. There should be also support from the international community like donors including CEPF. Guna Mountain is a hotspot ecosystem and has local, national and global significance. The other minor comment (1) on budget release process in that CEPF takes long time to release budgets so it should be improved (2) there were few short term trainings and no abroad experience sharing tours to share and gain experiences among CEPF projects, this has to get attention in future. In conclusion, we want to work with CEPF in future in further conservation and ecotourism development projects.

Additional Funding

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

Total additional funding (US\$)

Type of funding

Please provide a breakdown of additional funding (counterpart funding and in-kind) by source, categorizing each contribution into one of the following categories:

- 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 investment 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.

1. Please include your full contact details (Name, Organization, Mailing address, Telephone number, E-mail address) below



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