

CEPF Final Project Completion Report

Organization Legal Name:	The Nature Conservancy
Project Title:	The African Great Lakes Summit: Improving Conservation in the African Great Lakes Through Cross-Basin Collaboration
Grant Number:	65808
CEPF Region:	Eastern Afromontane
Strategic Direction:	1 Mainstream biodiversity into wider development policies, plans and projects to deliver the co-benefits of biodiversity conservation, improved local livelihoods and economic development in priority corridors.
Grant Amount:	\$164,000.00
Project Dates:	July 01, 2015 - June 30, 2017
Date of Report:	September 20, 2017

Implementation Partners

List each partner and explain how they were involved in the project

The Lake Tanganyika Authority (LTA) co-convoked the African Great Lakes Conference (AGLC) alongside The Nature Conservancy (TNC). As a co-convener, LTA was involved in all aspects of conference development from conceptualization to participation in the Conference Organizing Committee (COC) and Technical Committee (TC). LTA helped advise and administer: selection of the location and conference themes, engagement of conference champions to promote attendance and understanding of the transboundary issues the conference aimed to address, and design of a robust conference program that engaged expert speakers and participants from every lake basin. Having an in-region lake authority as a co-convener was important in ensuring local ownership and mitigating the risk of the perception that conference was strictly a US or NGO-led project rather than a local priority.

A list of COC members can be found at the bottom of this page. The COC provided leadership on the conference title and themes, structure, location, desired outputs, and helped define the processes through which the conference came together with strong devolution of ownership to COC and TC members. See p.22 of the TC meeting proceedings document for a list of TC members.

Conservation Impacts

Summarize the overall impact of your project, describing how your project has contributed to the implementation of the CEPF ecosystem profile

Please see the attachment labeled "CEPF_FinalReport_AGLConference_v2.1.docx" for a summary of overall results and impacts of the project. This online portal would not allow us to save our response to this question. A few additional details are also included in response to the question above that would not fit within the space provided.

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

Impact Description	Impact Summary
At least half of all Advisory Committee members will agree to continue engaging in one or more groups to collaboratively address trans-boundary conservation issues.	A subset of Conference Organizing Committee and Technical Committee members will continue to be part of the process of collaboratively addressing transboundary conservation issues of the African Great Lakes. For example, some have joined the Advisory Committee for the African Great Lakes Conservation Fund and will help guide selection of projects to be awarded grants in 2018-2020 for work that addresses priorities articulated in the conference resolutions. Others are likely to apply for grants under this fund and help execute the work. Still others are likely to be active members of networks that grow out of the conference. We marked this deliverable “Partially Achieved” since by June 2017, specific commitments by “at least half” of members were not measurable, though we expect to firmly pass that threshold next year.
A web-based information platform for the African Great Lakes is built, populated and being kept up-to-date with the latest ecological and development data and best resource management practices from across the region.	The website (http://www.africangreatlakesinform.org/) has been created and was unveiled at the conference. We are continuing to populate the site with information and it will need to be continually maintained and updated, which will remain an ongoing process funded by the African Great Lakes Conservation Fund.
A long-term host organization for the web-based information platform is managing the site and conducting outreach and training on use of the site in natural resource planning and management.	Ongoing. The long-term host will be identified through the African Great Lakes Conservation Fund grant-making process.
The information platform is being used to inform conservation, development and resource management decisions in multiple countries, sectors and scales in the region—an important step in reducing broad scale threats and increasing efficient dissemination of proven conservation management methods.	Ongoing. Some stakeholders in the region are already using the site and many more will once it is fully built out over 2018-2020 using African Great Lakes Conservation Fund grant money distributed by TNC.

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

Impact Description	Impact Summary
<p>Leaders from AGLR nations and select stakeholders working on conservation and sustainable resource management in the region will convene for the first time in nearly two decades to take up regional conservation and development issues at a well-attended AGLR Summit.</p>	<p>Numerous African Great Lakes leaders and conservation/resource management stakeholders attended the conference, including: - Lake Victoria Fisheries Organization Secretariat - Lake Tanganyika Authority - ABAKIR and Rusizi River Secretariat - Lake Victoria Basin Commission - Nile Basin Initiative/Nile Equatorial Lakes Subsidiary Action Program - East African Community - International Network for Basin Organizations - Africa region networks - Permanent secretaries from various sectors/ministries, commissioners, directors, deputy directors, heads of departments - National embassy representatives - Development partners: US Agency for International Development, World Bank, African Development Bank, Global Environment Facility's International Waters Learning Exchange & Resources Network - United Nations Environment Program, Food & Agriculture Organization - African Development Bank - European Union delegation - World Fish Center representatives - African University representatives - Research institution representatives - TNC North America great lakes representative - IUCN, World Wide Fund for Nature, BirdLife, Wildlife Conservation Society, OXFAM, African Wildlife Foundation representatives - Prominent scientists and conservation practitioners</p>
<p>Summit output(s) (e.g., a set of statements that set the stage for coordinated efforts and continuing working groups on one or more topics of shared interest) sanctioned by the Advisory and Technical Committees are endorsed by a majority of Summit participants.</p>	<p>A number of priorities for continuity have been solicited for the next phase (grant program for 2018-2020). Areas of focus are: 1) Develop best practices for caged aquaculture and promote use of those practices through coordinated adaptive research, planning, licensing, and compliance 2) Determine potential impacts of oil and methane exploration and exploitation 3) Map the distribution of aquatic species and address the causes of decline in populations 4) Promote integrated community-based development tools that contribute to sustainable conservation and management of natural resources 5) Contribute information to the new African Great Lakes Information Platform, an internet-based tool on conservation and sustainable development in the African Great Lakes 6) Use the best available science on climate change dynamics to put in place adaptation and mitigation measures to increase community resilience 7) Promote the use of technology to improve resource management across the African Great Lakes, most likely through promotion of electronic fish catch assessment 8) Promote and support development of a continued</p>

	“Network of African Great Lakes Stakeholders” in order to maintain productive exchange and build momentum and funding options for the next African Great Lakes Conference
By the end of the grant term (June 2017), at least half of all Advisory Committee members will agree to continue engaging in one or more groups to collaboratively address trans-boundary conservation issues	A subset of Conference Organizing Committee and Technical Committee members will continue to be part of the process of collaboratively addressing transboundary conservation issues of the African Great Lakes. For example, some have joined the Advisory Committee for the African Great Lakes Conservation Fund and will help guide selection of projects to be awarded grants in 2018-2020 for work that addresses priorities articulated in the conference resolutions. Others are likely to apply for grants under this fund and help execute the work. Still others are likely to be active members of networks that grow out of the conference. We marked this deliverable “Partially Achieved” since by June 2017, specific commitments by “at least half” of members were not achieved, though we expect to pass that threshold next year.
A web-based information platform for the African Great Lakes is built, populated and being kept up-to-date with the latest ecological and development data and best resource management practices from across the region.	The website (http://www.africangreatlakesinform.org/) has been created and was unveiled at the conference. We are continuing to populate the site with information and it will need to be continually maintained and updated, which will remain an ongoing process funded by the African Great Lakes Conservation Fund.
A long-term host organization for the web-based information platform is managing the site and conducting outreach and training on use of the site in natural resource planning and management.	Ongoing. The long-term host will be identified through the African Great Lakes Conservation Fund grant-making process.
The information platform is being used to inform conservation, development and resource management decisions in multiple countries, sectors and scales in the region—an important step in reducing broad scale threats and increasing efficient dissemination of proven conservation management methods.	Ongoing. Some stakeholders in the region are already using the site and many more will once it is fully built out over 2018-2020 using African Great Lakes Conservation Fund grant money distributed by TNC.

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

All of the intended short- and long-term impacts of the project were either met or are in process.

Highlights of successes include:

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- As detailed above, the AGLC successfully convened stakeholder from 34 countries including all AGLR nations for the first time in nearly two decades. Local ownership of the conference process and outcomes was strong and facilitated by the intentional devolvement of many details of the conference design to the COC and TC.
 - The conference produced a set of consensus resolutions that define priorities for advancing conservation and sustainable development in the region through relationships, information-sharing, and tools launched or strengthened through the conference.
 - The public launch during the conference of the African Great Lakes Conservation Fund, supported by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation and administered by TNC, generated energy and additional intent to carry forward the conservation resolutions and deepen transboundary collaboration, information-sharing, and problem solving.
 - The web-based information-sharing platform was publicly launched and demonstrated to the wide audience gathered at the conference, and the upcoming African Great Lakes Conservation Fund ensures that there will be continued investment in updating and improving the site and outreach to ensure its application in informing resource management across the region.

A few challenges and/or delays include:

- We do not yet have specific commitments by more than half of COC members to continue engaging in one or more groups to collaboratively address transboundary conservation issues, though we are well on the way. What we can say at this time is that a subset of both COC and TC members will continue to be part of the process of collaboratively addressing transboundary conservation issues of the African Great Lakes in a variety of ways. For example, some have joined the Advisory Committee for the African Great Lakes Conservation Fund and will help guide selection of projects to be awarded grants in 2018-2020 for work that addresses priorities articulated in the conference resolutions. Others are likely to apply for grants under this fund and help execute the work. Still others are likely to be active members of networks that grow out of the conference. Therefore, we expect to pass the impact goal of “at least half” of members specifically engaged in the next year.
- A long-term host for the African Great Lakes Information Platform has not yet been identified, but that will happen through the African Great Lakes Conservation Fund grant-making process in the next year.
- Because the information platform was conceived as a living platform, it will never truly be finished. We expect usership to grow as the long-term host is identified through the African Great Lakes Conservation Fund grant-making process and that entity continues investments in updates and outreach regarding the site.

Were there any unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?

We were pleasantly surprised by the scale of the interest and engagement in the conference. Initially planned as a gathering of 75-150 stakeholders, in the end, the conference attracted more than 300 participants from 34 countries. This allowed for even broader exchange of ideas and information than expected. Feedback from conference participants was also overwhelmingly positive, with 96% of respondents saying they were either “satisfied” or “very satisfied” with the overall conference. Survey results are available [here](#).



In addition, a number of stakeholders used the conference as a convenient anchor for convening side events on related topics, amplifying the impacts of the conference itself. An overview of the side meetings is included above, and a full list with details of what each gathering covered is provided here.

Media coverage also helped garner attention for some of the issues the conference aimed to address, including an article in Kenya's Daily Nation making the case for business leaders in African Great Lakes nations to support freshwater and fisheries conservation in the interest of their bottom lines, and an article in Uganda's Daily Monitor describing some of the transboundary threats to the lakes.

Finally, unrelated to this grant, the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation revised their strategic priorities and decided to end major support for the African Great Lakes Region. As part of closing out their portfolio in the region and seeding a legacy of tangible outcomes from the conference for which they also provided major support, the foundation provided a grant to TNC to administer a two-year grant-making process to fund projects that implement priorities agreed upon through the conference process. This generous gift created an unanticipated opportunity to help entities involved with the conference carry out some of the gathering's resolutions on the ground over the next couple of years, solidifying its tangible impacts.

Project Components and Products/Deliverables

Describe the results from each product/deliverable:

Component		Deliverable		
#	Description	#	Description	Results for Deliverable
1	Organize and host a summit designed to raise the profile of the African Great Lakes through high-level participation and media attention	1.1	Summit preliminary invitee list.	Done and reported previously.
1	Organize and host a summit designed to raise the profile of the African Great Lakes through high-level participation and media attention	1.2	Summit preliminary agenda.	Done and reported previously.
1	Organize and host a summit designed to raise the profile of the African Great Lakes through high-level participation and media attention	1.3	Two-day Summit of 75-100 select representatives from basin countries	The conference was held from 2-5 May, 2017 (four days). It was attended by more than 300 participants from 34 countries including 10 countries from the African Great Lakes Region (Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, Zambia, Malawi, Mozambique, Ethiopia and Democratic Republic of Congo). Nearly 30% of participants were women and 72% were from African nations.
1	Organize and host a summit designed to raise the profile of the African Great Lakes through high-level participation and media attention	1.4	Summit proceedings and outputs (specific outputs to be defined by Advisory Committee).	Draft Conference proceedings are available here. Conference presentations are available here (not for distribution without permission from author(s)). Conference resolutions are available here

Please describe and submit any tools, products, or methodologies that resulted from this project or contributed to the results.



African Great Lakes information-sharing platform. A new digital information-sharing platform, available at <http://www.africangreatlakesinform.org/>, was unveiled at the conference and is intended to serve as the first stop for information on conservation and sustainable development programs in the lake and river basins of Lake Albert, Lake Edward, Lake Kivu, Lake Malawi/Niassa/Nyasa, Lake Tanganyika, Lake Turkana and Lake Victoria. The site houses spatial data; information on past, present and future projects; and all aspects of adaptive management. It also includes a page dedicated to the conference which is viewable here. The site will be enhanced and maintained over the long-term by an in-region entity that will be identified through the African Great Lakes Conservation Fund grant-making process. Journal articles stemming from the conference. A series of research papers on the African Great Lakes and connected with the conference are on track to be published in future issues of three scientific journals: Fisheries Management and Ecology, The Journal of Great Lakes Research, and Lakes and Reservoirs: Research and Management. Manuscripts are not yet available.

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:

- Project Design Process (*aspects of the project design that contributed to its success/shortcomings*)
- Project Implementation (*aspects of the project execution that contributed to its success/shortcomings*)
- Describe any other lessons learned relevant to the conservation community

One of the major goals of this project was to facilitate connections and capacity-building across entities working in the conservation, natural resource management, and sustainable development fields across the African Great Lakes Region. By carefully cultivating and selecting a diverse set of conference committee members, then devolving responsibility to them for designing a conference that addresses agreed-upon priority topics, the conference development process itself was a tremendous vehicle for building relationships and sharing knowledge. Having this core set of stakeholders so deeply invested in seeing their efforts succeed brought great energy and enthusiasm to the conference. It also created a natural constituency committed to continuing the collaborations begun through this process so that the conference is more than an event. Coordination of such a broad group – across multiple countries and languages – was an intense challenge, especially for TNC, being relatively new to the region and without staff based in the host country of Uganda. However, we believe the broad participation was also one of the project's greatest strengths, and one from which TNC will learn. For example, TNC Africa would dedicate more administrative and communications capacity to a project such as this before repeating it again.

Over the next year, we expect that the African Great Lakes Conservation Fund will provide a rich opportunity to continue improving the organizational capacity of TNC and partner groups as we implement priorities identified by conference stakeholders across the African Great Lakes basins. The request for concept notes has been released for the Fund and the reception has been enthusiastic within the region. Lessons from these and other projects will be shared via the new African Great Lakes information-sharing platform which will further advance our capacity-building goals.

Sustainability / Replication

Summarize the success or challenges in ensuring the project will be sustained or replicated, including any unplanned activities that are likely to result in increased sustainability or replicability.

As noted above, having a coalition of local stakeholders invested in conference development established a strong foundation for continued collaboration on issues identified through the conference. In addition, the unanticipated grant from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation to launch the African Great Lakes Conservation Fund generated excitement at the conference and provides a vehicle for continuation of priority work identified through the conference process. Ensuring that the African Great Lakes information-sharing platform is kept up-to-date and that it becomes the go-to site for stakeholders in the region looking for data and best practices on conservation, sustainable resource development, and related themes will be an ongoing challenge. Fortunately, the African Great Lakes Conservation Fund will provide the means to continue working toward this goal, starting by identifying a long-term local host for the site.

Safeguards

If not listed as a separate Project Component and described above, summarize the implementation of any required action related to social, environmental, or pest management safeguards

Not applicable

Additional Comments/Recommendations

Use this space to provide any further comments or recommendations in relation to your project or CEPF

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 CEPF investment

Total additional funding (US\$)

\$1,183,563.00

Type of funding

Please provide a breakdown of additional funding (counterpart funding and in-kind) by source, categorizing each contribution into one of the following categories:

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- 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)*

A. Project co-financing (other donors or your organization contribute to the direct costs of the project)

John D. & Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation - \$450,000

UNESCO - \$16,500

UNEP - \$10,000

Deltares - \$1,058

Conference participants via registration fees - \$23,505

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)

North American Great Lakes supporters of TNC - \$15,000

Mott Foundation - \$5,000

C. Regional/Portfolio Leveraging (other donors make large investments in a region because of successes related to the project)

John D. & Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation - \$650,000 to launch and administer the African Great Lakes Conservation Fund

Individual supporters from Michigan - \$12,500 for “Great Lakes to Great Lakes” conservation work

Information Sharing and CEPF Policy

CEPF is committed to transparent operations and to helping civil society groups share experiences, lessons learned, and results. Final project completion reports are made available on our Web site, www.cepf.net, and publicized in our newsletter and other communications.

1. Please include your full contact details (Name, Organization, Mailing address, Telephone number, E-mail address) below

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