

CEPF SMALL GRANT FINAL PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

Organization Legal Name:	Bahir Dar University
Project Title:	Empowering the major stakeholders (fishing communities) for sustainable utilization and conservation of Lake Tana Fish Resources: The case of northern and western part of Lake Tana
Date of Report:	24 October 2015
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CEPF Region: Eastern Afromontane Biodiversity Hotspot

Strategic Direction: 1.1

Grant Amount: 19999.10

Project Dates: 1 January 2014 to 30 September 2015.

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

1. Amhara National Regional State-Livestock Resources Development Promotion Agency: An expert (Mr. Chalachew Aragaw) was involved during the training of fish cooperatives. He dealt with the region's fisheries proclamation and regulation.
2. North Achefer and Takusa districts (Woredas) Agricultural and Cooperative Offices: Six experts actively participate during the training and involved in organizing fish cooperatives. They are implementers of the proclamation and regulation.
3. Takusa district (Woreda) State Communication Office: Documented the mass awareness creation conducted at Delgi site and made clip news (TV) for the Amhara Mass Media.
4. Kebele (the smallest administration unit) Agricultural and Cooperative Offices: More than 300 fishers from 6 Kebeles of the project areas, 12 experts and 4 local administrators participated in the awareness training and mass awareness creation. They participated in implementing the region's fisheries proclamation and regulation. They were at frontiers of implementing the project activities.
5. The Bahir Dar Fish and Other Aquatic Life Research Center: It is under the Amhara Regional Agricultural Research Institute (ARARI) - directly involved in the project implementation as a member of the project staff.
6. NABU Project Office: They were consulted before and during project implementation.

Conservation Impacts

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

By the financial support of CEPF Bahir Dar University implemented this project to contribute to biodiversity conservation objectives of CEPF. Such kind of support helped the hosting institution to play vital role by empowering local fishers to work in a biodiversity-friendly direction.

Our project fulfills the **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 and **investment priority 1.1**: enhance civil society efforts to develop and implement local government and community-level planning processes to mainstream biodiversity conservation, and leverage donor and project funding for livelihood activities that explicitly address causes of environmental degradation in and around priority KBAs in priority corridors. Kunzla and Delgi sites were chosen due to the presence of fish cooperatives which were used to harvest larger catches but usually complaining about low catches in recent days. So, it would be appropriate to make interventions in these areas so that the resources could be used in sustainable way. Thus, the project empowered the different stakeholders particularly fishing communities to work together for achievement of regional fisheries proclamation and regulation so that it is possible to avoid stock collapse and improve the livelihoods of local communities in one of the most important priority corridors (Lake Tana KBA).

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

The main purpose of this project was to empower the local fishers through extended training, awareness creation and material provision so that sustainable use of the declining aquatic resources could be ensured in northern and western part of Lake Tana.

Long-term impact(s):

Ensure sustainable use and conservation of fishery resources, and enhance the livelihood of fishing communities in Lake Tana. In this regard, the local fishers in the project area started to use legal fishing gears and were abided by close areas and seasons. However, it is early to see the livelihood improvement among fishing communities.

The project has the following two **Short-term impact(s)**:

1. **Fish cooperative members, fishery management committee and experts in northern and western parts of Lake Tana are acquainted with wise utilization of fisheries resources.** This impact is clearly evident as verified from reports of the fisheries management committee, feedback of trainees, and active participation and communication of stakeholders. For example, due to the planned training, awareness

creation and discussion made, fishers realized the disastrous effects of unregulated fishing and promised to avoid illegal fishing activities like the use of monofilaments, beach seines, etc...

2. **Members of the two fish cooperatives adopt fisheries proclamation, catch recording and reporting system within the project period.** This impact is partly accomplished as there was no stability in the organizational structure of the fish cooperatives in both sites. Catch recording was not done properly. Fishers adopt the regional fisheries proclamation and made few reports to the Kebele and district agricultural office as witnessed by the district fisheries expert and fishers. Thus, fishers in the project sites started to practice closed seasons and areas in their jurisdiction.

Expected outputs/results:

- 1.1. Better acquainted fishing community about the wise use of the fishery resources

Four days of formal training was given for 27 Abbay and Tana fish cooperative members and 6 experts at Kunzla site and for 27 Delgi-Tana Zuria fish cooperative members, 5 experts and one Police Officer at Delgi site. Different topics such as Lake Tana fishes and fisheries, fish farming, anthropogenic impacts on fish breeding and feeding grounds, wetland destruction and incidence of invasive weeds in Lake Tana, fisheries data recording and reporting system and Amhara National Regional State Fisheries development, protection and utilization proclamation and regulation were covered. There was a discussion forum on topics like fisheries and livelihoods, major changes and challenges in Lake Tana ecosystem and their solutions, and role of Kebele Fisheries Management Committee and its challenges and major obstacles in implementing the fisheries proclamation and regulation. This training greatly helped the fishers and experts to realize the status of the Lake Tana resources and promised to minimize illegal fishing activities and use the aquatic resources in a sustainable way.

On the other hand, mass awareness creation was made for 110 fishers, 5 experts, one police officer and one Kebele administrator at Estumit Kebele (near Kunzla site) and for 125 fishers, 6 experts and 7 police officers at Delgi and Achera Kebeles (near Delgi site). The training was documented by the Takusa District State Communication Office and later broadcasted by Amhara TV. During the awareness creation, a brief explanation about the status of Lake Tana fish resources, ownership of these resources, fish breeding sites and seasons, human impacts on fishes and other major changes in the Lake ecosystem was presented. Then, discussion followed on issues like the main challenges faced by the Kebele Fisheries Management Committee to carry out their duties and responsibilities, reasons for the poor implementation of the regional fisheries development, protection and utilization proclamation and regulation, and the reason why illegal fishing activity becomes a norm at Lake Tana. Possible solutions to these problems were forwarded by the fisher themselves. The discussion was transparent and fruitful since it created better opportunities for local communities to realize the major

human-induced risks on Lake Tana resources and commit themselves towards protection and sustainable utilization of the resources.

Some of the solutions forwarded by the participants were

- giving due attention to the fishery sector
- implementing closed season and areas
- close collaboration among fishers, experts and local administrators
- close supervision by the concerned bodies
- credit services for fishers
- control of illegal fishing activities and traders
- making their own nets
- studying the impacts of irrigation and hydropower dams on fisheries
- close collaboration with the adjacent districts
- commitment
- providing immediate responses from the government when problems arise

As a result of the awareness creation given for fishing communities in both project sites, fishers realized the importance of critical fish habitats and are ready to protect them. In addition, they agreed to use the legal fishing gears, protect the nursery and breeding grounds and minimize recession agriculture and pollution.

1.2. Strengthened Fishers cooperatives

When the project started, the fish cooperatives in both sites started to reorganize themselves, and designed and executed better working schedules for effective and efficient time management so that fish catches could be improved. The Abbay and Tana fish cooperative at Kunzla started to use their own deep freezer to minimize post-harvest losses. However, in the mean time the cooperatives in both project sites disintegrated during the off-fishing periods. It is recently that the experts in both project sites started to re-organize them by maintaining those cooperative members who are entirely dependent on fisheries to make a living.

On the other hand, the project provided one motorized boat for Abbay and Tana fish cooperative and distributed different fishing equipments for both fish cooperatives. This helped the cooperative members to access open water and harvest quality and quantity catches. Though the delivery was made lately, the fishers were happy about it. Generally, we could hardly strengthen the fish cooperatives in this project.

1.3. Establishing standard catch recording and reporting systems

In both sites, fish cooperatives were trained about the importance of practicing standard catch recording and reporting systems and the cooperative leaders started to record all the daily catches, sales and expenses. They have started to communicate the Kebele Cooperative Office through weekly and monthly reports. However, this didn't continue

for long because of the lack of interest by some cooperative members to stay in the association. The recently re-organized fish cooperative members are ready to follow it.

1.4. Conducting collaborative works with other projects working around Lake Tana

In this project, collaborative works were done with other projects like NABU and Addis Ababa University-CEPF projects through awareness creation and exchange of experience and information.

Please provide the following information where relevant:

Hectares Protected: It is a project meant for empowering local fishers for sustainable utilization and conservation of the fish resources in two districts of northern and western parts of Lake Tana

Species Conserved: Following the implementation of the regional fisheries proclamation and regulation (use of legal fishing gears, implementing closed seasons and areas) by local fishers in both districts, it is believed that the declining fish stocks especially the cyprinid family (*Labeobarus* species) may be rebuilt.

Corridors Created: NA

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

Short-term impact

The project is successfully delivered the project outputs and activities. The fishers, Kebele fishery management committee and experts were better empowered to work towards the sustainable utilization of the fish resources by implementing the fisheries proclamation and regulation. There was full support and active participation of the two project district and Kebele offices and fishers in the project activities.

The main challenge is/was maintaining the unity of fish cooperatives. This created some inconsistencies with implementation project activities like catch recording and reporting systems. The other challenges were delays in procuring the motor boat and other supporting materials and increase in purchasing cost of the bought items. This had led to budget deficit.

Long-term impact

Ensuring sustainable use of the aquatic resources and improving the livelihood of local communities is the anticipated long-term impact of the project. In line with this, the target groups in the project districts showed attitudinal changes and started to implement wise use of aquatic resources. However, it is time consuming to realize these impacts. There should be continuous monitoring and support of the local communities.

Were there any unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?

One of the project district (Takusa, i.e., Delgi site) recruited a fishery inspector (a person duly vested with responsibility to implement the fisheries development, protection and utilization proclamation, regulation and directive) because of the discussion made between the project staff and the Takusa district administrator and agricultural office.

At Kunzla site, the Abbay and Tana fish cooperative acquired one container at Kunzla town to sell their fish products. It was golden opportunity for the cooperative.

Recently, the Amhara National Regional State-Livestock Resources Development Promotion Agency in collaboration with Bahir Dar University, Organization for Rehabilitation and Development in Amhara and Amhara Agricultural Research Institute conducted one national workshop to endorse an implementation plan for enforcement of the proclamation and regulation of Lake Tana fish resources. Our project has indirect role for initiating this workshop.

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.

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

To design this project previous exposure of the project sites by the project developers mattered a lot. Review of different articles, thesis and reports made on Lake Tana fish resources has been made. Ecosystem profile for Eastern Afromontane biodiversity hotspot, Eastern Afromontane ecosystem profile summary and other related CEPF projects were reviewed. In addition, consultation has been made with the Livestock Resources Development Promotion Agency, and North Achefer and Takusa Agricultural Offices. The feedback from the Eastern Afromontane Regional Implementation team helped to shape the project.

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

1. Agricultural offices of two districts (Takusa of North Gondar Administrative zone and North Achefer of West Gojjam Administrative zone) were primarily approached for implementation of the project. In the same way, the Kebele Agricultural offices of the respective districts were communicated. Based on the recommendation made by the respective districts and Kebeles, two fish cooperatives: Delgi-Tana Zuria of Takusa district and Abbay and Tana of North Achfer district were selected and fully participated in the implementation of the project.
2. Fishers, Kebele experts and the existing Kebele Fishery Management Committee in the adjacent Kebeles of project sites actively participated during mass awareness creation.
3. In some situations, this project worked in collaboration with NABU's and Addis Ababa University's projects.
4. Bureaucratic procurement procedures and limited supplies brought delayed provision of the fishing equipments

Other lessons learned relevant to conservation community:

1. The fish cooperatives in the project sites could be a model for other fishers in sub-basin in terms of implementing the fisheries development, protection and utilization proclamation and regulation.
2. To conserve aquatic biodiversity for large water bodies like Lake Tana, it requires large scale intervention.

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
Bahir Dar University	In-kind contribution	6000	Car/transport service, printing, computer, paper, internet, photocopy

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

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

Sustainability/Replicability

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

So many past and present research findings and reports indicate the deteriorating situation of Lake Tana natural resources from time to time. The recent national workshop on implementation plan for enforcement of the proclamation and regulation of Lake Tana fish resources is the result of these concerns. Licensing all fishers, banning the illegal monofilament gillnet, recruiting fishery inspectors, enforcing close season and areas, empowering the Kebele Fishery Management Committee, monitoring and evaluation are the top priorities of the implementation plan. This is what has been promoted and implemented by the current project. Therefore, projects like this one could play a great role towards the sustainable use of aquatic resources in those localities. The fishers in the project sites suggested us to carry out such kind of capacity building (training) for all fishers in Lake Tana, indicating the power of empowering the fishing communities. Thus, sustainability could be ensured if the momentum is kept and implemented in all parts of the Lake.

The main challenge to sustainability is the attention given by the regional authority and the consequent allocation of resources for sustainable use of the Lake Tana natural resources.

Summarize any unplanned sustainability or replicability achieved.

NA

Safeguard Policy Assessment

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

NA

Additional Comments/Recommendations

- Communication tools like workshops and policy briefing should be seriously considered in conservation projects including CEPF.
- Further engagement, networking and funds are required to carry out conservation activities throughout the hot spots of the region.
- Regular follow up and long-term engagement is needed to make sure continuity of conservation activities and bring long-term sustainability of resources
- Research on the status of the fish stocks and performance of the conservation activities is needed.

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.

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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.	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?	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.	NA		
4. Did your project effectively introduce or strengthen biodiversity conservation in management practices outside protected areas? If so, please indicate how many hectares.	NA		
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	Hard to put the exact figure	

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									
Delgi-Tana Zuria Fish cooperative							✓		✓											✓	
Abbay and Tana Fish cooperative							✓		✓											✓	
Total																					

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

