

CEPF Final Project Completion Report

Organization Legal Name:	Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust
Project Title:	Developing National Management Guidance for Madagascar's Freshwater Wetlands
Grant Number:	65858
CEPF Region:	Madagascar and Indian Ocean Islands
Strategic Direction:	2 Enable civil society to mainstream biodiversity and conservation into political and economic decision-making.
Grant Amount:	\$62,575.00
Project Dates:	November 01, 2015 - January 31, 2019
Date of Report:	March 29, 2019

Implementation Partners

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

Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust (WWT) have been responsible for overall project coordination, facilitating meetings and working groups, drafting National Wetland Wise-Use Guidance, organising the 2018 World Wetland Day training, and supporting guidance adoption nationally. **Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust (Durrell)** have been the in-country focal point for this project, helping to organise meetings and directly managing the in-country financial administration of the project. Durrell have facilitated project introductions to the Ramsar National Focal Point and CONARAMS, the Ramsar National Committee. Durrell have also supported fieldwork to collect data on case studies to be included in the guidance.

Asity Madagascar (Asity) have helped to bring together relevant local stakeholders and have supported the case study fieldwork and the implementation of guidance. Asity have also contributed to expert discussion sessions for the wetland stakeholders during the 2018 World Wetland Day event in Antananarivo.

Organisation de Soutien pour le Développement Rural a Madagascar (OSDRM) have represented and connected with the international development and rural livelihoods sectors in meetings and workshops and have given input to the guidance document.

Conservation Impacts

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

This project has been the catalyst for an active and engaged network of wetland stakeholders to; develop guidance for wetland managers and users throughout the country, support increase wetland conservation capacity, and generate a baseline of information on the current state and future priorities for Ramsar Site Management.

A government endorsed 'Guide National pour la Gestion Durable des Zones Humides' (National Guidance for Sustainable Management of Wetlands) has been published in French and Malagasy and has been distributed and is widely available for free download. Training and awareness events have boosted capacity of over 100 wetland managers and civil society groups, and helped to identify priority areas for further support. One such area, the need for a standardised baseline of conservation effectiveness throughout the country, was integrated into this project, resulting in 2-day Ramsar Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool workshops at nine of the country's 20 Ramsar Sites. These workshops were ideal for supporting site managers to implement the national guidance, helping to identify management priorities.

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

Impact Description	Impact Summary
<p>At least 70% of those key wetland managers/practitioners and policy makers benefiting from the project are still engaged in wetland conservation in the long-term (particularly around wetland KBAs), are continuing to network/exchange experience and are applying the principles of the guidance, with significant numbers having progressed to positions of greater influence.</p>	<p>Through working groups, workshops, a conference, study tours and fieldwork, this project has brought together stakeholders from various government departments (nationally and regionally), civil society (development and environmental conservation sectors) and local communities involved in Ramsar Site management. Project outputs and training materials are being shared on a Dropbox sharing platform, originally launched and shared with over 100 participants attending the 2018 World Wetland Day celebrations and National Wetland Guidance launch and training event. The National Wetland Guidance is being applied at nine Ramsar Sites, many of which are in wetland KBAs, through participatory Ramsar Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool workshops that have highlighted areas where the Guidance will be most relevant and useful to local wetland stakeholders. Up to 10 relevant wetland stakeholders were involved in each site workshop. The write ups of these assessments are presented back to wetland managers and local policy-makers and form a standardised foundation for improved management in the future. WWT is now Chairing the National Coordination Committee on Freshwater Biodiversity to maintain momentum for wider freshwater wetland stakeholders engaged in this project.</p>
<p>Madagascar's wetlands are also being used as a global model (e.g. as a case study under global conventions like Ramsar and CBD).</p>	<p>WWT's Malagasy Wetland Technical Adviser presented the process and results of the National Wetland Guidance development and legacy projects at a Ramsar</p>

	International Organisation Partner (IOP) side-event at Ramsar Conference of Parties 13 in October 2018. This showcased the potential for IOPs to work with global funders and conservation agencies to support Ramsar Contracting Parties to implement elements of the Ramsar Strategic Plan. Hard copies of the Guidance were shared with Ramsar CoP13 participants at the WWT convention stand.
--	---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

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

Impact Description	Impact Summary
Clear plans are in place to directly improve the management of at least three wetlands in Madagascar and more than 100 managers/practitioners across the country, including those responsible for wetland KBAs, are better informed about or have access to the new guidance and are better connected as part of a professional network to exchange experience.	Participatory multi-stakeholder Ramsar Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool workshops have been completed and written up for at nine Ramsar Sites in Madagascar, many of which are KBAs. These assessment workshops brought together those involved in the management and wise-use of the Ramsar Sites, appraising threats and conservation management status and capacity, and highlighting priority next steps and areas of support and advice with the National Wetland Guidance. The National Wetland Guidance, developed alongside wetland stakeholders from across the country and endorsed by the Madagascar Government, is available in French and Malagasy and can be downloaded electronically from the stakeholder dropbox and the webpage of the Ministère de l'Environnement et du Développement Durable (http://www.ecologie.gov.mg/telecharger/ - French only but Malagasy version being uploaded). Site managers have been given hard copies of the Guidance. Over 100 stakeholders attended the launch of the National Wetland Guidance and/or wetland conservation and management training events.

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

The greatest challenge of this project was to agree on the scope of the National Wetland Guidance. The Ramsar definition of wetlands includes natural freshwater systems, human-made sites (including rice paddies), and marine water the depth of which at low tide does not exceed six metres. The Guidance needed to be comprehensive but accessible. It was impossible to be all things to everyone, so the scope discussion was challenging at times. The group reviewed wider literature to identify key gaps and needs and drew the scope from there. We were aware that trialing the application of the guidance would help identify areas where greater detail of information is needed. The other challenge here was to deliver this project concurrently with the new National Wetland Strategy. It would have been useful for this guidance to be an early product after the strategy was finalised, but that process took longer than expected.



The greatest successes lay in the energy that this project has given to the wetland community in Madagascar. The project ran alongside the designation of new Ramsar Sites, so in this regard the timing was fortuitous. The creation of a National Coordination Committee for Freshwater Biodiversity, and plans to enhance the capacity of CONARAMS are positive steps beyond the original scope of this project.

Were there any unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?

None

Project Components and Products/Deliverables

Describe the results from each product/deliverable:

Component		Deliverable		
#	Description	#	Description	Results for Deliverable
1	The tools and techniques to enable best-practice sustainable management of Madagascar's wetlands are developed/synthesised into guidance through a participatory approach that builds capacity in at least 12 key stakeholders	1.1	National wetland management guidance document produced and endorsed by government	Completed, with versions in French and Malagasy shared with Ramsar Site Managers, NGOs, government, and freely available online. The 'Guide National pour la Gestion Durable des Zones Humides Madagascar' was endorsed with a Foreword from the then Minister of Environment, Ecology and Forests, Dr Johanita Ndahimananjara.
2	Improved management of at least three key biodiversity-rich wetlands in Madagascar through practical application of the guidance	2.1	Case studies on at least four key wetlands are produced to inform the development of (and are included within) the guidance document	Three study sites (Aloatra, Torotorofotsy and Lake Kinkony) are written-up as case studies within the final published Guidance document. The fourth study site, Lake Sofia, was used as the worked example throughout the presentation by Tomos Avent to launch the Guidance document at the National Wetland Conference and Training event in Feb 2018.
2	Improved management of at least three key biodiversity-rich wetlands in Madagascar through practical application of the guidance	2.2	Reports produced on the application of guidance to at least three pilot wetlands, including recommendations for action.	A report has been produced on the application of the Guidance, through initial R-METT Assessments, at nine Ramsar Sites. The assessment process clearly articulates recommendations for action and areas where the National Wetland Guidance can offer direct support, recommendations, and access to appropriate tools and resources.
3	A platform is	3.1	Inaugural	The National Wetland Guidance launch conference was

	<p>established for civil society to share information and best practice on wetland management and engage with other stakeholders, leading to greater national awareness/appreciation of wetlands and improved policies and decision making.</p>		<p>national wetlands conference held and plan developed to ensure it's continuation/legacy</p>	<p>held on the 1st and 2nd of February 2018 bringing together; 17 of the 20 Madagascar Ramsar Site Managers, NGOs, members of the Working Group, the Africa Regional Capacity Building Officer of the Ramsar Secretariat, the Minister of Environment, the British Ambassador to Madagascar, representatives from all relevant national government departments and ministries, and businesses with stakes in wetland management and use. The guidance document was presented by co-author Tomos Avent (WWT) and training sessions were held to support improved wetland management. An associated public awareness event was held to Celebrate World Wetland Day on 2nd Feb.</p> <p>WWT is now Chair of the National Coordination Committee for Freshwater Biodiversity and a member of CONARAMS. A new ToR for CONARAMS is being created to better coordinate the group and improve links with other government offices which have policies and make decisions which can impact upon the health of freshwater systems (e.g. links to the Office National Environment (ONE) to increase CONARAMS role in checking Ecological Impact Assessments for activities around key wetlands).</p>
4	<p>Key meetings and events in support delivery of the wider project are organised by local project partner (Durrell)</p>	4.1	<p>All workshops, meetings, and fieldwork in support of components 1-3 are organised and delivered in a timely and efficient manner</p>	<p>All activities and deliverables have been achieved during this project.</p>
5	<p>Work undertaken by Durrell is effectively supervised and managed</p>	5.1	<p>Technical and financial management procedures are put in place and followed to ensure delivery of Durrell-led activities, including a</p>	<p>Technical and financial management procedures have worked well throughout this project to deliver the project on time and on budget.</p>

			sub-grant agreement.	
1	The tools and techniques to enable best-practice sustainable management of Madagascar's wetlands are developed/synthesized into guidance through a participatory approach that builds capacity in at least 12 key stakeholders	1.2	Capacity on sustainable wetland management is built in the key individuals and institutions appointed as members of the working group	<p>Members of the Working Group were identified through CONARAMS and through other existing conservation and development networks. The working group drove the development of the guidance and the majority participated in at least one of the three study tours that would later become case studies in the Guidance document. All members of the working Group attended the National Wetland Guidance launch and training event in 2018 which included training on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Wetland Management; Tools & Resources available through the Ramsar Convention (by Rasamoelina Rakotomamonjy, Ramsar Secretariat), and Wetland Management Planning and Restoration (by Bena Smith, WWT Consulting). - Application of National Wetland Guidance (by Tomos Aent, WWT) - Wetland Management Problems, Challenges & Outlook (by Volatiana Rahanitriniaina, Ramsar National Focal Point) - Aquatic Plants (by Nadiah Manjato, Missouri Botanical Gardens) - Freshwater Fish (by Tsilavina Ravelomanana, University of Antananarivo) - Assessing Freshwater Services in KBAs in Madagascar (by Luciano Andriamaro, Conservation International). <p>A final capacity assessment showed that all workshop members felt that that the process was beneficial, with 82% reporting that they had a significantly greater knowledge by the end of the process.</p>

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

The final National Wetland Guidance document (in French and Malagasy) will be added in the 'Other Information' section of this report.

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

As an international organisation, it was essential for WWT to have an in-country partner to coordinate the financial administration of this project. During the project, WWT secured the services of a Malagasy Wetland Technical Advisor, who was able to increase the delivery and scope of the final element of our project; trialing the Guidance.

WWT are now committed to registering an office in Madagascar and this project has created a strong foundation for us to further support the Madagascar government to deliver on their commitments to the Ramsar Convention and to further enhance capacity and cooperation of wetland networks in Madagascar.

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.

This project was designed around enhancing the foundation of information and capacity for wetland conservation and management within government and civil society. The project has successfully brought together stakeholders and, through stakeholder networks, delivered appropriate resources and showcased methods for assessing management effectiveness and prioritising conservation action. Although the network is now stronger than it was prior to the project, we have not yet identified a funding mechanism to support its evolution. Aligned to the National Wetland Strategy, it is vital that an action plan and long-term funding strategy is soon in place to ensure that momentum is maintained. WWT will continue to pursue this alongside our partners.

As with all Guidance documents, it is important that it is known about, accessible, and remains relevant. Although the guidance is free to download, and physical copies have been shared with wetland managers, it is important that WWT continue to pursue opportunities to promote and distribute the guidance. This is especially important for those not directly inside the wetland community who conduct work that can impact upon the health of wetland systems. The Guidance should also be reviewed and updated every 6 years to remain relevant.

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

N/A

Additional Comments/Recommendations

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

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\$)
\$38,578.00

Type of funding

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

- A Project Co-Financing (other donors or your organization contribute to the direct costs of this project)*
- B Grantee and Partner Leveraging (other donors contribute to your organization or a partner organization as a direct result of successes with this CEPF funded project)*
- C Regional/Portfolio Leveraging (other donors make large investments in a region because of CEPF investment or successes related to this project)*

A Project Co-Financing

A total of \$35,549 was secured as match funding from the UK Government's Darwin Initiative (\$22,000) and HSBC (\$13,549). This covered staff time on the project that was not covered by this grant.

B Grantee and Partner Leveraging

Because of the success of this project, our Country Director for Madagascar, Harison Andriambelo, went to the recent Ramsar COP13 in Dubai to talk about WWT's work in the country including this project. DEFRA (the Department for Environment, Farming & Rural Affairs) covered Harison's expenses for this trip, totalling \$3,029

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

Tomos Avent, Head of Conservation & Development, Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust (WWT). Address: Slimbridge, Glos GL2 7BT, UK. Phone: +44 1453 891243. Email: tomos.avent@wwt.org.uk