

CEPF Final Project Completion Report

Organization Legal Name:	Forest of Hope Association
Project Title:	Mainstreaming biodiversity conservation into mining in Gishwati area, Rwanda
Grant Number:	CEPF-103543
CEPF Region:	Eastern Afromontane
Strategic Direction:	1 Mainstream biodiversity into wider development policies, plans and projects to deliver the co-benefits of biodiversity conservation, improved local livelihoods and economic development in priority corridors.
Grant Amount:	\$109,200.02
Project Dates:	January 01, 2018 - October 31, 2019
Date of Report:	January 10, 2020

IMPLEMENTATION PARTNERS

List each partner and explain how they were involved with the project.

Rwanda Mining Board, Rwanda Standard Board, Rwanda Development Board, Rwanda Environment Management Authority, Ministry of environment, Rwanda Water and Forestry Authority and Rutsiro District were the key partners in the whole process of developing environmental friendly mining best practices. They have been consulted through different interviews to gather their inputs. They were also involved in the workshop to discuss best practices and all their ideas were incorporated into the produced a final environmental friendly mining best practices. Mining companies operating around Gishwati: DEMIKARU (Developpement Minier Kanama Rubavu), TMT (Tantalum Mineral Trading) and Munyaneza Mining Company Ltd were also involved in this project: 15 representatives from these companies were trained in the implementation of the environmental friendly mining practices and participated in the organized study tour. Local leaders, the army and community representatives were involved in patrol to weaken illegal mining and participated in community work to refill all mining pits inside the park with the soil. Local schools eco-clubs were also involved in awareness campaigns organized to increase local communities about the negative effects of mining inside the park.

CONSERVATION IMPACTS

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

1,570 ha of the Gishwati-Mukura National Park are covered by the forest patrols and the occurrence of illegal mining activities is reduced from 7 cases per month to 1 case per month at the end of the project

The strengthened partnership with local people and local leaders through community based forest protection helped to patrol the park and decreased the occurrence of all illegal activities at the rate of 61% in the whole project life. The protection team reported 330 cases met in total. 114 offenders was arrested and educated, 36 offender signed statements for not repeating their offences, 3 farmers was reported to local leaders and paid a related fine. One person was reported to the police. To discourage illegal mining: two joint patrols with the army team were organized to weaken illegal miners, 18 former illegal miners were identified and all of them were employed by the three legal mining companies, 5 mining pits inside the park and all mining pits located in the park buffer zone were refilled with soil using the community work. 36 households including 24 with suspected illegal miners were visited and educated, two companies that were encroaching the park boundaries and accelerating minerals smuggling inside the park were also visited and decided to stop mining in the buffer zone. The reported cases of illegal mining activities shows a decline from 7 cases (2017 recorded average) to 1 case per month, an average recorded for the last 8 months of the project.

As a result of the achievement in Gishwati Protection that this CEPF project highly contributed to, one of the FHA community Agents (eco-guards), Mr. Ruzindana Alex received the African Ranger Awards. Also, the Rwanda Development Board (RDB) has taken over the management of Gishwati Mukura National Park and deployed 25 armed rangers at the end of the project, who will continue ensuring the sustainability of the achievements made.

This project also supported an exchange visit for Gishwati community representatives to Akagera. This has been a good platform to learn from the community in Akagera how they can continue to collaborate with the new management system of RDB and sustain the achievement made.

3 small-scale mining companies in the Sebeya River Basin adopted environmentally friendly practices.

3 Local mining companies are committed to adopt the environmental friendly mining best practices. Their representatives are well trained and learnt many techniques on mine waste management through the organised study tour at the Wolfram Mining and Processing Ltd/ RWINKWAVU, a holder of the Best Mining Company Award provided by the Ministry of environment in Rwanda. FHA also provided 3 high pressure water pumps to these mining companies to facilitate water reuse and influence the reduction sediments loads in local rivers. Mining companies started to implement some of actions including refilling the abandoned mining pits. Using the donation of 1000 indigenous tree seedlings received from the Birdlife international/CEPF-RIT, FHA supported two of the mining company to rehabilitate degraded area within mining concession through tree planting.

Also, the development of this environmental friendly mining best practices was fully consultative and all key stakeholders were involved. This indeed helped them to understand the damages caused by unsustainable mining and the issues encountered by companies in the area. We are confident that it has also encouraged their participation in monitoring and supporting this best practices implementation.

The impact of mining practices on the health of GMNP freshwater biodiversity is reduced

The delay in producing the Environmental friendly mining best practices caused by the consultant had not allowed us to measure the impact of its implementation. Even if it is early to say this, the work done made a significant contribution. The implementation of this project almost stopped illegal mining inside the park, all mining pits inside the park was refilled with soil and degraded areas were rehabilitate through tree planting. Also the assessed level of awareness as a contribution of the conducted awareness campaigns about the negative effects of mining is promising and indeed influenced positive changes in local attitude toward reducing illegal mining. The plan was to reduce the impact of mining practices by 20% at the end of the project but we have not been able to measure this.

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

Impact Description	Impact Summary
Biodiversity conservation and sustainable mining are integrated in Gishwati ecosystem	Achieving this impact will be a process but the progress is good for now. The park protection is strengthened by the presence of armed rangers and the community partnership created by this project. This project produced an environmental friendly practices tool that will guide sustainable mining in Gishwati ecosystem. Also awareness campaigns conducted that also involved young people highly contributed to the behavior changes. All this will continue influencing positive attitudes and good practices towards biodiversity conservation and sustainable mining integration in this area.

Planned Short-term Impacts – 1 to 3 years (as stated in the approved proposal)

Impact Description	Impact Summary
1,570 ha of the Gishwati-Mukura National Park are covered by the forest patrols and the occurrence of illegal mining activities is reduced from 7 cases per month to 1 case per month at the end of the project	We successfully achieved this impact. Regular and joint park patrols were organized by Community Agents together with community Committees and covered all the 1,570 ha of the Gishwati-Mukura National Park. 114 offenders were arrested and educated, 36 of them signed statements for not repeating their offences and 4 of them were reported to the law enforcement authorities. Also, the reported cases of illegal mining activities declined from 7 cases (2017 recorded average) to 1 case per month, an average recorded for the last 8 months of the project.
The impact of mining practices on the health of GMNP freshwater biodiversity is reduced by 20% as compared the March 2018 baseline.	The delay in producing the Environmental friendly mining best practices caused by the consultant had not allowed us to measure the impact of its implementation. However, the work done through this project is promising. Illegal mining inside the park is almost stopped, all mining pits in and at the park boundaries was refilled with soil and degraded areas were rehabilitate through tree planting. Also as 3 Local mining accompanies involved in this project are committed to adopt the environmental friendly practices, we believe that the impact will go beyond the target set.
5 small-scale mining companies in the Sebeya River Basin adopt environmentally friendly practices.	Even if it is a beat early to evaluate their practice, 3 Local mining accompanies involved in this project are committed to adopt the environmental friendly mining best practices. They started to refill all the abandoned mining pits and rehabilitate degraded area within mining concession through tree planting. Their representatives are well trained and learnt many techniques on mine waste management through the study tour organised by FHA. FHA also provided 3 high pressure water pumps to these mining companies that are facilitating water reuse and reduce sediments loads in local rivers.

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

The stakeholders' participation have been key to the project success. Key stakeholders supported and provided their idea in the developed adopt environmentally friendly mining practices. They also participated in different organized events to support all the actions that discouraged illegal mining inside Gishwati Mukura National park.

The only challenge was related to the delay in producing the Environmental friendly mining best practices caused by the consultant. This had not allowed us to measure the impact of its implementation and know how this initiative reduced the impact of mining practices on the health of GMNP freshwater biodiversity.

Were there any unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?

No unexpected impact

PROJECT COMPONENTS AND PRODUCTS/DELIVERABLES

Describe the results from each product/deliverable:

Component		Deliverable		
#	Description	#	Description	Results for Deliverable
1	Protection of the Gishwati-Mukura National Park	1.1	Reports on regular forest patrols by the Agents (eco-guards), including details on any interdictions or actions against illegal behavior	In the 22 months of this project, regular and joint patrols were organized by both Community Agents and Committees. The protection decreased illegal activities at the rate of 61%. The protection team reported 72 cases of cattle grazing, 104 cases of firewood collection, 40 cases of mining, 80 cases of fodder collection and 34 seasonal illegal activities. 58 people found grazing their cattle inside the park; 47 people found collecting firewood; 9 cowboys found cutting sticks and 6 students found collecting forest fruits; were educated about the negative impact of their activities on the park biodiversity. 36 arrested offenders signed statements for not repeating their offences. 3 farmers were reported by community committees to local leaders and paid a fine of 10,000 Rwf/ each of 39 cows found in the park. One person who was willing to fight with the community committees was reported to the police. In the start of November, the Rwanda Development Board has taken over the management of Gishwati Mukura National Park and deployed 25 rangers in the areas. 1,570 ha of the Gishwati part will continue to be covered by park rangers' patrols. We are confident that, with this larger protection the remaining issues will be stopped and unsure the sustainability of the achievements made.
1	Protection of the Gishwati-Mukura National Park	1.2	Reports on community visits and forest patrols focusing on illegal mining in Nduruma and Kinyenkanda , including details on any interdictions or action against illegal behavior	36 households including 24 with suspected illegal miners were visited and its members were educated about the negative effects of mining on the park biodiversity. Two companies that were encroaching the park boundaries were also visited and decided to stop mining in the buffer zone. Community Agents and committee organized joint patrols focusing on Nduruma and Kinyenkanda discourage illegal miners from digging again to reach the deep places where minerals are deposited. Also two joint patrols were organized with the army team observe what was happening and propose action that can be taken to improve the protection work. These patrols have had a significant impact to reduce illegal mining even if it is not yet stopped. The occurrence of illegal mining activities is reduced from 7 cases (2017 recorded average) to 1 case per month, an average for 8 last

				months of the project. Agent records shows 40 cases of illegal mining met. 18 former illegal miners were identified and all of them are currently employed by the three legal mining companies; Using the community works commonly known as "Umuganda" in collaboration with local authority in Rutsiro District and mining companies, 5 mining pits inside the park, located in Nduruma and Kinyenkanda parts, and were refilled with soil.
1	Protection of the Gishwati-Mukura National Park	1.3	Report on stakeholder meetings and field visits organized to monitor the impact of the patrols, discuss mining related issues and solutions (report includes agenda, location, and participant list disaggregated by gender)	Together with a team from: the district, REMA, Ministry of Agriculture and Rwanda Mining Board (RMB) that came to inspect mining operation in Gishwati concession, we visited and discussed the mining encroachment issue in Nduruma and Kinyenkanda. After this visit the Munyaneza Mining company Ltd and DEMIKARU (Developpement Minier Kanama Rubavu) decided to stop mining in the buffer zone. FHA helped them to refill all the pits that were too close to the park boundaries. Two field visits was organized by the project manager with the army to monitor patrols and weaken illegal miners. A stakeholders' field visit was combined with the community work to refill the mining pits in Kinyenkanda with soil to discourage illegal miners. 13 women and 40 men attended the event including: local communities, Agent & committees, local leaders, mining companies, LAFREC and RMB representatives. FHA also organized a meeting at the end of the project in Gishwati area to inform stakeholders about the project achievements. Through discussion, 28 people (9 women and 19 men) who attended the meeting representing different institutions shared their commitment to continue supporting in minimizing the impact of mining on biodiversity in Gishwati Area.
3	Promoting mining best practices outside the protected area that contribute to the GMNP biodiversity conservation	3.2	Environmental friendly mining guidelines for the mining sites are developed	Based on the results of the baseline study we developed environmental friendly mining best practices. FHA facilitated the consultant to conduct different interviews with key stakeholders to gather their inputs. To ensure that the Government support the initiative, a validation workshop was organised and attended by all the key stakeholders' institution representatives. Stakeholders suggested that we change the name "guidelines" to "best practices" and this was respected. All their ideas were incorporated into the produced a final environmental friendly mining best practices. In summary, these best practices include: actions to minimize the impact on the terrestrial biodiversity, actions on controlling erosion through land cover

				reestablishment, refilling excavated pits, and establishing a buffer zone along streams and rivers in mining areas. It does also include actions to avoid direct pouring mine effluent and tailing in water bodies through construction of check dams and silt retention ponds to prevent silt runoff and deposits into watercourses. Stakeholders appreciated FHA effort in imitating partnership with local enterprise and the production of this tool that will help local miners to respect their commitment towards mainstreaming biodiversity into their mining activitie.
3	Promoting mining best practices outside the protected area that contribute to the GMNP biodiversity conservation	3.3	Local mining companies' representatives are trained in the implementation of the environmental friendly mining practices.	15 miners from three mining Companies: DEMIKARU (Developpement Minier Kanama Rubavu), TMT (Tantalum Mineral Trading) and Munyaneza Mining Company Ltd were trained. It was expected that miners understand how mining practices are affecting biodiversity, and get guidance in environmental friendly mining practices implementation. The training focused on the practical actions: on stabilizing slopes, controlling erosion, minimizing water and soil pollution through mining waste management; and creation of a sustainable habitat for biodiversity through reestablishment of vegetation cover and reduction of contamination of nearby soil and water bodies to minimize the big loss of biodiversity. A factsheet mining best practices translated in Kinyarwanda was printed and shared with miners and will not only selves as a reminder on the training points but also as reference to promote mining best practices in this area. As request from this training, FHA also organised a study tour at the Wolfram Mining and Processing Ltd/ RWINKWAVU, to learn from their experience in protection measures and practices towards environmental friendly mining. The visit was successful and Gishwati miners learnt many techniques about how they can manage mine waste and waste water.
2	Community Education and Outreach about illegal mining	2.1	Education materials promoting conservation knowledge about the negative effects of mining inside GMNP are developed and	Education materials promoting conservation knowledge about the negative effects of mining were developed in Kinyarwanda. These include: posters describing why mining is illegal inside the park and its negative effect on the park biodiversity, posters describing the impact of non-sustainable mining on water quality and related consequences and posters describing the best practices to minimize the impact of mining. We also developed booklets and flyers about the importance of preserving the park and the best practices to minimize the negative effect of mining

			Community Committees and eco-clubs are trained to use them	on its biodiversity. 42 people including 22 women/girls and 20 men/boys were trained about how to use education materials and the best techniques to communicate the message to the local community efficiently. During the training, eco-clubs members were advised to organize focused debates to share the message to their colleagues at schools; prepare songs and dances to attract people in the village to share the message. Community committees were encouraged to visit all households and educate on a house to house basis in order to reach as many people as possible in the community. All the developed education materials were shared with the training participants to be distributed to the communities during the awareness campaigns.
4	CEPF Management Tools	4.1	Civil Society Tracking Tool	Civil Society Tracking Tool was submitted as a separate report
4	CEPF Management Tools	4.2	Gender Tracking Tool	Gender Tracking Tool was submitted as a separate report
4	CEPF Management Tools	4.4	Semi-annual report on implementation of the Stakeholder Engagement Plan	This was submitted as a the Safeguard report on Process Framework and Social Assessment
4	CEPF Management Tools	4.3	Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT)	Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT) was submitted as a separate report in other reports
2	Community Education and Outreach about illegal mining	2.2	Report on awareness campaigns are organised to increase local communities about the negative effects of mining inside GMNP	Awareness campaigns was conducted in six cells around the park and villages that surround schools. Students in eco-clubs and community committees were using different methods including: visiting all households and educate on a house to house basis to reach a big number of community members; forest conservation sketch, songs and dances to attract people in the village before the process of utilizing education posters and distributing the booklets. Community committees attended meetings and visited different markets and commercial centers, to spread the awareness messages. We evaluated the results of education campaigns and we realised that 75.3% (as an average) of 130 randomly selected members of local community correctly responded to ten questions grouped into three evaluation categories: (1) negative effect of illegal mining inside the park

				on the park biodiversity, (2) the impact of non-sustainable mining on the stream water quality and related consequences (3) the best practices to minimize the impact of illegal mining. This level of awareness is promising and will continue to influence the positive change in local attitude toward reducing illegal mining.
4	CEPF Management Tools	4.5	Communication products	One article was produced and shared publicly http://www.birdlife.org/africa/corporate-mainstreaming-tackling-negative-impacts-mining-biodiversity?fbclid=IwAR2X5Sh7OVNeN1Hp-W0TCxqRGNMujmXSWQC7QB_qT0LdrcvayplgiLxC_jA
3	Promoting mining best practices outside the protected area that contribute to the GMNP biodiversity conservation	3.1	Baseline study on the impact mining practices on GMNP biodiversity is conducted	The baseline study on the impact of mining practices on Gishwati biodiversity was conducted inside and outside the park. Water and soil sample was collected from all mining sites and analysed to assess mining impact on water, soil and biodiversity. Pictures were also used to demonstrate the impact on the landscape. The report on the impact of mining practice was produced and its findings demonstrated that mining has accelerated the erosion, river sedimentation, created new landforms and increased the concentrations of metals/metalloids in water and soil. This study also revealed how the observed high metal/metalloid concentrations is threatening both aquatic and terrestrial life inducing toxicity to both animals and plants. The produced report contains many evidences demonstration that positive interventions are needed to minimize mining impact and safeguard the biodiversity of Gishwati ecosystem.

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

A combined report about mining impact baseline assessment and Environmental friendly mining Best practices was submitted separately in other reports.

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)
- Any other lessons learned relevant to the conservation community

Take advantage of different stakeholders' knowledge

The involvement of different stakeholders during this project planning and implementation generated the ownership of the project activities. Our key partners attended all the planned events and shared constructive ideas that helped our consultant to shape the developed environmentally friendly practices guide. Local partners including: mining companies, army and leaders advised on strategies and practices that weakened illegal mining.

Partnership with miners can add value to the biodiversity conservation mainstreaming

When starting this project some of the local mining companies were encroaching the park boundaries, accelerating minerals smuggling inside the park and highly impacting Gishwati ecosystem freshwater biodiversity. Through this project implementation, we have realized that equipping them with conservation information and best practical skills in mining helped them to be open minded and think about sustainable mining. They currently employed all the identified former illegal miners, they started assisting in the regeneration of degraded area and refilling all the abandoned mining pits especially the one located in the buffer zone. It is a bit early to evaluate them but we believe that they will make a significant contribution towards mainstreaming biodiversity conservation into their activities.

SUSTAINABILITY/REPLICATION

Summarize the successes 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.

The strengthened partnership with local people, leaders and mining companies through community based forest protection will continue ensuring the project sustainability. Also, at the end of the project, the Rwanda Development Board (RDB) deployed 25 armed rangers who will continue ensuring the sustainability of the achievements made in reducing illegal mining.

Government institutions that work on mining, conservation and law enforcement were involved in this project. They were fully informed about the project achievements to ensure that they maintain them.

This project also supported an exchange visit for Gishwati community representatives to Akagera. This has been a good platform to learn from the community in Akagera how they can continue to collaborate with the new management system of RDB and sustain the achievement made.

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.

A safeguard report was submitted as a separate project component. it was submitted as a report on Process Framework and Social Assessment,

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS/RECOMMENDATIONS

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

We thank very much CEPF for supporting FHA through this project. The project has positive effects on the park biodiversity conservation, and it has helped a lot to develop a sense of ownership in local community, miners and other stakeholders.

ADDITIONAL FUNDING

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

Total additional funding (US\$)
\$28,711.00

Type of funding

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)

B a grant \$ 5,000 received from the Born Free Foundation and contributed to the community education about the importance of the park biodiversity

B a grant \$16,711 received from the US Embassy Rwanda through the wildlife conservation Society Rwanda to support modern beekeeping expansion in Gishwati

B a grant \$7,000 received from the West Chester University Foundation to connect one village in Gishwati to clean water as an incentive for their support to the park conservation.

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 website, www.cepf.net, and may be publicized in our e-newsletter and other communications.

1. Please include your full contact details (name, organization, mailing address, telephone number, email address) below.

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