

CEPF SMALL GRANT FINAL PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

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| Organization Legal Name: | Development Impact |
| Project Title: | Empowering women to become agents of change for conservation and preservation of species in four villages surrounding Njombe forests |
| Date of Report: | 08/June/ 2015 |
| Report Author and Contact Information | Sylvia Kalenzi, kalenzisylyvia@yahoo.com |

CEPF Region:
Eastern Afromontane hotspot, Njombe forests KBA

Strategic Direction:

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:

\$ 20,000/=

Project Dates:

October 2013– April 2015

Implementation Partners for this Project (please explain the level of involvement for each partner):

Njombe District Council is our site host and implementing partner. The council supported DI with biodiversity policy and community awareness creation.

Conservation Impacts

Please explain/describe how your project has contributed to the implementation of the CEPF ecosystem profile.

Given the socio-economic benefits to the community, the project has fostered development on conservation of natural forest managements. It also contributes to the description of role of women empowerment on conservation issues through village banking, bee keeping and various other environmentally friendly projects and businesses in sustaining forests potentials and ecosystem.

The project has helped the community to understand challenges and opportunities associated with conservation. The implementation reports have been shared with other conservation stakeholders through Full Council Meeting at District level and Regional Level.

Ikorinto and Mn'gelenge forests being part of Njombe forests contains endemic plants, threatened birds and mammal species like owls; Iringa Akalat; Cisticola Njombe; Njombe thick-billed seed eater; Falco amurensis; Onychognathus tenuirostris. quails; parrots e.g. the yellow collared lovebird – endemic to Tanzania and ashy starling – endemic to Tanzania; the black and white cuckoo commonly known as rain migrants; the namaqua dove, the black faced sand grouse; spur fowl; hornbills.

Please summarize the overall results/impact of your project against the expected results detailed in the approved proposal.

Expected Results and achievements

| | SUMMARISED EXPECTED RESULTS | SUMMARISED ACTUAL RESULTS |
|-------------------|--|---|
| SHORT TERM | | |
| 1 | Increased stake of local communities in biodiversity conservation and protection of species | Information obtained from village government indicates that all four villages have a total population of 12,780 people. A productive labor force of only 2531 people. We were able to recruit 361 people from all villages in the project area to join WORTH groups. These groups have continued to implement income generating activities they chose to undertake such as food crops production and horticulture. In addition to this 345 women and 16 men in 13 WORTH groups are actively engaged in biodiversity conservation activities such as beekeeping, horticulture and agroforestry |
| 2 | Strong local institutions that are able to implement innovative models of community based conservation and economic incentives: | Njombe District Council (Forest department) and the 13 WORTH groups made of 345 female and 16 male are already engaged in biodiversity conservation and environmentally |
| 3 | Increased income of women organized in groups through alternative income generating activities and loans from village banks in four villages surrounding Ikorinto and Mn'gelenge forests | On average income of projected families has increased since November 2013. This is attributed to by managing profitably IGAs done by group members. Such IGAs like diary keeping, poultry keeping, trees seedling selling, bee keeping, horticulture, food vending and food crops production are now easily funded by loans from WORTH village Bank. |
| 4 | Rehabilitated degraded areas in Ikorinto and | A total of 6,000 indigenous species were transplanted in Mn'gelenge and Ikorinto |

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|------------------|---|--|
| | Mng'elenge forests through enrichment planting of indigenous tree species | Foerest; these ndigenous species such as , Parinari,curateliforia, Syzygium and cordatum and other local names species were transplanted on degraded forest areas of Ikorinto and Mng'elenge, |
| 5 | Conservation knowledge imparted to women groups that help community to continue conservation activities even after the project ends | <p>1) There are signs of sustainability after the project ends such as;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knowledge and skills on conservation techniques which enhance positive actions. Following the project cases of poaching activities are reported and amendment of village by-laws that allow village councils to take action. • Knowledge and skills dissemination through best practices. One testimony on the impact of this is from Itunduma village where 25 people (19 men and 6 women) have voluntarily formed a group with a biodiversity conservation agenda. They learned from WORTH groups through observation and coaching. This is a sign of sustainability even after the project ends. |
| LONG TERM | | |
| 1 | A generation of women leaders who can educate and sensitize their community on importance of conservation, spearhead economic growth and social development and participate in decision making processes, plans and operations in villages, wards and districts | Women in 13 WORTH groups were trained in leadership and management skills and are leaders in their groups and some in other community institutions. Among them 36 women from WORTH groups are senior leaders in their groups and village council, 2 are leaders at ward council level. A good example is Rhoda Kavia of Twitange B group who is now a member of Itunduma village governing board. It is our hope that in the forthcoming elections more WORTH group women will join a generation of women leaders |
| 2 | Improved livelihoods and reduced poverty | There is an increase in families' ability to initiate and manage income generating activities at their |

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| | | <p>homes as a result of going through WORTH trainings. On average 15 out of 28 members in each WORTH group have managed to increase their income from less than 1 USD in 2014 to 3 USD per day since in April 2015. To reach to this conclusion a simple survey was conducted in two villages (Itunduma and Mng’elenge) selected randomly, a simple questionnaires was designed and administered to capture income and expenditure trends of the families involved in WORTH for the period before and after the project. 56 members of the worth group responded to the questionnaires indicated that there were significant increase in income.</p> <p>In Mshikamano group for instance Mrs. Huruma Mgaya who is a group chairperson is projected to make earning of two hundred Million (200,000,000/) in the next six years which is an average of 2.7M per month (<i>see story in appendix 1</i>)</p> |
| 3 | <p>Reduced overdependence on forest resources for income and food</p> | <p>64,000/ exotic trees were planted in house compound and individual farms to reduce pressure in the forest for fuel and fire woods. Some members of WORTH groups with matured trees farm harvest trees selling timber and other wood products for livelihoods improvement. Example in Itunduma village farm (8 hectares) from which such planting and harvesting is practiced. Another example is Mr. Ayubu Kilaga in Itunduma with 6 hectares farm where such trees business takes place.</p> |

Please provide the following information where relevant:

Hectares Protected: 633.597.

Species Conserved:

Corridors Created: NA

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

Success

- 345 women and 16 men directly reached through WORTH groups bank Programme. These group members received capacity building support on conservation, village banking systems and small business development and management . Men were not part of the plan but got interest to join the groups after seeing women's success and benefits obtained from WORTH program.
- Environmentally friendly income generating activities (IGA) for women and their families in four villages surrounding Ikorinto and Mng'elenge forests were created.
- Nursery beds have been established and transplantation of 6,000 of indigenous species into the degraded area of Mng'elenge and Ikorinto Forest, and 64,000 exotic trees planted at house compounds and domestic farms.
- Training of trainers (ToTs) on:
 - 'Shamba darasa' (this is on-farm practical learning) facilitated by agriculture extension officers to groups of women to impart them with practical skills and best practices in agriculture. This in turn enabled them to use small land to obtain high yield and stop shifting cultivation.
 - Biodiversity conservation and sustainable interactions with natural resources and the environment.
 - Group formation, leadership, financial management and business development
- Amount collected through banking operations have reached T.shs 12,796,000/= expected financial resource mobilization was achieved.
- Behaviour change for women and their families, at the end of project implementation is observed by DI as expected e.g. planting trees in their compounds, agro forestry (planting both trees and crops in their farms) and use of energy saving stoves.

Challenges

- Knowledge on diversification of livelihoods for environmental management is not yet fully in practice as observed across groups members
- Some of WORTH group leaders are not yet effectively competent on their responsibilities. A need to stipulate leadership responsibilities in training session was deemed important. Empowerment workers are also still working to build capacity of those leaders.
- In Mng'elenge village drought conditions forced group members to buy water for watering seedlings in their seedbeds. This is a two fold problem where on one side project management becomes too expensive and on the other side ants destroy seedlings in search for water. The challenge was addressed by planting native drought resistant species.
- Trees seeds were sold at a relatively high cost. It was a challenge to WORTH groups because much of the group money was spent on IGAs project subduing other family projects. DI addressed this by giving a financial support to group members for buying seeds and also advised group members to fundraise for seeds buying. Local government authorities in Njombe also provided support by providing seeds and seedlings.

Were there any unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?

10 bee hives were procured by men who are members in the group of 25 (9 female and 16 male) people. These members joined the group voluntarily; their main goal is to safeguard Ikorinto forest, avoid poachers while generating income from beekeeping.

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 projects designed or implemented by your organization or others, as well as lessons that might be considered by the global conservation community.

- There is a need of imparting more knowledge and skills on value chain to community member groups on how to add value to products such as bees' products, horticulture product and link the village banking groups with formal financial institutions.
- More knowledge and support is needed on how to overcome tree diseases like ants especially at early stages.

Project Design Process: (aspects of the project design that contributed to its success/shortcomings)

- It is impressive that tree beds preparation and its establishment went very well as almost all members participated fully. Also local government support through out the entire period of the project and presence of empowerment workers made it easier for DI to implement the project. For example the District Director offered us a car to visit all project villages.

Project Implementation: (aspects of the project execution that contributed to its success/shortcomings)

- Some WORTH groups members are showing low esteem and inactivity/lazyness in their membership obligations just because they had wrong membership expectations. Some of them joined for fast fiscal gains in terms of loans for their business rather than being engaged in conservation activities.

Other lessons learned relevant to conservation community:

- Conservation awareness has increased among community members proved by fall in number of poachers reported in the village office from 28 cases in October 2013 to 7 in December 2014. Rate of deforestation has decreased in community forests because people are planting more trees in their own farms , land surrounding their house compounds and degraded areas in their forest. Most people who depend on forests for their livelihoods are able to obtain their needs from personal land.

• ADDITIONAL FUNDING

Provide details of any additional donors who supported this project and any funding secured for the project as a result of the CEPF grant or success of the project.

| Donor | Type of Funding* | Amount | Notes |
|--------------------|-------------------------|---------------|---|
| Development Impact | A portion of House rent | \$ 960 | It is the DI policy that a project whose value is between \$15,000-40,000 to contribute 20% of rent which stands at \$4800 per annum. |

****Additional funding should be reported using the following categories:***

- A Project co-financing (Other donors contribute to the direct costs of this CEPF 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 project.)*
- C Regional/Portfolio leveraging (Other donors make large investments in a region because of CEPF investment or successes related to this project.)*

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| Sustainability/Replicability |
|-------------------------------------|

Summarize the success or challenge in achieving planned sustainability or replicability of project components or results.

Success;

- There is a reliable source of fund in self created WORTH groups baskets fund. Currently more than 12,796 Million is in place and is continuously revolving. This guarantees project sustainability.
- A thirteenth group named Azimio has formed itself in the likeness of WORTH groups and has procured 10 modern beehives and placed them in Ikorinto forest. This is a replication success. We anticipate more groups to be formed even beyond project implementation

Challenge;

Establish regular visit of existing groups;

- Regular monitoring visits, not less than twice annually to identify success and difficulties and strategizing to address difficulties timely in order to maintain best performance.
- Lack of land use plans for all village is a big governance problem, that need to be addressed

Summarize any unplanned sustainability or replicability achieved.

Some community members out of the formed WORTH groups emulates groups activities which are environmental friendly. One resident named Zacharia Mwinuka is now managing a trees nursery bed and when asked he highlighted that he learned how to prepare and take care of a nusery from WORTH group called Mshikamano.

Safeguard Policy Assessment

Provide a summary of the implementation of any required action toward the environmental and social safeguard policies within the project.

This project was implemented in a manner that ensured environmental and social safeguards.

- Businesses that WORTH groups members could obtain loans for are those that were environmentally friendly for instance bee keeping, poultry keeping, and food vending. Businesses that had potential of further degrading environment were not funded.
- During project implementation tackling diseases for seedlings local methods (ashes) were used instead of harsh chemicals that can be harmful to people or pollute soil and water.
- On the other side when constructing nursery beds we had to use pruned trees for trees (exotic) and dry grasses to cover land for tree seedlings providing no harm to indigenous tree species. Dry grasses used as matching material in nursery beds provided valuable manure and nutrients for new trees and plants.
- Development Impact in collaboration with the district forest department used the government incinerator to manage waste product i.e. Tubes used for tree seedlings and other waste material. This was done carefully with the support of Local government officials to ensure that no burden was added to the community.
- Indigenous people were fully involved through out project implementation and above actions were taken to ensure their safety.

Additional Comments/Recommendations

Women are important in conservation since they are those using forest products for domestic use like firewood and agricultural practices. Making them financially strong has made a greater icon for CEPF contribution to the Njombe community in conserving the nature. Through CEPF technical and financial support DI has managed to establish 12 women groups and one men voluntary group which were formed by them for the conservation purposes. As the primary beneficiaries of the project women now have hope since they have access to financial service through village banking (WORTH model) by having a Bank nearby where they can save money obtained from their petty business taking loan and training received on business development. Having security of their livelihood needs communities happily engaged in establishing nurseries and transplanting trees into the degraded parts of the forests, in their house compounds and farms.

Njombe District team especially the Executive Director , ward councilor of Wanging'ombe ward together with local authorities are very grateful for CEPF team for their support since the community mindset towards conservation is quite different compared two years back before introducing this project. We appreciate the efforts made by different stakeholder to make this happen. It was also recommended that with the collaboration of other stakeholders we introduce

organic farming instead of using fertilizers to reduce soil and water pollution, protect consumer health and diversify livelihood options.

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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*****please complete the tables on the following pages*****

Performance Tracking Report Addendum

| Project Results | Is this question relevant? | If yes, provide your numerical response for results achieved for project from inception of CEPF support to date | Describe the principal results achieved during project period (Attach annexes if necessary) |
|---|-----------------------------------|--|---|
| 1. Did your project strengthen management of a protected area guided by a sustainable management plan? Please indicate number of hectares improved. | NO | NA | Please also include name of the protected area(s). If more than one, please include the number of hectares strengthened for each one. |
| 2. How many hectares of new and/or expanded protected areas did your project help establish through a legal declaration or community agreement? | NO | NA | Please also include name of the protected area. If more than one, please include the number of hectares strengthened for each one. |
| 3. Did your project strengthen biodiversity conservation and/or natural resources management inside a key biodiversity area identified in the CEPF ecosystem profile? If so, please indicate how many hectares. | Yes | 633.6 Hectares | 633.6 hectares ; these are the forest areas which was agreed to be conserved, by setting bylaws there is a reduced incidences of encroachment and destructions within these two forests |
| 4. Did your project effectively introduce or strengthen biodiversity conservation in management practices outside protected areas? If so, please indicate how many hectares. | Yes | 106.7 hectares | We planted over a total area of 107.6 hectares of which 106.7 hectares was outside the protected area (this was calculated by dividing total number of trees planted (64,000) by six hundred trees per hecter) |
| 5. If your project promotes the sustainable use of natural resources, how many local communities accrued tangible socioeconomic benefits? Please complete Table 1 below. | Yes | 345 women are direct beneficiaries | In Njombe district villages namely; Itunduma, Lunguya, Mng'elenge and Katenge |

If you answered yes to question 5, please complete the following table.

Table 1. Socioeconomic Benefits to Target Communities

Please complete this table if your project provided concrete socioeconomic benefits to local communities. List the name of each community in column one. In the subsequent columns under Community Characteristics and Nature of Socioeconomic Benefit, place an X in all relevant boxes. In the bottom row, provide the totals of the Xs for each column.

| Name of Community | Community Characteristics | | | | | | | Nature of Socioeconomic Benefit | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------|---------------------------|---------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|--|---------------------------------|--|---------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|---|--|-------------------------------|---|--|--|-------|
| | Small landowners | Subsistence economy | Indigenous/ ethnic peoples | Pastoralists/nomadic peoples | Recent migrants | Urban communities | Communities falling below the poverty rate | Other | Increased Income due to: | | | | Increased food security due to the adoption of sustainable fishing, hunting, or agricultural practices | More secure access to water resources | Improved tenure in land or other natural resource due to titling, reduction of colonization, etc. | Reduced risk of natural disasters (fires, landslides, flooding, etc) | More secure sources of energy | Increased access to public services, such as education, health, or credit | Improved use of traditional knowledge for environmental management | More participatory decision-making due to strengthened civil society and governance. | Other |
| | | | | | | | | | Adoption of sustainable natural resources management practices | Ecotourism revenues | Park management activities | Payment for environmental services | | | | | | | | | |
| Itunduma | X | X | X | x | | | X | | X | | | | X | X | | X | X | X | X | X | |
| Lunguya | X | X | X | X | | | x | | X | | | | X | x | | x | x | x | x | x | |
| Katenge | X | X | X | X | | | X | | X | | | | X | X | | X | x | X | x | X | |
| Mng'elenge | x | x | x | x | | | X | | X | | | | x | X | | x | X | x | X | x | |
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| Total | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | | | 4 | | 4 | | | | 4 | 4 | | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | |

If you marked "Other", please provide detail on the nature of the Community Characteristic and Socioeconomic Benefit:

