

CEPF FINAL PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

I. BASIC DATA

Organization Legal Name: Namsaling Community Development Centre

Project Title (as stated in the grant agreement): *Conservation Corridor and Livelihood Development Project (CCLDP)*

Implementation Partners for this Project: Not available

Project Dates (as stated in the grant agreement): April 1, 2007 - June 30, 2009

Date of Report (month/year): 3 September 2009.

II. OPENING REMARKS

Provide any opening remarks that may assist in the review of this report.

The existing parks and protected areas cannot conserve biodiversity effectively in isolation. The isolation can be addressed through developing conservation corridors between existing protected areas as well as between countries. So With the goal of 'Integrity and connectivity of biological corridors in Kangchenjunga-Singalila Complex Maintained through sustainable management of Key priority sites' the project entitled CCLDP was launched with the financial support from CEPF from April 2007 till June 31, 2009. The purpose of the project was to increase community involvement in biodiversity conservation through livelihood promotion activities.

The project area comprised 5 transborder Village Development Committees just adjacent Singalila National Park of Darjeeling, India. The area falls under the Kangchenjunga Singalila Complex and is identified as one of the major animal movement path forming an important biological corridor,

The area also known as Upper Mai Valley Forest (identified by CEPF as Key Biodiversity Area), at present is threatened by habitat destruction through illegal activities (Illicit felling, poaching, harvesting and trade), lack of awareness and habitat fragmentation. To control and minimize the unsustainable use of the resources the project was implemented to provide the alternative livelihood options to the forest users in the area. The major stakeholders of the project were District Forest Office, Community Forest Users, Village Development Committee, Community Based Organizations and many conservation related institutions/projects. The major beneficiaries of the project comprised of community Forest user Groups.

The project advocated on biodiversity conservation through awareness raising, institutional development, promotion of alternative energy efficient technologies, providing alternative livelihood options to the community forest users group and awaring forest users for their role and importance in biodiversity conservation.

The Project was developed and implemented in accordance with the CEPF Strategic Direction-2 and Investment Priorities 2.2 of the strategic direction.

III. ACHIEVEMENT OF PROJECT PURPOSE

Project Purpose: *Increased community involvement in biodiversity conservation through livelihood promotion activities.*

Planned vs. Actual Performance

Indicator	Actual at Completion
<p>Purpose-level: <i>Status of 2 Globally significant faunal species (Red Panda & bear) and 6 floral species (Michelia Species, Taxus wallichiana, Swertia chirata, Aconitum species, Nardostacys grandiflora and Rhododendron speceis) will be improved</i></p>	<p>NCDC through CCLDP project has supported community forest users group in strengthening the capacity for monitoring of wildlife and the habitat in their forest especially Red Panda. The community forest users groups are aware on the importance and need of conserving the faunal species. At present 2 community forest users group are engaged in regular monitoring of Red Panda and other wild lives available in the forest like deer, leopard cat, wild boar and bear.</p> <p>Further NCDC provided forest users technical knowledge on conservation and management of plant species like Magnolia Species, Taxus wallichiana, Nardostacys grandiflora, Aconitum species, Swertia chirata and Rhododendron species. NCDC has supported 4 community forests for establishment of forest trees and medicinal plant nurseries from where the seedlings can be obtained easily by the forest users.</p> <p>The project was successful in delivering knowledge and skills for the conservation of key species of specified floral and faunal species. The forest users at present are actively involved in monitoring of wildlife and restoration of plant species (trees and Medicinal plants) in the community forest and their private lands.</p>
<p>2. Five hundred hectares of significant biodiversity area in community forests will be protected or under better management</p>	<p>There are 18 Community Forest comprising of 77 Sq.km and the forest users groups are the major project beneficiaries. NCDC through the project in all steps of the project implementation coordinated, shared and conducted different conservation and livelihood development activities. The forest users have gained knowledge on importance and need of conservation of biodiversity in the area. At present they are aware of the potentiality of their forest. The forest users have started to better manage 600 hectare of their community forest by monitoring of wildlife, restoration of local plant species in denuded lands and open spaces.</p>

Describe the success of the project in terms of achieving its intended impact objective and performance indicators.

The project has been successful to increase the local people awareness and participation in the conservation of key floral and faunal species through awareness raising and livelihood development. The community forest users have gained knowledge on conservation and management of species like Magnolia, Taxus wallichiana, Nardostacys grandiflora, Aconitum, Swertia Chirata and Rhododendron Species.

The people also have gained knowledge on farming of different agriculture crops particularly vegetables which they have not practiced from years. The have now started diversifying their

agriculture crops. In Past they were limited only with maize and potato. Beside this they were also dependent on forest for collection of medicinal plants for their economic benefit. The project has helped them to get economic benefit and sustain their livelihood from limited land area. Also this progress in them has helped to reduce pressure on the forest to some extend.

Were there any unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?

There is one of the unexpected impacts of the project. The community forest (Laligurans Community Forest) of Maimajhuwa Village Development Committee came forward to restore the degraded wetland of their area in their own initiation. They clean up unwanted grasses, leaf litters and unnecessary dead trees from the wetland. This was one of the positive impacts which the project had not expected. Later the community forest users were supported by the project in partnership with ICC.

This restoration work also had a positive impact to the community forest (Mabutham Community forest) of Mabu Village Development Committee. They too did the similar kind of activity for which the project provided minimal financial support.

The restoration work was not planned in the project or was not expected.

IV. PROJECT OUTPUTS

Project Outputs:

Planned vs. Actual Performance

Indicator	Actual at Completion
<p>Output 1: Coordination, Sharing and partnership developed among different stakeholders for conservation of key species and their habitat in the project sites</p>	
<p><i>1.1. A project advisory and co-ordination committee will be developed by mid of Year 1.</i></p>	<p>As a part of project implementation 8 member District Advisory Committee was formed together with other CEPF grantees like ICC, ECCA, BCN and ESON. Since its formation there was quarterly meeting held to share lesson learnt and success. The main objective of the committee was to share lesson learnt and also control duplication of project activities among the conservation projects. At present the advisory committee has been handed over to the New CEPF grantees.</p>
<p><i>1.2. At least 5 initiatives related to sustainable natural resource management will be implemented in partnership with other organisations implementing biodiversity conservation programs by year 2.</i></p>	<p>Since the project inception NCDC is implementing the project in close coordination and cooperation with conservation related institutions/projects and community forest. The activities conducted to meet the defined indicators are as follows:</p> <p>Celebration of World Environment Day: the world environment day was celebrated in close partnership with ICC, RPN and Community Forest Users Group. The activities conducted in the day were plantation in community forest covering 50 hectare with locally available tree species was done.</p> <p>Basic Environmental Journalism training: The was organized in Partnership with Ilam Cooperation Council, Bird Conservation Nepal and Red Panda Network to develop professional journalist in the area of environment, biodiversity conservation and natural resource management.</p> <p>Conservation of wetlands/ponds: wetland/ponds of Maimajhuwa and</p>

	<p>Mabu Village Development Committee was done in partnership with Ilam Cooperation Council and community forest users groups of the same areas to revive the wetland and develop as a tourism infrastructure as well as habitat for important animals.</p> <p>Conservation Awareness Programs: Biodiversity conservation awareness programs were conducted regularly in partnership with Ilam Cooperation Council, Red Panda Network and Community Forest Users Group to raise awareness in different aspects of conservation in the project areas.</p> <p>Trans-border Coordination Meeting: 'Trans-border Coordination Meeting in Kangchenjunga-Singalila Complex' was organized to bring related stakeholders working in the Kangchenjunga Singalila Complex. The Government and conservation institutions/projects from Nepal and India were brought together to discuss and share the transborder conservation issues and formulate strategies to mitigate the conservation issues. A network named as Kangchenjunga-Singalia Complex Biodiversity Conservation Committee was formed comprising of eight members consisting representative both from Nepal and India.</p>
<p>1.3. Atleast 1 new project funds leveraged from the current funds for biodiversity conservation initiatives by Year 2.</p>	<p>NCDC was successful to leverage fund from different organization to continue biodiversity conservation in the project area. The two projects will help NCDC to support the forest users of the project area on enterprise development, forest management, Operation Plan Development and in income generation activities. The details of the project area as follows</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Biodiversity Conservation in the Transboundary Landscape Funded by International centre For Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD). The project will cover all the VDCs of CCLDP. "Forest Management Program" funded by Development Fund Norway. The Project will work with 1 community forest of Jamuna VDC. Research on 'Understanding Indigenous Peoples' perception on climate change impacts on floral and faunal species in the Kanchenjunga Singalila Complex, Eastern Nepal
<p>Output 2: Community groups institutionalized and strengthened to adopt conservation friendly alternative livelihoods strategies that reduce pressure on the forest</p>	
<p>2.1. At least 50 households benefit from natural resource based enterprise by Year 2.</p>	<p>To achieve the specified indicator the following activity was done</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bee hive briquette has been established as a forest based enterprise in 4 Community Forests. At present 60 households from the community forests are actively involved in production of bee hive briquette. The products are marketed in near by markets and in the trans-border tourism area where it is used as a room heater. To support the community forest users for the sustainable production and marketing a sale depot is established in Ilam and also the production centre is constructed in NCDC land to ease on production. At present 60 households are engaged in briquette production and marketing.
<p>2.2. At least 100 households adopt conservation friendly technologies for their livelihood requirements by Year 2.</p>	<p>With an objective to create awareness on renewable energy, biodiversity conservation and alternative livelihood measures NCDC through CCLDP promoted different conservation friendly technologies like Improved Cooking Stoves, Institutional Cooking Stoves and high altitude Metallic stoves.</p> <p>Improved Cooking Stove: NCDC has produced about 15 regular and trained manpower on improved cooking stoves. Till Date about 107 cooking</p>

	<p>stoves have been installed. There is positive impact on the health condition of cooking stoves users and also has helped in the reduction of firewood consumption quantity. The improved cooking stoves have an efficiency of 40% as compared to their traditional cooking stoves. The people of the area normally use 2 bhari /day (1 bhari=40 kg) of firewood in the traditional (3 Stone) cooking stove. In their experience they say the firewood consumption has reduced with 50%.</p> <p>Institutional Cooking Stove: NCDC promoted institutional cooking stoves for reducing firewood consumptions in dairy factories. Till date about 5 institutional cooking stoves have been installed. The users also have the same experience as the improved cooking stoves. In their experience they have reported the firewood consumption has reduced by 50%.</p> <p>High Altitude Metallic Stove: NCDC through the project has demonstrated by installing 5 high altitude (>2000 m) metallic stoves in the transborder area (tourism hotspot). The hoteliers of the area are major consumption of firewood for cooking and room heating. Right now NCDC has collected about 40 demands for metallic stoves in the area. NCDC will facilitate for government subsidy (4000 Nepalese Rupees) to be provided to the stove users.</p>
<p>2.3. 20 groups and cooperatives will be institutionalized and strengthened for alternative livelihoods to reduce pressure on forests by year 2.</p>	<p>Before the implementation of alternative livelihood activities in the area, one year sustainable livelihood strategy plan was conducted with the community forest users to identify their gaps, potential and needs in the area. Altogether 5 strategy plan of 5 Village Development Committee was prepared. Based on the strategy plan the livelihood activities were done which are as follows:</p> <p>Promotion of sustainable agriculture: The activity was promoted through providing technical knowledge through establishment of 5 demonstration plots and conduction of farmers Field School was taken as one of the strategies to impart knowledge on sustainable agriculture practice to the 18 community forest users along the biological corridor. The farmers were given training on seasonal/off-seasonal vegetable gardening, Bio pesticide, organic manure and other major crops like potato and Maize. At present 300 farmers of 18 Community Forests are engaged in sustainable agriculture practices.</p> <p>Strengthening Women Groups: About 10 women saving and credit groups are were given training on product development like dairy sweets, potato chips, potato powder etc. from locally available agriculture products. At present all the groups are active and engaged in production of agriculture products and are being marketed in nearby markets.</p> <p>Sustainable Tourism Promotion: Tourism is one of the major income sources for hoteliers in the transborder area of the project area namely Meghma, Tumling, Jaubari, Kalapokhari and Sandakpur. Eco-tourism training was conducted taking representative of 3 community organizations of the area to strengthen the capacity for the promotion of sustainable tourism in the area.</p> <p>Value Chain Analysis: Value chain analysis of Community Forest and Agro-Based Commodities in CCLDP areas was conducted to identify the most potential forest based and agro-based commodities and to establish linkages with the buyers and sellers. The study team identified that Swertia Chirata, Xanthoxylum species, Rubia Manjith, Large cardamom, hard cheese as the most potential commodities regarding availability, market demand and price factor. NCDC also imparted knowledge on product development and marketing of the products.</p>

<p>2.4. A comprehensive document on existing traditional/Indigenous knowledge and skills on natural resource management prepared by Year 1.</p>	<p>The study was done to identify, and document the indigenous/traditional knowledge and practice people of Northeast Ilam to manage forest resources in sustainable manner. Information on the management of forest resources by the ethnic communities was collected through pre-tested structured questionnaires from the key informants selected purposively in the project area. A research book is prepared by collecting informations of traditional knowledge on management of Non Timber Forest Products, Management of Forage and Fodder Plants, Management of Plant Species used as fuel wood, Management of wild lives, Management of water sources and management of reforested areas.</p>
<p>Output 3: Organisational capacity of community groups to be effectively involved in conserving key species and their habitats in the project site enhanced</p>	
<p>3.1. Community based Conservation Action Plan developed for 2 faunal and 2 floral species.</p>	<p>1. Conservation Action Plan of floral Species</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One year Conservation action plan of 6 floral species like Magnolia Species, Taxus wallichiana, Nardostacys grandiflora, Aconitum species, Swertia chirata and Rhododendron species has been prepared in Chintapu community forest in Maimajhuwa • The project trained and established 4 tree and Medicinal plant nurseries in 4 community forest of Maimajhuwa, Mabu, Jamuna and Jogmai Village Development Committee. • The community forest users at present are engaged in production of seedlings of Swertia Chirata and locally available tree seedlings of Quercus, Michelia and Rhododendron species. Each nursery has capacity of producing 3000 seedlings/year. <p>2. Community based conservation and monitoring Plan for 2 faunal species</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community based conservation and monitoring plan is prepared in 2 community forests focusing on Red Panda, Bear and other wild species.
<p>3.2. 2 Community Forest Groups initiate monitoring of key species by year 2.</p>	<p>1. Monitoring of Red Panda:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The activity was conducted in partnership with Ilam Cooperation Council and Red Panda Network (RPN) • Survey of Red Panda in 2 community forest users groups is completed • The 2 Community Forest have trained 4 forest guardians for the monitoring of wild life <p>2. Conservation Awareness:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The forest users are also given conservation awareness on 'Red Panda monitoring and conservation'. • They have become aware on the red panda and its habitat with its importance.

Describe the success of the project in terms of delivering the intended outputs.

The project was successful in promotion of alternative forest and agri based livelihood options like off seasonal vegetable gardening and bee hive briquette. The project was successful to impart knowledge on agriculture where the people had once options of 2 food crops like maize and potato. The people have gained knowledge on different income generation activities which can be done in their limited agriculture land. The establishment of 4 bee hive enterprise in 4 community forest is also one of the successes.

The other success includes promotion of Improved Cooking Stoves (ICS) by developing ICS promoters. Till date 107 ICS have been installed in the area. The ICS have helped to reduce the consumption of the firewood by 50%. Also ICS being smokeless it has minimum negative impacts in the health of the users.

Conservation of 6 species of Non timber forest products/Medicinal plants by developing conservation action plan is another example of success of the project. Through establishment of 4 nurseries the community forest users are engaged in conservation and management of medicinal plants.

The involvement of 2 community forest users groups in regular monitoring of Red Panda is also one of the key successes of the project.

Beside all the above mentioned successes, development of cooperation, sharing and partnership among the community people and local/district level stakeholders is another success.

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

There were no any unrealized outputs found.

V. SAFEGUARD POLICY ASSESSMENTS

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

To ensure conservation of any place participation and livelihood development of people residing the place is most. Without the people participation conservation cannot be done in isolation. The project was able to raise awareness about conservation through awareness raising, campaigns and livelihood development.

NCDC also was able to bring heads and hands of different government and conservation related institutions along Kangchanjunga Singalila Complex to discuss on the transborder conservation issues and formulate strategies to mitigate. Though a small effort it has certainly done something for the transboundary conservation work and need for the policy.

VI. LESSONS LEARNED FROM THE PROJECT

Describe any lessons learned during the various phases of the project. Consider lessons both for future projects, as well as for CEPF's future performance.

The important lesson learnt during the period of project implementation are as follows

- The coordination meeting and close contact among CEPF grantees helped to reduce the duplication of activities.
- Identification and Involvement of relevant and real stakeholders is necessary for the effective project implementation.
- Ownership can be build if local level stakeholders are involved in every steps of project implementation.
- Implementation of livelihood development activities become successful by identifying key capacity gaps and by developing participatory livelihood strategy plan with the focal groups.
- Alternative livelihood promotional activities through demonstration is one of the key tool for imparting knowledge to the community people. Also the activities should be implemented as a model to control the resource dilution.
- Regular monitoring, cooperation, Support and review of the project activities with the project team and community people lead to smooth implementation and make result oriented.

- Through continuous interaction and cooperation with local institutions, the involvement of local people increase in biodiversity conservation.

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

For the conservation of biological corridor with the people participation through awareness raising, promotion of environment friendly technologies and livelihood options were done. To conduct livelihood development activities demonstration centre were established to impart knowledge on different livelihood activities. The project had 2 social mobilizers, one agriculture expert and one coordinator for regular cooperation, assistance and delivering the technical knowledge to the communities.

Above all the above activities one district advisory committee was formed in the chairperson of District Forest Office and taking members from academicians, journalist, community forest federations and policy makers. The quarterly meeting with District Advisory Committee helped for the smooth implementation of project without duplication.

Project Execution: (aspects of the project execution that contributed to its success/failure)

At the initial phase of project implementation project inception was conducted in district level and in Village level with all related stakeholders to orient on the project, purpose, outputs, results and importance. After the inception workshop livelihood strategy was developed with the related stakeholders to find out the need and interest of the focal groups. This activity helped the project to implement livelihood related options as per the need of the people. For the implementation of agriculture related livelihood options demonstrations were established to run farmers field school to impart different knowledge of agricultural practices practically. Similarly at the school farmers were taught on making organic manure and bio pesticide from locally available herbs. This activity helped them to replicate the knowledge due to easy available of the resources. NCDC always focused on developing livelihood options by locally available agro or forest products.

NCDC implemented project activities through training, workshop, demonstrations, meetings, awareness raising and exposure visits. Beside this NCDC implemented project in close cooperation, consultation and in partnership with different conservation related institutions/projects and local stakeholders in the project areas.

VII. 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
International centre For Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD)	D	\$ 15000.00	Biodiversity Conservation in the Trans-boundary Landscape Date of Implementation: March 2009
Development Fund Norway	C	\$ 5000.00	"Forest Management Program" Project implementation: Till 2011
CEPF small grant through WWF	B	\$ 7000.00	Research on 'Understanding Indigenous Peoples' perception on climate change impacts on floral and faunal species in the Kanchenjunga Singalila Complex, Eastern Nepal Project Implementation: June 2009-February 2010

***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** *Complementary funding (Other donors contribute to partner organizations that are working on a project linked with this CEPF project)*
- C** *Grantee and Partner leveraging (Other donors contribute to your organization or a partner organization as a direct result of successes with this CEPF project.)*
- D** *Regional/Portfolio leveraging (Other donors make large investments in a region because of CEPF investment or successes related to this project.)*

Provide details of whether this project will continue in the future and if so, how any additional funding already secured or fundraising plans will help ensure its sustainability.

NCDC has established itself as a resource centre in Ilam since 2008. NCDC will provide service in the eastern Nepal among various field as alternative energy, agriculture, forest and good governance. Though CCLDP project has been terminated, NCDC being local NGOs has commitment to work in the project area for long term in various development and conservation fields. NCDC has already secured funding to continue some of the conservation activities in the area where CCLDP had worked (See VII: Additional Funding). The project funded by ICIMOD and Development Fund Norway will support forest users in terms of enterprise development, awareness raising, capacity building, wildlife monitoring and technical support for forest management.

VIII. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The project has been successful in for increasing people participation in biodiversity conservation through awareness raising, institutional support, promotion of livelihood options and alternative technologies. But all this efforts are just the beginning efforts in the area. Conservation efforts, sharing, partnership and investment should be continued for long. Beside this transborder cooperation is also needed to get equal benefit from the area.

NCDC during the project period also have identified some of the key gaps where conservation efforts should be launched which are as followings.

- Climate change impacts on biodiversity and livelihood of the people residing in the area with mitigation/adaptation.
- Promotion of eco-tourism or agri-ecotourism as one of the powerful means of biodiversity conservation and livelihood development.

- To support on sustainable livelihood development market linkage of agro and forest based products
- Strengthening capacity of community forest users group on monitoring of wildlives/NTFPS, biodiversity assessment and institutional development.

VIII. INFORMATION SHARING

CEPF is committed to transparent operations and to helping civil society groups share experiences, lessons learned and results. One way we do this is by making programmatic project documents available on our Web site, www.cepf.net, and by marketing these in our newsletter and other communications.

These documents are accessed frequently by other CEPF grantees, potential partners, and the wider conservation community.

Please include your full contact details below:

Name: Mr. Homnath Adhikari

Organization name: Namsaling Community Development Centre

Mailing address: Dhobidhara, Ilam Municipality 7, Ilam District, Nepal

Tel: +977 27 520411, +977 27 520792

Fax: +977 27 521406

E-mail: ncdcilam.ntc.net.np