

CEPF Final Project Completion Report

Organization Legal Name:	Lem, the Environment & Development Society of Ethiopia
Project Title:	Mainstreaming Biodiversity into District Development Planning and Improving Livelihoods in Ethiopia
Grant Number:	65711
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:	\$149,399.00
Project Dates:	March 01, 2015 - June 30, 2017
Date of Report:	July 28, 2017

Implementation Partners

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

Implementation partners of this project have been Ankober district four offices; finance & economic cooperation, agriculture and natural resource, women and children affairs and environmental protection offices. They provided all policy and technical support whenever requested. Aliyu Amba community has been actively involved from day one of the project implementation and continued to do so and promised to keep on the management of the resources. Both institutions and the community were involved in planning, monitoring and evaluation of the project based on the monitoring and evaluation plan. Ethiopian Biodiversity Institute and Debre Birhan University have made enormous contribution during the development of biodiversity mainstreaming guideline. They assigned professionals during the review of the documents and the organization of validation workshop to the draft document.

Conservation Impacts

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

80% of the community in Aliyu Amba and 60% of district and provincial level decision makers and policy implementers have gained knowledge and experience about the interrelationship and interdependence between biodiversity conservation, poverty reduction and climate change adaptation. Aliyu Amba community has developed climate change adaptation capacity through agricultural diversification and conservation practices. 460 ha of degraded land restored and changed to productive landscape. Thus, habitat and ecosystem services improved. Biodiversity mainstreamed to the already existing agriculture and conservation, forestry, tourism and the water development plan, while the district administration promised to integrate in other sectors like education and rural road construction. 121 poor women and jobless youths income increased by 100% and the pressure on deforestation reduced.

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

Impact Description	Impact Summary
Aliyu Amba community has climate change adaptation capacity	The awareness development workshops and training on watershed management, biodiversity conservation and its link with poverty reduction and climate change adaptation as well as the different ways that can help in climate change adaption with other project components enhanced the community's capacity to adapt climate change impacts. The demonstrated water harvesting ponds, that has shown practically the possibility of application of small scale irrigation during the dry season and farm diversification contributed to climate change adaptation capacity. The change in land use practice from unsustainable farming to conservation farming and the restoration of the sub catchment and the changing process from degraded to productive landscape eventually has encouraged the community to continue the initiative.
Degraded land rehabilitated, biodiversity resources and habitat restored and ecosystem services increased	The rehabilitation of the degraded land is bringing different land races (trees and shrubs), small mammals like rabbits, smaller wild goats and birds including Ankober Serin, which it has become hard for us to study their species and identify by names. The Ankober Serin is observed more frequently and in numbers than during the rainy season of 2015. As the catchment covered with vegetation (forest enrichment and regeneration for the none animal intervention), the problem flooding to at the lower part of the sub catchment has reduced by more than half last year and almost none this year or up to date. The discharge capacity of the spring that we have developed flow continuously regardless of the increasing number of user from July 2016 to June 2017 where it was not sufficient for 30 households in May to June 2015.

Habitat and biodiversity resources restored	As mentioned above for the rehabilitation of the sub catchment and the different conservation methods applied (physical and biological) and the implementation of the by-law developed by the community that strictly restricts animal intervention/free grazing and cutting trees, with other factors have created favorable environment for the habitat and biodiversity restoration.
Ecosystem services increased	The increase in the spring's (situated within the sub catchment and developed by the project) discharge capacity from 5 liter per minute increased to 10 lt per minute during the day time. Community has started to get livestock feed which is used through cut and carry system from the area which was once bare land before the intervention of the project. The improved mango seedlings and other tree species planted and survived are potential sources of income in the coming 5 years period.
Land productivity increased and community livelihoods improved	Regardless of shortage of farmland, the rehabilitated sub catchment has become productive that showed good trends in improving livelihood security. The reduction, as it happened none this year, the impact of flooding over 20 ha of land is another achievement that increased land productivity and contributed to the livelihood improvement of sub community members. Those community members who own the water harvesting ponds (three in number), having each a volume of 165 cubic meter, it has made three times a year harvesting which is a good lesson for policy makers and other community members. One of the targets earned an income of closer to US\$510 by selling vegetables during one harvest.

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

Impact Description	Impact Summary
80% of the local/district level decision makers & implementers and Aliyu Amba community's knowledge and experience on the strong link between biodiversity resources and socio-economic development specifically agriculture increased through 670 targets and information sharing at the end of the project period	Through awareness development workshops and training/formal training organized by the project, 521 participants (375 male & 146 female) have got the opportunity to develop their knowledge and experience on watershed management, biodiversity conservation and ecosystem protection and the link with poverty reduction and resource based conflict, and the importance mainstreaming biodiversity in development plan and gender mainstreaming, project cycle management, monitoring and evaluation. Experience sharing event was organized in three rounds at the site level to federal level decision makers, experts and researchers and universities; provincial level similar

	<p>people and other district decision makers and policy implementer. Among the participants were media people from the regional television and regional radio and FM radios who air the experience at different times. A total of 215 people attended the experience sharing event among whom female were only 57. This helped to reach the information/experience gained to 80% of Aliyu Amba community and 60% district level decision makers and policy implementer.</p>
<p>Biodiversity conservation mainstreamed in local development policy and planning specifically in the agriculture/livelihood and environment sector indicated in local development policy and planning document at the end of the project period</p>	<p>The guideline required to mainstreaming biodiversity to development plan was developed and has distributed to a number of institutions other than those concerned offices at district level. Ankober district agriculture and natural resource and the district land administration and environment protection offices have already started to review the previously developed five years planned and incorporated some elements to their remaining activities for the coming two years period. Ethiopian Biodiversity Institute is very much interested and requested us to sign MoU to develop such a guideline to be used at national level. That means it will be part of the federal government policy document for the implementation of and follow up of Convention on Biodiversity Conservation.</p>
<p>460 ha of degraded land rehabilitated and 60% of planted tree seedlings and vetiver slips survived at the end of the project period</p>	<p>The degraded 460 ha of land where more than 50% of the area covered with physical and biological conservation methods and the application of the by-laws developed by the community against free grazing and none conservation practice helped the land to rehabilitate within two years period. 112,000 different tree species seedlings (three indigenous and 8 exotic but multi purpose tree species) and 35,000 vetiver grass slips were planted during the three long rainy season including this year over this area and more than 70% of the tree seedlings and 90% of the vetiver grass slips planted in June-July 2015 and 2016 survived. More than 15 km of physical conservation activities like soil and stone bund, check dams, water holding pits, cut of drain were constructed.</p>
<p>Deforestation reduced by 15% at the end of the project period</p>	<p>The main cause of deforestation over Aliyu Amba like most other parts of Ethiopia has been farmland expansion, fuelwood & charcoal making and construction. The human capacity development intervention of the project was integrated with meeting some of the socioeconomic needs of targets. The engagement of 121 poor women and jobless uses where some of them were involved in cutting trees and charcoal making and farming the degraded land</p>

	<p>irrespective of conservation measures have got out of the old practice. In addition to this, the production and supply of energy efficient stoves to 110 households who leave in the catchment, reduced their fuel wood consumption by 30%, in some cases as reported by users up to 40% fuel wood consumption reduction has made significant contribution in reducing deforestation. Within the sub catchment it can be said that the reduction is more than 90% for the enforcement of the by-law developed by the community and implementation of government regulations. The regulation was there before the intervention of the project but was not translated into action.</p>
<p>100 target poor women and jobless youths involved in eco-friendly alternative means of livelihoods and their income increased by 50% at the end of the project period</p>	<p>Training on entrepreneurship and alternative means of livelihoods, income generation practices, sheep/goats rearing, beekeeping and basic skill on bookkeeping and other recordings were provided to 139 selected poor women and jobless youths among whom 39 were female. The training session was conducted into three rounds. 110 engaged in sheep/goats rearing while 21 were engaged in energy efficient stoves production. Both have got legal entity or licensed as small scale enterprises. Those engaged in sheep/goats rearing were provided 3-5 female of either depending on their need. Currently, those engaged in sheep/goats rearing have got 12-16 either sheep/goats even some of them have sold 1-3 sheep/goat. Their current income was assessed against the base line which was less than US\$120 annually. Based on the assessment their average income increased to US\$510 while those engaged in stoves production increased by 45% and ten of their members dropped out.</p>

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

The project has been successful in achieving maximum participation of the community and government partners by building smooth relationship and trust. This has been among the best practices that the project achieved and shared to many other districts and the NGO community. One of the experience sharing event participants from Debre Birhan University witnessed that the structure will help the university as demonstration center for his department of water engineering courses which they used to travel for demonstration to Arba Minch which is 650 km away from Debre Birhan town. This is another an expected achievement of the project. The development and implementation of the Biodiversity Mainstreaming Guideline at district level is another achievement.

Were there any unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?



Flooding over the tree nursery site caused by heavy rain in March 2017 which was for the asphalt road construction project drainage system failure to accommodate the runoff. The flood damaged over 30,000 three species of indigenous tree seedlings. We have substituted those by fast growing improved papaya fruit tree seedlings.

Project Components and Products/Deliverables

Describe the results from each product/deliverable:

Component		Deliverable		
#	Description	#	Description	Results for Deliverable
1	Biodiversity conservation mainstreamed	1.1	Biodiversity conservation integrated in local agricultural and land administration development policy and planning starting from 2017	Biodiversity mainstreaming guideline was developed in 2016 and validated by validation workshop organized during the same year. After validated the guideline has been distributed to different government institutions from ministerial level to district level specifically Ankober district. Three institutions from Ankober district; agriculture and natural resources office, land administration and environmental protection office, water and energy office started review their development plan which will go up to 2019. The provincial administration recognized the need to mainstream biodiversity conservation in development plan and promised to fully integrated biodiversity in the coming five years plan. Ethiopian Biodiversity Institute requested Lem Ethiopia to sign an MoU to scale the guideline at national level by translating it from English to different local languages.
2	Biodiversity resources restored and ecological system and services maintained	2.1	460 ha of land rehabilitated and 60% of multipurpose tree seedlings survived	The 460 ha of land rehabilitated and 60% of it has been covered by physical and biological conservation methods. 70% of planted tree seedlings and vetiver slips in 2015 and 2016 survived by 70% and 90% respectively.
3	Reduce deforestation	3.1	100 poor women and jobless youths in Teter Amba sub catchment changed their means of livelihood from fuelwood and charcoal selling to alternative means of livelihoods and their income	The number of targets increased from 100 to 121 regardless or the 10 dropouts after a year. The 110 targets engaged in sheep/goats rearing income has increased by 850% while those 21 engaged in the production of energy saving stoves income increased by 45%.

			increased by 50%	
4	Experience shared	4.1	Best practices and experiences shared to 100 organizations involved in biodiversity conservation	80 different organizations other than those in Ankober district involved directly and indirectly in biodiversity conservation shared the experience during the experience sharing event and on their own visit. Those shared the experience were research institutes, universities, NGOs and government offices which are out of Ankober.

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

The openness, transparency and accountability of the project and the smooth relationship and friendliness created by the project with all key stakeholders and the community which is a genuine participation of all key stakeholders helped to achieve the results.

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

We learned that the openness, transparency and accountability of the project to all key stakeholders and community is very important to achieve project objectives and ensure sustainability. We learned that linking biodiversity strongly with food security and other livelihood issues help to meet both biodiversity conservation and basic needs of target community. The soil and water conservation activities, the plantation of multi purpose tree species, the vetiver grass and improved fruit trees' seedlings, the protection of the area and the fast growing of all plantations is the cause for the confidence of the target community to own the project results now and in the future.

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.

We would like to emphasise on linking biodiversity conservation with livelihood security within the target area/community context that has made the project and important for replication and sustainability of the project.

The mainstreaming biodiversity component of the project was the challenge for no initiation has been taken before that made difficult in getting reference material on biodiversity mainstreaming. As the result of this we was forced to depend more on materials produced by GEF and a few other countries. At the end we have succeeded and encouraged to develop a guideline that can help to mainstream biodiversity conservation in development plan at national level which has hardly untouched.

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

None as indicated in the project document under safeguard questions and fortunately nothing such an impact happened..

Additional Comments/Recommendations

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

We would like to thank CEPF and its regional team with the technical support and helpfulness in case of any request for clarification and other matters beyond the financial support. We are grateful working with CEPF as real development partners. If there was a possibility to get enough time, it would have been good to measure impact trends and make clear on what type of species come to the rehabilitated project site.

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)*

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- C *Regional/Portfolio Leveraging (other donors make large investments in a region because of CEPF investment or successes related to this project)*

The system has not accepted my be not matching with its definition

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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