

## CEPF SMALL GRANT FINAL PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

<b>Organization Legal Name:</b>	Association pour la Promotion des Etudes d'Impacts Environnementaux au Rwanda (APEIER)
<b>Project Title:</b>	Building capacity of farmers' associations for land use planning and conservation of Lake Kivu landscape
<b>Date of Report:</b>	May,2016
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**CEPF Region: EASTERN AFROMONTANE BIODIVERSITY HOTSPOT**

**Strategic Direction: 1**

**Grant Amount: \$20,000**

**Project Dates: 1 May 2015 – 30 April 2016**

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

**Districts of Rubavu, Rutsiro, Karongi, Nyamasheke and Rusizi, Ministry of Natural Resources, Ministry of Agriculture, Rwanda Environment Management Authority, Rwanda Natural Resources Authority, Rwanda Agricultural Board, Rwanda Housing Authority and Rwanda Cooperative Agency**

This project was implemented in partnership with different stakeholders. Rwanda Cooperative Agency (RCA) has provided the database of all registered cooperatives including those operating in the project area. The information provided has helped to confirm or infirm the presence and the existence of cooperatives in the intervention area and therefore very useful linking us with cooperatives. Rwanda Natural Resources Authority (RNRA), Department of Land and Mapping has provided critical information that was very useful during the field assessment and subsequent reports and training modules. In addition, RNRA provided the National Land Use and Development Plan, the District Land Use Plans that allowed analyzing land allocation and land use patterns in

the Districts riparian to Lake Kivu. In addition, RNRA-Department of Integrated Water Resources Management in charge of watershed management and water conservation provided with Rwanda National Water Resources Master Plan and Congo-Kivu Catchment Master Plan, Rusizi Catchment Master Plan that cover Kivu landscape. These water resources Master plans allowed understanding watershed management and water development activities going on in the project area. They helped a lot in the field assessment and the training modules development and during training sessions.

Rwanda Housing Authority (RHA) which is in charge of human settlement and urban planning and development has provided with District Urban Plans that were used in the field assessment and training modules development. These documents were also very useful in guiding participants during training sessions and contributed for better understanding of land use in urban areas.

The Ministry of Natural Resources which is in charge of policy formulation and law drafting for environmental protection and natural resources has provided a collection of information including policy documents on land, water and environment while Rwanda Environment Management Authority (REMA) through its Decentralization and Environment Management Project (DEMP) facilitated field assessment work and contributed to the success of the project implementation. DEMP I and II developed profiles of the Districts riparian to Lake Kivu and this information allowed APEIER to identify degraded and protected zones. It was also through this information, relocated zones around Lake Kivu as buffer zones to protect the lake against pollution were described. REMA also provided guidelines on Environmental Impact Assessment used during modules development and group discussion during training sessions in regard to what is allowed and prohibited in the landscape in term of land use, watershed management and biodiversity conservation.

Ministry of Agriculture and Rwanda Agricultural Board (RAB) provided technical guidance and data on land husbandry, hillside irrigation, pesticides and fertilizers use and management, rain water harvesting in the Lake Kivu landscape. They also provided

assistance on technical information data in regard to water and soil conservation important for environmental protection in a hilly zone like that of Lake Kivu landscape.

Finally, the project partnered with Districts riparian to Lake Kivu where they provided facilitations and assistance during field assessments. In particular, the District of Karongi engaged in the training organizations by selecting and inviting appropriate participants as well as interventions during training sessions.

### **Conservation Impacts**

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

Lake Kivu landscape has one of the highest population densities in Rwanda with an average of 538 inhabitants per km<sup>2</sup>. Most of its population (more than 95%) lives on subsistence agriculture. In many parts of the landscape, farmlands are characterized by steep terrain and thus highly subject to soil erosion and land degradation as a result of inappropriate land use activities. soil erosion and landslide often threatens and put pressure on the environment (Lake Kivu, its watershed and biodiversity) and on local communities' livelihoods that depend on the lake Kivu landscape for their subsistence.

The implementation of this project engaged the civil society by building capacity of farmers grouped/organized into associations and cooperatives and community leaders to engage them in the process of land use planning that takes into consideration conservation of biodiversity. The field assessment allowed identifying common threats to Lake Kivu landscape sustainable management and more specifically locating most vulnerable zones in the landscape. Results from the field assessment together with the training manuals were used to raise people's awareness about the value of the landscape and engage them in conscious protection, conservation and sustainable management of natural resources.

During this project, people having different activities in the landscape from farming to businesses acknowledged that many of their activities were responsible for environmental degradation (soil erosion) and pollution which are threatening the overall life of the landscape especially Lake Kivu. However, the project has helped them to realize the benefit they get from a healthy landscape and to abandon activities that put in danger the health of Lake Kivu ecosystem. In that way, the project contributed to the implementation of CEPF ecosystem profile.

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

The objective of the project was to build capacity of farmers grouped/ organized into associations and cooperatives to engage them in the process of land use planning that takes into consideration conservation of biodiversity in the 5 riparian Districts divided into 26 sectors including; 2 sectors in Rubavu, 7 sectors in Rustiro, 4 sectors in Karongi, 8 in Nyamasheke and 5 in Rusizi. This project has produced three results as summarized below:

**- A field assessment report:** A field assessment report was produced as a result of a field assessment conducted in Districts riparian to Lake Kivu. The report contains different environmental issues prevailing in Lake Kivu landscape including unsustainable management of the landscape which affect negatively land use planning and the health of the environment. The report also highlights a high pressure on forest cover and forest resources, since firewood is the main source of energy and the high population density in the area increases the acuity of the problem as well as other environmental issues such as infrastructure development especially road construction found to be a source of environmental degradation causing siltation in Lake Kivu water.

**- Five training modules:** Five training modules were developed and included land use planning, environment protection and biodiversity conservation, watershed management, climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies and energy saving and management

- **Training sessions:** The training involved 60 cooperative/farmers associations representatives and members (60), 16 opinion leaders (traders, pastors, land committee and environment committee members) and 12 model farmers selected at cell level, the police (4 sector commanders) as well as local authorities at sector level (4 Sector Executive secretaries and 4 Sector agronomists), at cell level (16 Cell Executive Secretaries and 16 Socio-economic development officers), village level (128 village coordinators). These trainings covered topics including land use planning and land management, energy saving and management, climate change and mitigation, watershed management, Environmental protection and biodiversity conservation taking into consideration district land use plan or local urban development plans, environmental laws, soil conservation instructions, sustainable forest management principles, energy saving and climate change adaptation.

All the three results were achieved successfully and helped in the dissemination of land use planning and watershed management tools including land, water and environment policies and laws as well as specific plans related to land use, watershed management and urban planning and development.

*Please provide the following information where relevant:*

**Hectares Protected: N/A**

**Species Conserved: N/A**

**Corridors Created: N/A**

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

In the short term, the project has trained 260 people including 168 local leaders at Sector, cell and village levels, 60 representatives and members of cooperatives/farmers associations, 16 opinion leaders and 12 model farmers and 4 police officers participated in the trainings on land use planning and land management, energy saving and management, climate change and mitigation, watershed management, Environmental

protection and biodiversity conservation taking into consideration district land use plan or local urban development plans, environmental laws, soil conservation instructions, sustainable forest management principles, energy saving and climate change adaptation and so on. In the long term, recommendations from trainees stressed the commitment of participants towards Lake Kivu landscape sustainable management. They promised to work harder for environment protection by enhancing best practices in land use through the increase of soil conservation measures and tree planting.

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

No

## **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)***

During the design process of the project, different stakeholders were consulted as well as extracting information in different references which contributed to its success. Participatory approach was used in project design and the process was inclusive. The involvement of all key stakeholders encouraged ownership of the project's activities and will facilitate project's sustainability.

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

Different stakeholders have partnered in this project at varying levels. Local authorities especially at sector level both have been involved in mobilization and trainings which led to the success of the project implementation. Each stakeholder played his or her role. The project was implemented successfully in terms of results and was concluded on time.

***Other lessons learned relevant to conservation community:***

This project helped to learn the need for biodiversity conservation outside protected areas with local communities highlighting cases of animals (monkeys) roaming in their neighborhoods and people engaged in illegal trade of animals (snakes) as well as human wildlife conflicts such as crop raiding by monkeys and snake biting. The project also contributed to the capacity building within the organization with the example of field assessment which provided extensive knowledge to the organization members and opened more their minds in regards to Lake Kivu landscape knowledge. In addition, training manuals developed would be useful during scaling up the project activities in

other area. It is worth mentioning that training was only organized in Karongi District. Other Districts also need to be trained so that they can benefit from the shortcomings of the training.

**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>
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

The Project did not raise any additional funding.

*\*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.*

This project has trained 260 people with specific responsibilities in their communities who will then spread the information to the wider population. For example, local leaders and opinion leaders who participated in the training promised to use their positions to educate people during special events like community meetings or special gathering like Umuganda or church gathering. The same approach will be used by cooperative representatives to educate their fellow members in their respective cooperatives. As

trainings were conducted in one district riparian to Lake Kivu, training activities will be replicated in the remaining districts depending on fund availability.

*Summarize any unplanned sustainability or replicability achieved.*

<b>Safeguard Policy Assessment</b>
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*Provide a summary of the implementation of any required action toward the environmental and social safeguard policies within the project.*

N/A

<b>Additional Comments/Recommendations</b>
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- As participants expressed a strong interest in the training program, it is therefore imperative to make the process continuous and extend its activities to the remaining districts of Rubavu, Rutsiro, Nyamasheke and Rusizi bordering Lake Kivu.
- Participants recommended the use of the buffer zone around Lake Kivu and its tributaries for environment friendly activities such as planting melliferous plants to be further used for apiculture development and in some extent forage plants for their animal feeds.
- Soil and water conservation and management systems are highly needed in the imidugudu settlement sites; that include rain water harvesting, afforestation, soil erosion control etc.
- It is an absolute necessity to reduce the quantity of firewood used by household through the dissemination of energy efficient stoves like Canamake, Canarumwe, Rondereza etc. Other sources of energy for cooking and lighting like domestic biogas and solar should be availed and made accessible to local communities in that area.

- It is imperative to have in a permanent and simple system to control the use of fertilizers and other agricultural and industrial chemicals as well as waste resulting from mining activities.
- It is also recommended to promote sustainable forest management practices based on supply and demand balance.
- Infrastructure development should go hand in hand with environmental protection to ensure environmental sustainability. For instance while constructing a new road, erosion control measures should be reinforced.

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

**Performance Tracking Report Addendum**

<b>Project Results</b>	<b>Is this question relevant?</b>	<b>If yes, provide your numerical response for results achieved for project from inception of CEPF support to date</b>	<b>Describe the principal results achieved during project period (Attach annexes if necessary)</b>
1. Did your project strengthen management of a protected area guided by a sustainable management plan? Please indicate number of hectares improved.	No	N/A	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	N/A	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	Ha 5,000	260 people drawn from local authorities, local leaders and farmers in Karongi District trained in land use planning and land management, energy saving and management, climate change and mitigation, watershed management, Environmental protection and biodiversity conservation taking into consideration district land use plan or local urban development plans, environmental laws, soil conservation instructions, sustainable forest management principles, energy saving and

			climate change adaptation. .
4. Did your project effectively introduce or strengthen biodiversity conservation in management practices outside protected areas? If so, please indicate how many hectares.	Yes	Ha 4,500	The training enhanced the capacity and knowledge of community leaders about biodiversity and conservation.
5. If your project promotes the sustainable use of natural resources, how many local communities accrued tangible socioeconomic benefits? Please complete Table 1 below.	No		Local communities improved their knowledge on sustainable use of natural resources., however no concrete socio-economic activities were carried out on the ground. The project was about capacity building.

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



