

## CEPF Final Project Completion Report

*Instructions to grantees: please complete all fields, and respond to all questions, below.*

<b>Organization Legal Name</b>	<i>Applied Environmental Research Foundation(AERF)</i>
<b>Project Title</b>	In Harmony with Nature : Advancing sustainability of the Satoyama Landscapes in the Sahyadri-Konkan Corridor
<b>CEPF GEM No.</b>	62903
<b>Date of Report</b>	25/01/2016
<b>Report Author</b>	Jayant Sarnaik
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**CEPF Region: Western Ghats biodiversity hotspot**

**Strategic Direction: Strategic Direction 1 and Investment Priorities 1.1**

**Grant Amount: USD 99186.00**

**Project Dates: 2013/6/1 to 2015/10/31**

**1. Implementation Partners for this Project (*list each partner and explain how they were involved in the project*)**

a) **Pukka Herbs , UK**- A private sector company engaged in import of FAIRWILD certified products. Pukka Herbs devoted substantial amount of time through field visits to proposed sites of FAIRWILD certification, engaged its staff in training of the collectors, helped AERF in understanding the FAIRWILD protocol and made firm purchase commitments for ensuring uptake of FAIRWILD certification. . Additionally, Pukka Herbs supported a conservation agreement in village Wadi Adhishti for protecting 50 acres of community forest.

b) **DICE/ University of Kent, UK**- AERF was very fortunate to have received the support from DARWIN initiative through DURRELL INSTITUTE OF CONSERVATION AND ECOLOGY in June 2013 almost at the same time as CEPF supported project had begun. It helped us immensely in implementation of FAIRWILD certification. DICE staff also made regular visits to the project sites in SKC , participated in trainings and DI support was instrumental in setting up agro-forestry pilots for restoration of degraded patches of forest under conservation agreement in village Kalambaste.

c) **Traffic International, UK** - TRAFFIC office also hosts the secretariat of FAIRWILD foundation and the additional support that AERF received from KNCF through partnership with TRAFFIC enabled AERF to pay for the FAIRWILD inspection and training costs as well as procure necessary equipment for processing of medicinal plants for value addition.

d) **Satoyama Initiative**- The membership of International Partnership of Satoyama Initiative (IPSI) helped AERF spread the work carried out on ground through support from CEPF at Global IPSI conferences in Fukui, Japan in 2013 , in Pyeongchang , South Korea in 2014 and Cambodia in 2016. The Satoyama initiative also supported AERF through small grant mechanism to promote green entrepreneurship in the SKC. It helped create further opportunities to build capacity of local communities in linking enterprise with conservation.

e) **Local government bodies and communities**.- Support from local governing bodies such as block revenue officials, village governing body heads from 7 villages from Sangameshwar block, and 2 villages from Bhimashankar Wildlife Sanctuary played critical role in FAIRWILD certification compliance. Similarly, local community representatives and villagers from Villages- Devade, Wadi Adhishti, Umare and Kalambaste showed keen interest in the incentive based forest conservation program of AERF. Their participation in regular meetings served testimony to the fact that they gave proper importance and priority to forest conservation.

f) **Miami University ,Ohio – AERF** in collaboration with University of Miami, Ohio launched the Indian Earth Expedition program in July 2014 and completed two field courses for post graduate students from different countries in the North Western Ghats. The field course named- [Species, Deities and Communities](#) involved elaborate consultations with local communities on bio-cultural diversity and challenges for its sustainability. These courses are helping engagement of another stakeholder group- educational institution in AERF's work in conservation.

### **Conservation Impacts**

#### **2. Describe how your project has contributed to the implementation of the CEPF ecosystem profile**

This project through its diverse portfolio of activities contributed significantly in fulfillment of **Strategic Direction 1: Enable action by diverse communities and partnerships to ensure conservation of key biodiversity areas and enhance connectivity in the corridors**. Namely, the project developed and tested different models and mechanisms for participatory management of habitats outside protected areas. A) The project through implementation of conservation agreement model at two different sites in the adjoining landscape of investment priorities sites of CEPF in the SKC helped creation of stepping stones for some of the endangered flora and fauna – Indian pangolin and Asiatic wild dogs. B) Through the FAIRWILD certification , the project could successfully show that market based mechanisms do contribute to biodiversity conservation if implemented sensibly c) The project established long term partnership with three different stakeholder groups – private sector, local communities and academic institution. The project activities did address the investment priority 1.1 of Ecosystem profile to large extent by a) creating opportunities for leveraging financial support for conservation, community and private reserves in partnership with the private sector sources, b) scaling up the incentive based conservation mechanism for sustainable use and management of forests and biodiversity in the SKC.; c) through development of 3 value chains for naturally sourced products, to expand the economic value of forests for local communities , connect them with green economies through capacity building and on job training.

#### **3. Summarize the overall results/impact of your project**

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

*List each long-term impact from Grant Writer proposal*

- a) Enhancement in connectivity, conservation of biodiversity and arresting land use change at priority sites in the Sahyadri-Konkan corridor.
- b) Creation of habitats that would serve as stepping stones for many threatened species such as Asiatic wild dog, Sloth bears, Sambar deer, Indian Gaur. , Great Indian Hornbill, Indian pangolin
- c) Creation of enabling environment for private sector investment in biodiversity conservation
- d) Change in perception and reduced resistance of governments and local communities to pro-conservation initiatives

#### **4. Actual progress toward long-term impacts at completion**

- Through implementation of conservation agreements to avoid deforestation on 718 acres of community land at priority sites in SKC in particular in villages – Devade and Wadi Adhishti located in adjacent forest landscape of Amba forest reserve in the North Western Ghats, the project did contribute to enhancement in connectivity , biodiversity conservation and arresting land use change.
- Forest areas under conservation agreement in village Umare have shown presence of healthy populations of Asiatic wild dogs, Sambar deer, Indian Gaur and Leopards during the camera trap study conducted by AERF last year. This confirms the importance of these forests in providing critical habitat to these species.
- Similarly, AERF has been protecting nesting sites of Great hornbill at 3 different locations through incentives in the SKC.

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

*List each short-term impact from Grant Writer proposal*

1. Additional 160 hectares of private forests located in adjoining landscape of priority sites in SKC brought under protection using incentive mechanisms.
2. Participatory management of 5 sacred groves near priority sites in SKC.
3. 100 marginal farmers trained in sustainable collection of medicinal plants according to the provisions in FAIRWILD certification protocol
4. Mapping and valuation of ecosystem services such as carbon for at least one forest site in SKC.
5. At least 3 new private sector companies make financial investments /commitments for biodiversity conservation in SKC
6. Minimum 50 farmers benefit directly from sale proceeds of sustainably collected wild medicinal plants.
7. Capacity of local communities and CSO partners built in approaches /methods in biodiversity conservation , ecosystem services mapping /valuation and use of market based instruments in conservation.
8. At least 300 big trees of *Terminalia bellirica* conserved due to incentives provided for sustainable use.

#### **5. Actual progress toward short-term impacts at completion**

- Additional **800 hectares** of private forests located in the adjoining landscape of priority sites conserved through incentive based management agreements in five villages in SKC.
- We could successfully use the FAIRWILD certification protocol for sustainable management of natural resources through community participation in 6 sacred groves. Out of 6 sacred places, AERF planted saplings of native and endemic species at 2 places and prepared management plans in consultation with local communities for 3 sacred groves.
- 40 marginal farmers have been trained in sustainable collection of medicinal plants as per the FAIRWILD protocol at two different sites in SKC.
- AERF team completed carbon stock estimation for **4 forest sites** under conservation agreement measuring total forest area of **500 hectares**.
- **4 Private sector companies** have made financial commitment for supporting incentive based biodiversity conservation in the SKC-**Nature Connect India Pvt. Ltd., Pukka Herbs, Credit Suisse and Daikin**.
- **Total 40 families** benefitted from collection, processing and sale of FAIRWILD certified medicinal plants at two different locations in SKC- Sangameshwar and Bhimashankar Wildlife Sanctuary.
- AERF could build capacity of local communities biodiversity monitoring , ecosystem service mapping – carbon stock estimation but could not do much for the CSO partners.
- FAIRWILD collection at 6 different sacred grove sites has enabled conservation of **500** giant *Terminalia bellirica* trees in the SKC.

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

The project could achieve most of the milestones and has in fact outperformed in few of those due to additional support AERF could get from other funding sources such as DARWIN INITIATIVE and TRAFFIC International at the same time. It was very productive co-incidence. Thus due credit must be given to the funding sources and collaborating partners. Secondly, all these successes are outcome of six years of efforts and experience AERF made prior to this project. It involved quite a few failures and learning from these failures was useful in achieving key targets of this project in time. Managing three projects and their respective outcomes independent of the overlaps has been quite a challenge and flexibility shown by CEPF in adjusting to AERF's progress on ground played equally important role in the outcomes achieved by AERF. AERF has struggled to build capacity of CSOs in market based mechanisms and ecosystem service mapping due lack of focus and priority given by local CSOs to forest conservation. They will have to deal with very steep learning curve while adopting these approaches. Secondly, engagement with private sector has also been very slow and progress in securing their investment in conservation is slightly encouraging in relation to the efforts made by AERF. Lastly, unconditional support from private sector players such as Vanaz Engineers , Innoventive Industries and Pukka Herbs was important for scaling up of the conservation agreement model.

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

There are no unexpected impacts of the project activities. We wish to however mention that there is growing interest among the local communities in incentive based forest conservation

and managing their expectations on time could be a challenge that we may be undermining a bit.

### **Project Components and Products/Deliverables**

#### **Component 1 (as stated in the approved proposal)**

*List each component and product/deliverable from Grant Writer*

**1.1.**

160 hectares of forests on private lands in adjoining landscape of priority sites in SKC brought under protected through conservation agreement.

**1.2.**

500 marginal farmer families receive direct benefits from conservation agreement

**1.3.**

10 unemployed /landless community members get employment in conservation activities.

**1.4.**

Reports on key biodiversity indicators of forests under conservation agreement.

#### **8. Describe the results from Component 1 and each product/deliverable**

**1.1 Additional 800 hectares of private forest brought under protection through conservation agreement at priority sites in SKC.**

**1.2 400 marginal farmers received direct benefits from conservation agreement**

**1.3 50 unemployed /land less community members get employment in conservation activities**

**1.4 AERF could complete survey of bird diversity in 250 hectares of forest under conservation agreement in village Kalambaste.**

#### **Component 2 (as stated in the approved proposal)**

*List each component and product/deliverable from Grant Writer*

**2.1.**

Minimum two sites from Sahaydri-Konkan corridor qualify for FAIRWILD standard for sustainable collection of wild medicinal plants

**2.2.**

Minimum 1 ton of fruits each of T.bellirica and T.chebula collected and processed at the selected sites in SKC using FAIRWILD protocol

**2.3.**

Estimation of forest carbon for 50 hectares of private forests completed using internationally approved methods and credits offered in ecosystem marketplace.

**2.4.**

Minimum 5 community groups directly benefit from biodiversity based occupations specifically-traditional knowledge holders, forest guides, forest guards, data collectors, wildlife monitoring, facility managers

#### **9. Describe the results from Component 2 and each product/deliverable**

**2.1 Total 8 sites from Sangameshwar and Bhimashankar Wildlife Sanctuary in SKC qualified for FAIRWILD certification for collection of T.bellirica and T.chebula fruits.**

**2.2 2.6 tonnes of T.bellirica fruits and 4.2 tonnes of T.chebula fruits collected and processed at FAIRWILD certified sites in SKC.**

**2.3 Forest carbon stock estimation completed for 500 hectares using internationally approved methods. We couldn't offer the credits due to high transaction costs of verification.**

**2.4 Through this project, 4 different community groups did benefit directly from biodiversity based occupations- forest guards, forest guides , unemployed youth and facility managers.**

**Component 3 (as stated in the approved proposal)**

*List each component and product/deliverable from Grant Writer*

**3.1.**

Minutes of consultations with local communities to ensure that any restoration or management activities that lead to alteration (albeit restoration) of sacred groves occurs with their full participation and approval

**3.2.**

Environmental Management Plan prepared for each sacred grove and submitted to CEPF for approval prior to other activities.

**3.3.**

Compliance with CEPF Safeguard Policy on Physical Cultural Resources monitored and reported to CEPF

**3.4.**

Restoration and management plans for 5 sacred groves

**3.5.**

Conservation and protection measures implemented in minimum 2 selected sacred groves in SKC

**10. Describe the results from Component 3 and each product/deliverable**

**3.1 Consultation with local communities at 3 sacred groves held before restoration activities were taken up and in 6 sacred groves where sustainable collection of T.bellirica fruits was planned. Communities were given sufficient time before their consent was sought. Minutes have been prepared for all these consultations**

**3.3 Compliance with CEPF Safeguard Policy on Physical Cultural Resources monitored and reports submitted for first two years.**

**3.4 Restoration and management plans prepared for 3 sacred groves.**

**3.5. AERF could implement only conservation measures through restoration activities. The protection measures have been found to be quite cost prohibitive hence postponed.**

**Component 4 (as stated in the approved proposal)**

*List each component and product/deliverable from Grant Writer*

**4.1.**

Minimum 100 marginal farmers trained in FAIRWILD protocol for sustainable collection and processing of selected wild medicinal plants

**4.2.**

Capacity of minimum 25 community representatives built in biodiversity monitoring , data collection on indicators, estimation of above ground biomass

**4.3.**

At least 10 CSO representatives trained in eco-labelling, ecosystem service assessment protocols, green entrepreneurship

**4.4.**

At least one biodiversity based enterprise model demonstrated

**4.5.**

A detailed proposal of a facility for capacity building in conservation and green entrepreneurship developed.

**4.6.**

Sub-grant agreement with local civil society organization Shramik Sahayog, and reports of quarterly monitoring meetings

**11. Describe the results from Component 4 and each product/deliverable**

**4.1 40 marginal farmers have been trained in FAIRWILD protocol for sustainable collection and processing of target species- *Terminalia bellirica* and *Terminalia chebula***

**4.2 Capacity of 15 community representatives built in biodiversity monitoring , data collection on indicators and estimation of above ground biomass.**

**4.4 Two models of biodiversity based enterprise have been demonstrated. One that is set up by AERF- Nature Connect India Pvt.Ltd. for collection , processing and sell of FAIRWILD certified medicinal plants and second one is – Biomass briquette factory based in Chiplun set up by local entrepreneur- Phoenix Enterprise. AERF prepared a business plan for scaling up of briquette business and made investment for environmental and social sustainability of briquette manufacturing unit through Nature Connect.**

**4.5 Considering the tasks on hand and opportunities to develop and test value chains for promoting sustainable biodiversity use, AERF did not get much time to develop a proposal to set up a facility. Instead , AERF made use of available resources from DARWIN initiative to hire a facility and show the communities how the value chains are developed and spent remaining time on building their capacity in value addition.**

**4.6 AERF did execute a sub grant agreement with Shramik Sahayog and disburse the grant in three installments. AERF team visited their forest sites 3 times and 3 in person meetings were conducted with the founders.**

**Component 5( as stated in the approved proposal.**

5.1.

Minimum 50 private sector companies having considerable relation with and impact on biodiversity and /or operations in SKC approached for consultations and meetings.

5.2.

Minimum 20 private sector companies attend orientation sessions and meetings on investment opportunities in biodiversity

5.3.

Minimum 5 private sector representatives visit AERF's project sites to understand the challenges in biodiversity conservation and investment needs

5.4.

At least 3 companies make long term financial commitment for biodiversity conservation

5.5.

A proposal of community managed private biodiversity reserve is developed in consultation with local communities and shared with private sector for attracting investment.

**12. Describe the results from Component 5 and each product/deliverable**

**5.1 AERF approached about 25 private sector companies having significant impact on biodiversity in SKC.**

**5.3 Total 7 private sector representatives visited AERF's project sites to understand the challenges of biodiversity conservation in SKC.**

**5.4 4 companies have made long term financial commitment for biodiversity conservation in SKC.**

**13. If you did not complete any component or deliverable, how did this affect the overall impact of the project?**

**AERF could not complete following components or its deliverables as planned- 3.2 , 4.3 and 5.2. It didn't affect the overall impact significantly. Especially , the partnerships with local CSOs and private sector for capacity building in market based mechanisms and promoting investments in biodiversity conservation respectively will be priority areas of AERF in future.**

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

- **Business plan developed for the scaling up finance of the briquette project has already been submitted. Similarly, presentations on this project at different conferences have also been submitted to CEPF. One of the products developed is tumbler made from**

wood of *Pterocarpus marsupium* for promotion of its sustainable use was also presented during a presentation in CEPF's office in DC.

**CEPF Global Monitoring Data**

Respond to the questions and complete the tables below. If a question is not relevant to your project, please make an entry of 0 (zero) or n/a (not applicable).

**15. Did your organization complete the CEPF Civil Society Tracking Tool (CSTT) at the beginning and end of your project? (Please be sure to submit the final CSTT tool to CEPF if you haven't already done so.)**

	Date	Composite Score
Baseline CSTT	6 August 2010	78.5
Final CSTT	4 <sup>th</sup> Sept 2015	75

**16. List any vulnerable, endangered, or critically endangered species conserved due to your project**

- a) Great Hornbill -
- b) *Pterocarpus santalinus*
- c) Asiatic Wild Dog
- d) *Pterocarpus marsupium*
- e) Malabar pied Hornbill
- f) Indian Gaur

**Hectares Under Improved Management**

Project Results	Hectares*	Comments
<b>17. Did your project strengthen the management of an existing protected area?</b>		<i>List the name of each protected area</i>
<b>18. Did your project create a new protected area or expand an existing protected area?</b>		<i>List the name of each protected area, the date of proclamation, and the type of proclamation (e.g., legal declaration, community agreement, stewardship agreement)</i>
<b>19. Did your project strengthen the management of a key biodiversity area named in the CEPF Ecosystem Profile (hectares may be the same as questions above)</b>	25	A) Sacred grove in village Kosumb B) Sacred grove in village Vighravali C) Sacred grove in village Sangave D) Sacred grove in village Morde E) Sacred grove in village Ujgaon
<b>20. Did your project improve the management of a production landscape for biodiversity conservation</b>		<i>List the name or describe the location of the production landscape</i>

\* Include total hectares from project inception to completion

21. In relation to the two questions above on protected areas, did your project complete a Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT), or facilitate the completion of a METT by protected area authorities? If so, complete the table below. (Note that there will often be more than one METT for an individual protected area.)

Protected area	Date of METT	Composite METT Score	Date of METT	Composite METT Score	Date of METT	Composite METT Score

22. List the name of any corridor (named in the Ecosystem Profile) in which you worked and how you contributed to its improved management, if applicable.

- Sahyadri-Konkan corridor in the North Western Ghats. AERF brought about 800 hectares of community forest under protection through conservation agreement. Out of this, on 250 hectares of forest, AERF planted about 5000 saplings of native timber and multipurpose species. On the remaining forest land, AERF team carried out activities such as removal of climbers and native invasive species.

**Direct Beneficiaries: Training and Education**

Did your project provide training or education for . . .	Male	Female	Total	Brief Description
23. Adults for community leadership or resource management positions	22		22	Forest guards, community leaders and collectors
24. Adults for livelihoods or increased income	20	20	40	Collectors and processors
25. School-aged children				
26. Other				

27. List the name and approximate population size of any “community” that benefited from the project.

*Community name, surrounding district, surrounding province, country*                      *Population size*

- a) Kunbi Maratha, Ratnagiri, Maharashtra, India                      700
- b) Mahadeo Koli, Pune, Maharashtra, India                      100



## Lessons Learned

**29. 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**

Key lessons learned during the design and implementation

*a) Maintaining right balance between the objectives for conservation and community well being is important for success of a project on landscape level.*

*b) Keeping big but manageable targets reduces disappointment and leads to success stories*

*c) Having multiple support options for a very challenging task is always useful and needs to be understood.*

*d) Capacity building for behavioral change among rural and indigenous communities is a long term process and continuous efforts in that direction are absolute must.*

*e) External support over a period of 3-5 years is very critical for successful launch and sustainability of market based mechanism used for promotion of sustainable use of biodiversity*

*f) Entrepreneurship for sustainable biodiversity use needs very sound understanding of ecological impacts of resource use in order to be successful and truly sustainable.*

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

*A successful project design requires a capacity to communicate the understanding of key issues of biodiversity loss and community perception about this loss and practical actions required to address this in simple manner.*

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

*A well experienced field team, rapport with the primary stakeholders, constant interaction with target group and keeping the promises made to the stakeholders are some of the key factors influencing successful implementation of the project.*

**32. Describe any other lessons learned relevant to the conservation community**

It is very easy to get disheartened by failures. Failures often bring about the necessary changes in our understanding and approaches which eventually lead to success. It is important to anticipate changes in attitudes and aspirations of communities- the true custodians of conservation and align the project goals accordingly.

## Sustainability / Replication

### **33. Summarize the success or challenges in ensuring the project will be sustained or replicated**

The project has had always the potential for its replication and sustainability due to following aspects

- a) It tried to build on earlier successes of conservation agreement model in SKC implemented by AERF.*
- b) Secondly, one of the important project goals- promoting biodiversity based enterprise does catch imagination of young , unemployed as well as marginal farmers who used to feel to be at great disadvantage while living in remote areas of the Western Ghats.*
- c) The project could implemented some novel approaches such as FAIRWILD certification which happened to be first of its kind for the entire country. This will surely sustain its momentum and scale up*

### **34. Summarize any unplanned activities that are likely to result in increased sustainability or replicability**

- **Development of additional value chains on grounds of additional funding is likely to result in increased sustainability and replicability.**

## Safeguards

### **35. 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**

## Additional Comments/Recommendations

### **36. Use this space to provide any further comments or recommendations in relation to your project or CEPF**

## Additional Funding

**37. 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**

<b>Donor</b>	<b>Type of Funding*</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Darwin Initiative	Project co-financing	GBP 110,000	
Traffic International	Project co-financing	USD 40,000	
Satoyama Development Mechanism	Grantee and Partner leveraging	USD 10,000	

\* Categorize the type of funding as:

- 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)*

## 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.

Please include your full contact details below:

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