



Small Grants – Project Completion and Impact Report

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

Organization Legal Name	<i>Resourcetrust Network</i>
Project Title	Supporting Implementation of Best Management Practices in Smallholder Plantations
Grant Number	CEPF-109621
Date of Report	30 th April 2020

CEPF Hotspot: Guinean Forest of West Africa

Strategic Direction: 2. Mainstream biodiversity conservation into public policy and private sector practice in the nine conservation corridors, at local, subnational and national levels.

Grant Amount: US\$ 34.975,00

Project Dates: 1st August 2018 – 30th April 2020

PART I: Overview

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

Ghana Wildlife Society (GWS):

GWS lead the development of the communication materials for the community awareness creation. They were engaged in the awareness creation. Specifically supported the stakeholder workshop dubbed and the PCC workshop. They have been communicating the project and the results to wider range of stakeholders they encounter in their operations.

Ghana Rubber Estates Limited (GREL)

GREL agreed to collaborate with RTN to implement this project since the project objectives were in line with the best management practices of the company. They were involve in the selection of communities and smallholder plantation for the project. They were on the field with RTN during the initial biodiversity awareness, lead best management practices sessions at the PCC workshop and also joined the RTN team on the field for the assessment and subsequent implementation of assessment recommendation.

NORPALM Ghana Limited

Norpalm plantation team met with RTN at their plantation site in Awodua for initial project concept briefing and information sharing. They participated in PCC workshop and linked RTN with their agents who purchase palm fruit from farmers. Results of assessment was shared with them.

Ahanta West Municipal Assembly through the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (MOFA).

The district food and agriculture department was part of the developmental stage of the project, supporting the proposal with a recommendation letter. They were briefed on their responsibility at the start of the project and lead the PCC workshop with topics of improved agriculture practices. Results of the BMP assessment was shared with the department. Field staff from the MOFA supported the implementation of BMPs by leading the community use of PPEs.

Forest Service Division of the Forestry Commission- Takoradi Forest District

The district forest manager was briefed on the project. The FSD team were present at the PCC workshop and they affirmed their support to the project. Results from the assessments were shared with them and the project team also met with the forest rangers to discuss improved methods for monitoring forest buffer. They provided the project with 150 tree seedlings which were distributed to farmers and planted within riparian buffers.

Roundtable for Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO)

The project team contacted the RSPO. RSPO was pleased to know the project was targeting smallholder palm oil plantations and provided RTN with documents for environmental and social impact assessment (ESIA). RSPO also granted RTN access to their HCV App for assessment in smallholder plantations. The RSPO through this project recognises RTN as a partner on smallholder projects and invited RTN to their African palm oil initiative road show later which was honoured.

WWF-US - Accountability Framework Initiative (AFi) member.

RTN is a member of the AFI Steering Group and through the AFI platform introduced the project to members working on project relevant issues. One of these members WWF-US, which is leading a global programme to develop Sustainable Rubber Standard provided inputs to support project implementation. And introduced the project to the Michelin group which shared the project with their global partners.

Hen Mpoano (NGO)

The project got to know Hen Mpoano was working in the corridor around in the Cape three point KBA. They were invited to the PCC workshop which was honoured by the project coordinator at Cape Three Point. Good information exchange throughout the project. RTN was present in their meetings to include the validation of spatial assessment in the project landscape.

Solidaridad West Africa

The project came into contact with Solidaridad West Africa through the meeting with NORPALM who indicated that Solidaridad is supporting smallholder Oil Palm farmers to achieve RSPO certification. RTN then met with Solidaridad's Programme Manager on Oil Palm to know more of their project. The provided the team with information on palm oil agriculture in the landscape and consulted RTN before any of their field activities in order to avoid effort replication.

Global Platform on Sustainable Natural Rubber (GPSNR)

RTN is a founding member of the GPSNR and a member or the Smallholder Inclusion Working Group. RTN communicated the project on the GPSNR and through the project the local chapter of the GPSNR in Ghana has been formed and their activities facilitated by RTN.

2. Summarize the overall results/impact of your project

Key Project Outputs

- A total of Sixty (60) Key stakeholders (10 females, 17% and 50 males, 83%) took part in the joint Smallholder-Private-Public Joint Participation, Collaboration and Contribution (PCC) Biodiversity Conservation workshop.

- Forty-nine (49) smallholder plantation farmers reached with awareness on the benefits of biodiversity conservation and best agriculture management practices on the long term sustainability of their plantation, their income and livelihoods
- Twenty-three (23) farms assessed for biodiversity and Best Management Practices (BMP) gaps and supported to implement best agriculture management practices.
- 173ha of assessed plantations were identified as HCV and being managed as such
- Over 135ha of riparian buffer demarcated in existing plantation, planted with trees and farmers were encouraged to implement buffer good buffer management practices such as; no chemical application within the buffer, avoid dumping of waste and no clear cutting in buffers. 150 local tree species were planted and this included; odum (*Milicia excelsa*), wawa (*Triplochiton scleroxylon*), ofram (*Terminalia superba*) and mahogany (*Khaya ivorensis*).
- Forty five (45) smallholder plantation farmers in six (6) communities trained in chemical handling and four (4) set of demonstration chemical handling protective clothing were supplied to them.
- Five (5) empty chemical container receptacles supply to five (5) smallholder plantation communities and are linked to an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) approved Pesticides Waste Manager who lifts empty chemical containers to be recycle and pay for them to the communities for the maintenance of the receptacle facilities.

Immediate Project Outcomes

- At least sixty (60) smallholder farmers representing about 150 ha of plantations now understand and are happy to be part of farmers managing, High Conservation Values (HCVs) in their farms
- At least sixty (60) smallholder rubber farmers now know and handle agro-chemicals and dispose off empty agro-chemical containers properly and get paid for them. Payment is made into a community fund managed by the appointed leaders for the maintenance of the existing receptacles and building of new receptacles.
- Smallholder rubber communities and GREL now believe that making vehicular and tricycle (locally called Aboboyaa) access to smallholder farms to cart rubber cup lumps can to eliminate or reduce child labour in smallholder rubber farms smallholder plantation communities. GREL now has extended its cup lumps transport services to the CTP Forest Reserve West rubber plantation communities. Smallholder rubber plantation communities are now also opening vehicular and tricycle access to smallholder farms.

Impacts

- Demarcation and management of riparian buffer zones to include no chemical application, the training in proper handling of agro-chemicals and the collection of empty agrochemical to the receptacles for sale contributes to the elimination or minimization of chemical pollution within the conservation corridor and contamination of surface and ground water to downstream communities

The project has help build the biodiversity conservation capacity of stakeholders of smallholder agriculture in the project area. Stakeholder groups, whose capacity were built include;

- Private sector companies such as Ghana Rubber Estates Limited (GREL)
- The government and regulatory agencies like; the forestry commission, the district assembly (Ahanta West), Ministry of Food and Agriculture.
- Eight communities in the landscape as follows; Cape Three Point, Princess Town, Akodee, Asuboi, Nkwantanana, Adelazo, Seremowu, and Tumentu
- And smallholder farmers predominantly natural rubber and palm oil.

The project has also resulted in, adoption of best management practices such as; riparian buffer management, good chemical handling, improved farming practices such tapping, weeding and pruning that has promoted biodiversity conservation, restored damaged ecosystem and has also improved agricultural yield in the project landscape by smallholder farmers of the private company, GREL. Farmers confirmed an improvement in the yield of rubber cup-lumps as a results of demonstration of good tapping on their farm lead by RTN and GREL which was part of the project intervention.

3. Briefly describe actual progress towards each planned long-term and short-term impact (as stated in the approved proposal)

List each long-term impact from your proposal

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

Impact Description	Impact Summary
The project results improve the structural and functional biodiversity within the SE CDI SW GH conservation corridor	Identified riparian buffers and High Conservation Values areas were identified during the assessment in either the smallholder plantations or the landscape in general. This areas are being managed by the farmers using recommendations from the assessment. This areas are projected to create a biodiversity connectivity corridor between the forest reserve and other conservation areas in the landscape in the long term.
The project and the expected results give practical demonstration to landscape approach to conservation	The project, being the first practical approach to addressing forest loss through the smallholder conservation approach in the landscape, has demonstrated to all stakeholders (government, private operators, NGOs and civil society groups) effective ways on addressing biodiversity loss through the spectrum of the smallholder farmer. This is evident in the appointment of Resourcetrust Network unto the smallholder working group of the Accreditation Framework Initiative (a set of common principles, definitions, and guidance for establishing, implementing, and demonstrating progress on ethical supply chain commitments) and RTN also been a founding member of the Global Platform for Sustainable Natural Rubber resulted from the project involvement with smallholder natural rubber farmers.

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

Impact Description	Impact Summary
Over fifty smallholder farmers from eight communities have their biodiversity conservation benefits awareness raised.	Fifty Four households made up of smallholder farmers and their families residing in eight communities namely; Tumentu, Asuboi, Seremowu, Nkwantanan, Adelazo, Princess Town, Akodee and Cape Three Points have their awareness on the benefits of biodiversity conservation raised. This was observed after the community awareness meetings held in the communities. Initial and Final Awareness monitoring with the analysis indicating a rise in biodiversity conservation awareness. Awareness questionnaires were graded from 0 to 10 (0 being not aware and 10 being fully aware) base on farmer response to each question. Statistical analyses of the administered questionnaires indicated an improved awareness of sustainable agriculture and biodiversity conservation. The significance of the output from the awareness questionnaire was put to a t-test statistical test which indicated the P-value lies within 0.005 at 0.0025, representing a good sample selection which gives an indication of the impact of the activity on the farmers

Identification of biodiversity, habitat and ecosystems of conservation value and the implementation of practices which avoid or minimise negative impacts on them means that biodiversity in new and existing smallholder plantations will exist	Through the HCV HCS assessment, areas of biodiversity conservation significance within the landscape were identified to include; water bodies, riparian forests, and feeding sites for monkeys within the agricultural landscape. These areas are being managed by the farmers and the communities for conservation purposes.
About 750 m long of forest buffer with smallholder plantations mapped for best management practices.	Twelve smallholder plantations that border the Cape Three Point forests had their borders georeferenced and mapped. The 750m long forest buffer bordering the farms was demarcated on the ground with management recommendations demonstrated to smallholder farmers.
150 trees indigenous species planted within riparian buffers towards forest restoration.	Indigenous species namely; odum (<i>Milicia excelsa</i>), wawa (<i>Triplochiton scleroxylon</i>), ofram (<i>Terminalia superba</i>) and mahogany (<i>Khaya ivorensis</i>) Odum, wawa, ofram and mahogany were planted along riparian buffers in smallholder plantations. The success rate of the planted trees was lowly 45% but the generated plants are adequately catered for by the farmers. The approach is aimed at restoring and managing over 100ha of degraded riparian forest within the landscape.
Farmers implementing best management practices such as; agrochemical management, good tapping practices and committed to eradicating child labour in their operation.	15 smallholder natural rubber farmers bordering the Cape Three Point forest and over 40 in the landscape practicing good tapping practices, dumping their agrochemical waste in available receptacles, using protective clothing for spraying, storing agrochemicals separately in confined areas, committed to fighting child through the improvement of farm roads to make them accessible to tricycles. Improved tapping; a recommendation from the assessment aimed at improving yield and preventing further conversion of forest lands for agriculture

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

Success:

The project was able to scale up in most instances reaching almost twice its targets. Over sixty farmers were involved in the awareness creation, assessments, demonstration and workshops against the twenty that was proposed for the project. 174ha of smallholder plantations was assessed for HCVs, HCS and BMP as against the proposed 100ha. The project went a step further by supporting implementation of BMPs through the provision of materials such as protective clothing and agrochemical waste receptacles to ease demonstration.

The project has provided a clear pathway to addressing challenges associated with smallholder agriculture in the landscape. These solutions, which came from the communities and farmers, have been accepted by the stakeholders for implementation. Examples are; the communities embracing the use of pesticide storage units and agrochemical waste receptacles to ensure effective handling of agrochemicals. Farmers also, openly embraced the planting of tree seedlings along water bodies running through their farms to improve riparian buffers.

Nonetheless a few challenges were faced some of which were expected:

Smallholders did not have a functioning organized unit therefore getting information to all targeted farmers at the initial phase of the project was difficult.

Sparse distribution of smallholder plantations, remote location of smallholder households and bad nature of roads during the raining season affected timelines and work schedules. Estimated period and durations for field activities were mostly exceeded due to this challenge.

The success rate of the planted tree seedlings was a lowly 45%. This, the forestry departments attributed to planting during the dry season. Seedlings were planted during the period when there was less rainfall and most of

the farms were further away from homes therefore farmers could not provide good irrigation for the seedlings leading to the low survival rate. The department has promised to provide more seedlings to replace and add to the surviving trees during favourable conditions (raining season).

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

Positives

- The project saw an upsurge in support from the government and private sector during the implementation. The Ministry of Food and Agriculture (MOFA) served as the resource team during the projects workshops, while extension officers from MOFA were involved in some of the field visits.
- GREL supported the field assessments and demonstrations with their field officers and in some instances assisted with vehicles.
- The Forestry Commission was present in all workshops and provided the project with tree seedlings that were planted within riparian buffers.
- With smallholder palm oil activities, the project built on Resourcetrust relation with the Roundtable for Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) in acquiring HCV assessment toolkit including documented principles and mobile phone application which facilitated the assessment process.
- Besides the direct project immediate outcomes, RTN has also been strengthened in capacity and increased its organizational development. Has leverage a new funding partnership and implementing a new US\$220,000 FAO EU FLEGT project in partnership with Civic Response and added a new staff to its team.
- From the project's software budget of US\$200, RTN has secured Microsoft 2019 and Microsoft 365 Office applications donations for ten years (2019 to 2029) and Amazon Web Services (AWS) donation credit worth of US 2,500. The office 365 have provided a common platform for working among staffs even while on the field, providing remote services and ensuring effective interaction. RTN secured the AWS cloud service to move all digital data into the cyber cloud for easy upgrade of website to ensure efficient communication on project, which has been lacking since the inception of the project.
- RTN has now moved its accounting system from Excel Spreadsheet to full "Transxact" Financial Management Software. At the start of 2020 RTN is migrating all its accountant to the Transxact digital platform for effective and efficient work.

Resourcetrust is now a major player in tackling sustainability challenges in smallholder agriculture in landscape. Through the project, Resourcetrust Network has been appointed unto the smallholder working group of the Accreditation Framework Initiative (a set of common principles, definitions, and guidance for establishing, implementing, and demonstrating progress on ethical supply chain commitments) Inspired by the working with smallholder rubber farmers, RTN is now a founding member of the Global Platform for Sustainable Natural Rubber (GPSNR) in addition to being a Steering Group (SG) Member of the Accountability Framework Initiative (AFi). Thus participating at the highest global level on sustainability issues affecting smallholder producers, RTN is able to relate better its on-the-ground work with smallholder producers who are the main producers of the key deforestation and biodiversity risk commodities such as; cocoa, oil palm, rubber among others

The RTN project team was selected by Solidaridad West Africa unto the Roundtable for Sustainable Agriculture (RSPO) national interpretation working group as a result of the project involvement with palm oil producer.

Through the project interaction and results communication, RTN project staff have also benefited from a civil society digital participatory training organized by WASCI for civil society groups from Ghana, Kenya, Cameroun and Nigeria.

PART II: Project Components and Products/Deliverables

6. Components (as stated in the approved proposal)

List each component and product/deliverable from your proposal

- 6.** Describe the results for each deliverable:

Component		Deliverable		
#	Description	Sub-#	Description	Results for Deliverable
1	Biodiversity Conservation capacity among 30 key Oil Palm and Rubber plantation actors comprising smallholder plantation owners	1.1	Biodiversity benefits and long-term agriculture productive system sustainability awareness to be created among thirty (30) smallholder farmers in at least five (5) communities	Sixty six (66) smallholder farmers from eight communities took part in the community awareness meeting. Monitoring checklist before and after the sessions indicated a rise in smallholder farmer awareness on the benefits of biodiversity conservation to agriculture.
	in at least 5 communities and their large private sector companies and relevant government agencies in the landscape	1.2	20 key actors of smallholder agriculture trained on the use of the Participation Collaboration Contribution (PCC) model to develop and implement biodiversity conservation measures, and monitor the effectiveness of measure and biodiversity status	A one day training workshop was organized for fifty nine (59) stakeholders of smallholder agriculture. Participants were from government; MOFA, FSD, District Assembly; Private Industry; Norpalm and GREL, smallholder farmers, small scale enterprise groups, community leaders and the media. The workshop focused on the shared efforts to improve agriculture yield without forest conversion.
2	Adopt the Implement best management practices which promote biodiversity protection and restoration in 100	2.1	BMP HCV-HCS assessment with management recommendation to be carried out for 10 smallholder farmer in 100ha of smallholder plantations	A fifteen days BMP, HCV and HCS assessment was held in twenty three (23) smallholder plantations with a total size of 174ha. The assessed plantations were situated all around the Cape three point forest within the project landscape.
	ha of 10 smallholder Plantation serving as outgrower for large private companies through efforts of all key stakeholders	2.2	Facilitate implementation of recommendations from the assessments in 100ha of smallholder plantations and 5 communities through joint efforts of key actors	Results from assessments were documented with recommendations for identified HCVs, and BMP gaps. Recommendations for implementation were outcomes of results sharing and response from the stakeholders. Recommendation focused on four areas namely; agrochemical handling, buffer restoration, child labour and good farming practices. Three of the main recommendation were largely addressed under the project. Demonstration of riparian buffer and forest buffer protection and restoration have been done in selected farms to include, demarcating

				required buffers, tree planting along 350m long of waterbodies flowing through the plantation and awareness creation on sustainable practices in the buffers. Good farming practices to include, tapping, pruning and frequent weeding have been demonstrated to farmers in their plantation. This was done with the support of GREL and the MOFA. Awareness on the environmental and health effects of pesticides done in communities, agrochemical waste receptacles have been provided for communities while sets of protective clothing (PPEs) for spraying have been provided to the communities.
3	Private and local government biodiversity conservation policies for smallholder plantations informed by project results	3.1.	Analyse and package project results. Analyses and packaging are specific for target audience.	Results of the project are packaged after each objective is reached. And this results and impacts so far have been periodically presented and shared with the various stakeholders.
		3.2	Disseminate project results to the wider stakeholders for dialogue and assimilation into sector operations (Government sector and the private company	RTN have presented the very results and outputs to various stakeholders. HCV, HCS and BMP assessment results were presented to GREL and smallholder communities. Implementation of the recommendations were shared with the ministry of Food and Agriculture and shared also with the Planning department of the Ahanta West district assembly which has added the implementation approach, targets and results to their end of year report to the central government and also adopted parts of the project implementation approaches to their new year work plan. Project outcome have also been presented to international and local NGOs at various meeting. The HCV Network, RSPO, Proforest, AFi, and GPSNR have all been feed with project results and outcome which has resulted in them consulting RTN when dealing with smallholder farmers.

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

PCC Approach

The approach focuses on the participation of key stakeholders through deliberation and formulation of ideas into policies, learn new things, share experiences and build trust which will inspire contribution and collaboration to achieve a common objective.

With this project, all stakeholders of smallholder agriculture were provided with a common platform to discuss and address challenges, ideas and situation which help solve sustainability problems using best management practices, local biodiversity bye-laws, and conservation plans.

HCV HCS and BMP assessment tool

The HCV-HCS assessment is a participatory process for identifying social and environmental values which need to be conserved in production landscapes. BMPs are set of practices that have proved to improve the welfare of the farmer. The HCV and HCS assessment procedures are guided by the HCV Resource Network while the BMPs are universally accepted practices. To fit into the smallholder landscape of the project, RTN streamlined the assessment guiding criteria use. The simplified smallholder HCV HCS and BMP assessment procedure was used for the assessment in the landscape.

PART III: Lessons, Sustainability, Safeguards and Financing

Lessons Learned

8. 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

RTN has benefits from two trainings organized by the RIT in 2017 and 2019 before and during the project implementation respectively. RTN project team capacity were built on project designs to include, proposal writing, budgeting, implementation strategies and communicating outcomes. Knowledge gained from these trainings helped RTN to follow project guidelines that ensured the success of the project. Some of them are;

- RTN involved project stakeholders in the development of the proposal. Community opinions were taken into consideration while meetings were held with industries (GREL and Norpalm) and the district assembly planning unit before the final proposal was submitted for approval. With this done, stakeholders easily related with the project once implementation began therefore ensuring maximum commitment by all stakeholders.
- The execution of recommendations from the assessments by the project was added to the project during implementation. This activities which included buffer demarcation, tree planting, supply of protective clothing and receptacles promoted community interest in the project
- The use of the PCC tool, which was a tool developed by RTN, proved successful with all stakeholders using the available platform to participate, collaborate and contribute to ensuring sustainable practices in smallholder operations. The RSPO HCV assessment App was less effective during its use for the assessment. Shortcomings experienced were reported the App development team of the RSPO to be addressed.
- Through awareness creation farmers came to the realization that, their lands for farming was a limited resource therefore the need to adopt optimum methods to improve their livelihood. This led to smallholders proposing the introduction of non-land use alternative livelihood programs such as bee keeping, mushroom farming, snail farming among others as alternative plantation expansion.

Sustainability / Replication

9. 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.

Community members are motivated by the project such that, Smallholder farmers and their communities are embracing life without the project by continuing the work done. Farmers in Akodee contributed and hired a grader vehicle to work on their roads for vehicular access base on the recommendations of the assessment. Proceeds from pesticide waste collection is also been well managed by the communities to ensure the receptacles are sustained and more are built.

The project team worked hand in hand with GREL rubber outgrower unit throughout the project and they have adopted some of the recommendations from the assessment into their programs. They have looked to addressing challenges with rubber tapping by providing tappers and farmers with training twice each year for improved yield. GREL have also continued the community sensitization on the effects of inappropriate pesticide applications to other smallholder.

Addressing child labour by making roads accessible to vehicles was recommended after the assessment. The MOFA and District assembly have factored this recommendation into their year plan with the aim of improving access roads for farmers.

RTN is working towards gaining support from the Accreditation Framework initiative (AFI) and the Global Platform for Sustainable Natural Rubber (GPSNR) to scale up project. Currently the AFI is working with RTN and Proforest to produce a video on the smallholder project interventions in the Ghanaian forest landscape.

Safeguards

10. If not listed as a separate Project Component and described above, summarize the implementation of any required action related to social or environmental safeguards that your project may have triggered.

The project triggered health and safety safeguards. Field visits by all individuals involved in field activities could be exposed to snake bites, insect attacks, herbicides, traps etc. A health and safety safeguard was developed and submitted to the RIT which addressed all potential risks. The safeguard guided the project implementation such that, no cases of health risks were recorded throughout the project implementation.

Additional Funding

11. 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

a. Total additional funding (US\$)

b. 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:

Donor	Type of Funding*	Amount	Notes
Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)	B). Grantee and Partner Leveraging (other donors contribute to your organization or a partner	US\$220,000	Through the experience and capacity built from this project, RTN has leverage a new funding partnership and implementing a new US\$220,000

	organization as a direct result of successes with this CEPF funded project)		FAO EU FLEGT project in partnership with Civic Response. (An NGO in Ghana)
Amazon	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)	US\$2,500	Through the project implementation RTN was able to secure the amazon cloud service as a donation from Amazon through the techsoup program runned by the West Africa Civil Society Initiative. (WASCI)
Microsoft	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)	US\$6,7250	The project opened RTN to WASCI programmed called techsoup. RTN has secured Microsoft 2019 and Microsoft 365 Office applications donations for ten years (2019 to 2029) for 5 staff.

* 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 investment or successes related to this project)

Additional Comments/Recommendations

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

Dealing with smallholder farmers in itself is challenging because of the large numbers and the sparse distribution of their settlements in the landscape. Many of this farmers live in small remote communities and reaching them is challenging.

In the project landscape, regular joint meetings are mostly impossible due to the stated challenges. The best approach is to visit farmers at community levels and in nearby plantations. Replication of similar effort with the numerous smallholder farmers and their communities requires a lot of commitment and resources, which RTN has optimally utilized to achieve the laid down project objectives.

PART IV: Impact at Portfolio and Global Level

CEPF requires that each grantee report on impact at the end of the project. The purpose of this report is to collect data that will contribute to CEPF’s portfolio and global indicators. CEPF will aggregate the data that you submit with data from other grantees, to determine the overall impact of CEPF investment. CEPF’s aggregated results will be reported on in our annual report and other communications materials.

Ensure that the information provided pertains to the entire project, from start date to project end date.

Contribution to Portfolio Indicators

13. If CEPF assigned one or more Portfolio Indicators to your project during the full proposal preparation phase, please list these below and report on the project's contribution(s) to them.

Indicator	Narrative
At least 5 partnerships are formed or strengthened among civil society, government, private sector and communities to promote best practices in mining, sustainable forestry and agriculture by private companies.	The project has created the common platform for all stakeholders of smallholder agriculture in the Ahanta West district of the Western region. The project have brought the various government agencies, MOFA, FSD, district assembly, as well as the private operators, GREL, and Norpalm closer to the farming communities. This has strengthened the relationship between all the stakeholders ensuring efficient collaboration and contributing to ideas that promote sustainable development in the landscape. A typical example is the MOFA posting an extension officer to eastern bloc of the project area after farmers demanded extension services at a stakeholder meeting organized under the project.
At least 2 private companies adopt new management practices consistent with biodiversity conservation at operations in the conservation corridors.	Buyers of natural rubber such as Michelin and Bridgestone requires suppliers to acquire rubber latex from sustainable source therefore there is the need to manage and protect all HCVs and HCS in sourcing areas. GREL is able to assess and manage HCV and HCS in their nuclear plantations but normally lack adequate resources to extend assessment into outgrower plantations. Results of assessment were shared with GREL and the GREL Rubber Outgrower Unit (ROU) has adopted the results and recommendations from the HCV, HCS assessment for implementation. GREL has continuously supported implementation of the recommendation, associating RTN to communities and addressing the technical aspect of farmers demands to include pricing, transporting of cup lumps among others.

Contribution to Global Indicators

Please report on all Global Indicators (sections 16 to 23 below) that pertain to your project.

14. Key Biodiversity Area Management

Number of hectares of Key Biodiversity Areas (KBA) with improved management

Please report on the number of hectares in KBAs with improved management, as a result of CEPF investment. Examples of improved management include, but are not restricted to: increased patrolling, reduced intensity of snaring, invasive species eradication, reduced incidence of fire, and introduction of sustainable agricultural/fisheries practices. Do not record the entire area covered by the project - only record the number of hectares that have improved management.

If you have recorded part or all of a KBA as newly protected for the indicator entitled "protected areas" (section 17 below), and you have also improved its management, you should record the relevant number of hectares for both this indicator and the "protected areas" indicator.

Name of KBA	# of Hectares with strengthened management *	Is the KBA Not protected, Partially protected or Fully protected? Please select one: NP/PP/FP
Cape Three Point forest reserve	125ha	FP

* Do not count the same hectares more than once. For example, if 500 hectares were improved due to implementation of a fire management regime in the first year, and 200 of these same 500 hectares were improved due to invasive species removal in the second year, the total number of hectares with improved management would be 500.

15. Protected Areas

15a. Number of hectares of protected areas created and/or expanded

Report on the number of hectares of protected areas that have been created or expanded as a result of CEPF investment.

Name of PA*	Country(s)	# of Hectares	Year of legal declaration or expansion	Longitude**	Latitude**

* If possible please provide a shape file of the protected area to CEPF.

** Indicate the latitude and longitude of the center of the site, to the extent possible, or send a map or shapefile to CEPF. Give geographic coordinates in decimal degrees; latitudes in the Southern Hemisphere and longitudes in the Western Hemisphere should be denoted with a minus sign (example: Latitude 38.123456 Longitude: -77.123456).

15b. Protected area management

If you have been requested to submit a Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT), please follow the instructions below. If you have not been requested to submit a METT, please go directly to section 16.

Should you want to know more about the monitoring of protected area management effectiveness and the tracking tool, please click [here](#).

Download the METT template which can be found on [this page](#) and then work with the protected area authorities to fill it out. Please go to the Protected Planet website [here](#) and search for your protected area in their database to record its associated WDP ID. Then please fill in the following table:

WDPA ID	PA Official Name	Date of METT*	METT Total Score

** Please indicate when the METT was filled by the authorities of the park or provide a best estimate if the exact date is unknown. And please only provide METTs less than 12 months old.*

Please do not forget to submit the completed METT together with this report.

16. Production landscape

Please report on the number of hectares of production landscapes with strengthened management of biodiversity, as a result of CEPF investment. A production landscape is defined as a landscape where agriculture, forestry or natural product exploitation occurs. Production landscapes may include KBAs, and therefore hectares counted under the indicator entitled “KBA Management” may also be counted here. Examples of interventions include: best practices and guidelines implemented, incentive schemes introduced, sites/products certified and sustainable harvesting regulations introduced.

Number of hectares of production landscapes with strengthened management of biodiversity.

Name of Production Landscape*	# of Hectares**	Latitude***	Longitude***	Description of Intervention
Cape Three Point agricultural landscape	174	4.80883	-2.06448	Demarcating of forest and farm buffer. Planting of indigenous tree species along riparian buffer.

** If the production landscape does not have a name, provide a brief descriptive name for the landscape.*

***Do not count the same hectares more than once. For example, if 500 hectares were strengthened due to certification in the first year, and 200 of these same 500 hectares were strengthened due to new harvesting regulations in the second year, the total number of hectares strengthened to date would be 500.*

**** Indicate the latitude and longitude of the center of the site, to the extent possible, or send a map or shapefile to CEPF. Give geographic coordinates in decimal degrees; latitudes in the Southern Hemisphere and longitudes in the Western Hemisphere should be denoted with a minus sign (example: Latitude 38.123456 Longitude: -77.123456).*

17. Beneficiaries

CEPF wants to record two types of benefits that are likely to be received by individuals: structured training and increased income. Please report on the number of men and women that have benefited from structured training (such as financial management, beekeeping, horticulture) and/or increased income (such as from tourism, agriculture, medicinal plant harvest/production, fisheries, handicraft production) as a result of CEPF investment. Please provide results since the start of your project to project completion.

17a. Number of men and women receiving structured training.

# of men receiving structured training *	# of women receiving structured training *
36	17

**Please do not count the same person more than once. For example, if 5 men received structured training in beekeeping, and 3 of these also received structured training in project management, the total number of men who benefited from structured training should be 5.*

17b. Number of men and women receiving cash benefits.

# of men receiving cash benefits*	# of women receiving cash benefits*

**Please do not count the same person more than once. For example, if 5 men received cash benefits due to tourism, and 3 of these also received cash benefits from increased income due to handicrafts, the total number of men who received cash benefits should be 5.*

18. Benefits to Communities

CEPF wants to record the benefits received by communities, which can differ to those received by individuals because the benefits are available to a group. CEPF also wants to record, to the extent possible, the number of people within each community who are benefiting. Please report on the characteristics of the communities, the type of benefits that have been received during the project, and the number of men/boys and women/girls from these communities that have benefited, as a result of CEPF investment. If exact numbers are not known, please provide an estimate.

18a. Please provide information for all communities that have benefited from project start to project completion.

Name of Community	Community Characteristics (mark with x)						Type of Benefit (mark with x)						# of Beneficiaries					
	Subsistence economy	Small landowners	Indigenous/ ethnic peoples	Pastoralists / nomadic peoples	Recent migrants	Urban communities	Other*	Increased access to clean water	Increased food security	Increased access to energy	Increased access to public services (e.g. health care, education)	Increased resilience to climate change	Improved land tenure	Improved recognition of traditional knowledge	Improved representation and decision-making in governance forums/structures	Improved access to ecosystem services	# of men and boys benefiting	# of women and girls benefiting
Akodee			x									x					7	2
Adelazo	x											x					3	2
Cape three Point			x									x					12	4
Nkwantanan			x									x					5	3
Seremowu	x											x					4	2
Princess Town			x									x		x			2	0
Animakrom			x									x					8	1

*If you marked "Other" to describe the community characteristic, please explain:

18b. Geolocation of each community

Indicate the latitude and longitude of the center of the community, to the extent possible, or upload a map or shapefile. Give geographic coordinates in decimal degrees; latitudes in the Southern Hemisphere and longitudes in the Western Hemisphere should be denoted with a minus sign (example: Latitude 38.123456 Longitude: -77.123456).

Name of Community	Latitude	Longitude
Akodee	4.76718	-2.02968
Adelazo	4.83128	-2.08368
Cape three Point	4.74721	-2.08925
Nkwantanan	4.81700	-2.08333
Seremowu	4.81456	-2.08414
Princess Town	4.79424	-2.13466
Animakrom	4.79726	-2.01156

19. Policies, Laws and Regulations

Please report on change in the number of legally binding laws, regulations, and policies with conservation provisions that have been enacted or amended, as a result of CEPF investment. "Laws and regulations" pertain to official rules or orders, prescribed by authority. Any law, regulation, decree or order is eligible to be included. "Policies" that are adopted or pursued by a government, including a sector or faction of government, are eligible.

19a. Name, scope and topic of the policy, law or regulation that has been amended or enacted as a result of your project

No.	Scope (mark with x)	Topic(s) addressed (mark with x)
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	Name of Law, Policy or Regulation	Local	National	Regional/International	Agriculture	Climate	Ecosystem Management	Education	Energy	Fisheries	Forestry	Mining and Quarrying	Planning/Zoning	Pollution	Protected Areas	Species Protection	Tourism	Transportation	Wildlife Trade
1																			
2																			
...																			

19b. For each law, policy or regulation listed above, please provide the requested information in accordance with its assigned number.

No.	Country(s)	Date enacted/ amended MM/DD/YYYY	Expected impact	Action that you performed to achieve this change
1				
2				
3				

20. Sustainable Financing Mechanism

Sustainable financing mechanisms generate financial resources for the long-term (generally five or more years). Examples of sustainable financial mechanisms include conservation trust funds, debt-for-nature swaps, payment for ecosystem services (PES) schemes, and other revenue, fee or tax schemes that generate long-term funding for conservation.

All CEPF grantees (or sub-grantees) with project activities that pertain to the creation and/or the implementation of a sustainable financing mechanism are requested to provide information on the mechanism and the funds it delivered to conservation projects during the project timeframe, unless another grantee involved with the same mechanism has already been or is expected to be tasked with this.

CEPF requires that all sustainable financing mechanism projects to provide the necessary information at their completion.

20a. Details about the mechanism

Fill in this table for as many mechanisms you worked on during your project implementation as needed.

NO.	Name of financing mechanism	Purpose of the mechanism*	Date of Establishment**	Description***	Countries
1	Payment for agrochemical waste management	To make available funds for the management of the produced receptacles and also build new receptacles.	September 2019	An EPA certified agrochemical waste management company has gone into agreement with communities to collect the waste from the receptacle when full. This money is used to repair and increase the number of receptacles as planned. Remnants funds will go into alternative livelihood options for communities. . Each community elected one person to manage the receptacles. Payments are made public and its use is accounted for to the community	Ghana
2					
3					

*Please provide a succinct description of the mission of the mechanism.

**Please indicate when the sustainable financing mechanism was officially created. If you do not know the exact date, provide a best estimate.

***Description, such as trust fund, endowment, PES scheme, incentive scheme, etc.

20b. Performance of the mechanism

For each Financing Mechanism listed previously, please provide the requested information in accordance with its assigned number.

NO.	Project intervention*	\$ Amount disbursed to conservation projects**	Period under Review (MM/YYYY -MM/YYYY)***
1			

2			
3			

**List whether the CEPF grant has helped to create a new mechanism (Created a mechanism) or helped to support an existing mechanism (Supported an existing mechanism) or helped to create and then support a new mechanism (Created and supported a new mechanism).*

***Please only indicate the USD amount disbursed to conservation projects during the period of implementation of your project and using, when needed, the exchange rate on the day of your report.*

****Please indicate the period of implementation of your project or the period considered for the amount you indicated.*

Please do not forget to submit any relevant document which could provide justification for the amount you stated above.

21. Biodiversity-friendly Practices

Please describe any biodiversity-friendly practices that companies have adopted as a result of CEPF investment. A company is defined as a legal entity made up of an association of people, be they natural, legal, or a mixture of both, for carrying on a commercial or industrial enterprise. While companies take various forms, for the purposes of CEPF, a company is defined as a for-profit business entity. A biodiversity-friendly practice is one that conserves or uses biodiversity sustainably.

Number of companies that adopt biodiversity-friendly practices

No.	Name of company	Description of biodiversity-friendly practice adopted during the project
1	Ghana Rubber Estates Limited.	The project has established a fruitful relation with GREL such that GREL, for the first time, has opened up to working with environmental NGOs in tackling biodiversity loss and forest conversion from their supply chain. GREL has also adopted the outcome and recommendations of the project assessments following the four intervention areas identified by the project. Buffer management, tackling child labour, agrochemical handling and good farming practices. GREL continues to create awareness and demonstrate this interventions in other smallholder communities outside the project area. GREL is supporting and partnering RTN to provide training for tappers to improve yield therefore avoiding forest conversion for higher yield. GREL have been impressed with the pesticide management strategy adopted by RTN by providing waste receptacles and there are discussions at GREL management level to support this initiative to the outgrowers in other communities. GREL has also incorporated agrochemical handling as a regular topic on its quarterly meetings with outgrowers.
2		

22. Networks & Partnerships

Please report on any new networks or partnerships between civil society groups and across to other sectors that you have established or strengthened as a result of CEPF investment.

Networks/partnerships should have some lasting benefit beyond immediate project implementation. Informal networks/partnerships are acceptable even if they do not have a Memorandum of

Understanding or other type of validation. Examples of networks/partnerships include: an alliance of fisherfolk to promote sustainable fisheries practices, a network of environmental journalists, a partnership between one or more NGOs with one or more private sector partners to improve biodiversity management on private lands, a working group focusing on reptile conservation. Please do not use this tab to list the partners in your project, unless some or all of them are part of such a network / partnership described above.

Number of networks and/or partnerships created and/or strengthened

No.	Name of Network	Name of Partnership	Year established	Did your project establish this Network/ Partnership? Y/N	Country(s) covered	Purpose
1	Public Private Community Network of Smallholder rubber farmers	Smallholder agriculture stakeholder group, Ahanta West.	November 2018	Y	Ghana	The network is to provide a common platform for all stakeholders of smallholder agriculture in the Ahanta West district. The platform is to promote collaboration, contribution and participation in addressing smallholder agriculture challenges in the landscape. Members are from government agencies (FSD, MOFA, District Assembly), Private players (GREL, Norpalm, Association of small scale industries), and communities.
2	Association of Self Finance Rubber Outgrowers	-	2011	N	Ghana	Through the project, the association have been introduced to the international rubber platform, Global Platform for sustainable rubber (GPSNR). ASFRO member have benefited through the strengthening of their membership and participation in a meetings organized by

						the GPSNR in Cote D'ivoire.
...						

23. Gender

If you have been requested to submit a Gender Tracking Tool (GTT), please follow the instructions provided in the Excel GTT template. If you have not been requested to submit a GTT, please go directly to Part V.

Should you want to know more about CEPF Gender Policy, please click [here](#).

Download the GTT template which can be found on [this page](#) and then work with your team to fill it out. Please do not forget to submit the completed GTT together with this report.

Part V. 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:

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