

Some projects in the Eastern
Afromontane and Great Lakes region

Lake Niassa, Mozambique: “Protecting Biodiversity Through Conservation Agriculture in Lake Niassa, Mozambique” by the Manda Wilderness Agricultural Project

About the project

CEPF has provided the Manda Wilderness Agricultural Project (MWAP) with a small grant to train community members from 15 villages on the shores of Lake Malawi/Niassa, a freshwater Key Biodiversity Area, in biodiversity-friendly agricultural and agroforestry methods and techniques to increase the provision of habitat for endemic species that are crucial to the success and sustainability of ecological agriculture.

Commitment

CEPF has invested USD 19,996 in this project that runs from October 2013 to November 2014.

Opportunity

Build on this initial investment and scale up the area under improved management around Lake Niassa (Lake Malawi)

Migration and Conservation in the Great Lakes region of Africa



The problem

Migration has been used for centuries as coping strategy to changes in the Great Lakes region of Africa. It is driven by a number of factors, including: livelihood strategies, such as mobile pastoralism; population pressures; and conflict. As traditional migration systems break down and the push-pull factors increase both in scale and complexity, migration in the Great Lakes region is becoming increasingly complicated. Growing socio-environmental impacts of migration could incubate or reinforce existing social tensions and institutional failures, further threatening the critical ecosystems and the livelihoods they support.

Purpose

Address the impacts of human migration on critical ecosystems in Africa's Great Lakes region, and in doing so improve the protection and sound management of those natural resources and critical ecosystems that are central to the livelihoods of the region's vulnerable communities.

The approach

- **Development of a migration impact assessment methodology** to help conservation, development and humanitarian actors assess migration impacts on critical natural resources and ecosystems and design practical and policy responses to reduce them.
- **Case studies examining migration impacts on critical ecosystems** in the Great Lakes region

Scope for scaling up actions

There is considerable scope for catalyzing further research and policy engagement on the topic in the region: for applying the assessment methodology to more case study sites, and for integrating the methodology into government planning and policymaking processes.

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Bururi Forest, Burundi: “Management of Bururi Forest Nature Reserve” by the *Association Burundaise Pour la Protection de la Nature*

About the project

Association Burundaise Pour la Protection de la Nature (ABN) and partners aims to conserve the 3,300 hectare Bururi Forest Nature Reserve through improved stakeholder engagement. It is promoting partnerships between the formal park management agency, INECN, and local CSOs so that the latter may gain formal management rights and responsibilities. This entails creation of Site Support Groups (Local Conservation Groups), reforestation, promotion of the use of fuel-efficient wood stoves, and promotion of beekeeping as an alternative livelihood.

Commitment

CEPF has invested USD 175,943 in this project that runs from July 2014 to June 2016.

Opportunity

build on the groundwork that is being done by ABN (a high-capacity national NGO) to upscale the project and reach more local communities around the Forest, enhance protection through management planning and monitoring, and develop REDD++ initiatives.

Yala Delta: Balancing development and conservation in Kenya's largest freshwater wetland

Purpose: Key steps are taken to secure the future of Kenya's Yala Delta, recognizing both development and conservation needs, and to promote similar work in other Kenyan deltas.

The problem

The Yala Delta is Kenya's largest freshwater wetland (17,500 ha), and is of great importance both for biodiversity and ecosystem services that support livelihood.

Yala is threatened by establishment of a large-scale rice-farming (an American company, Dominion Farm targeting 90% area) and natural resources over-exploitation of its by competing local communities.

Proposed approach

Establish sustainable wetlands management regimes that will be supported by relevant stakeholders, while ensuring that the needs of industry, local people and wildlife are met.

Scope for scaling up action

This work will contribute to a Yala Land Use Plan informed by Strategic Environment Assessment (SEA) for the Yala River Basin. Lessons will be applied in Dunga Swamp and other wetlands in the Lake Victoria Basin and beyond.



Sheka Forest, Ethiopia: “Sheka Forest Biosphere Reserve: Strengthening the Management System and Working with Nearby Communities on Bio-Cultural Learning and Livelihoods Development” by MELCA-Ethiopia

About the project

Supports local community and local leaders to develop and enforce a management and land use plan for the Sheka Forest Biosphere Reserve, and to initiate economic activities compatible with the long-term conservation of the forest, such as beekeeping, spice gardens or sustainable animal husbandry. The Movement for Ecological Learning and Community Action (MELCA) has worked in the Sheka Forest area since 2005, supporting local communities in the establishment of a Man and Biosphere Reserve that was approved by the Ethiopian government and endorsed by UNESCO in 2012.

Commitment

CEPF has invested USD 121,797 in this project that runs from June 2013 to November 2014.

Opportunity

Pick up where CEPF will leave it in November 2014, when the management plan will be endorsed by all stakeholders, and allow MELCA to continue their awareness raising, education and training activities in the region to ensure the Biosphere Reserve will be well managed.

Newly Approved Project: CPAR (Canadian Physicians for Aid and Relief) – Rubana River and Wetland Integrated Riverbank and Land Rehabilitation Project



Problem: critical habitats in the Rubana River Catchment area, Bunda District, Mara Region, Tanzania are facing severe threats from deforestation and overgrazing that are causing riverbanks erosion, and exacerbated by prolonged drought and flooding. The damaged ecosystem combined with poor agronomic practices and unproductive local seed varieties serve to undermine the ability of the local population to produce sufficient food, and build and sustain reliable livelihoods.

Proposed Approach: CPAR's central strategy will be its adapted Farmer Field School (FFS) approach – 'schools without walls' – adult non-formal education which acknowledges farmers' knowledge and experience. The curriculum follows the natural cycle of its subject, i.e. 'seed to seed' or 'egg to egg', in parallel with what is happening in farmers' own fields so that lessons learned can be applied directly and immediately. The FFS groups will test Conservation Agriculture methods, the Ngitiri Fodder Management System, energy saving stoves and biogas, and discover first-hand the importance of managing, replenishing and protecting natural resources to sustain their livelihoods and health.

Scope for Scaling Up: FFS require skilled facilitators. Application of this model results in empowered women and men farmers capable to spearhead and facilitate community development initiatives. FFS therefore delivers the potential for Natural Resource Management initiatives to expand and grow beyond the life of a project.

High Mountains of Ibb, Yemen: “Building Advocacy and Developing a Management Plan for the High Mountains of Ibb Protected Area” by the Foundation of Endangered Wildlife

About the project

The Foundation for Endangered Wildlife (FEW) is leading inventories of the largely unknown biodiversity in the High Mountains of Ibb Protected Area to identify the most important sites and the level of threats in order to prepare participatory management plans. An important component of the grant is advocacy and awareness-raising activities with communities, government officials and traditional authorities, preparing the ground for the official protection of the most important parts of this Key Biodiversity Area.

Commitment

CEPF has invested USD 120,000 in this project that runs from October 2013 to September 2015.

Opportunity

Assist FEW to continue its great work in a country in turmoil, so that the local people and the unique nature of the High Mountains of Ibb do not become victims of the current political situation.

TUUNGANE: Creating a Healthy Future for People and Nature



PROBLEM: Western Tanzania's Greater Mahale Ecosystem is a globally important forest and freshwater resource. Expanding populations (>50,000 people, majorly small-scale farmers and fishers) and changing climate are threatening the very resources that people depend on.

APPROACH: The Nature Conservancy has teamed up with Frankfurt Zoological Society and healthcare partner Pathfinder International in an integrated population, healthcare and environment (PHE) project called "Tuungane" ("Let's Unite" in Swahili). The fisheries-management and aquatic-habitat-protection track – funded by the MacArthur Foundation – is pursuing two main strategies: 1) support the establishment of fishery co-management associations (Beach Management Units or BMUs); and 2) linking a successful micro-financing mechanism already in use in the region (Community Conservation Banks) to the BMUs, providing new livelihood options.

STATUS: >500 fishers and other stakeholders have joined a BMU, with some empowerment to be change agent. All BMUs have by-laws to govern management of the fishery including. . BMU members also received training in data collection and types of fish caught each month to monitor fish populations and catch efforts—information that will be used to evaluate and adjust management activities. Fishers received training on constructing sardine drying racks (previously, fish were dried directly on the sand) adding approximately 50% to the products' market value.

SCOPE: The Tuungane project aims to improve fisheries management, enhance conservation, and increase fishing income for livelihoods.

Ntchisi and Dedza Mountain Forest Reserves, Malawi: “Advocating for Awareness on Forest Degradation and Policies and Procedures in Conducting Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) in and around Ntchisi Mountain and Dedza Mountain Forest Reserves” by the Wildlife and Environmental Society of Malawi

About the project

The Wildlife and Environmental Society of Malawi (WESM) is promoting the better management of the Ntchisi Mountain and Dedza Mountain Forest Reserves, a combined 3,462 hectares of community-managed multi-use forest land. In particular, they are training community members and Department of Forestry personnel in environmental impact assessment laws and procedures.

Commitment

CEPF has invested USD 149,988 in this project that runs from July 2014 to June 2017.

Opportunity

Co-finance this project and assist in the application of the training programme at other Key Biodiversity Areas under immediate and urgent threat in Malawi.

International Rivers: Working to Protect Lake Turkana from Hydrological Collapse

- **THE PROBLEM:** ecological collapse in Lake Turkana (Kenya) due to water diversions and damming the Omo River in Ethiopia. Weak political-will from concerned governments to address the problem.
- **APPROACH:** strengthening local efforts to protect Lake Turkana and the Lower Omo with the strategic use of information tools, research, networking and support for local activism.
- **STATUS:** raising awareness (enlightening youth, reaching out to local and global audience, video documentary and advocacy work with Ethiopia's donor governments).
- **SCOPE FOR SCALING UP** establish dam-management systems that would ensure healthy flows for the lake; a long-term citizen science project to monitor hydrological changes and their impacts on indigenous livelihoods at the Lake; climate adaptation and sustainable livelihood projects for Turkana communities.

BEYOND TURKANA

NOVEMBER 8TH 2014

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3PM-9PM

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FEATURING ESTEEMED PANELISTS WITH A VERBALIZE REALIZE DISCUSSION AS WELL AS LIVE ENTERTAINMENT, POETRY & DRAFFT!

THE PROBLEMS, THE POSITIVE & NEGATIVE IMPACTS, THE ISSUES, THE SOLUTIONS...ARE ALL BEYOND TURKANA!

Ikal Angelei
(2012 Sustainable Environmental Policy Winner and CEO & Founder of Friends of Lake Turkana organisation, FoLT)

Dr. Sean Avery
(Water Resources Professional & Environmentalist)

FoLT PAWA 254 Ari Rising! INTERNATIONAL RIVERS STAND UP SHOUT OUT!

email: beyondturkana@gmail.com for inquiries

More information:

<http://www.internationalrivers.org/campaigns/gibe-iii-dam-ethiopia>

Lake Tana, Ethiopia: “Conserving Fish in Lake Tana and Abay Basin” by the Addis Abeba University (in partnership with Bahir Dar University)

About the project

Aims to document the aquatic biodiversity and the potential threats in Lake Tana and Abay Basin, and suggest mitigation measures. It will fill gaps in scientific knowledge of the lake by studying the area's fish stock, enhancing alternative fisheries and raising awareness about the threats. It will also develop an outcomes document that will include plans for co-management and alternative livelihood trainings and practices in collaboration with a network of NGOs and community-based organizations.

Commitment

CEPF has invested USD 124,835 in this project that runs from January 2014 to December 2016.

Opportunity

Assist AAU and BDU to ensure the outcomes of this project in terms of sustainable management and protection of the Lake, for the benefit of nature and people, will be implemented.

Integrating Agricultural Development with Biodiversity Conservation in Tanzania



Problem: agricultural expansion in the Mbeya Region of southern Tanzania has destroyed and degraded forests in critical water catchment areas, threatening ecological services and biodiversity both in this area and in downstream regions.

Approach: AWF is working in the Mbeya Region's Lake Nyasa watershed to establish the enabling conditions to protect biodiversity and ecological processes, while simultaneously promoting sustainable agricultural development. **Developing land-use plans** in eight villages that will better protect key ecological services; and **supporting agricultural enterprises** amend their agreements with outgrower farmers to include conservation covenants that reduce water use, soil erosion, and expansion into forested areas, among other things. Lastly, AWF is developing a **monitoring framework** that will help it evaluate which covenants have the greatest conservation value and impact, thus enabling AWF to further scale up the conservation covenant model to other agricultural enterprises in the region.

Next step: AWF is currently seeking funders interested in helping us expand this project into an adjacent watershed that flows north into the Great Ruaha River Basin and the Southern Agricultural Growth Corridor of Tanzania. For more information please contact Kurt Redenbo, Director of Foundation and Corporate Relations, at kredenbo@awf.org or +1 202-939-3338.



Enabling Rural Riparian Communities to Conserve and Benefit from Wetlands in the Winam Gulf, Lake Victoria, Kenya

Problem: Dunga, Kusa and Koguta Swamps in the Winam Gulf provide numerous environmental services and supports livelihood, but are under extreme pressure from agricultural expansion and overharvesting of wetland resources.

Approach: Center for Rural Empowerment and the Environment (CREE) in collaboration with Ecofinder Kenya, based in Kisumu County, is supporting conservation and sustainable use of wetlands in the Winam Gulf. The project will combine participatory wetland assessment, environmental education, small business support, alternative livelihood strategy promotion, and proactive institutional coordination to ensure the long-term integrity and health of the wetlands, so they can continue to provide valuable environmental services.

Scale up: Significant potential also exists for scaling up and adapting the community-driven 'use and protect' model emerging from this project to other contexts in which economic poverty and biological richness coincide.

