



Together for birds and people



Project Title: Consolidating gains in Policy Making and Livelihoods Improvement through Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Use of Natural Resources

Region or Country: Africa: Kenya: (Dakacha woodlands and Yala swamp)
South Africa: (Wakkerstroom and Chrissiesmeer)
Ethiopia: (Berga Flood Plain and Abijata Shalla Lakes National Park)

Donor: Spanish Agency for International Cooperation (AECID)

Duration: October 2010-March 2012

Focal Area: Policy making and Livelihoods Improvement through biodiversity conservation

Amount of Financing: Euros 500,000

Collaborators: BirdLife International Africa Partnership Secretariat, BirdLife South Africa (BLSA), Ethiopia Wildlife and Natural History Society (EWNHS) and Nature Kenya

Project Status: Ongoing

Project Description

This is a scale up project from the previous project funded by AECID titled: Improving the livelihoods of local communities in Africa by promoting sustainable use of renewable natural resources through increased participation in biodiversity policy making and implementation. Building on the previous support from AECID, This project will work within the expanded regional network of national NGO's, to build new and enhanced support and capacity for policy dialogue at local, national, regional and global levels. The project aims at ensuring firm and sustainable projects going on at site supported in the previous AECID I project. This will ensure projects are self sustaining over time and that BirdLife Partnership has on ground experiences to replicate this work to other countries.

The project also hopes to build institutional capacity of BirdLife and its partners through support of the policy and advocacy functions and strengthening local community institutions. Also enhancing resilience of communities livelihoods and Conservation activities that reduce climate change vulnerability while at the same time reducing pressure on natural Resources will be promoted.

Overall Goal: Supporting Africa's poor through sustainable use of biodiversity

Specific objectives:

- Improving the livelihoods of local communities in Africa by promoting sustainable use of renewable natural resources
- Increase participation of local communities and BirdLife Partners in poverty reduction and biodiversity policy-making and implementation
- Capacity building of SSGs and African NGOs on their rights to own, sustainably use and effectively manage
- Natural resources

Rationale: The project is seeking further support to ensure initiatives and activities started by previous project (AECID I), are able to go beyond life of donor funding. This project being an upscale of previous AECID I project seeks to enhance engagement of a wider community in alternative livelihoods options. The project will seek to demonstrate the causal link between the sustainable use of biodiversity and the maintenance and enhancement of livelihoods and reduction of poverty amongst rural people in the developing countries of Sub-Saharan Africa. The rural poor in Africa, particularly very Poor and marginalized groups depend on natural capital for their livelihoods. This has been echoed in the Millennium Development Goals. Through awareness, training and support it is possible that the very poor communities who live adjacent to areas of high biodiversity or IBAs could use the resources sustainably, advocate for their greater conservation and which in effect, could lead to improving their livelihoods. Political will and influence through policy makers is needed to influence policies to start linking these two intricate issues.



Main Activities:

Result 1: Structures for generating and distributing tangible benefits of sustainable use of biodiversity to enhance the livelihoods of local communities and conservation in place through; SSGs undertaking capacity assessments and training on micro-credits using Ethiopia Bergea model which has been successful, up scaling sustainable use projects including micro-credits, indigenous trees planting and apiculture, developing advocacy materials on projects, implementing advocacy plans that have already been developed, celebrating the international Year for Biodiversity through the World Birds festival, undertaking site monitoring and coordinating project activities.

Result 2: Empowered local communities and NGOs participating in policy making in relation to poverty reduction and biodiversity conservation at all levels through: BirdLife Partners designating focal points within their organization, , assessing and building SSG capacities, reviewing biodiversity related policies (Bio energy, NAPAs and PRSPs) at national and local levels, , disbursing funds for pilot projects to SSGs, undertaking trainings on targeted advocacy skills and business skills, developing national advocacy materials and continuous monitoring and Evaluation (M&E).

Result 3: Empowered BirdLife Partners (NGOs in Africa) organising locally and nationally to support rights of local communities to co-manage natural resources, and their sustainable use and co-management with government and other stakeholders through organising national workshops on biodiversity and poverty reduction policy advocacy for SSGs and other stakeholders, pulling together site reports to illustrate best examples of links between sustainable use of natural resources and improved livelihoods and policy advocacy.

Result 4: The participation of African NGOs and local community organisations, including Site Support Groups, in regional and international policy forums related to biodiversity enhanced and promoted through tracking global and regional developments with a view to identifying advocacy opportunities for project, ensure participation and input to regional and global forums including MEAs meetings, organize workshops and Partnerships building

Expected Results

- 1) Structures for generating and distributing tangible benefits of sustainable use of biodiversity to enhance the livelihoods of local communities and conservation in place
- 2) Empowered local communities and NGOs participating in policy making in relation to poverty reduction and biodiversity conservation at all levels
- 3) Empowered BirdLife Partners (NGOs in Africa) organising locally and nationally to support rights of local communities to co-manage natural resources, and their sustainable use and co-management with government and other stakeholders.
- 4) The participation of African NGOs and local community organizations, including Site Support Groups, in regional and international policy forums related to biodiversity enhanced and promoted.

Expected Outcomes

Local and National levels

- 1) project sites with livelihoods projects that are sustainable
- 2) 6 project sites with updated biodiversity data
- 3) 6 sites with up to date socio-economic data
- 4) At least 6000 people reached directly and indirectly with livelihoods and policy interventions
- 5) At least 120 with capacity in business skills and micro-credits
- 6) Advocacy materials developed and at least 3 published per Partner
- 7) 3 partners with capacity for policy making in biodiversity and poverty related issues
- 8) At least two people per site undergo exchange visits and reports in place
- 9) At least 3 national workshops conducted by Partners for SSGs
- 10) At least 2 case studies on livelihoods in place and shared with sec
- 11) All relevant reports done and shared

Regional and Global level

- 12) At least 3 review meetings convened
- 13) At least one monitoring visit per site undertaken
- 14) Two documents published – Advocacy training manual and lessons learnt booklet
- 15) A case study report in place
- 16) A TOT on advocacy in biodiversity conservation of at least 20 people done
- 17) At least Birdlife engages in three International MEAs fora
- 18) At least three people supported to attend and participate in regional and global MEAs forums
- 19) Project delivers all reports as per contract with donor – per semester
- 20) Evaluation of project facilitated and report in place

Progress

- Contracting with Partners done
- Start up workshop undertaken and consensus on implementation reached
- Capacity and socio economic surveys for all sites in Kenya (Yala and Dakatcha) done and in Wakkerstroom site in South Africa.
- Establishment of more sites in each country ongoing and successful ie. Yala swamp in Kenya, Abijata Shalla Lakes National Park in Ethiopia and Chrissiesmeer site in South Africa.

- Income Generating Activities (IGA), upholstery and property maintenance have been established in Chrissiesmeer and wood carving and vegetable garden projects in Wakkerstroom, South Africa while IGA activities in Kenya are ongoing with SSG in Yala having been trained on mat making while SSG in Dakatcha have started toilet constructions at the site with the design of the ecotourism site in place.
- All the Partners implementing the project have celebrated several events to mark the International Year of Forests such as World Bird Migration Day and the World Environment day.
- In Kenya, the Yala SSG has undertaken an exchange visit to Kisumu Innovation centre to learn on papyrus product development and marketing.
- 2 Provincial Biodiversity workshops have been held in Chrissiesmeer and Wakkerstroom respectively with representatives from provincial government, other national NGOs working in the two areas, landowners and community representatives.
- In Ethiopia, review of biodiversity related policies (Bio-energy, NAPAs. and PRSPs), Capacity and socio-economic assessment of the two SSGs at Abijata Shalla and Berga and Capacity assessment of EWNH is underway.

Challenges:

- Introduction of new Ethiopian Charities and Societies Agency guidelines has hampered the implementation of project activities in Ethiopia



Ethiopia (EWNHS)

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