

Integrating Livelihoods and Conservation
People Partner with Nature for Sustainable Living
Program 2015-2017



Program Annual Report

1st January-31st December 2016

DOF, Bird Conservation Nepal, Nature Kenya, NatureUganda

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Abbreviations:

BCN: Bird Conservation Nepal

CBO: Community Based Organisation

CFM: Collaborative Forest Management (Uganda)

FECOFUN: Federation of Community Forestry Users Nepal

DFCC: District Forest Coordination Committee

DOF: Dansk Ornitologisk Forening/ BirdLife Denmark

IBA: Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas

ICT: Internet Communication Technology

LCG: Local Conservation Group

LFA: Logical Framework Analysis

ITFC: Institute of Tropical Forest Conservation

KEFRI: Kenya Forest Research Institute

KFS: Kenya Forest Service

KWS: Kenya Wildlife Service

IGA: Income Generating Activities

NEMA: National Environment Management Authority (Kenya)

NETCOFA: Network of Community Forest Associations

NFA: National Forestry Authority (Uganda)

NGO: Non-Governmental Organisation

NMK: National Museums of Kenya

PAG: Program Advisory Group

PFM: Participatory Forest Management (Kenya)

PIP: Program Implementation Plan

PMC: Program Management Committee

SAC: Site Advisory Committee

SDG: Sustainable Development Goals

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SSG: Site Support Groups

TNA: Training Needs Assessment

ToR: Terms of Reference

WWF: World Wide Fund for Nature

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1. Summary of annual progress, challenges, context related changes and other important information

In this chapter the responsible partner shall provide an assessment of how far the Program has progressed, describe challenges and their impacts, positive changes, explain possible delays etc. The goal is that we all have an understanding of what is going on and what has happened in the Program in the last year both at national and site levels

Overall the second year of the PPN Program was implemented as planned though some of the Partner activities continued to be delayed, especially for Component 2 and 3 and there are still some outstanding issues that need to be addressed before the end of 2017, including for some partners final Advocacy and Communication and Gender Action Plans with criteria for success for the Program. Nature Kenya, NatureUganda and BCN all confirm that they will finish the Program as planned. There was no revision of the budget or the LFA.

The second PMC meeting took place in Nepal in February with the participation of all four Program partners¹. Partners presented status and progress of the Program at national levels and planned for the next year, including follow up on challenges and urgent issues. BCN had arranged for two forestry experts to present community forestry in Nepal. The African partners appreciated these inputs. Also in February, DOF and BCN participated in a BirdLife Framework meeting arranged by BirdLife Asia Regional Office, which brought BirdLife Partners in Nepal (RSPB, the BirdLife Secretariat (Cambridge and Asia), DOF and BCN) together to discuss how to support BCN and cooperate on projects. One result of the cooperation was a 5 days training seminar in November for all BCN staff using the BirdLife INTRINSIC (Integrating Rights and Social Issues into Conservation) training modules and facilitated by the BirdLife Secretariat staff responsible for the Darwin project in Nepal and DOF². DOF's Head of Finances visited BCN in March to carry out a review of BCN financial capabilities and system and provided a number of recommendations for BCN. In October DOF provided training to Program site staff and stakeholders in Reshunga on Locally Based Monitoring (LBM). In November DOF's journalist accompanied CM to Reshunga to get video footage for a planned Program video. DOF also prepared TOR for a DOF volunteer to carry out an assessment of the Partners' communication capacity and resources in 2017. DOF carried out bi-annual supervision visits in all of the three Program countries. Most of these inputs are documented in Back to Office Reports, which are a requirement for DOF staff and consultants travelling for the Program. Quarterly skype meetings with all partners also helped keep track of the Program along with the Quarterly Reports submitted to DOF by BCN, Nature Kenya and NatureUganda as per contracts.

DOF and NatureUganda³ provided important inputs to the BL Secretariat's report to the UN Special Rapporteur on Indigenous Peoples sharing experiences and identifying gaps in the BL Partnership's approach to indigenous peoples. A Danish student of biology currently working for DOF carried out a study in Kenya of the threatened Taita Apalis. Another Danish student of agricultural development also carried out research for her MA thesis, likewise at a Program site in Kenya. DOF held a public meeting

¹ Two from each partner organisation

² See Back to Office reports from DOF visits to Nepal

³ NatureUganda works with a group of Batwa in Echuya

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for members and the public on biodiversity and forest management in Nepal and published an article in *Fugle og Natur* on IBAs and the Program in Nepal.

In autumn DOF was informed by CISU that we should submit an early Status Report and prepare a draft TOR for the CISU Midterm Review in 2017, which we did. This annual Program Report and the annual partner reports provide a more realistic picture of progress than the Status Report, because it covers all of 2016.

In Kenya a survey of the ArabukoSokoke elephant population and distribution was finalised by a graduate student supported by Nature Kenya. Data analysis and report writing have commenced. The data will inform and support a proposed concept for an elephant corridor and community conservation area to the north of the Arabuko Sokoke Forest Reserve. In Taita hills, the research team received nest monitoring cameras in collaboration with the RSPB. In collaboration with the National Bird Task Force led by KWS, a consent letter was received from the relevant government department in support of finding solutions to control the invasive Indian Crow population along the Kenyan coast. To safeguard IBAs, in TaitaTaveta, the Msindunzi land lease legal process was completed during which Nature Kenya secured a 25year lease of 15.5 acres indigenous forest important habitat to the Taita endemics. Nature Kenya developed and is popularising the Arabuko Elephant corridor and community conservation area concept. Working in collaboration with KEFRI, the piloting of indigenous trees in Arabuko is on-going. A review of the Kilifi County Forestry Policy and Legislation was carried out with comments submitted to the County Line Ministry. Support to equipment and guide books to ArabukoSokoke Locally Based Monitoring teams led by KWS was offered to ensure continuity of the monthly activity to safeguard Arabuko. TaitaTaveta County Government offered letters of consent to two CFAs to commence with the Participatory Forest Management Planning development process. Through KFS, plans for two Community Forest Associations CFAs to sign Forest Management Agreement were initiated.

As part of empowering local communities, support was given to community based business enterprises. Through the Kipepeo butterfly project, farmers received 50 honey harvesting kits to aid them improve the quality of harvested honey. An additional 18 harvesting kits were distributed to bee keepers in Dakatcha woodland. So far, 40% of the beehives distributed to Taita groups have been colonised and it is projected that incomes will increase considerably. The rate of hive colonisation was hampered by the continued drought in Kenya. Site exchange programs involving bee keepers at local level, were carried out in Dakatcha and Taita hills. These exchange programmes enabled the groups to learn from each other on best bee keeping practices and were an incentive to improve and benefit from beekeeping activities. Eight community groups in Taita were trained on energy saving technologies and methods of installing energy saving cooking stoves in their households. So far, 60 households benefiting 240 individuals have installed cooking stoves, which will reduce fuel wood use in the villages. Community groups from Arabuko and Dakatcha were trained in resource mobilisation, which resulted in the submission of a funding proposal to the Green Climate Fund. 15 Community groups from Arabuko and Dakatcha benefited from poultry farming. To ensure that these nature based enterprises are profitable, a business advisory consultant was engaged to develop business strategies, which include value chain analysis of all enterprises. The consultancy will result in recommendations and community business training schedules. Due to the drought, local farmers who were supported with seeds for

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sustainable agriculture in Arabuko and Dakatcha were not able to plant during the second rainy season. However, those living near permanent water sources were able to plant. After reviewing the benefits from sustainable farming, 70 individuals benefited from harvests for subsistence and trade.

NK's communication and advocacy plan for the year was implemented. NK participated in five awareness creation radio programs, and two TV interviews aired nationally on safeguarding IBAs. NK also supported the development and launching of Jamii Villas website, which will help improve marketing of Arabuko Jamii villas with projections of increased revenue. The annual IBA Status and Trend report was published and NK was represented in the Pan African Ornithological Congress and the Ecosystem Service Partnership Conference, where three and two papers were presented, respectively.

In Uganda a consultancy on minority/indigenous groups and conservation in Uganda was spearheaded by Nature Uganda. The PPN Program was successfully launched in KK and Echuya and different stakeholders, both NFA and CSOs became actively involved in the implementation of planned activities inside and around ECFR and KK. As a result, integrated workplans with NFA and LG were developed and jointly implemented as part of enhancing partnerships for efficiency and effectiveness in Program implementation. NU facilitated two consultative meetings for the two CFM groups at KK and the National Forestry Authority (NFA) on the review of two individual CFM plans/agreements. A total of six LBM planning meetings were held with four CFM groups at ECFR and two groups at KK and monitoring schedules developed. This made it easy for LBM teams to continue to monitor the forest through LBM, establish joint forest patrols and resource off-take monitoring. At Echuya, a total of 48 LBM rounds and 48 joint forest patrols were conducted in four CFM zones. At KK, selected members from two CFM groups were trained in LBM during a five days workshop held in October. Following this training, two LBM teams each comprised of 13 members were formed and two LBM transects successfully opened at KK. By the end of year, the two LBM teams at KK had conducted a total of six LBM rounds and six joint patrol rounds in two CFM zones. This continued to ensure that the condition of the forest was monitored and illegal activities at the two sites curbed down. NU facilitated NFA and BECLA members to restore a total of three hectares of degraded area in the BECLA CFM zone at Echuya. A total of 1344 bamboo rhizomes were planted. Bamboos are the main sources of livelihoods for communities around Echuya. There is high demand for bamboo domestication on private land and degraded areas of the forest. This requires reliable and sustainable sources of planting materials and as a result, NU facilitated NFA in the establishment of a bamboo nursery at Echuya.

Two radio talk shows with NFA and LG staff were hosted on Kisoro FM and Voice of Kigezi on the conservation status of ECFR and CFM implementation for purposes of reaching a good percentage of targeted FACs on both sides of Echuya CFR. As part of promoting the understanding and conservation of nature, NU funded morning news hours at Voice of Kigezi during which a number of conservation issues and the role of NU were shared with the public. Two rounds of Bird Population monitoring were done for each of the CFRs using the BPM monitoring protocol. Environmental education sensitization meetings were held in 17 primary schools around ECFR aimed at empowering and encouraging the young generation to be actively involved in solving environmental and social problems. As part of further promoting environmental education in schools, interschool competitions between four primary schools were conducted on the theme 'Coping with and lessening the effects of

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climate change'. These events aimed at providing people, particularly the young generation with information, skills and motivation to solve environmental problems, and in doing so, to improve the quality of their lives. The four school environmental clubs will continue to spearhead environmental education activities in schools and FACs. Two public talk shows and one event to keep Kabale clean in conjunction with security organs and Kabale municipal team were carried out. NU staff, members and other partners participated in a Big Birding day at the two sites, where a total of 171 birds were recorded.

The review of two individual CFM plans and agreements at KK were successfully carried out through a series of community consultative meetings involving CFM members and leaders, NFA field staff and LG staff of two sub counties. From these meetings, the draft revised CFM plans of the existing two CFM agreements and plans for the two CFM groups of MPECA and BTTEA were compiled for final review during a stakeholders' workshop. The final draft revised CFM plans containing areas that were revised during the workshop will then be presented to NFA management for their comments and consideration. Once finalized, the addenda to the CFM agreements and plans will be signed by both NFA and CFM Associations to sanction them for implementation. Considering that the CFM groups are key beneficiaries of PPN, there was need for formalised partnership arrangements, with clearly spell out roles and responsibilities of each partner. NU held consultative meetings with the leadership of four CFM Associations at ECFR and 2 CFM groups at KK on drafting the MOUs. A refresher training for fruit growers in eight parishes around ECFR was organised and conducted. This aimed at enhancing fruit growers' skills and also at offering local solutions to local problems being faced by fruit growers. As one way of building strong CFM institutions with strong internal leadership structures, a one day capacity building meetings on constitutional amendment for all the six groups were conducted, and facilitated by the District Community Development Officer of Rubanda (for CFM groups at Echuya) and the District Community Development Officer for Rubirizi District (for KK CFM groups). A two days workshop for executive leaders of six CFM groups was held in Kabale town. Considering that the CFM groups are key beneficiaries of PPN, there is need for formalized partnership arrangements, with clearly spelled out roles and responsibilities of each partner, thus drafting of MoUs between NatureUganda and CFM groups at KK was done through dialogue meetings with each of the two groups.

Together with DOF, NU and PPN field based team visited the new District of Rubanda, and met the technical and political leaders. This aimed at establishing partnerships for ensuring successful and sustainable implementation of the Program. Out of the partnership with KIHETO, community members in five parishes in Rubanda continued to receive free medical health services on HIV/AIDS and other diseases. The PPN team also participated in a meeting organised by ACCU aimed at sharing information about its project titled 'Enhancing community participation in monitoring forest and reporting forest and wild life illegalities'. Building synergies for complementing and sustaining interventions is key to ensuring successful implementation of the Program. In order to achieve this, CFM leaders of BTTEA, MPECA and BECLA were facilitated to participate in sub county council meetings at their respective sub counties.

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In Nepal implementation was carried out as per the agreed work plan. As a post-earthquake activity it was agreed that BCN supported the local communities of an earthquake affected area at Shivapuri Nagarjun National Park (an IBA site) to organise nature guide training for the earthquake victim youths from the surrounding area of the SNNP and also participants from Reshunga. The training went well and a nature guide office was established at the entrance of the SNNP providing service to the visitors and also income generation for the locals. The participants of Reshunga are also developing their skills through regular bird watching and forest walks.

As Reshunga has been proposed for protection forest status, an exposure visit was organised to similar forest models, the Panchase Protection Forest for government officials, local forest user groups and BCN staff in March. The participants had a good opportunity to learn the management model of protection forest as well as ecosystem based adaptation. The operational plan of the CFUGs and the Reshunga religious forest is very important for proper management, hence the revision of the operational plan of the CFUG and the Reshunga religious forest was initiated jointly with the District Forest Office and the Reshunga forest conservation committee. The sustainable forest management plan will be the key component in the operational plan of the community forest and the religious forest. As the DFO needs to regularly provide the technical support to forest user groups in preparing and revising the Community Forest Operational Plan good knowledge on GIS would help them to develop a high quality operational plan. The project provided GIS training to eight staff from DFO and two BCN project staff. The trained staffs are now supporting the revision of the community forest operational plan.

Various IGA options were explored for the target beneficiaries of which bee keeping, Chiuri and vegetable farming were found to be very important. For the Chiuri, an exposure visit was organised to the nearby district Baglung to enhance the knowledge of the IGA group in setting up a small enterprise. Understanding the importance of agricultural based livelihood options in the Program site, one additional staff, an agricultural technician was appointed. Vegetable farming is emerging as a very good source of local income generation but the local farmers need to have better knowledge on various farming techniques to increase productivity. BCN provided training on vegetable seedlings and nursery management to farmers in three VDCs. The trained farmers will upscale vegetable production for their own nutritional values as well as for selling in the market. A revolving fund was established in two CFUGs for supporting IGA to the poorest. To raise awareness eight hoarding boards with conservation messages were placed at important locations. Also a short radio programme on the local FM was initiated. Resunga provides habitat for three species of vultures, viz. White Rumped (critically endangered), Red Headed (critically endangered), and Egyptian Vulture (Endangered). With the objective of celebrating the 8th International Vulture Awareness Day, awareness programmes were organized in Resunga in September. A sensitization workshop on mainstreaming biodiversity and ecosystem services in community forestry was organised also in September. Nepal's NBSAP includes the objective: 'By 2020, all community managed forests to include a biodiversity chapter in their management or Operational Plan and respective user groups to effectively implement those plans' (FB-C1). BCN will be piloting on inclusion of biodiversity and ecosystem services in the OP in two CFs at the Program site.

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To establish the LBM system training was organised in October to CFUGs, government line agencies and civil societies with technical support from DOF. Also a training was organised to CFUGs for capacity building on governance and community forestry development guidelines and a training for all BCN staff to build capacity to work with social and rights issues based on the BirdLife INTRINSIC materials with technical support from DOF and BirdLife, which is implementing a Darwin project in Nepal to integrate biodiversity into forest management plans. BCN published two documents related to conservation; 'Connecting flow and ecology in Nepal, the current state of knowledge for the Koshi Basin' and 'Proceedings of the national workshop on mainstreaming biodiversity and ecosystem services in community forestry in Nepal'.

2. Summary of issues related to partner organisation

In this chapter include all information related to the partner organisation and its staff, e.g. important new funds, annual meetings, staff training, changes of staff at Head Office/ site levels, participation in important workshops, trainings, meetings, communication/ media etc.

Though not directly linked to the Program it is important to note that DOF submitted a proposal to the Environment and Climate Fund on building capacity for advocating for mainstreaming biodiversity linked to the Convention of Biological Diversity (CBD) together with the three Program Partners and the BL Secretariat. The proposal was approved. The project will support the advocacy component of the Program. In December CM was seconded to the BL Secretariat to provide social science support to various programmes and activities. This strengthens the linkages between DOF and the BLI Partnership at a personal but also at a methodological and knowledge level. One of her first tasks was to draft a position paper on indigenous peoples, which is now awaiting approval from the BirdLife Council. In September DOF participated in the annual Partner to Partner meeting in Cambridge, which mainly brings together supporting Partners to discuss how to best support Partners in the South. This is becoming more and more challenging with the change of donor focus, the requirement for South Partners to find their own funding and shifting priorities of RSPB, which has provided important core support to several BirdLife Partners, including BCN.

In Kenya all field personnel was appraised and targets set for 2017. In building staff capacity the Nature Kenya-membership manager was facilitated to a week-long training on resourcemobilisation. This training enriched her skills to enable her to better reach out to the Kenya corporate sector to invest back to conservation programmes. Furthermore, Nature Kenya through funding from RSPB, recruited a Marketing Director Consultant, who will work closely with her in reaching out to high net worth individuals in Kenya who are keen on nature conservation. The previous Program Office, who was responsible for the PPN Program left NK and was replaced by a new staff. NK was represented at two international conferences; the Pan African Ornithological Congress and the Ecosystem Services Partnership conference and presented papers at both. A national consultation meeting was held on the NBSAP process in preparation to the CBD congress in Mexico where Nature Kenya inputs were given to the Kenya delegation. Kenya won a bronze award on national biodiversity data accessibility. This award was presented to Kenya's delegation representative from NEMA.

In Uganda the secretariat-based staff supporting the implementation of the Program are all in place, including field staff and site offices established at both sites. There is a proposal that an office assistant

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shall be recruited as a support staff. Core team members whose main role is the mobilization of communities were also selected and are yet to be trained in different areas of Program implementation. However, they continued to be involved in implementation and monitoring of different interventions as part of on-job learning for skills development. As part of building the capacity of PPN field team in data collection, analysis and report production, a four days training was conducted in data base training. The PPN field team travelled to Kampala to participate in an institutional strategic plan meeting aimed at reviewing and updating the institutional strategic plan 2016-2020. As part of building the capacity of the PPN field team through information sharing, both weekly and monthly planning meetings were held.

BCN with support from the BL Secretariat and DOF organised the INTRINSIC training for all staff and government officials from three project sites. The CEO and the Program Manager participated in the IUCN World Conservation Congress in September in Hawaii. BCN also participated in the International Wetland Conference in China and in the BirdLife Asia Regional Partnership meeting in Sri Lanka. Due to the frequent change of Project Officer in Reshunga it was a challenge to speed up activities. A new Project Officer will be hired from January 2017. BCN received support from RSPB to develop a new strategy which is now awaiting finalization and approval. The difficulty to find and keep qualified staff at the Program site is an issue that urgently needs to be discussed and a solution found. In order to keep activities on track secretariat staff may need to visit Reshunga more often until reliable staff is in place.

3. Summary of issues related to the LFA, work-plans and monitoring

In this chapter reflect on the progress of activities, revision of work plans, delays and their consequences and how monitoring has taken place, who was involved etc. This also includes a summary of staff travels to sites and vice versa and other communication between Head Office and sites

The Program work plan with milestones was not finalized with partner inputs before the end of 2016. One of the tasks of the 2017 PMC workshop is to bring up to date the overall work plan for 2017 based on the partners' updated work plans and milestones. The main objective is to assure the timely finalization of the first Program phase and discuss whether an extension may be advisable.

In Kenya NK continued to work towards achieving Program objectives and the LFA is regularly referred to in developing work plans. A review of 2016 activities at all sites was carried out as part of the annual staff appraisal process. In Uganda the results from the baseline surveys and the national experience on gender, IGAs and communication and advocacy were used to enrich the final version of the LFA approved by the PMC in June. Following this, an annual workplan for January-December 2016 was developed for implementation. NU's gender strategy, IGA strategy, and communication and advocacy strategy have been drafted and will be finalised by next year. The Program team finalised 2016 milestones that were used to guide the delivery of planned outputs. Four quarterly work plans were developed based on the 2016 milestones and LFA. These documents were used to guide the delivery of planned outputs. In Nepal with the frequent change of the Project Officer the activities continued to be delayed. This was also an obstacle to the revision of the work plan. Regular reporting from the Site Office to the Head Office was carried out. A Small field office was established in one village where one

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staff with agricultural expertise is stationed to regularly support the local communities on IGA development.

4. Other issues

In this chapter describe and reflect on relevant context related issues (new policies, elections, climate/ weather related issues etc.), new opportunities (for instance invitation to participate in official delegations), etc.

In Kenya the Kilifi County forest policy formulation will facilitate proper planning and management of county forests which include ArabukoSokoke Forest Reserve and Dakatcha woodland. Continued drought is causing an element of strain to the local communities and weather dependent livelihoods improvement interventions. In Uganda the establishment of the new Rubanda district resulted in some extra work for NU. In Nepal the frequent change of site office manager influenced the timely implementation of the Program.

5. Assessment of overall progress and changes

This chapter was included to outline the main results, changes and impacts of the Program following the LFA. For details see reporting tables in Partner Program Reports and the draft consolidated table in Annex I.

Additional questions:

To which extent and how is expected change taking place?

In Kenyacounty level forestry legislation at Kilifi and Taita Taveta county is now taking shape with NK spearheading the processes. This will ensure that proper and inclusive legislation takes into consideration the importance of safeguarding critical habitats. In Uganda the Program maintained its original design of operating from three areas: the secretariat in Kampala, the Echuya office in Kabale and the Kasyoha-Kitomi Office in Bushenyi. The secretariat provided support to the site-based offices both on technical and financial matters. All the needed resources for the Program implementation are now in place.

Which are the Most Significant Changes?

From the training and mentorship opportunities Nature Kenya has offered to the local groups, NK observed increased enthusiasm and motivation of the groups towards conservation activities. Groups have been able to develop and submit funding proposals for livelihood and nature conservation projects. In Uganda the recognition and the offer of office space by the National Forest Authority for KK and Echuya field offices is a clear testimony of trust and healthy collaboration between the parties. The Government of Uganda created a new district of Rubanda from the former Kabale district. The landscape at ECFR formerly in Kabale district is now in the new district of Rubanda district. Rubanda has been a county under Kabale district Local Government (LG) Administration. This means the primary target groups in Muko and Bufundi sub counties formerly in Kabale district are now in the new district of Rubanda. To harmonise these new partnership arrangements, PPN teamed together with DOF and NU visited the district headquarters where both the political, security and technical heads attended the meeting. Since then, the district team from community development and natural resource management have worked closely with the NU field team in capacity building of different primary groups. In Nepal local communities' skills enhancement and increased support from the government line agencies were the most significant change. The Program is well received at the local level and engaging more and more people for livelihood benefits and nature conservation. The Program is also

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receiving good support from all the key players in nature conservation at the site like the DFO, DAO, DSCO and FECOFUN.

In which ways has the Program contributed to better forest management?

In Kenya community groups are now becoming more empowered to advocate for their rights. In Kilifi County for instance, the Natural Resource Forum was a good platform for raising concerns to conserve forests and woodlands in the county. Working closely with the Kenya Forest Service and the local community, led to resolves to ensure that forests are conserved. The studies conducted and especially the forest studies continue to provide a lot more information to the forest management authority for improved management focus. LBM and Joint Forest patrols have empowered stakeholders to engage culprits and curb down illegal activities. In Nepal the Program is contributing to better forest management by supporting alternative livelihoods as well as developing sustainable forest management skills.

How have women and poor benefited from the Program?

Focus on women and poor has been given priority in the Program. In Kenya poultry keeping in Arabuko and Dakatcha is being implemented with women groups from multiple villages. This will lead to livelihood improvement through improved nutrition and income from sale of products like eggs and meat. In Uganda in Echuya, 16 women mushroom growing groups and 5 handicraft making women groups were supported technically through capacity development. The performance of these groups continued to be monitored for improved collaboration, support and better business development. At KK, women were equally involved in the initial activities of the Program including the PPN launch, and the review of CFM plans and agreements and will continue to be involved in subsequent stages of Program implementation. Women and poor have benefited from livelihood improvement ventures for example, the poor Batwa in Kanaba Sub County were supported in accessing small loans from micro credit groups for implementation of different Kanaba SACCO and from where they are receiving financial support from both the SACCO and other development partners. In Nepal around 100 local poor people mostly women were trained in commercial vegetable farming and supported in managing the nurser. The poor communities also had access to a revolving fund for starting up their IGAs. More IGAs like bee keeping and honey production training were provided to further benefit the poor communities.

6. Comments to reporting, financial and other issues

The budget continued to be underspent, especially for Component 2 and 3. More than a third of the budget remains overall for the two components (see attached financial report). In Kenya overall the 2016 budgetary spending improved. This is a good indicator that Program implementation is on track. NK anticipates it will be at par with Program spending by the end of the first quarter of 2017. For BCN the overall budget spending is still low but was picking up quite well from the last quarter of 2016. DOF will discuss the budget and possible revisions at the PMC meeting as well as during supervision of partners.

7. Conclusions and Outstanding Issues

The Program is progressing and many activities were implemented in 2016 but delays and the fact that some activities were not yet started continued to be a concern together with the underspending of the budget. Some issues (reflected in outputs and planned activities) have not yet been sufficiently addressed and need careful consideration at the third PMC meeting in February 2017 and in the

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planning of the next phase of the PPN Program. It arises questions such as whether Program partners may request a limited no cost extension or a bridging phase till the beginning of a possible Phase II.

The Program reporting is quite time consuming because of the need to synthesize the three partner reports into one on a quarterly basis. DOF therefore suggests that we use a slightly different model in the future. It will not influence the partners' reporting and will be discussed during the monitoring and reporting session at the PMC meeting in 2017. Partners will also discuss MSC as it has not yet been used by any of the partners. Training may be needed in order to make it useful for Program monitoring in the future.

At Program sites drought remains the largest challenge that NK is facing in all Program sites. This has persisted on from end of 2015 to date. The resilience of the local communities has been very encouraging. Working in close collaboration with the County governments of Kilifi and Taita Taveta will ensure that the community needs are addressed. In Uganda the Program team at sites have been provided with the necessary equipment to help smooth implementation. In Nepal the better coordination with the various government line agencies and more understanding of the project at the local level is really helping in smooth implementation of the Program but regular changing of the staff is making a bit difficult to hit the target at the planned timeline. The Project Assistant being a local has helped a lot in managing the crisis.