

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



**Program Quarterly Report**

Inception Phase

January-July 2015

*DOF, Bird Conservation Nepal, Nature Kenya, NatureUganda*

## *Integrating Livelihoods and Conservation. People Partner with Nature for Sustainable Living*

### Abbreviations:

BCN: Bird Conservation Nepal

CBO: Community Based Organisation

CFM: Collaborative Forest Management (Uganda)

FECOFUN: Federation of Community Forestry Users Nepal

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)

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

SSG: Site Support Groups

TNA: Training Needs Assessment

ToR: Terms of Reference

WWF: World Wide Fund for Nature

## *Integrating Livelihoods and Conservation. People Partner with Nature for Sustainable Living*

### 1. Introduction

The 3-year Danida funded Program *Integrating Livelihoods and Conservation. People Partner with Nature for Sustainable Living* began on the 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2015. The Program is implemented between four BirdLife partners: BirdLife Denmark (DOF), Bird Conservation Nepal (BCN), Nature Kenya and NatureUganda. It is implemented at 6 sites – one in Nepal, three in Kenya and two in Uganda. The two sites in Uganda will be integrated in the Program at the beginning of 2016. The Program began with a 6 month Inception Phase which officially ended on the 30<sup>th</sup> of June but in praxis on the 31<sup>st</sup> of July. For NatureUganda the Inception Phase will end on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2016.

This first Program Quarterly Report covers the Inception Phase 1<sup>st</sup> January till 31<sup>st</sup> July 2015. It summarizes the quarterly reports of the three South partners and also reports on DOF and joint Program activities during that period. The report was due mid-August but because of the delay in the submission of partner reports this report was also delayed.

A number of activities were planned for the Inception Phase. It was the decision of the Program partners that it was important to spend a good amount of time and resources on the preparation of the Program and especially on in depth socio-economic and biological data collection and the analysis of these for the Program.

The Program Management Committee (PMC) decided on the following work plan for the Inception Phase:

Main output	Activity	Main responsible	Deadline/time frame	Status 1. August <i>*Still to be done as part of Inception phase: marked with yellow</i>
1. Contracts	Finalise all contracts	DOF	March	Finalised
2. Program Inception workshop	TOR for PMC and planning of Inception Phase	All partners	February	Finalised
3. National inception workshops	Planning of Program nationally and launching of Program among stakeholders	South partners	March*	Finalised
4. Program Advisory Groups	Establishment of PAGs	All partners	July*	Finalised for DOF
5. LFA and PIP	Program PIP and LFA 2015	All partners	March	Draft finalised but ongoing process for

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				PIP
	LFA and PIP final drafts national level	South Partners	June*	Drafts
6. Socio-economic baselines	Questionnaires draft, guidelines and TOR	DOF	March	Finalised
	Test run questionnaires and final version	All partners	March	Finalised
	Study in the field and reporting	South partners	April-May*	Studies finalised, reports not yet submitted
	Reporting Program level	DOF	June	Awaiting national reports
7. Biological baselines	Methodology, guidelines, TOR for studies	DOF	March	Not finalised
	Test run and final TOR	All partners	March	Not finalised
	Study in the field and reporting	South partners	April-May*	No joint TOR agreed yet but studies partly finalised, reports partly submitted
	Reporting Program Level	DOF	June	Awaiting national reports
8. M&E and reporting	Final M&E manual, reporting formats and schedules	DOF	March	Agreed by partners and finalised
	Quarterly reporting, financial and narrative	South partners	As per contract 1 <sup>st</sup> of August	Submitted but delayed
	Quarterly synthesised report	DOF	2 weeks later	Delayed. Final Draft September
9. Advocacy and Communication strategy	Program Strategy	DOF	April	Finalised
	National Action Plans	South partners	June	Partly submitted
10. IGA strategy	Program Strategy	DOF	May	Finalised

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	National Action Plans	South partners	June/July	Partly submitted
11. Gender strategy	Program Strategy	DOF	May	Finalised
	National Action Plans	South partners	June/July	Not submitted
12. Establishment of Program offices and procurement		South partners	July*	Finalised
13. Hiring of Program staff		South partners	June*	Finalised
14. Training needs assessment	Identify organisational and staff training needs in view of Program requirements	South partners	July*	Partly finalised
15. Branding, lessons learned etc.	Develop joint logo, template for documents, Program on home pages and Bird Life extranet etc.	All partners	May	Begun but not finalised/ ongoing process

\*For *Nature*Uganda until 31<sup>st</sup> December 2015

## 2. Launching of the Program

### Program Inception Workshop

The PMC Program Inception Workshop took place in Nairobi in January as planned with the participation of all PMC members except Charlotte Mathiassen from DOF, who was ill. During the workshop the partners formulated the job description for the PMC, planned the Program and discussed a number of draft strategies, the Program monitoring and evaluation system, the reporting system and the overall Program LFA. The PMC also decided on the main activities and work-plan for the Inception Phase.

### National inception workshops

In Kenya the national Inception Workshop was conducted at the Secretariat on 23<sup>rd</sup> February. It was attended by two board members, one DOF staff and eight Nature Kenya staff<sup>1</sup>.

The main outputs of the workshop were:

- Staff and board members were able to understand the overall goal and objectives of the Program and the differences between a project and a program;

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<sup>1</sup> DOF: Thomas Lehmborg. From Nature Kenya Paul Matiku (Executive Director), Francis Kagema (Coastal Region Program Coordinator), Fred Barasa (Monitoring and Climate Change Coordinator), Gloria Waswa (Membership Manager), Washington Ayiemba (Sites Specialist), Joan Gichuki (Local Empowerment and Program Manager), John Mwacharo (Communications Officer), and Caroline Kabilu (Programme Manager)

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- Discussions on the draft Logical Framework Approach (LFA) and inputs from the team;
- Agreed the number of staff and general Terms of Reference for Site Staff;
- Agreed when and how the socio-economic and biological baselines were to be carried out as well as Participatory Forest Status Surveys to assess the current status of Participatory Forest Management (PFM);
- Main components of the Advocacy and Communication Strategy agreed;
- Development of the draft Monitoring and Evaluation Framework for the Program;
- Program Advisory Group (PAG) membership agreed;
- Capacity Assessment method for staff and Nature Kenya agreed;
- Agreed broadly the general principles of the Income Generating Activity (IGA) Strategy and listed the tentative IGAs per site.

In Nepal the national Inception Workshop was held at the BCN Secretariat in Kathmandu on 17<sup>th</sup> March. Two DOF and five BCN staff<sup>2</sup> participated in the workshop.

The workshop mainly covered the following issues:

- Baseline studies (both socio-economic and biological), discussion on how to implement these, TOR for the studies and other issue;
- Reporting and monitoring – how this will be implemented in Nepal;
- LFA/activities in Resunga and PIP;
- Staffing, job descriptions and profiles, establishment of field office etc.;
- Review of budget;
- BCN and local training needs.

The main outputs of the workshops were:

- BCN to conduct baselines surveys by hiring skilled consultants to carry out the studies and all raw data/questionnaires will be attached to the Baseline Study Reports;
- BCN plans to work with 6 Forest User Groups. The groups and villages will be finally identified on basis of the baselines. A number of communities will be selected for the studies. The final choice of communities will be based on a balance between the need to include the poorest communities and households and forest needs. In some places the forest may be most threatened in the least poor areas and vice versa;
- BCN agreed to the last draft of the proposed reporting table and stresses the importance of documentation, for example with regard to media inputs, workshops and other events. Documentation shall be required as part of the reporting;
- For monitoring, field staff will send monthly reports to BCN's Senior Conservation Officer who will be visiting the field 2-4 times annually during DOF supervision visits and when there are special activities or training. The field staff will participate in annual meetings of BCN and trainings for staff;
- BCN will develop the LFA and the work-plan (detailed for 2015, overall for 2015-2017) and share it in June;

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<sup>2</sup> DOF: Charlotte Mathiassen, Thomas Lehmborg; BCN: Dr Narendra Man Babu Pradhan (Director), Ishana Thapa (Program Management and Senior Conservation Officer), Pratikchha Srivastava (Finance and Administration Officer), Jyotendra Jyu Thakuri (Conservation officer) and Khadananda Paudel

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- Two staff will be hired for the Program Office in the District Headquarter Tamghas. An accountant will also be hired and based at the Secretariat in Kathmandu. It is planned to hire one more assistant in the second year;
- It was decided that after the baseline BCN will prepare a detailed stakeholders analysis, including all stakeholders and beneficiaries with names of villages/communities, Local Conservation Groups, Forest User Groups etc.;
- For financial reporting guidelines were agreed with the Finance and Administration Officer
- Training needs were not assessed but BCN expects to need inputs on marketing, communication and advocacy.

DOF submitted its Back to Office report on the BCN Inception Workshop to the PMC shortly after.

In Uganda the *NatureUganda* in-house Pre-Inception Workshop took place on the 25<sup>th</sup> February. Participants in this meeting included *NatureUganda* technical staff, representatives of *NatureUganda* Executive Committee, working groups and the National Forestry Authority (NFA), and DOF. The four objectives of the workshop were; (a) to understand the background of the Program approach, structure and content, its aims and how it works (b) understand the current and on-going Echuya conservation project and its implication for the Program (c) understand the sites and how they will be built into the Program and (d) to define national deliverables and build a road map on priority outputs of the Inception Phase. The workshop recommended that the decision to phase in the new sites and the number of Collaborative Forest Management (CFM) groups to be included in the Program shall be based on resources and the groups' capacities. It also advised that the Program should streamline the CFM activities within Local Government, involve CFM associations and support them as long as they have active programs and have meaningful collaboration and partnership with the forest authorities. It was also recommended that *NatureUganda* delivers the Echuya project well and consolidates results there before phasing in Program interventions in the second new site. The baseline studies will define the priority actions and in case of Kasyoha-Kitomi, priority areas. The draft strategies presented at the PMC meeting were also shared and discussed. The DOF Back to Office Report for the Inception Workshop will soon be distributed among partners.

### Official launching events

In Kenya the launching of the Program was combined with the Inception Workshop and there was no official national launching event.

In Nepal the official launching event took place on the evening of 17<sup>th</sup> March. BCN staff and most board members, DOF and representatives from WWF, FECOFUN (Federation of Community Forestry Users Nepal), the National Trust for Nature Conservation, the Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation and the Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation participated. DOF presented the overall Program concept, while BCN presented the Program Site and the planned approach in Nepal. The presentation was followed by fruitful discussions among participants, who applauded the Program. The main suggestions and comments from the event were: The detailed baseline work is a very good aspect of the Program, which is lacking in many of the projects implemented in Nepal; the Program should focus more on biodiversity aspects of the site; local

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capacity development should be one of the important focuses of the Program; the Program should also work on climate change issues; and forest based IGAs are challenging.

### Launching events at site level

In Kenya the launching of the Program at site level was combined with the Program baseline workshops at Taita, Arabuko Sokoke and Dakatcha. At the three sites staff from Kenya Forest Service (KFS), the State Department of Agriculture, the State department of Livestock, Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS), National Museums of Kenya (NMK), Kenya Forest Research Institute (KEFRI), Site Support Groups (SSGs) the Community Forest Association, and County Government officers from the Department for Environment and Natural Resources in Kilifi and Taita Taveta Counties participated. In Nepal after setting up the field-office the Program was shared with stakeholders at the Program site. BCN was invited to a consultation meeting organized by Ruru Resunga Conservation and Tourism Development Committee on 5th July. 75 participants including government officers, representative from NGOs and CBOs, academics and representatives of political parties participated in the event which was organized to provide inputs for preparing a Master Plan for tourism in Gulmi District. As Resunga is a potential IBA site in the district, BCN used the opportunity to share the Program and the potentials of the site for bird eco-tourism.

### Making the Program known

DOF formulated a short text representing the Program. The Program is presented on [www.DOF.dk](http://www.DOF.dk) both in Danish and English with a link to the Program Document. In addition each partner country has its own page with maps, pictures and description of the sites and (planned) activities and progress. There are links to the relevant partner organisation's webpage for the Program on these sites. DOF also established a drop-box for the Program which shall mainly be used for photos and large documents and drafted a format for Program documents and Program Power Point Presentations. The PMC has not yet had the resources to design and decide on the planned joint logo nor entered the Program into the BirdLife Extranet. DOF wrote a short article on the Program which was published in the member magazine *Fugle og Natur* and presented the Program at the DOF Board of Representatives meeting in April, to our International Task Force, and to the BirdLife Secretariat in Cambridge.

The Nature Kenya website is under reconstruction. The Program information will be loaded in the new website. The Kenya Birding magazine published four stories: *A new threat facing Arabuko Sokoke Forest*, *Where to watch birds in Dakatcha Woodlands*, *Securing a home for Taita apalis* and *A lifeline for the Taita apalis*. DOF's logo has been included in documentations and publicity materials including the management plan for Dakatcha woodland, and a stand up banner and fliers for the Taita apalis campaign.

BCN has entered information on the Program on its website: [www.birdlifene.org/project-detail.php?id=298](http://www.birdlifene.org/project-detail.php?id=298).

Likewise Nature Uganda has entered information, including an article *Birdlife partners co-operate to save forests* on its website: [http://natureuganda.org/launch\\_ppn.html](http://natureuganda.org/launch_ppn.html) and [http://natureuganda.org/birdlife\\_partners.html](http://natureuganda.org/birdlife_partners.html).



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### Program Advisory Groups

DOF established a Program Advisory Group (PAG) in June. The PAG currently consists of four members as well as the two staff in DOF's international section<sup>3</sup>. We will probably include 1-2 more members in the PAG, especially someone who knows about Internet Communication Technology (ICT) and advocacy for social change. The PAG will meet in August with the objective to agree on the job description of the PAG. Its main task will be to advise and quality check DOF in terms of the Program and its products and to provide knowledge, inspiration and experiences.

In Kenya it was agreed that the PAG for the national level will be the National Liaison Committee for the IBA Program, which will approve the work-plans and advise Nature Kenya on Program management. The members include NMK, KWS, Kenya Forest Working Group, NEMA, Kenyatta University, the Wildlife Clubs of Kenya and the Department for Remote Sensing and Regional Surveys. At the site level there will be one Site Advisory Committee (SAC) per site: the Arabuko-Sokoke Management Team comprising of officers from KFS, KWS, NMK, KEFRI, Kipepeo, CFAs and SSGs. The Dakatcha SAC will also include officers from the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock, the Ministry of Water and county government officers in charge of environment and natural resources.

In Nepal the PAG has not yet been established.

*Nature*Uganda drafted the ToR for the PAG. The PAG will play a role in advising on policy recommendations from the Program to feed into to the national Advocacy and Communication Action Plan. The draft proposes the PAG to include the *Nature*Uganda secretariat, DOF, the National Forestry Authority, and District Natural Resources officers.

### **3. Program Offices and Staff**

#### Program staff

In DOF the two staff from the Conservation and Science Department responsible for international projects are the main responsible for the Program. Thomas Lehmberg (biologist) is the main responsible for Program administration, budgets, contracts, biological Technical Assistance (TA) and other inputs related to biodiversity and supervision in the field of the Program in Kenya and Uganda; Charlotte Mathiassen (social anthropologist) is the main responsible for Program reporting and monitoring, TA and other inputs on social, gender, human rights, indigenous peoples and related issues, communication and branding as well as on the ground supervision in Nepal. They will be supported by the Financial Department and as per need by the Communication Department and biologists from the Conservation and Science Department.

In Nature Kenya the Program will be managed by Joan Gichuki, the Local Empowerment Manager supported by the Executive Director Paul Matiku, who will advise on technical matters. Serah Munguti

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<sup>3</sup> The four members are Jon Fjellså, professor of Zoology, University of Copenhagen, Mikael Køje Poulsen, biologist and consultant at Nordeco, Ole Brauer advisor on organisational development at Danchurchaid and Mette Lund Sørensen advisor on the right to food at Danchurchaid. Charlotte Mathiassen and Thomas Lehmberg participate from DOF.

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will advise and support the implementation of the Advocacy Strategy. The Communication Officer and the Sites and Species Manager will also provide technical support to the Program.

At site level:

- The Dakatcha Woodland Project Officer Edwin Utumbi (M) started working in May 2015. Nature Kenya moved him from Tana Delta where a project he was implementing for Nature Kenya ended;
- The Taita Project Officer (F) started working in June. She was moved from Tana Delta where the project she was implementing ended;
- Francis Kagema (M), already on post and based in Malindi will be the Program officer for Arabuko-Sokoke. Kagema will also support Dakatcha Woodland technically and administratively;
- The Dakatcha Project Extension Officer is in place working in Dakatcha as from July 2015;
- The Taita Project Extension Officer is on post and working. He is involved in another project in Taita. His salary will be claimed from the Program once the other project ends.
- Interviews for the Arabuko Sokoke Extension Officer have been conducted and the process of hiring has started.

In Nepal the Program will be managed by Ishana Thapa (F) (Conservation biologist) with support from BCN Director Narendra Man Babu Pradham (M) (also Conservation biologist). Kamal Hari Bhandari (M) (Environmental Science) is the Site Program Officer and Bharat Panthi (M) (Forestry) is the Program assistant at site level while Muni Munikar (F) is employed at the Secretariat as accountant for the Program.

*Nature*Uganda will use already existing staff at the Secretariat (Executive Director, Program Manager, Research and Monitoring Coordinator, Finance and Administration Officer, Communications Officer) part time as well as employ a Program full time staff, who has not been recruited yet. The existing staff of the Echuya project is supporting the inception of the Program. Of the 12 fulltime staff in the current Echuya project, five senior technical staff are directly supporting the Program. The current project staff will provide potential opportunities to incorporate into the Program at the end of the project.

### Program offices

In Kenya each site has a Program Office. In Dakatcha the Eco-Resource Centre which is owned by the Dakatcha Woodland Conservation Group has previously been the Nature Kenya office in Dakatcha and will serve as the Program office as well. The Arabuko Sokoke Forest office will be served from the Nature Kenya Secretariat. The space for the Taita office is donated by Kenya Forest Service at Wundanyi. A new SSG office in Taita is also being considered as Program office once the security measures have been installed. 11 computers and one printer have been bought for the Program; procurement for other items including motor bikes are at advanced stages.

The BCN Program field office has been established in Tamghas, the headquarter of Gulmi District. Two rooms have been rented for the field office and all the necessary equipment like computers, printer, scanner, camera, and telephone have been purchased. The office is now fully functional.

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In Uganda the Program will keep the offices already established at the Secretariat and in Echuya, while for Kasyoha-Kitomi, support is provided by the Secretariat. A liaison office in Kasyoha-Kitomi is being sourced and partners including NFA and local government have been consulted. The choice of the best possible location is awaiting the results of the baseline studies for specific communities.

### **4. Training Needs Assessment**

#### TNA of partner organisations

DOF has not carried out a formal assessment of the Program staff's training needs. DOF does not have the budget to hire additional Program staff but may involve additional internal DOF staff or external consultants for those tasks which are outside of the two Program staff's capacity. In addition, the two Program staff strives to participate in as many relevant training courses, seminars and conferences as possible. The main training needs concern ICT, forest management and IGAs.

Nature Kenya conducts an annual Training Needs Assessment. Through the staff appraisal process each staff discusses with their line managers their priority training needs, the Program Support Manager compiles the training needs into one report which is submitted to management for decision making. The following list on training needs covers the capacity gaps in implementing the Program:

- Gender mainstreaming.
- Ecosystem service assessments
- New Managers course on staff supervision
- Writing for the public and communication
- Organizational Capacity development (for site Staff)
- Reviewing Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA)
- Participatory Forest Management
- Marketing and business development for IGAs
- Program development
- Monitoring and evaluation and Logical Framework Approach.

The Nature Kenya organisational capacity was assessed by RSPB<sup>4</sup> using the Birdlife Quality Assurance Tool to ascertain its current status.

BCN has planned a TNA workshop this autumn which will provide the training needs for the Program.

*Nature*Uganda plans to use the existing processes such as staff appraisals to identify individual training needs coupled with ongoing training opportunities such as GIS and database management under the project. The staff appraisals are done bi-annually and a first appraisal was done in July for the Jan – Jun period. The next appraisal will be done in January for the Jul – Dec period. The two appraisals will be analysed and summarised to reflect the training needs of the individual staff and the common needs from all individuals to reflect the training needs of the organisation. The appraisal is a requirement of all staff and training will be an ongoing process throughout the Program depending on the skills requirements for the implementation of the activities.

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<sup>4</sup> Sarah Sanders

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### Summary of most immediate training needs

Though not all TNA details are available yet, it may be concluded that there is a number of training needs which seems to be common for the whole Program. The PMC will discuss this in further details during the next quarter. Some of the needs may not be solved by training. In some cases it may be necessary to discuss whether there is a need for additional resources, e.g. new staff or consultants.

### **5. Data Collection**

Detailed data and thorough knowledge of the Program sites, both people and nature is a precondition for developing the right activities in the right area and with the right people. The PMC, therefore, agreed that the most important activity of the Inception Phase should be baseline studies. DOF had the task to draft the manuals/guidelines for both socio-economic and biological studies which would later be reviewed and finalised by all partners. The baseline studies were to be carried out by qualified staff or consultants at each site and under the supervision of the partner organisation which should both, train and quality check the data and knowledge. All of the baseline studies have been delayed as compared to the work plan due to several reasons. At the time of this reporting the final draft reports have not yet been submitted by any of the partners and it is therefore not possible to include the results in this report.

### Baseline studies, socio-economic and gender

The main objectives of the socio-economic and gender baseline studies were to identify the main target groups under consideration of poverty and gender aspects, and to gain knowledge on local livelihoods, forest and natural resource management. DOF drafted a ToR, methodology and questionnaires for the studies which were approved by the PMC and subsequently tested in several sites and revised prior to the actual field studies.

In Kenya the socio economic studies have been completed at two sites, Dakatcha and Taita Hill, while they are still going on in Arabuko Sokoke. The studies included household socio-economic surveys, stakeholder interviews, Local Conservation Group Focus Group discussions and women Focus Group discussions. Nature Kenya staff discussed and agreed on the survey strategy and sampling methods, then developed a training program for enumerators that assisted in data collection. The training involved strategies for conducting interviews, discussions of each question and recording answers to the questionnaires. Site staff participated in the data collection and at the same time checked and collected the data sheet daily for quality control. Local communities were mobilized by Nature Kenya staff and informed about the interviews through SSG members and the local administration

In Nepal the studies included seven forest adjacent communities of Resunga Forest area selected on the basis of their impact on the diversity of the forest. The study included a desk study, the collection of qualitative and quantitative data, and other information by a team of 10, including surveyors, enumerators, the field coordinator and a socio-economic expert. A sample size of 17.78 % or 380 households was included for the survey. The 8 surveyors were given a full day of training on how to conduct the sampling survey and one full day pilot survey was performed by the surveyors in the field under the supervision of a team leader and the coordinator in specific areas of the selected communities. The study team also conducted focal group discussions, key informants' interviews, walks

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and observation, and discussions with other stakeholders. The study concluded that Resunga forest plays a vital role in providing various ecosystem services to the surrounding villages but various issues like proper forest management, empowerment of the poor and women, knowledge on biodiversity conservation, etc. should be further addressed for the forest to be able to provide these services at the same scale on the long run.

In Uganda the ToR for the socio-economic studies has been completed. Three experienced consultants have been approached with the view of taking up the tasks. Work commences in August 2015 and is expected to end in October 2015. The work in Echuya will double as the end of project valuation in addition to the baseline for the Program. In Kasyoha-Kitomi the baseline information will mainly be used to inform the Program. The work will be contracted to an experienced social scientist experienced. NatureUganda will guide the process and oversee the execution of the study. The TOR spells out the details for the study.

### Baseline studies, biological

The main objective of the biological studies is to provide data on the biodiversity of selected forest sites, including satellite images and to identify maximum 5 biodiversity indicators for each site, which can serve as the basis for Program monitoring. Though baseline data exist for all sites the PMC agreed that it was important to carry out up to date studies based on a common approach and methodology. It was decided that DOF should draft a manual/methodology which they should agree on as well as on the ToR and expected outputs of the studies. It was also agreed that partners could use BirdLife tools (especially Tessa and IBA monitoring tools) but that we still need a common Program approach. The Program manual has not yet been drafted and each partner has therefore carried out the studies in slightly different ways. The studies have been delayed and as all of the reports have not yet been submitted, the overall results cannot be concluded upon in this report.

Nature Kenya developed IBA monitoring protocols for Dakatcha, Arabuko Sokoke and Taita Hills. The activities included:

- Training of the Dakatcha SSG members in IBA monitoring and common bird monitoring, Clarke's weaver detailed monitoring and setting up of monitoring transects;
- Common Bird Monitoring for Dakatcha and a list compiled;
- Rapid Ecosystems Service Assessment was conducted for the three sites, and the main ecosystem services were identified. Stakeholders are in support of a balanced development and conservation scenario which not only improves the living standards of local people but also ensure that ecosystems are conserved in order to continue providing important services such as climate regulation, pollination, wild goods and cultivated goods;
- Nature Kenya Coordinates drafted a Species Action plan for Taita apalis with support from the Darwin Initiative through the Taita Taveta Forum partnership

In Nepal as Resunga is a new site for BCN and no detailed information of the site is available BCN conducted baseline studies for plant and wildlife. Three experts who had visited the site earlier

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conducted the survey<sup>5</sup>. The field staff and representative of LCGs were also involved in the survey work. The survey methodology and the areas were discussed and finalised with BCN central level staff prior to the field visits.

In Uganda the ToR for the biodiversity survey has been completed. An external consultant from the Institute of Tropical Forest Conservation (ITFC) was recruited. ITFC was given the mandate to conduct the biological study having been known to have the expertise and the history to the Forest Reserve. A similar study will be carried out in Ksyoha-Kitomi. The ToR shows what is expected from the consultancy and how the baseline study needs to be accomplished. Both reports are expected to be finalised before the end of October.

### Brief assessment of main findings

From the brief overview of the findings of the biological studies it is evident that all of the Program sites are biologically rich, need protection and improved management and have the potential to provide both improved human livelihoods and a better habitat for its biodiversity. It is also clear that there is a need for capacity building at all levels and for raised awareness. From the Program point of view though a lot of important knowledge has been gathered all of the partners need to identify maximum 5 indicator species (birds, other animals, plants) for each site to be monitored throughout the Program.

## **6. Strategies and Action Plans**

### Advocacy and Communication

DOF drafted the Program Advocacy and Communication Strategy in May and requested partners to provide inputs to this draft. Subsequently partners were asked to develop their own action plans within the framework of the strategy to be included in the LFA, especially for Component 3. Nature Kenya drafted an action plan which must be made part of the LFA. In Nepal the action plan is not yet drafted and *NatureUganda's* plan will be finalised in October.

### Income Generating Activities

DOF drafted the Program Strategy for Income Generating Activities in May and requested partners to provide inputs to this draft. The partners were asked to develop their own action plans within the framework of the strategy to be included in the LFA, especially for Component 2. Nature Kenya drafted its action plan and also distributed the organisation's overall Livelihood Improvement Strategy, which provides guidelines for developing and implementing nature based enterprises and IGAs in IBAS. BCN is in the process of drafting its action plan. *NatureUganda* will share its plan in October.

### Other action plans

DOF drafted the Program Strategy for Gender Mainstreaming in June and requested partners to provide inputs to this draft. The partners were asked to develop their own gender mainstreaming action plans within the framework of the strategy to be included in the LFA. The partners' gender mainstreaming action plans are still due. As planned in the Program Document DOF shall also draft

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<sup>5</sup> Dr Bhuwan Kesar Sharma (Botanist) for plant survey, Prof Karan B. Shah (Wildlife Biologist) for mammal and herpeto fauna and Mr Hathan Choudhary for the bird survey and IBA monitoring

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and distribute a strategy for indigenous peoples and a manual for locally based monitoring. This was not achieved during the Inception Phase.

### **7. National LFA and Work Plans**

All of the three partners have made an initial draft of their LFA and PIP. The LFAs will be finally drafted and discussed as soon as baseline data have been assessed and analysed and the action plans are in place. Once this has been done the LFAs will be reviewed by the PMC and finally adapted.

### **8. Financial Issues and Reporting**

Financial reports covering the first 6 months of the Program period was produced by Nature Kenya and BCN, and received by DOF. Both reports show a modest use of funds, which is due to increase during the current and next quarters, where *NatureUganda* is also going to boost the spending. The reporting format was developed by Denvas Gekonde, Nature Kenya. It is important that all partners ensure that feedback to this (and indeed any other reporting of the PPN Program) is given to all Program partners so that the partners can agree on the best format(s) for the benefit of all. DOF is responsible for spearheading this process and backstopping on these formalities.

### **9. Conclusions and Outstanding Issues**

Though there have been some delays especially because of the baseline studies, which took longer as anticipated mainly due to the task of analysing a vast amount of data the Program Inception has overall been successful in laying the ground for implementation both at Program and national levels. In Nepal the process was also delayed by the April earthquake and the monsoon season. Local communities and stakeholders have shown enthusiasm to support the implementation of the Program, and the synergies between the Program and participatory forest management plans is highly appreciated. The main outstanding issues are the socio-economic and biodiversity baseline reports, the national action plan and the final LFAs and work plans for all of the Program sites. The next quarterly reports are due on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2015



*Charlotte Mathiassen, 22. September 2015*

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Program 2015-2017***



**Program Quarterly Report**

August-October 2015

*DOF, Bird Conservation Nepal, Nature Kenya, NatureUganda*

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## *Integrating Livelihoods and Conservation. People Partner with Nature for Sustainable Living*

### 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

SSG: Site Support Groups

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TNA: Training Needs Assessment

ToR: Terms of Reference

WWF: World Wide Fund for Nature

### **1. Summary of progress, challenges and unfinished activities**

The People Partner with Nature Program is delayed by a couple of months as compared to the original plan. The LFAs and work plans have not yet been finalised, and some of the Inception activities have not yet been finalised by all partners nor fully integrated into the work plans. BCN and NK finalised the field studies in the last quarter but more time than expected was spent on analysing the data and drafting the baselines reports which for the most part still need to be finalised. NU prepared baseline studies which are expected to be finalised before the end of the year. At the Program level one PMC skype meeting was held in September as planned and DOF carried out supervision visits to all three Program countries. All three South partners participated in BirdLife events. Nature Kenya (NK) and NatureUganda (NU) in the Council for African Partnerships held in October in Ghana and BCN in the BirdLife CEO meeting in Singapore. They will share short reports on these meetings and their importance for the Program. This quarterly Program report presents the main outputs of the reporting period. The partners' reports are attached and provide details on e.g. the findings of the baseline studies.

In Nepal the oil crisis continued with some impacts on BCN activities. Reshunga has been recognised as an IBA and a report of the now 36 IBAs is being finalised. Reshunga will also be a protected forest in the future.

Communication between partners has not been wholly satisfactory. There have not been feed-back to documents as requested nor have partners shared reports and documents as much as planned.

### **2. Status on outstanding Inception activities**

Most of the Inception activities have been finalised while some are still awaiting finalisation.

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### Offices and staff

The offices are set up and staff in place at all sites in Kenya and Nepal, as well as Secretariat staff. Secretariat staff who will be supporting the implementation in Uganda are also in place. A person was hired on 1<sup>st</sup> October to follow up on the inception activities.

### PAG

NK has decided that the National IBA Liaison Committee will be the PAG. TORs were developed. BCN and NU have not yet established a PAG yet. DOF shared documents with its PAG but had no meetings during the quarter.

### TNA of staff and organisation

NK has provided a list of staff training needs. BCN will carry out a TNA at the upcoming staff retreat which has been postponed due to the gas crisis. Nature Uganda is in the process of finalising the institutional strategy for 2016-2020 which will help identify capacity gaps. Staff appraisals are done bi-annually and will provide annual training needs. There have been suggestions for trainings in GIS, program management, policy analysis and advocacy, amongst others. All partners have requested training in gender mainstreaming. How to address concrete capacity gaps and training needs will be discussed at the next PMC meeting.

### Strategies and action plans

DOF formulated the Program Strategy for Indigenous Peoples and is awaiting comments for its finalisation. The formulation of partner action plans is an ongoing process. NK needs to develop Gender Action Plan while BCN and NU must formulate Action Plans for IGAs, advocacy and gender very soon in order to integrate these into the LFAs. The Action Plans are working documents that provide guidance and can be revised.

### Baseline studies

NK and BCN have finalised the baseline studies, both socio-economic and biodiversity studies. They have shared draft reports with DOF and received comments to reports, which still need to be finalised and shared among all partners. The findings of the reports will be included in the LFA and help define the main beneficiaries. They will also be used to identify the 5 biodiversity indicators to be monitored and included in the LFA. NU has begun the studies and will submit final reports at the latest in February 2016.

### **3. LFAs and work-plans**

All partners are developing their LFAs and work-plans. They shall be finalised at the end of the year, at the latest. The LFAs shall not contain too many details and leave room for revision if needed.

In Kenya the LFAs are being updated to include the findings from the baseline studies. New information shows that food security, climate change mitigation and IBA threat reduction should be given more attention in the implementation of the program. BCN is currently working with the Reshunga office staff to finalise the LFA and work-plan together with the Program Officer.

### **4. Reporting on outputs**

Objectives	Indicators	Output results	Baseline	Opportuniti	Impact	% of
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and outputs		during reporting period	progress	es, challenges and proposed action	s, changes and main lessons learned	budget spent on each main output
<p><b><u>Development Objective 10-15 years</u></b>  <b><i>Reduce the depletion of forested IBAs and contribute to the realisation of best participatory forest management practices for the benefit of all</i></b></p>	<p><i>IBA and ecosystem services monitoring shows improved state of forests and biodiversity</i></p>	<p>IBA monitoring was carried out and data assessed for the annual IBA status and trends report at all Program sites</p>		<p>-Carry out ecosystem services assessment            -Develop bird identification skills            -Ecosystem assessment to have more information on climate regulation and NTFPs</p>		
	<p><i>National and site living standards surveys show decreased percentage of poor</i></p>	<p>Baseline data established for future monitoring in Kenya and Nepal. Survey activities initiated in Uganda.</p>		<p>-Data will be used to identify poor and develop IGAs</p>		
	<p><i>Performance evaluation of participatory forest management practices shows improved standards</i></p>	<p>Baseline data established for future monitoring NK conducted organisational capacity assessment of SSGs and initiated PFM at three sites</p>				

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<p><b><i>Component 1: Program partners have increased capacity to strategically work with the integration of poverty reduction and nature protection</i></b></p>	<p><i>Program partners recognized as contributing to best practices for the integration of poverty reduction and nature protection within the Birdlife network and nationally</i></p>	<p>The South partners participate in number of national networks and committees and participated in regional BirdLife partnership events DOF participated in workshops on SDGs<sup>6</sup>, and sustainability issues in DK</p>		<p>-Gov. led technical and policy committees good opportunities for influence -NU used opportunity to create awareness among BirdLife partners</p>		
	<p><i>Program partners formulate and review relevant strategies and approaches based on lessons learned for the development of phase II of the Program</i></p>	<p>DOF drafted Program Policy for Indigenous Peoples and Gender Strategy</p>		<p>-Partners to comment on strategy and develop national action plans -Assess and share lessons learned from other projects</p>		
	<p><i>Program partners invited /seconded to participating in relevant poverty and nature protection planning and 'think tank' groups</i></p>	<p>BCN involved in DFCC<sup>7</sup>, NU alternate chair of Uganda Poverty and Conservation Learning Group (one meeting)</p>		<p>Focus on working closer together with and learning from 'social networks', livelihoods NGOs etc.</p>		

<sup>6</sup> Sustainable Development Goals

<sup>7</sup> District Forest Coordination Committee

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Output 1.1: Partners' skills, learning and knowledge sharing facilitated and enhanced	<i>Critical review of program process and approaches carried out at annual PMC meetings</i>	Skype meeting in September focused on status and progress of Inception activities and first planning of 2016 PMC meeting				
	<i>Partners have developed systems for M&amp;E, reporting and planning, and for sharing of lessons learned</i>	The format for quarterly reporting was slightly revised NK shared M&E plans with site stakeholders to advise on how to conduct monitoring		Train staff and stakeholders in monitoring		
	<i>Partners have increasing capacity to deliver the Program as a result of lessons learned and training</i>	NK updated staff training needs for PPN staff NU used data from baseline for the QAS DOF participated in CISU Program and financial management workshop				
	<i>Each partner is represented by two employees at each PMC meeting</i>	7 out of 8 PMC members participated in Skype meeting in September				
Output 1.2: Program partners increasingly engage in advocacy for local	<i>Partners have program and national advocacy and communication plan in place before end of</i>	Program Advocacy and Communication Strategy developed. NK formulated Advocacy Action Plan and				



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involvement in biodiversity conservation	<i>Inception period</i>	published 2016 calendar titled Birds of Coastal Forests published with conservation messages and photos of globally important birds from Taita, Dakatcha and Arabuko sokoke.				
	<i>Partners nationally recognised as credible players in the conservation and development agenda as a result of adapting and implementing the Advocacy and Communication plan nationally</i>	Partners participate in national relevant national fora, including: BCN member of National Conservation Consortium and the National Wetland Committee; NK in Committee for planning of World Wetland Day and commenting on KBAs in Kenya; DOF member in 92-group for sustainable development		Partners are already important players. The challenge is to increase influence on government decisions and public awareness and support		
	<i>Partners represented at regional and global Birdlife meetings</i>	Partners already active in BirdLife NU and NK attended Council for African Partnership in Ghana in October; BCN CEO Partnership meeting in Singapore		It is recommended that partners share short reports on participation in meetings and events		

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	<i>Partners participating in relevant national networks and international fora</i>	Partners already active in networks and for a, e.g. BCN member of IUCN Nepal NK member of National Task Force of Biodiversity, IUCN and others NU alternate chair of Uganda Poverty and Conservation Learning Group (one meeting) DOF member of IUCN DK		The challenge is to increase influence and visibility		
Output 1.3 Duty bearers' skills for participatory forest management increased through formal and informal involvement in the Program	<i>Duty bearers have capacity and engage in participatory forest management sharing lessons locally, and nationally</i>	First activities initiated NK informal assessment of KFS <sup>8</sup> NU convened annual meeting of NETCOFA <sup>9</sup>				
	<i>Duty bearers represented in PAG</i>	NK established PAG with duty bearers				
	<i>Duty bearers participate in training needs assessment and training</i>	Capacity assessment started				

<sup>8</sup> Kenya Wildlife Service

<sup>9</sup> Network of Community Forest Associations

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	<i>Joint (partners and duty bearers) monitoring of Program and Program deliverables and consolidation of ideas</i>	Under preparation in Kenya			
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<p><b>Component 2:</b> <b>Participatory forest management contributes to improved livelihoods of poor communities, and reduce pressure on ecosystems and biodiversity</b></p>	<i>The population in forest adjacent communities experience better living conditions, and reduced poverty as a result of improved forest management</i>	Data from baselines used in process of developing IGAs, identifying poorest target groups and assessing local priorities		
	<i>Monitoring data and scientific studies show reduced pressure on forest sites</i>	IBA monitoring and biodiversity studies provided data for indicators for future monitoring		
	<i>Forest management plans reflect increase in forest productivity and greater benefits from participatory management</i>	Forest management plans were scrutinised for future inputs In Nepal Resunga will have new status as protected forest. BCN assessed consequences of this		Forest management plans are in place for most sites. The challenge is how to influence these to better integrate biodiversity and benefit sharing
Output 2.1 Local women, men and children have enhanced skills for sustainable equitable and improved livelihoods	<i>Inclusive gender sensitive participation in forest management and benefit sharing as a result of strategic approach to income generating activities developed at Program level</i>	Surveys provided gender aggregated data, details on composition of SSGs/CFUGs, etc. and priorities for benefit sharing. In focus group discussions with women challenges to women's representation in CFUGs were discussed.		

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	<i>Local communities draft and implement plans for nature based economic initiatives, improved livelihood conditions and market access</i>	First discussions took place during surveys NK IGA strategy will be used in Program NU: Prioritised IGAs from Echuya will be considered in Program		
	<i>Program facilitates technical skills training of women and men in local communities</i>	First assessment of training needs took place during surveys. Lack of skills prevalent in all sites, especially for women.		
	<i>Socio-economic profiling for each Program site provides data for the inclusion of the poor and marginalised</i>	Poorest FACs and groups identified during survey. In Nepal baselines showed that Magar and Dalit are the poorest population groups; in Kenya indigenous groups and women headed households were among the poorest		Pay special attention to indigenous groups
	<i>Livelihood and conservation financing mechanisms at site level in place</i>			
Output 2.2 Women have strengthened capacity to equal participation in the Program and benefit equally with men	<i>Gender analysis provides knowledge on gender relations in natural resource use and management</i>	Analysis of baseline data showed that women lack skills, and time for full participation. Studies show that women are main collectors of vital goods such as wood and heavily dependent on the forests		Carry out thorough gender analysis in the program localities

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	<i>Strategic plan for gender mainstreaming, benefits and activities developed</i>	Program Gender Strategy developed Program partners found to lack skills in gender mainstreaming		-Gender Action Plans to be developed by all partners -Gender mainstreaming training
	<i>Women receive benefits from participatory forest management and businesses and experience improved welfare</i>	Some capacity needs identified in studies which will inform training		
	<i>Women participate in training for empowerment</i>	Capacity issues for women were identified in Focus Group Discussions, some of which will be addressed through trainings		
	<i>Women have increased access to relevant fora and platforms due to capacity development and advocacy</i>	First assessment of for a for women empowerment		
	<i>Women's livelihood and conservation initiatives strengthened</i>	In Kenya one meeting on initiatives for women was conducted at Arabuko Sokoke		

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<p>Output 2.3 Local communities are collaboratively managing forests with government partners and share benefits and responsibilities</p>	<p><i>Forest management plans are developed consultatively involving local communities and government stakeholders</i></p>	<p>Process of assessing forest management plans started NK: Forest management plans partly developed or under way BCN: CFUG operational plan and plan for protected forest is being reviewed NU: Forest management plans for Echuya awaiting approval</p>	
	<p><i>Agreement holders and wider local communities involved in monitoring and overseeing the implementation of the agreements</i></p>		<p>Program shall focus on development of forest management agreements and implementation</p>
	<p><i>Local communities and other stakeholders develop and review natural resource agreements at community level and forest utilization rules are established, agreed and followed</i></p>		<p>Need to develop guidance for natural resource and climate mitigation</p>

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	<i>Capacity of forest authority, local government and other stakeholders to meet their obligations enhanced</i>	First assessment started			
Output 2.4 Monitoring results indicate improved biodiversity and eco-system services	<i>Indicators selected and baseline in place by the end of the Inception period</i>	Biodiversity data available for all sites NU: LBM framework in place in Echuya			
	<i>Monitoring frameworks based on indicators in place and implemented by stakeholders ensuring locally based monitoring and reporting feeding into national monitoring platforms</i>	IBA and common bird monitoring assessed as being the main tools for monitoring NK: IBA Monitoring protocols developed			NU: Monthly monitoring of Echuya project will be continued under Program
	<i>Stakeholders develop and implement system of Locally Based Monitoring</i>				Introduction to LBM to partners and at sites NU: LBM is being implemented and will continue under Program
	<i>Studies assure quality of state of site, biodiversity data and ecosystem services</i>	Baselines survey finalised and reports drafted which will serve as basis for future studies together with BirdLife IBA monitoring, TESSA a.o. NU: Baseline studies for the two reserves were initiated			

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<p><b>Component 3:</b> <b>Local civil society groups are empowered to engage in rights based advocacy and political processes</b></p>	<p><i>Livelihood and biodiversity concerns, and local civil society are reflected in management plans</i></p>	<p>NK: Livelihood IGAs reflected in PFMPs and NK strategy BCN: Livelihood and biodiversity reflected in CFUG operational plans</p>		
	<p><i>Local civil society involvement in decentralised political processes documented and consistent</i></p>	<p>Consultations with SSGs, CFUGs and other CSOs</p>		
	<p><i>Improved services and community driven priorities referenced as a result of participation in political processes</i></p>			
<p>Output 3.1 Program civil society groups have capacity to act as independent democratic organisations for the benefit of their communities</p>	<p><i>By mid of Phase I local CSGs have sustainability plans</i></p>			
	<p><i>CSGs show ability to represent the interests of their community</i></p>	<p>Weak governance, lack of commitment of members and equity issues found to be main impediments to CSG engagement</p>		
	<p><i>Capacity of CSGs to independently influence change processes enhanced</i></p>			
	<p><i>CSGs practicing good governance, with strong leadership and vibrant membership</i></p>			
<p>Output 3.2 Civil society networks engage in advocacy for participatory natural</p>	<p><i>CSGs build, strengthen and participate in networks</i></p>	<p>At all sites SSGs/CFUGS/CSGS have links to networks</p>		



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resource management and benefit sharing	<i>National and regional networking and engagement plans developed and operationalised</i>	NK included advocacy plans for sites in Advocacy and Communication Action Plan		
	<i>Networks engage in advocacy activities at national and/or local levels</i>	Networks found to engage in advocacy, e.g. FECOFUN in Nepal, the IBA National Liaison Committee in Kenya, 92 Group in DK		
	<i>National and regional networking and engagement plans developed and operationalised</i>			
Output 3.3 Civil society is included in governmental decision making processes at decentralised levels	<i>CSGs/networks claim rights to influence political processes and engage with stakeholders</i>	CSGs/ networks recognised in political processes but found to need support for more effective interaction and influence on politics		
	<i>CSGs and duty bearers dialogue meetings organised and supported</i>			

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<b>Assessment of overall progress and changes</b>
<b>To which extent and how is expected change taking place?</b> The partners are learning to work and think in a ‘program mode’ but communication need to be strengthened
<b>Which are the Most Significant Changes (especially in the view of primary target groups)?</b> Not yet implemented.
<b>In which ways has the Program contributed to better forest management?</b> Not yet but it is planned to use the knowledge derived from the baseline studies and previous lessons to improve upon forest management
<b>How have women and poor benefited from the Program?</b> Not yet. The Program Gender strategy will guide the individual partner’s gender activity plan and approaches. Some knowledge on gender was derived from the socio-economic baselines but proper gender analysis still needs to be done.
<b>Optional but recommended attachments</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ There are no <u>case stories</u> from the communities yet.</li> <li>▪ Photos of IGA activities, biodiversity, events etc.: photos preferably to be downloaded to Dropbox. Please advise the PMC when you download new photos.</li> <li>▪ Links to articles and other media outputs, training reports, summaries of events etc. Report from Ghana BirdLife from Nature Uganda and Nature Kenya meeting were not yet shared.</li> </ul>

**5. Comments to reporting, financial and other issues**

Column 3 should be inter-changed. Dof found that the timing of the reports will have to be changed so that financial and narrative reports are submitted at the same time and fit into the DOF financial year. This will require an amendment to the contracts. The timing will be revised so that the next reporting period will be 1 November -31 December (only two months) and then every quarter. The reports shall be submitted on the 15<sup>th</sup> of the following month. DOF will amend the contracts accordingly and before the end of the year.

**6. Conclusions and Outstanding Issues**

The Program is behind schedule both in terms of activities and the budget spending. It is important that the LFAs are finalised before the end of the year and that implementation can start fully by the beginning of Year 2. The PMC meeting in February will provide an opportunity to discuss how we can speed up activities and spending.

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