

## CEPF SMALL GRANT FINAL PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

<b>Organization Legal Name:</b>	DISPUTE RESOLUTION FOUNDATION
<b>Project Title:</b>	Registration of Accompong Maroons as Legal Entity to undertake conservation initiatives and actions to protect a key biodiversity area – The Cockpit Country in Jamaica
<b>Date of Report:</b>	October 21, 2014
<b>Report Author and Contact Information</b>	Paul Hines, CEO. Tel.: (876) 906 4435; email: paul.hines@drfja.org

### CEPF Region: North & Central America – Caribbean Islands - Jamaica

**Strategic Direction:** 3. Support Caribbean civil society to achieve biodiversity conservation by building local and regional institutional capacity and by fostering stakeholder collaboration.

3.1 Support efforts to build and strengthen the institutional capacity of civil society organizations to undertake conservation initiatives and actions.

**Grant Amount: US\$ 7,048**

**Project Dates: December 1, 2013 to May 31, 2014**

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

- **Accompong Maroon Council.** The primary decision makers with responsibility for educating the citizens of Accompong about the project, mobilizing key individuals to attend various meetings and training sessions, working closely with the Department of Cooperatives & Friendly Societies for the Registration of the Accompong Maroons as a Cooperative Society.
- **St. Elizabeth Cooperative Credit Union Ltd.** Provided advice on financial and business processes.
- **St. Elizabeth Homecoming Foundation.** Public interest entity and a long term advisor and supporter of the Accompong Maroons located in the parish of St. Elizabeth. The Foundation advocates on behalf of the Maroons and promotes this community as a valued constituency and continues to play an advisory role.

### Conservation Impacts

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

The goal of the project was to provide an acceptable legal framework for the Accompong Maroons to access funding for sustainable actions. The Accompong Maroons are custodians of pristine lands that host native and unique flora and fauna in the Cockpit Country in Jamaica. Their tradition of preservation and co-existence with the environment has lasted **276 years**. Their rights are vested in a Treaty signed in 1738 with the British colonial government and while this Treaty provides for the political

administration of the Accompong Maroons, there is no registered non-governmental entity that can enter into legal contracts with key actors and facilitate access to local and international development support funds. This project proposed to establish a legally registered civil society entity within the Accompong Territory that would serve as a vehicle for implementing initiatives in support of the development objectives of the people of Accompong and have the capacity to access, manage and administer funds from a range of sources.

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

The results have been mixed. While CANARI has been most accommodating in agreeing to several no cost extensions, the expected result of a registered legal entity was not fully realized within the time allotted by the project. **The cooperative was registered on December 30, 2014.**

The reasons are many and include –

- The initial time frame for this to be accomplished was unrealistic.
- The entire process was new to the Maroons and resulted in more time being spent in explaining and clarifying the process.
- The leader of this process, Deputy Colonel Rowe-Edwards' husband died and she underwent a period of mourning off the island for some time, which delayed the education and consultation process.
- Colonel Williams also had a death in his immediate family which caused further delays.
- The process of Registration as a Cooperative Society proved to be more complex and involved than was initially indicated, such as requiring expert accounting input, along with a business plan that had to meet specific criteria.

***Please provide the following information where relevant:***

**Hectares Protected:**  
**Species Conserved:** N/A  
**Corridors Created:**

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

***Were there any unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?***

<b>Lessons Learned</b>
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***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.*

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

- **Shortcomings -**
  - Unrealistic timeline for completion.
  - Assumptions of the efficiency of the mechanism for consultations and decisions by Accompong Maroons.
  - Assumption regarding the Registration process at the Department of Cooperatives and Friendly Societies. Information was communicated on a “piece meal” basis, rather than full disclosure at the beginning of the process.

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

- **Success –**
  - Opening of a Bank Account for the AMC.
  - Legal entity was registered giving the Maroons ability to access funding for future development and economic viability.
  - More formalized and recognized administrative structure with officers who have been trained in their roles and responsibilities and who, therefore, will be able to implement and manage funded projects in the future.

***Other lessons learned relevant to conservation community: N/A***

**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.***

<b>Donor</b>	<b>Type of Funding*</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Notes</b>

***\*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.)*

### **Sustainability/Replicability**

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

***Summarize any unplanned sustainability or replicability achieved.***

### **Safeguard Policy Assessment**

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

### **Additional Comments/Recommendations**

### **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](http://www.cepf.net), and publicized in our newsletter and other communications.

**Please include your full contact details below:**

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**\*\*\*If your grant has an end date other than JUNE 30, please complete the tables on the following pages\*\*\***