

CEPF FINAL PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

I. BASIC DATA

Organization Legal Name: World Wildlife Fund Inc.

Project Title (as stated in the grant agreement): Participatory Zoning of Sakteng Wildlife Sanctuary

Implementation Partners for this Project:

1. Sakteng Wildlife Sanctuary.
2. Department of Forests.
3. Department of Agriculture.
4. Trashigang Dzongkhag (District) Administration
5. Local leaders and communities from Merak, Sakteng and Lauri gewogs (Blocks).

Project Dates (as stated in the grant agreement): 1 February, 2010- 31 March, 2011

Date of Report (month/year): 31 May 2011

II. OPENING REMARKS

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

The execution of this project has been invaluable learning experience for the staff of the Sakteng Wildlife Sanctuary (SWS). The field staff not only got exposed to ideas and concepts of conservation but also could deliver the messages to communities and stakeholders. Besides, we better understood community realities and problems they are facing. The outcome report and particularly methodology will be invaluable contribution to protected area management in Bhutan. We also compiled few policy recommendations both in forestry and other sectors. The comprehensive report with detailed field experimentation will be first of its kind in Bhutan's protected areas management history.

III. ACHIEVEMENT OF PROJECT IMPACTS

Project Impacts:

Long Term: To ensure ecosystem contiguity, ecological connectivity and long term survival of the species within Bhutan Biological Conservation Complex

Targeted Outcome: The overall resource administration, management and protection improved in 73,900 ha at SWS that supports viable populations of red panda, serow, Himalayan striped squirrel and other large mammals and assemblage of birds and plants of the temperate broad leaf forest of the Eastern Himalayas.

Short Term: To protect the biodiversity of SWS while ensuring a balance of biodiversity, sustainable utilization and cultural diversity of the area.

1. A comprehensive GIS database developed for effective management of key species and habitats in SWS after the completion of the project.

2. Management Plan of SWS reflects the priorities of all key stakeholders and management is based on information and database developed with scientific precision and stakeholder consultations by end of the project.

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

SWS zoning of critical habitats as well as migratory routes completed in Sakteng Wildlife Sanctuary (SWS) securing long-term protection of habitats and ecological connectivity both within and beyond SWS. A GIS based natural resource inventory now exist in the sanctuary as baseline information source to achieving a balance between preservation and use that does not adversely impact park resources and values. The local communities are now aware of sanctuary’s mission and committed to work together with staff and share the rewards of conservation and deliver tangible benefits.

Were there any unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?

Yes, at initial stages people’s lack of understanding of sanctuary’s benefits and absence of their own vested interest on the future of sanctuary resulted in unwillingness to participate in the sanctuary’s conservation efforts. Since communities are totally dependent on livestock husbandry, the conflicts in core zones and pasture lands were difficult to resolve. However, through rigorous environmental awareness creation and knowing scope in the sanctuary for sharing of rewards of conservation gave them some confidence to participate in sanctuary efforts. Therefore, in order to continue local communities in conservation, sanctuary besides awareness has to engage them in integrated conservation and development activities that can supplement and at the same time diversify people’s income. Activities such as nature tourism, agriculture and livestock intensification, local agro-based enterprises, etc. were identified, which can possibly bring down communities’ income dependence on livestock husbandry from 85% to 50%.

IV. PROJECT COMPONENTS

Project Components:

Planned vs. Actual Performance

Indicator	Actual at Completion
Output 1: Effective and efficient resource administration and resource utilization through implementation of zonation plan and protection.	
<i>Indicator 1.1: GIS maps and comprehensive document on zonation for scientific management of SWS will be produced by the end of the project.</i>	<u>External boundary field-truthing completed and modified using prominent features for easy identification. 8 core zones designated and maps produced for different management zones and land-uses.</u>
<i>Indicator 1.2: At least 3 stakeholder consultative meetings will be conducted for developing the zonation of SWS by the end of the</i>	<u>7 different community consultation meetings organized including sensitization, participatory mapping and final agreement.</u>

<p><i>project</i></p>	<p><u>1 Regional level stakeholder consultative meeting completed where concerned District Administrations from the region participated</u></p> <p><u>1 Central level stakeholder consultative meeting completed where representatives from concern Departments, central agencies and / Ministries participated.</u></p>
<p>Output 2: Enhanced knowledge for Sanctuary's resources management and protection through establishment of GIS based database.</p>	
<p><i>Indicator 2.1: A comprehensive document on the natural resources and utilization of SWS prepared in consultation with relevant stakeholders particularly the local communities by the end of the project.</i></p>	<p><u>The final document is printed and distributed to relevant stakeholders. The final consultation was held on 2nd Week of April 2011.</u></p>
<p><i>Indicator 2.2: A commitment to reflect this zonation in the next Management Plan of SWS obtained from relevant authorities by the end of the project.</i></p>	<p><u>All recommendations and management interventions will be included in the next 5 year management plan, which will be written in 2012. The Zonation report will remain as supplementary document for the new management plan.</u></p>

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

The project has provided an important tools and mechanisms for the sanctuary to successfully meet it vision and mission. The training on zonation, identification of clear management zones and comprehensive documentation on natural resources will significantly assist sanctuary staff to effectively manage the human and financial resources.

Zoning demarcates management zones for protection of biodiversity, headwaters and cultural/ historical sites; and multiple use zones, for sustainable utilization of natural resources like timber, NWFP, pastures among others. A layer of overlapping recreational zones within multiple-use zones and low impact trails within core zones are included. GIS database and maps will provide valuable field information for the review of the activities and recommendations for the next management plan.

Staffs are now capable of engaging local communities in their conservation initiatives through application of appropriate tools that they have learnt from this project.

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

No

V. SAFEGUARD POLICY ASSESSMENTS

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

The National Forest Policy of Bhutan recommends management of protected areas through designation of proper zones to accommodate conservation and developmental

activities. The zoning exercises therefore carefully identified conservation goals and people's needs in the area.

However, in some cases social safeguards had to be considered particularly dealing with conflicts within core zones and pasture lands. We recommended that people's rights are respected but with some regulations in core zones, and that we shall progressively replace them with adequate compensations.

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.

Varying community perceptions is a challenge particularly when working with the remote communities, a tailor made environmental education/ awareness can play a very important role in such situation.

Traditional knowledge on conservation and resource management are immense and should be appreciated and integrated with science for better conservation outcomes in management of mountain ecosystems.

Participatory approach is absolutely necessary, since it tackles all initial problems and ensures successful implementation of any projects particularly when dealing with communities.

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

The adequate and user-friendly project design helped the successful implementation of the project. The project outcomes and impacts were supported by practical and realistic outputs. The focus and capacity building and consultative meetings were advantageous in realizing the projects goals in a participatory approach.

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

The willingness of the staff to devote their time in field works coupled with zeal of the communities helped successful execution of the project. Also the flexibility and technical and administrative support provided by the project officers at WWF-Bhutan made the implementation of this project fairly easy.

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
Royal Government of Bhutan	Annual RGoB budget	~ Nu. 1.06 million	

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

- A** *Project co-financing (Other donors contribute to the direct costs of this CEPF project)*
 - Royal Government of Bhutan contribution
 - A. Annual RGoB budget
 - Salary and other cost (approximately 3 months office and field works of 23 staffs) – ~ Nu.0.92 million
 - Boundary pillars (from Department stock) – Nu.0.14 million
 - B. Others
 - Office space for project discussions, training and report writing
 - Local telecommunications
 - Village forest guards, constantly collecting information and monitoring
- 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.

Zoning is a preliminary exercise for appropriate management of the sanctuary. The actual implementation will now kick-start with all recommendations made through this exercise. Implementation of the recommendations will require additional funding. The most important area for funding required is to implement the Integrated Conservation and Development programs. All these are geared towards reducing dependence on livestock and thereby reducing pressure on biodiversity and promote forest/ ecosystems resilience. As of date some funds have been already secured for such activities and WWF Bhutan will continue to raise funds to support the implementation of the recommendations. .

VIII. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This project will leave a huge impact not only in adequately managing one of the most amazing Wildlife sanctuaries in the country and region, but also to the protected area management in Bhutan in general. The ecosystems in Bhutan Himalayas are well conserved, thanks to the wise policies and people’s support; but are most vulnerable to threats like climate change and anthropogenic pressures. CEPF’s continued support in areas of conservation to Bhutan will therefore immensely help conserve some of the most amazing ecosystems in the world.

Continue monitoring biodiversity richness and forest resilience to judge the management effectiveness of the sanctuary

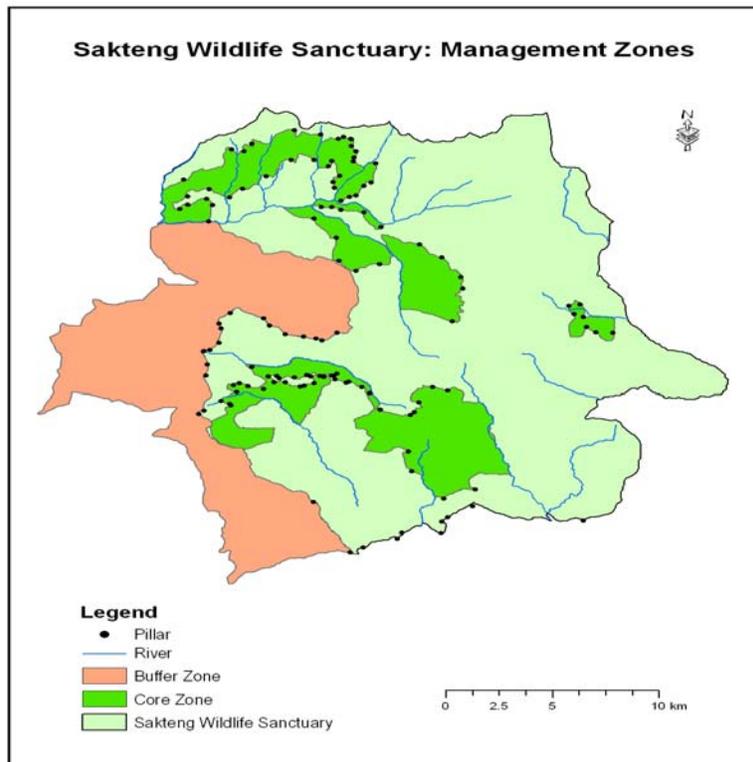
VIII. INFORMATION SHARING

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.

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Zonation map



Consultation meeting in one of the gewogs