



Together for birds and people



Project Title: *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*

Region or Country: Africa: Kenya: (Dakacha woodlands, Kikuyu escarpment, Kinangop grasslands and South Nandi Forest)
South Africa: (Wakkerstroom)
Ethiopia: (Berga Flood Plain)

Donor: Spanish Agency For International Cooperation (AECID)

Duration: Jan 2008-June 2009.

Focal Area: Policy making and Livelihoods Improvement through biodiversity conservation

Amount of Financing: Euros 201,905

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

Project Status: On-going

Project Description

Building on previous support from other funders, BirdLife aims to work within the expanded regional network of national NGOs in Africa established by the BirdLife Partnership, and supported by the Council for the African Partnership (CAP), to build new and enhanced support and capacity for policy dialogue at local, national, regional and global levels. The project will work, through Site Support Groups, at sites of international significance for biodiversity (Important Bird Areas - IBAs) to establish case studies which illustrate the linkages between poverty reduction and the sustainable use of biodiversity. We will promote a range of policy dialogues where local communities and national NGOs, in partnership, show governments and inter-governmental organization examples of successes.

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 through increased participation in biodiversity policy-making and implementation.

Rationale: The overall and specific objectives, and all the results, are aimed at demonstrating that there is a 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. The project will be scaling up efforts of a similar project funded by the Swedish Biodiversity Programme (SwedBio) which is being Implemented in Kenya, Botswana and Burkina Faso by BirdLife Partners http://www.birdlife.org/regional/africa/pdfs/fact_sheet_Swedbio.pdf and using lessons Learnt from this project to implement projects at three other IBAs in Africa and feeding results nationally, regionally and globally.

Main Activities:

Result 1: To establish pilot projects on the sustainable use of biodiversity that enhances the livelihoods of local communities through

SSGs undertaking pilot sustainable use projects, developing collaboration frame works with key stakeholders at site level, developing advocacy materials on pilot projects and developing and implementing advocacy plans

Result 2: Empower local communities to participate in biodiversity policy making and implementation at various levels through

BirdLife Partners designating focal points within their organization, assessing and building SSG capacities, undertaking studies on biodiversity national workshops and exchange visits for SSGs, ensuring participation of SSGs in National Liaison Committees or similar forums, developing national advocacy materials and continuous M&E.



Result 3: To strengthen the capacity of representative national NGOs in Africa (BirdLife partners) to support local participation in biodiversity policy making and implementation through recruiting Project Coordinator and project management support, analyzing national case studies on pilot projects, organizing regional workshops and ensuring biodiversity is mainstreamed in Partners programmes

Result 4: To promote the participation of African national NGOs and local community organizations in regional and national policy forums related to biodiversity 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 (outputs and Outcomes)

- Three SSGs with sustainable livelihoods projects using locally available renewable resources
- Enhanced capacities of BirdLife International and its Partners in advocacy and policy making on biodiversity issues
- Increased local NGOs participation and mechanisms set in place for the continued input into national processes for developing biodiversity related policies.
- BirdLife national organizations involved will be more aware of the opportunities for involvement with biodiversity policy
- Developed advocacy materials such as posters, fliers, fact sheets, position papers, input papers, press releases and journal articles on biodiversity policies tailored to local, national and other audiences
- Web pages in national Partners websites developed and reports posted
- Best Practice booklet Produced
- Relevant policies influenced and being implemented
- Species and sites protected
- At local level, the chosen sites will provide a basis for policy development and influence, both with site-adjacent groups, and other locally-dependant stakeholders
- At a national level, informed local and national stakeholders can draw on local policy analyses to ensure an effective voice in national policy-making, bringing a genuine understanding of site-level concerns.
- At a regional level, the project will target regional institutions, like NEPAD, AU, and ADB, to advocate the same issues and thereby re-in force the local and national level activities.
- At global level, lessons learned at other levels will be fed into convention and other sectoral policy work by the Partnership, with attendance at appropriate meetings, through the holding of side-events, and widespread sharing of information.
- At the global level, there is the opportunity for BirdLife International to extend the project to other regions.

Progress to Date:

- Proposal Guidelines done for Partners and shared
- Partners have developed proposals for one SSG each and delivered to BLAPS
- Contracts have been developed and are in progress of being signed by Partners
- Project Start up meeting being held in April
- Regular communication with all on-going
- BirdLife engagement plans for upcoming CBD COP 9 in May with all Partners involved on going



Ethiopia (EWNHS)

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