

## CEPF SMALL GRANT FINAL PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

<b>Organization Legal Name:</b>	Forest of Hope Association
<b>Project Title:</b>	Enhancing the understanding of the Gishwati Natural Forest Ecosystem and local support to its conservation
<b>Date of Report:</b>	January 31, 2017
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**CEPF Region:** Eastern Afromontane Biodiversity Hotspot

**Strategic Direction:** Mainstream biodiversity into wider development policies, plans and projects to deliver the co- benefits of biodiversity conservation, improved local livelihoods and economic development

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

**Project Dates:** 1 April 2017- 31 March 2018

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

During this project implementation, Rwanda Development Board (RDB) was the key partner in the whole process of developing the Gishwati-Mukura Guidebook. RDB is in the process of taking over the management of the Gishwati–Mukura National Park and start tourism. The consultant was guided by the RDB team to ensure that their perspectives are considered, and the workshop to discuss the final draft of the guidebook was invited by RDB. Different partners including: Rwanda Environment Management Authority, RUTSIRO District, Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), International Gorilla Conservation Programme (IGCP), ARCOS and different Tour Operators have also been involved in the discussion of the guidebook and provided important inputs. Also, three local community groups: KOVAKARU (a women handcrafts cooperative), KOAGIRU (a cooperative of traditional healers) and INDASHYIKIRWA (an indigenous historically marginalized group that perform traditional dances to tourists); were involved in this project. 15 representatives of these Community groups including: 9 women and 6 men were trained in community based tourism products improvement and 20 women grouped in KOVAKARU were trained and equipped with different materials to improve their handcraft products.

### Conservation Impacts

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

This project supported local economy development, building the capacity of local people through training and equipment provision. This helped three community groups supported to improve and diversify existing tourism products and thus increase the income. It also generated positive changes in local people behavior and increased the local support to ensure the long term protection of the Gishwati forest. This project also helped to produce a guide book about the Gishwati-Mukura National Park species richness and other ecosystem services that it provides. This will continue enhancing the understanding of Gishwati- Mukura National Park Ecosystem

and increase conservation support. All these interventions significantly contributed to the CEPF 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” specifically its investment priorities: (a) Communication materials that show the beauty of the Eastern Afromontane hotspot / Eastern Afromontane KBAs. (E-)Books, photos, films, videos, and/or other PR materials that can be used to raise interest/awareness about the hotspot and its many values (ecological, cultural, aesthetical, economic etc...) and (b) Materials that show the value of *specific KBAs*, and the impact of CEPF investment at these KBAs.

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

This project had been successful and we are confident that it made a significant contribution to raise the understanding of Gishwati Mukura national park. The species richness and the value of the Gishwati Natural Forest are widely communicated through the produced guidebook in collaboration with Rwanda Development Board. Through training provided, the knowledge of three community groups about customer care for tourists is increased, their tourism products and marketing skills are improved. This have had a positive impact on the incomes they are generating from community based tourism. Also, women grouped in KOVAKARU Cooperative are nowadays making shining and attractive handcrafts products as a results of this project. The value of their products is expected to rate more than twice due to this project contribution having an impact on both local economy and the Gishwati Mukura national park conservation.

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

**Hectares Protected:**

**Species Conserved:**

This project was not directly supporting the protection of a KBA but it was making a contribution to increase the local support to ensure the long term protection of the Gishwati KBA (The northern part of Gishwati Mukura national park) of 1,484 ha and its biodiversity that includes eastern chimpanzees (threatened on the IUCN red list), golden monkeys (endangered) and L’hoesti monkeys (vulnerable).

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

As mentioned above the project have been successful. We had two targets: Producing the Gishwati-Mukura Guidebook and improving existing community tourism products. We are confident that we produced suitable guidebook as we gained the support from RDB. We also expect it to be useful for many people and widely communicate the beauty of Gishwati Mukura National Park. We highly involved our stakeholders in the planning and gained their support in this project. The community group supported got the professional training that significantly contributed to the improvement of existing community tourism products especially handcraft products.

Even if there have been a delay in producing the guidebook but it has not affected the real impact that was needed. This was mainly due to the change made on the initial plan. Before, we planned to work only on the Gishwati forest, but through discussion we have been asked to produce a guidebook on the two parts of the Gishwati-Mukura national park.

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

As a results of this project, three community groups supported, decided to create a union that will help in marketing the community tourism products and advocacy. This will be a strong voice for these community groups and will not only positively affect local community development but also the conservation of the Gishwati Mukura National Park.

**Lessons Learned**

**Describe any lessons learned during the design and implementation of the project, as well as any related to organizational development and capacity building. Consider lessons that would inform projects designed or implemented by your organization or others, as well as lessons that might be considered by the global conservation community.**

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

Stakeholders' consultation help in setting smart indicators, help to monitor the change and highly contribute in achieving expected impact.

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

The involvement of different stakeholders during this project planning and implementation generated the ownership of the project activities and have been the key to the project success

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

We have realized that equipping communities' members with relevant skills help them to be open minded and become excellent when applying the skills.

**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

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

- A** Project co-financing (Other donors contribute to the direct costs of this CEPF project)
- B** Grantee and Partner leveraging (Other donors contribute to your organization or a partner organization as a direct result of successes with this CEPF project.)

As a results of this project achievements, FHA received a small grant of \$800 from the Gishwati foundation on behalf of one of the Gishwati community groups, KOAGIRU (a cooperative of traditional healers). This funding will help KOAGIRU to get a nearby medicinal plant demonstration garden so that visitors can see which plants are used in traditional medicines. This garden will also serve as sustainable source of their medicines.

- 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.***

We are confident that the developed Guidebook is going to be used and will be updated in case needed. This is because we gained the support of the RDB conservation and tourism team during the development of the guidebook. This project also helped FHA to continue linking conservation and local livelihoods, helping to preserve Gishwati biodiversity whilst simultaneously reducing poverty in the area. Even if we have not received other related funds during the implementation of this project, we have a plan to build on the achievements of this project and continue supporting local community development and influence change in attitude towards the conservation of Gishwati-Mukura National park.

***Summarize any unplanned sustainability or replicability achieved.***

As a result of this project we have been able to collect a small donation that will help traditional healers to buy a small land for a nearby demonstration garden to be used as a sustainable source of materials for their medicines and medicinal plant demonstrations. This will continue improving their tourism products.

### **Safeguard Policy Assessment**

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

Our project doesn't trigger any safeguard policy.

### **Additional Comments/Recommendations**

We thank very much CEPF for supporting this initiative through the Eastern Afromontane Biodiversity Hotspot program.

### **Information Sharing and CEPF Policy**

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

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

## Performance Tracking Report Addendum

<b>Project Results</b>	<b>Is this question relevant?</b>	<b>If yes, provide your numerical response for results achieved for project from inception of CEPF support to date</b>	<b>Describe the principal results achieved during project period (Attach annexes if necessary)</b>
1. Did your project strengthen management of a protected area guided by a sustainable management plan? Please indicate number of hectares improved.	no		Please also include name of the protected area(s). If more than one, please include the number of hectares strengthened for each one.
2. How many hectares of new and/or expanded protected areas did your project help establish through a legal declaration or community agreement?	no		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.	no		
4. Did your project effectively introduce or strengthen biodiversity conservation in management practices outside protected areas? If so, please indicate how many hectares.	no		
5. If your project promotes the sustainable use of natural resources, how many local communities accrued tangible socioeconomic benefits? Please complete Table 1 below.	yes		This project supported three community groups

**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:				Increased food security due to the adoption of sustainable fishing, hunting, or agricultural practices	More secure access to water resources	Improved tenure in land or other natural resource due to titling, reduction of colonization, etc.	Reduced risk of natural disasters (fires, landslides, flooding, etc)	More secure sources of energy	Increased access to public services, such as education, health, or credit	Improved use of traditional knowledge for environmental management	More participatory decision-making due to strengthened civil society and governance.	Other
									Adoption of sustainable natural resources management practices	Ecotourism revenues	Park management activities	Payment for environmental services									
Traditional healers	X	X							X								X	X			
Historically marginalized people			X						X								X	X			
Women cooperative		X							X								X	X			
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>						<b>3</b>								<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>			

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

