

## CEPF FINAL PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

<b>Organization Legal Name:</b>	Arulagam
<b>Project Title:</b>	In-situ Conservation of threatened Vultures in Moyaru valley of the Western ghats.
<b>Date of Report:</b>	25-7-2013
<b>Report Author and Contact Information</b>	S.Bharathidasan, Secretary, Arulagam, Ellappalayam, Coimbatore- 641697, arulagamindia@gmail.com

**CEPF Region: Western Ghats**

**Strategic Direction: 2. Improve the conservation of globally threatened species through systematic conservation planning and action.**

**Grant Amount: US\$ 39,500**

**Project Dates: December 1, 2011 – May 31, 2013**

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

**Care Earth Trust**

They provided technical expertise in ecological aspects. They helped in drafting the questionnaire and reports. They also helped in capacity building activities.

**Malabar Natural History Society**

They provided scientific facts and current situation on Vulture. They helped in drafting the questionnaire. Their contribution was also in drafting the management plan for Vulture

**Tamil Nadu Generation of Electricity and Distribution Corporation (TANGEDCO) allotted a housing quarter in Moyar Village for using as a field station.**

**Tamil Nadu Forest Department**

They permitted us to do research on Vultures inside the Forest. Vulture watcher and field level staff attended the meeting and coordinated the field work especially in nest surveys. Forest guard and watcher were deputed while going inside the forest and also provided accommodation in forest rest houses.

<b>Conservation Impacts</b>
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***Please explain/describe how your project has contributed to the implementation of the CEPF ecosystem profile.***

Strategic direction: 2.2 Support efforts to conserve Critically Endangered and Endangered vulture species in-situ through creation of species recovery & management plans.

ii). Consolidate efforts to conserve critically endangered and Endangered vulture species in-situ.

Drafted action plan for vulture conservation and integrating results into policy. It incorporated with ten year management plan for Nilgiri North Forest Division, Tamil Nadu Forest Department.

***Please summarize the overall results/impact of your project.***

State Forest Department, Tamil Nadu Government invited Arulagam to prepare a Ten Year Action Plan for Vulture conservation. So ever in first time, Vulture species got importance in the Forest Department Management plan. It is the milestone of this CEPF funded project Mr.Sugirtharaj Kovilpillai, District Forest Officer & Mr. Sivamani, Assistant Conservator of Forest, Nilagiri North Forest Division encouraged the whole team for initiating conservation action planes.

Vulture watchers (4 Numbers) were appointed by Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve, Tamil Nadu. Since the involvement of pharmacy owners was very important, in the conservation efforts, Mr.Narayanan, Secretary and J. Javirlal, Vice President, Nilgiris District Chemist and Druggist Association was invited for attending rally on Vulture conservation. The message was conveyed about the banned drug through District Superintend of Police. They were really not aware of the consequence of diclofenac and facts about Vultures. This rally emphasized them to realize the importance of Vulture and their role to conserve them.

For supporting Vulture conservation initiatives, Mr.M.Sugumaran, Veterinary Doctor from Gudalur, Nilagiri, wrote a polite letter to his fellow veterinarians on not to use diclofenac. It was a remarkable incident. (Letter attached).

Mr.Karthikeya Siva Senapathy, Managing Trustee, Kangeyam Cattle Research Foundation, Vellakovil, Erode district,Tamil Nadu, India decided not to use diclofenac for their cattle as a result of the CEPF supported campaign. This decision was announced during an awareness exhibition on Vultures at the annual cattle sandy (buyers and sellers meet) held at Vellakovil, Erode District, Tamil Nadu.

State level Gosala meeting which held at Chennai were attended and emphasized on diclofenac free Gosalas. After the meeting, they realized the importance of Vulture and the deadly effect of diclofenac on the species. Their support was noteworthy. They invited us for their gosalas as a special guest.

Following dissertation report also brought with CEPF funding support.

'A STUDY ON STATUS, DISTRIBUTION AND NEST SITE SELECTION OF DIURNAL RAPTORS WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO VULTURES IN MUDUMALAI TIGER RESERVE AND NILGIRI NORTH FOREST DIVISION OF TAMIL NADU, SOUTHERN INDIA." (Report Enclosed).

Along with the charismatic tiger and elephant, Vultures also got attention among forest department is because of the collective work of Arulagam and partner organizations Care Earth Trust and MNHS with the support of CEPF. This leaded Tamil Nadu Forest Department to insist us for preparing a ten year management plan for the conservation of Vultures.

Immediate attentions were given to rescue the rescue of a Vulture chick from *Siriur* gave strength to the work. These kind of small and important positive impacts were created among the stakeholders.

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

Development of a viable conservation model for long term conservation of Vultures in Moyar Valley as the Model Site.

Mitigation of threats to the Vulture populations in the Moyar Valley, as a basis for their long-term conservation.

**Actual Progress Toward Long-term Impacts at Completion:**

Management Plan for Vulture conservation submitted to Nilagiri North Forest Division, Nilgiri District of Tamil Nadu Forest Department (Report enclosed).

The project has been successful in bringing general awareness among the stakeholders in and around the Moyar valley, Tamil Nadu on Vultures and the primary threat diclofenac which is responsible for the declining of the species.

Mitigation measures were covered in mass media and the stakeholders were sensitized.

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

Strategies and actions in place for enabling the conservation of Vultures

Development and functioning of a one-stop Vulture Watch Component

Capacity building of the direct & indirect stakeholders on the conservation of Vultures

Increased availability of resource material in the regional language, to support awareness raising about vultures and threats to their populations

Demonstrated reduction in the use of diclofenac in the Moyar Valley compared to pre-project levels

Resources for vulture conservation embedded into funding mechanisms of the Forest Department and/or other government bodies.

**Actual Progress Toward Short-term Impacts at Completion:**

1. Strategies and Action plan for Vulture conservation drafted and circulated to the concerned officials. Management Plan for Vulture conservation submitted to Nilagiri North Forest Division, Nilagiri District of Tamil Nadu Forest Department. Memorandum prepared.
2. Started receiving news about vulture sightings in other than the working area.
3. Stake holders were sensitized through Capacity building program.
4. Print and visual media published news item in daily and weekly magazines.
5. Ensured the increased availability of resource material in Tamil language.
6. Initially diclofenac were sold in 34 Shops now it has reduced to 18 Shops. Continuous interaction has initiated. Increased usage of safe alternative drug Meloxicum.
7. Resources made available through Forest Department by incorporating the conservation steps in Ten year management Plan.

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

**Hectares Protected: NA**

**Species Conserved:**

1. Oriental White-backed Vulture, *Gyps bengalensis*,
2. Indian Long-billed Vulture, *Gyps indicus*,
3. Red-headed King Vulture *Sarcogyps calvus*
4. Egyptian Vulture, *Neophron percnopterus*.

**Corridors Created: NA**

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

State Forest Department, Tamil Nadu adopted the management plan for Vulture conservation. District authorities like District Collector, Municipal Chairman, Project Director (Hill Area Development Authority), Director (Tribal Welfare), and District Forest Officers, State Forest Department encouraged and recognized this need based work initiated by Arulagam.

More efforts and man power were needed for organizing the event in Ootty and in remote tribal areas. It was a challenging job in fewer infrastructures. Travel cost was increased to 40 % and simultaneously material cost and other inputs were also increased due to unusual hike in fuel price and economic crisis.

Officials were often shifted due to administrative reasons. Especially whole Veterinary doctors team in Nilgiri were shifted to plains and hence forced to initiate the campaign with newly appointed doctors. It was a challenging job. It took some time to build up the relationships with newly appointed doctors. Enforcement authority like Drug inspector post was vacant in Nilgiri for quite some time. It was also a biggest challenge. Another challenge was Vulture Volunteers are forced to go in search of job in nearby town. It affects the volunteer work and often missed the field information.

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

Before starting CEPF supported "Vulture Conservation Project" Forest staff gave attention to Tiger and Elephant. Now they've started giving attention to Vulture because of the continuous interaction. By recognizing the work, they assigned Arulagam to write a ten year management plan for Vultures.

Volley ball tournament were conducted among tribal youth for spreading message and made them as a volunteer in the vulture conservation efforts.

It had good impact; a Vulture brigade member from Siriur informed and alerted us about a vulture chick, which falls down from its nest. Temporary aviary was built with the help of Volleyball players by using locally available bamboo material and old Volley ball net.

Arulagam staffs were invited by tribal for their social gatherings and village functions. In Siriur village people gave a house for staying during Vulture rescue operation. The social setup of tribal is very reluctant and it is not allowing outsiders to stay in the villages. They allowed Arulagam staff to stay in the village. It is the recognition for Arulagam.

On the negative side, convincing Veterinary doctors is still a tough job. Out of 34 drug store 18 stores still sold Diclofenac. it is an important task.

Cattle domination is relatively high in the landscape. Continuous monitoring is necessary to remove diclofenac from the Vulture food chain were realized.

**Project Components**

**Project Components:** *Please report on results by project component. Reporting should reference specific products/deliverables from the approved project design and other relevant information.*

**Component 1 Planned:**

Baseline assessments undertaken on the ecology and population structure of vulture populations in the Moyar Valley and proximate threats to them, including veterinary use of diclofenac

**Component 1 Actual at Completion: Completed**

Survey conducted with the support of Forest department staff. This survey reveals that 135+ of Oriental White-backed vultures, 20+ Indian Long-billed Vultures, 7+Red headed King vulture and 4 Egyptian Vultures were freely foraging and breeding in the Moyar valley. In the last year (2011-12), identified three breeding colonies (Siriur, Semmanatham and Jagalikkadavu) holding 37 nests of Oriental White-backed Vultures, in Moyar Valley, Tamil Nadu, India. This year (2012-13) it has increased from 37 to 40.

A REPORT ON STATUS, DISTRIBUTION AND NEST SITE SELECTION OF DIURNAL RAPTORS WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO VULTURES IN MUDUMALAI TIGER RESERVE AND NILGIRI NORTH FOREST DIVISION OF TAMIL NADU, SOUTHERN INDIA."is attached.

Prevalence of Diclofenac established in 34 shops through survey and dummy purchase. Threats like the usage of diclofenac among veterinary practitioners are noticed. Other threats such as carcass poisoning, forest fire and burial of carcass are also noticed.

**Component 2 Planned:**

Local communities (especially cattle owners), village *panchayath* members and functionaries, Animal Husbandry Department functionaries, Forest Department functionaries, drug store owners, veterinary college students and teachers, animal shelter house establishments, journalists and media are sensitized on the issues of vulture conservation.

**Component 2 Actual at Completion: Completed**

Multiple awareness meetings were held. Stake holders were sensitized on vulture conservation and diclofenac issue through series of meetings such as puppet show, street corner meeting, rally, drama, Vulture mask making exercise, Volley ball tournament, displayed Vulture model, displayed Posters & Banners in village carnivals, Pamphlets distributed for addressing various stake holders. The awareness work appeared in mass media.

**Component 3 Planned:**

Village Vulture Conservation Brigades formed in the project area and trained in various aspects of vulture conservation.

**Component 3 Actual at Completion: Completed.**

Youth club in tribal village targeted. Volley ball tournament conducted and it resulted in the formation of Village Vulture Conservation Brigade. Vulture conservation messages spread through repeated audio announcements during the Volley ball tournament. Now closely working with four groups which are situated in Anaikatti, Siriur, Semmanatham and Valaithottam because of the nesting and roosting of the Vultures in these areas.

**Component 4 Planned:**

Stakeholders' Consultation Forum for Vulture Conservation (SCFVC) formed and has the capacity to facilitate and review members' mutual sharing of concerns and interests, information and skills, commitments and obligations and participate in advocacy and lobbying exercises for the conservation of vultures. A network of civil society organizations is established to monitor and coordinate efforts for vulture conservation in the Western Ghats.

**Component 4 Actual at Completion: Completed.**

Members voluntarily participated in rally and other important meeting. A member from Siriur identified a Vulture chick inside bamboo bush and informed us. The chick was rescued (**Rescue story attached**).

**Component 5 Planned:**

Advocacy Campaign completed for the conservation of Gyps vulture in the project area for strict law enforcement on the use of diclofenac, permission and guidance to leave 'dead' wild animals as the feed for vultures under possible and conducive situations, instead of burying.

**Component 5 Actual at Completion: Completed.**

Multiple advocacy campaign conducted. Rally and human chain conducted in 6 places and alerted Pharmacy people and Vets. Arulagam had invited for post-mortem exercise by Forest department. That opportunity was utilized and requested them to leave the carcass for Vulture. This was appeared in the news papers as 'dead carcass was left in the wild for other carnivores'.

**Component 6 Planned:**

Diclofenac-free animal shelter houses established within the Moyar Valley.

**Component 6 Actual at Completion: Completed.**

Pilot trial conducted at animal shelter house of Nilagiri District Animal Welfare Association in Mavanalla and World Veterinary Service unit near Masinagudi, Since Vulture has not attended the carcass, will have to explore further. Other gosalas are relatively situated far away from Moyar valley.

**Component 7 Planned:**

Forest Department encouraged to introduce an effective compensation scheme to farmers and cattle owners, who lose livestock due to conflicts with wild animals, in order to prevent retaliatory poisoning of cattle carcasses.

**Component 7 Actual at Completion:** Partly achieved.

Successful Volunteer Compensation model identified and shared with Officials. Cattle compensation claimed with the support of wildlife enthusiast Mr.B.Krishnakumar from Hasanur, Ms.Sunitha from Bandipur and Mr.Tarun Chabbra from Ooty. Continuous interaction is going on with Insurance Company and Forest Department.

Forest department were reluctant of giving compensation. Reducing the cattle population inside the forest is mandatory for Forest Department. Forest law also doesn't allow grazing inside the forest. If the cattle enter into the forest area, the cattle owner's can't claim compensation. But at the same time, Tribal rights act allows the grazing inside the forest.

Cattle owners were not ready to insure the cattle due to high premium. Insurance Company is not willing to insure the cattle due to risk prone and less profit. This issue would have been sorted out with the involvement of WWF- India and other wildlife enthusiast.

**Component 8 Planned:**

Targeted advocacy undertaken at the state level, with a special focus on the Moyar Valley, to request measures to prevent veterinary use of diclofenac/ketoprofen. Vultures Watch database made available in Tamil language and linked with other sites.

**Component 8 Actual at Completion: Completed.**

Multiple awareness meeting conducted in Moyar valley. Puppet Show and drama conducted in 6 places each, Evening meetings conducted in 18 villages, Conservation Art and Presentation made in 14 Schools and 5 Colleges. Vulture mask making exercise conducted in 12 places and it was attracted by people. Posters & Banners displayed in temple festival (9 places) & Cattle Sandy (3 places) and Animal Welfare Symposium. Volleyball tournament conducted in 4 places.

Continuous interaction planned with pharmacy shop owners and Veterinary Doctors. Information related on Vulture Conservation and banned drug diclofenac circulated to state level officers through mail.

Vulture watch database under construction.

**Component 9 Planned:**

A state level workshop conducted to discuss the report of the evaluation of the project at the end of the project and to design follow up action after the end of the project.

**Component 9 Actual at Completion:**

District level workshop for Forest Rangers was conducted. Memorandum shared during the higher officials visited to Nilgiri and Coimbatore. Synchronized vulture survey and management aspects are also planned in future.

***Were any components unrealized? If so, how has this affected the overall impact of the project?***

The only component so far unrealized was Cattle compensation issue. Forest department staffs often deny carcass poisoning incidence. Forest law also doesn't permit to claim the compensation if the cattle grazing inside the boundaries. This issue will be addressed in future jointly with WWF-India. Other aspects of the projects were well covered and addressed and hence, didn't affect the overall impact of the project.

**Please describe and submit (electronically if possible) any tools, products, or methodologies that resulted from this project or contributed to the results.**

Arulagam member tried with RTI (Right To Information) for diclofenac usage. **Questionnaire attached.**

### 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.**

Realized that outreach materials with attractive designs needs to be prepared for conveying the message to different stake holders and simultaneously each stake holders needs to be approached in different methods. Organizing meetings in the remote tribal area were needed more manpower, time and money. So the social gatherings such as festival, tournament, Veterinary Association meeting, Cattle Sandy, Animal Welfare Symposium, Animal Health Camp, Other functions organized by Government and likeminded organization were utilized for spreading Vulture conservation messages.

This was cost effective, less time consuming and were able to reach more audience with less efforts. Animal Health Camp organized by department of Animal Husbandry was voluntarily participated by the team and message conveyed effectively to the targeted stakeholders.

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

Attitude and awareness survey on Vulture were initiated and prevalence of diclofenac established through dummy purchase. Before that stake holders and Places were identified. Survey conducted in selected villages/town with targeted stake holders of Nilgiri, Coimbatore and Erode districts.

Stakeholders such as Cattle owners, Livestock inspectors & Veterinarians (including retired person who are active in the profession), Traditional healers, Quacks, Drug inspector, Pharmacists, Pharmacy college, Gosalas, Forest Department Staff, Animal Welfare Organizations and local NGOs were listed. While selecting the villages Roosting, Nesting and Foraging ground of Vulture were considered. Initially campaign activities were planned all over the landscape. Then based on the survey findings, activities were intensified in selected villages.

#### **Approach**

Posters with warning message were displayed in prominent places and Pharmacy shops. Veterinary doctor's Social functions, Veterinary Association meeting, State Level Gosala meeting and various functions related with wildlife were also utilized for spreading and Vulture conservation message through posters and banners.

**Vulture watchers** were appointed by Tamil Nadu Forest Department in Sathyamangalam Forest Division, who were trained by WWF/ Arulagam/ Care Earth Trust expert team to identify vultures, preparing field notes, checklist for carcass monitoring and methodology for reporting to the higher officials

For conveying message to **Pharma people**, rally was organized by inviting Pharma association members as special guests. Poster on ban order with warning message was released by District Superintend of Police and it was received by Mr.L.Narayanan Secretary, Nilgiri Drug and Chemist Association. Prescription pads, calendars to veterinarians/pharmacists were distributed for supporting the diclofenac ban. The ban order on diclofenac were circulated through mail.

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

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

Vulture chick was rescued from nesting site on April 5th and released it on June 29th. Raising of chick with minimal infrastructure was a big challenge as the team was not prepared for it but learned a lot during this period.

More supports were received from various individuals and officials, which gave heart full strength to everyone involved in the work. Forest staffs were very much impressed and admired the work. One of the heartiest moments was when Mr.Jaiganesh, a forest guard from Siriur, contributed his one day salary for buying meat to the Chick.

All the focus of the staff was suddenly diverted towards rearing the chick for three months and hence other work became standstill. For dealing this kind of situation in field, permanent aviary and separate staff were realized with additional funding source.

### 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 the CEPF investment in this project.***

Donor	Type of Funding*	Amount	Notes
WWF-India	Regional/Portfolio leveraging	\$5000	Studying Ecology aspects.
Ministry of Environment and Forest (MoEF)	Project co-financing	\$400	Awareness Program.
Tamil Nadu Forest Department	Regional/Portfolio leveraging	\$2500	Vulture Chick Rescue
Mr.Jaiganesh, Forest guard, Arulagam		\$10	
	Grantee and Partner leveraging	\$5000	Staff Salary
TANGEDCO	Grantee and Partner leveraging	\$4000	Field station
Mr. K.logesh, Prof Ilangovan and Mr.S.Sivakumar	Project co-financing	\$900	Vulture Chick Rescue
Tirupur Information Technology Association (TITA)	Project co-financing	\$700	Computer donated.
Mr.G.Bharathi, Technip, Malaysia.	Project co-financing	\$1200	Laptop Computer, Camera, Binocular and GPS
Zoo Outreach Organization	Grantee and Partner leveraging	\$50	Poster, Sticker
Bombay Natural History Society	Grantee and Partner leveraging	\$120	Poster, Sticker, Vulture film
Care Earth Trust& MNHS	Grantee and Partner leveraging	\$ 1500	Staff Salary

***\*Additional funding should be reported using 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.)*

### Sustainability/Replicability

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



Vulture watchers (4 persons) appointed in Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve. Further six more vulture watchers to be appointed in Nilgiri North Forest Division. They will undertake and ensure future safe guard of Vultures.

Ten year management plan for Vulture Conservation submitted to Tamil Nadu Forest Department, North Forest Division and made into the Government funding mechanism. WWF-India supported for conducting nesting ecology. All the findings and results would be accessed through public domain.

**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.**

<b>Additional Comments/Recommendations</b>
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<b>Information Sharing and CEPF Policy</b>
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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\*\*\***

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**Performance Tracking Report Addendum**

**CEPF Global Targets**

**(Enter Grant Term)**

**Provide a numerical amount and brief description of the results achieved by your grant.  
Please respond to only those questions that are relevant to your project.**

<b>Project Results</b>	<b>Is this question relevant ?</b>	<b>If yes, provide your numerical response for results achieved during the annual period.</b>	<b>Provide your numerical response for project from inception of CEPF support to date.</b>	<b>Describe the principal results achieved from July 1, 2012 to May 30, 2013. (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.				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?				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.				
4. Did your project effectively introduce or strengthen biodiversity conservation in management practices outside protected areas? If so, please indicate how many hectares.				
5. If your project promotes the sustainable use of natural resources, how many local communities accrued tangible socioeconomic benefits? Please complete Table 1 below.				

**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:			Improved tenure in rural areas	More secure access to water resources	Increased natural resource due to titling, reduction of deforestation, natural disasters (fires, landslides, flooding,	More secure sources of energy	Increased access to public services, such as education, health, or	Increased knowledge for environmental	Decision-making due to strengthened civil society and	Other		
									sustainable natural resources management	Ecotourism revenues	Park management activities									Payment for environmental services	
<b>Total</b>																					

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