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AFRICA BIODIVERSITY COLLABORATIVE GROUP

April 30, 2016

Africa Biodiversity Collaborative Group SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT

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COVER PHOTO: Cai Tjeenk Willink (CC BY-SA 3.0)

CAPTION: Bukima Patrol Post. Tented camp in Eastern DRC Virunga National Park, with Mt Mikeno visible behind.



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Acronyms

ABCG	Africa Biodiversity Collaborative Group
ANDM	Alfred Nzo District Municipality
AFR/SD	Bureau for Africa/Office of Sustainable Development
AWF	African Wildlife Foundation
CI	Conservation International
COP	Communities of Practice
CSA	Conservation South Africa
FY	Fiscal year
DRC	The Democratic Republic of the Congo
FOCAC	Forum on China Africa Cooperation
GCI	Global Change Impacts
GMP	General Management Plan
JGI	The Jane Goodall Institute
LRTR	Land and Resource Tenure Rights
LUP	Land-Use Plan
LUM	Land Use Management
NGO	Non-governmental Organization
NRM	Natural Resource Management
PES	Payment for Ecosystem Services
PHE	Population, Health and the Environment
PMP	Performance Management Plan
RCDS	Regional Development Cooperation Strategy
SSA	Sub-Saharan Africa
SOW	Scope of work
TNC	The Nature Conservancy
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
WCS	Wildlife Conservation Society
WRI	World Resources Institute
WWF	World Wildlife Fund

Executive Summary

This document is a report by the Africa Biodiversity Collaborative Group (ABCG) on the first semi-annual period, from October 2015 to March 2016 of the first year of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Cooperative Agreement No. AID-OAA-A-15-00060. ABCG is a consortium of seven U.S.-based international conservation non-governmental organizations (NGOs). The consortium members are: African Wildlife Foundation (AWF), Conservation International (CI), the Jane Goodall Institute (JGI), The Nature Conservancy (TNC), Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), World Resources Institute (WRI) and World Wildlife Fund (WWF).

ABCG's overarching goals of a) mainstreaming biodiversity in human well-being and development agendas; b) promoting good conservation practices; and (c) strengthening the role of social and development institutions in biodiversity conservation and human well-being, are being pursued within the context of four thematic foci. This report provides an overview of progress made on these thematic tasks and include:

1. Land and Resource Tenure Rights
2. Land Use Management
3. Managing Global Change Impacts
4. Global health Linkages to Conservation
5. Emerging Issues

Technically, ABCG's programmatic approach involves conducting analyses of critical issues affecting efforts to conserve Africa's biodiversity; designing and implementing pilot projects to assess and demonstrate the feasibility of innovative approaches for addressing those issues; and leveraging output to promote data-driven decision-making and viable trade-offs associated with using and managing land and natural resources. Further, ABCG aims to build strong partnerships with Africa institutions as the foundation of communities of practice; and cooperate through such communities of practice to improve best practices across the relevant conservation, development and rights communities, whose activities affect, and are affected by, biodiversity conservation efforts.

Land and Resource Tenure Rights (LRTR): The LRTR task group clarified their objectives, identified specific activities, and fine-tuned the target locations including the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Southern Tanzania and Western Tanzania. Key highlights thus far include completing village land use plans for Western Tanzania.

Land Use Management (LUM): The LUM task group kicked off with all case study leads reviewing case studies in four locations. A coordination workshop was held in March to thoroughly outline activities such as spatial modeling. Finally, an analytical framework has been drafted to help guide the case studies and a series of capacity building seminars is planned for field teams in order to aid implementation of the case studies across sites.

Managing Global Change Impact (GCI): As the initial activity, the GCI task group reviewed concepts and components for a survey design, thereafter hiring an expert consultant to realize the design into a comprehensive survey. Further, the group has begun work on a literature review of human coping responses to climate change. The group members also established priorities for data collection, and an activity timeline.

Global Health Linkages to Biodiversity Conservation—Population, Health and the Environment (PHE): The PHE task group has held meetings where members discussed a literature review scope and process on integrating population with other health and environment sectors, and to identify best practices and promising approaches on the analysis and implementation of integrated PHE projects at the regional and national scales.

Global Health Linkages to Biodiversity Conservation—Fresh Water Sanitation and Hygiene (FW-WASH): Task group members began with a review of deliverables, clarifying roles and responsibilities and share progress on each of the components including a *Google Drive* portal to exchange information at the task level and among the organizers of the Community of Practice.

Overall, task activities have been slow to develop during this reporting period (September 22, 2015–March 31, 2016), as a result of the delay in issuing sub-award agreements to the ABCG members. The sub-award process experienced delays due to challenges in aligning institutional procedures with recently promulgated updates of USAID applicable standards and operational policies requirements. Sub-awards were disbursed to the six member organizations in early March.

Emerging Issues (EI): The Steering Committee selected three Emerging Issues themes after an identification process by ABCG’s extensive network of field teams and local partner NGOs. The chosen themes represent topics that ABCG member organizations are not currently addressing, a new dimension to an existing conservation issue, or a sizable challenge where an ABCG-funded intervention would compel additional activities at scale.

1. Wildlife Trafficking
2. Infrastructure Development
3. Strengthening African Civil Society

The Steering Committee, selected two of the four proposals submitted to award \$50,000 in funding. The winning proposal were: TNC/WRI: *Piloting Mechanisms for Strengthening African Conservation Leadership and Organizational Capacity*; and WCS/WWF: *A Scalable Approach to Engaging Chinese Overseas Enterprises to Mitigate Impacts of Wildlife Trafficking in Africa*.

As part of enhancing ABCG visibility and fostering broader outcomes for the overall program deliverables, ABCG has begun activities on a strategy to ramp up engagement with African stakeholders including local, national and regional actors with mutual interest in biodiversity conservation. The Secretariat has compiled a preliminary list of contacts at the individual, institutional and civil society levels, primarily based in Kenya and East Africa. This activity feeds into a goal of nurturing working relationships for the exchange of cross-cutting ideas, developments and challenges in order to get ABCG products adopted by the right audience, and receive insightful feedback in exchange.

I.

Introduction

The Africa Biodiversity Collaborative Group (ABCG) consortium continues to act as a thought leader in identifying and constructing strategies to address emerging and high-priority threats to biodiversity in Africa by generating new knowledge, fostering Communities of Practice (COP), and sharing best practices with stakeholders that include local communities, conservation professionals, NGOs, and policy and decision makers in Africa, the US, and beyond. In so doing, ABCG will provide support in program planning, implementation, evaluation, knowledge management and outreach to United States Agency for International Development (USAID)-supported biodiversity conservation programs in Africa.

Achieving ABCG's Vision will require: a) mainstreaming biodiversity in human well-being and development agendas; b) promoting good conservation practices; and (c) strengthening the role of social and development institutions in biodiversity conservation and human well-being. ABCG's overall objectives are to:

- Promote networking, awareness, information sharing and experience among U.S. conservation NGOs working in Africa, to encourage information exchange and idea sharing with African partners;
- Identify and analyze critical and/or emerging conservation issues in Africa as priorities for both future NGO action and donor support; and
- Synthesize collective lessons from field activities and share them with a broader multi-sector community in the United States and Africa.
- Support USAID in implementing the Bureau for Africa, Office of Sustainable Development (AFR/SD)'s Regional Development Cooperation Strategy (RCDS) and USAID's Biodiversity Policy in Africa, focusing on: a) conserving biodiversity in priority places, and b) integrating biodiversity as an essential component of human development. To this end, ABCG will foster COPs that provide effective support to the US Government and to USAID country and regional missions, in particular, as well as to African governments and African civil society.

The AFR/SD RCDS Development Objectives align with ABCG's proven schematic for linking learning to communities of practice, development of new ideas, and influencing of other partners to demonstrate a results chain for knowledge management to develop its capacity to identify, create, represent, distribute, and enable adoption of information and experiences critical to the Strategy's success.

I.1. PROGRAM OVERVIEW

ABCG is a coalition of the major US-based international conservation NGOs with field-based activities in Africa including African Wildlife Foundation (AWF), Conservation International (CI), the Jane Goodall Institute (JGI), The Nature Conservancy (TNC), Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), World Resources Institute (WRI) and World Wildlife Fund (WWF). ABCG has extensive experience conducting analysis and sharing lessons learned on high priority conservation issues affecting Africa. ABCG's mission is to tackle complex and changing conservation challenges by catalyzing and strengthening collaboration, and bringing the best resources from across a continuum of conservation organizations to effectively and efficiently work towards a vision of an African continent where natural resources and biodiversity are securely conserved in balance with sustained human livelihoods.

ABCG's objectives are to:

- Promote networking, awareness, information sharing and experience among U.S. conservation NGOs working in Africa; to encourage information exchange and idea sharing with African partners
- Identify and analyze critical and/or emerging conservation issues in Africa as priorities for both future NGO action and donor support
- Synthesize collective lessons from field activities and share them with a broader multi-sector community in the United States and Africa. By accessing the wide-ranging networks of the member organizations throughout Africa, ABCG is in a unique position to support USAID Africa Missions and help build the capacity of local and national NGOs, government agencies, universities, the private sector and local communities on key environmental and development issues for the African Continent.

I.2. THEMATIC TASK ACTIVITY AREAS

In partnership with USAID/AFR/SD, ABCG is focused on four key issues that strongly influence the effectiveness of biodiversity conservation efforts: a) land and resource tenure rights, b) land use management, c) understanding the impacts on biodiversity of change processes operating at a global scale, and d) understanding the linkages between global health and biodiversity. Working groups are composed of the ABCG partners' respective staff members with relevant expertise to concentrate on each thematic issue. Further, a fifth working group was formed to identify and develop strategies to respond to emerging issues affecting the effectiveness of biodiversity conservation issues in Africa, primarily through a small grants program.

2.

Summary of Program Implementation

2.1. TASK ACTIVITY I: LAND AND RESOURCE TENURE RIGHTS

2.1.1. Task Activity Description

Land and resource tenure rights influence the achievement of biodiversity conservation objectives and depend on: (a) the rights accorded individual landowners to manage private lands and (b) the recognition of collective (community or customary) rights of people living on state lands. They represent fundamental assets—primary sources of livelihood, nutrition, income, wealth and employment. Land and resources are a basis for security, status, social identity and political relations, and, for many rural people, they have historical, cultural and spiritual significance. Strong rights and secure tenure are central to families and communities maintaining their land and resources, including biodiversity.

This working group will develop and test strategies and tools to place greater land and resource management authority in the hands of local resource users, thus creating incentives for them to exercise their authority in ways that are consistent with biodiversity conservation and sustainable use of renewable resources. The task members will focus on three critical ecosystems: Greater Mahale Ecosystem, Tanzania (TNC, JGI); Northern rangelands, Tanzania (AWF, WRI); and Mai Tatu Forest Block, Democratic Republic of Congo (WCS, WWF). These ecosystems are anchors for biodiversity that support livelihoods for growing local populations. Strengthening rights and securing tenure, especially over the community lands managed as common property, are central to the conservation of this biodiversity.

Six ABCG members are involved in the LRTR Task: AWF, JGI, TNC, WCS, WRI and WWF. These organizations are paired to work in three geographies:

- Democratic Republic of Congo—WCS and WWF
- Southern Tanzania—AWF and WRI
- Western Tanzania—TNC and JGI

2.1.2. Activity Implementation Progress

2.1.2.1. Progress narrative

Five LRTR Task participating organizations—AWF, JGI, TNC, WCS, and WRI—have activities scheduled in Year 1; WWF's activities under this Task begin in Year 2. As a result, this report includes only the activities and progress made by AWF, JGI, TNC, WCS, and WRI.

Before the sub agreements were awarded, the participating organizations worked to clarify the objectives, identify specific activities, and fine-tune the target geographies. They also linked with their field staff to verify and ground-truth the proposed work plans, and to identify target stakeholders to be engaged in the work. This information was used to adjust the scope of work (SOW) plans. Since receiving the sub agreements, the participating organizations are busy launching the work and the pace will pick up in the second half of Year 1.

2.1.2.2. Implementation status

Southern Tanzania—AWF and WRI

AWF and WRI undertook a number of activities and achieved the following during this reporting period:

- Objectives of the work were clearly defined
- Area of geographical focus within Southern Tanzania defined as Kilombero Valley where AWF has an ongoing program and is appropriate geography for the analysis to be conducted.
- A consultant work plan for reviewing the mechanisms and frameworks for granting community rights over land and natural resources was drafted.
- A draft Scope of Work was developed and is under review by AWF and WRI as well as other LRTR Task implementing partners—JGI and TNC with comparable/similar task to ensure harmonization.
- A number of experts were identified as possible consultants for reviewing the mechanisms and frameworks for granting community rights over land and natural resources in Tanzania.

Western Tanzania—TNC and JGI

JGI worked with TNC and the project team in Tanzania to develop a more precise work plan. JGI together with TNC developed one iteration of a SOW for needed legal analysis and then noted the similarities with the draft SOW developed by AWF and WRI. JGI and TNC are now working with AWF and WRI to develop a single SOW that would meet the needs of both teams working in Tanzania. That would allow all participating organizations to pool resources and avoid redundancy. JGI also carried out a literature review of material on the implementation of CCROs which yielded a number of documents that will improve the work of both ABCG teams working in Tanzania.

TNC completed a Land-Use Plan (LUP) for Kasangatongwe village (38,855.36 hectares (ha); estimated 590 households). Of this, 26,489.46 ha (69 percent) of the village land was earmarked for agriculture purposes, 6,942 ha (17 percent for grazing, 4,387.5 ha as a Village Land Forest Reserve, 1035.85 ha (2.7 percent) for settlement, and the remainder for other land uses, such as wildlife corridor. The Kasangatongwe village LUP was approved Mpanda District Council in December 2015. A village LUP is a

prerequisite activity before issuing Certificates of Customary Rights of Occupancy (CCROs) to individual households and/or groups such as pastoralists. CCROs are only issued when the parcels are consistent with the village LUP (e.g., a CCRO is not issued for a farm in a Village Land Forest Reserve).

DRC—WCS and WWF

WCS has been engaging local partners and government regarding the creation of Kabobo National Park. In October 2015 the Democratic Republic of Congo’s government, in its decentralization process, created 26 provinces, including the province of Tanganyika within which Kabobo is located. The process of appointing new leaders has taken longer than planned, but now a new governor has been nominated by the President after elections at provincial level. Because of the lack of a provincial government, activities related to the creation of the park under the umbrella of the ABCG project has been put on hold until a government is in place to engage on land issues. In addition to this delay, activities related to community engagement have also been put on hold until May 2016 due to a setback in the project related to sensitive issues on governance of the protected area. Recently the proposed Ngamikka National Park was divided into two separate entities; the proposed Ngandja Reserve in the South Kivu Province and the proposed Kabobo National Park (in Tanganyika Province). Due to governance concerns with Ngandja, Kabobo will remain the focus of the project. WCS has just completed a conservation action plan for Kabobo and the rest of the landscape with funds from other partners, and is now developing an internal strategy to restart engagement with communities in Kabobo after this split and determine how WCS may potentially engage in Ngandja to ensure that community rights and commitment are considered.

2.1.3. Challenges and Constraints

Some participating organizations (e.g., WRI) will need to move their funds across budget lines. In response, the participating organizations will report significant adjustments to the ABCG Secretariat to ensure the overall ABCG budget remains within the USAID Cooperative Agreement requirements.

There was a National General Election in Tanzania in 2015. Election campaigns picked up from September to October 2015 when the election for Councilors, Members of Parliament (MPs) and the President were conducted. The campaigning together with the onset of the farming season in early November 2015 to February 2016 made it difficult to mobilize community members to participate effectively in project activities. In response, TNC focused on creating awareness of the project activities to district technical staff and leaders including new councilors and MPs in the project area so that, it has their support and therefore able to go full swing at the end of farming season—especially harvesting by early April 2016.

2.1.4. Planned Activities and Upcoming Events

2.1.4.1. Southern Tanzania—AWF and WRI

Work with JGI and TNC to develop a joint SOW for a consultant to review the CCRO and other mechanisms in place for community rights. The SOW will hopefully be finalized by late-April 2016 and recruitment of consultant completed by mid-May for work to commence by late-May 2016.

2.1.4.2. Western Tanzania—TNC and JGI

Work with AWF and WRI to develop a joint SOW for a consultant to review the CCRO and other mechanisms in place for community rights. The SOW will hopefully be finalized by late-April 2016 and recruitment of consultant completed by mid-May for work to commence by late-May 2016.

One of ten Village LUP was completed by TNC and approved by the District Council (for Kasangatongwe village). Moving forward, TNC will support the Mpanda District Council to demarcate household/groups land parcels in Kasangatongwe and issue CCROs.

2.2. TASK ACTIVITY 2: LAND USE MANAGEMENT

2.2.1. Task Activity Description

Historically, conservation has been a reactive discipline, and land-use planning as a tool for achieving conservation outcomes has often been reactive as well. As problems arise, the conservation sector initiates a new planning process to assess impact and identify solutions. This piecemeal approach to conservation planning is insufficient to address the complex realities and conservation challenges of today. The Task team has found that every target landscape is being reshaped, not by a single driver, but by a suite of drivers including population growth, changing resource utilization patterns, economic development and climate change. Conservation planning frameworks need to recognize this reality and incorporate the current and forecasted future cumulative impact of these drivers of change to identify more robust conservation interventions.

This task aims to develop a methodological approach to conservation and land use planning based on scenario analysis, and guidelines for its application, to incorporate equitable and climate-smart alternatives into land use decisions for conservation. The methodology will be used in four sites to replicate a landscape-level planning process with multi-sectoral stakeholders in order to better understand drivers of landscape change and ultimately develop alternative scenarios for sustainable development and conservation of biodiversity.

2.2.2. Activity Implementation Progress

2.2.2.1. Progress narrative

This task kicked off at the beginning of February when WCS hired a task lead who began immediately to organize the group comprised of members from AWF, CI, JGI, WRI, WWF and WCS. The task group held an introductory team meeting in early February with all case study leads. Subsequently, several focused case study meetings were convened to undertake more specific work planning, including the planning of workshops to help define objectives, and activities, such as spatial modeling that needs to be completed. In March, the task lead conducted a coordination workshop in Madagascar between CI and WCS. Finally, a draft analytical framework has been drafted to help guide the case studies. A series of

capacity building seminars is planned for field teams in order to aid implementation of the case studies across various country sites.

2.2.2.2. Implementation status

Several activities are underway and described in Table 1. In February and March 2016, the task team members developed responses to USAID’s questions on the Life of Agreement Work plan. The responses were submitted to the ABCG Coordinator who communicated them to USAID.

Table 1. LUM Areas of Activity Grouping

	Republic of Congo	Democratic Republic of Congo	Tanzania	Madagascar
ABCG Member leads and collaborators	WCS, JGI, WRI	JGI, WCS, WRI	AWF, JGI, WCS, WRI	CI, WCS
Define objectives for each land use management site	Conservation objectives have started to be identified, also being explored are REDD+, local communities, commercial plantations, and forestry objectives. Planning for a stakeholder workshop currently planned for May linking to WRIs multi-stakeholder platform for spatial planning	Conservation objectives have started to be identified, links to community and forestry planning projects are being explored too. Planning for a stakeholder workshop has started for a July workshop	Conservation objectives have started to be identified, links with the government’s agricultural development corridor and other site to regional scale planning processes are being explored. No discussions yet on a potential stakeholder workshop.	Conservation objectives have started to be identified, links to REDD+, protected area management, community and poverty alleviation objectives are being explored. Planning for a stakeholder workshop has started for a June workshop
Characterize the landscape, establish evaluation metrics, and understand drivers of change	Study area boundary has been identified. Review of current datasets is being carried out. WCS is reviewing biodiversity data. Data from an ongoing REDD+ project will provide valuable input for this project (including an analysis of drivers of change) and are currently in discussion with that project. WRI is reviewing data from their databases that might be useful. Planning has begun on what spatial analysis might need to be done to feed into scenarios.	Final study area boundary has been discussed between partners. Existing datasets are being reviewed by partners. Existing studies have already been explored and useful data identified. Planning has begun on what spatial analysis might need to be done to feed into scenarios.	Final study area boundary is being discussed between partners. There are lots of useful existing data and analysis in progress or completed that the project has identified. This includes a Science for Nature and People Partnership working group described here . WCS and partners have lots of existing data that is being reviewed. Planning has begun on what spatial analysis might need to be done to feed into scenarios.	Study area boundary is the CAZ corridor where CI has been working a long time. A review of datasets is being completed and there have already been lots of useful ones identified and being collated. Planning has begun on what spatial analysis might need to be done to feed into scenarios.

2.2.3. Integration of Crosscutting Issues

2.2.3.1. Climate change (adaptation and/or mitigation)

Climate change mitigation and adaptation is being incorporated into all the case studies.

2.2.3.2. Policy support

During the February kick off task group meeting, several ABCG members commented on the need to link the land use planning activities to policy reform in the countries in which the case studies are being conducted. The team members acknowledged that staff working on this task need to be aware of the policy context and ideally make recommendations for policymakers once the analysis is complete.

2.2.4. Challenges and Constraints

Due to a prolonged hiring process, the identified lead for the LUM task group began in early February. Task activities have ramped up rapidly in the succeeding months. Travel schedules will be adjusted in order to combine trips and regain lost time on the ground.

2.2.5. Planned Activities and Upcoming Events

Three out of four case studies (all save Tanzania) are planning a workshop to define objectives for land use management. All have also started identifying stakeholders to engage in the workshops and for data collection and data to characterize the landscape, establish evaluation metrics, and understand drivers of change. The table in 3.2 further describes planning activities.

2.3. TASK ACTIVITY 3: GLOBAL CHANGE IMPACTS (GCI)

2.3.1. Task Activity Description

A major oversight of most assessments of climate change is the inadequate consideration of indirect impacts on biodiversity due to human responses to climate change (e.g. changes in human use of natural resources). This working group will document coping responses of human communities to climate change in a number of African countries, and the impacts of these responses on biodiversity. It will map these responses to observed and projected changes in climate, and provide guidance regarding adaptation strategies that are most likely to be successful for people while also benefiting biodiversity conservation efforts. Tools and guidance will be developed for use by governments, NGO's and the communities themselves.

2.3.2. Activity Implementation Progress

2.3.2.1. Progress narrative

The main accomplishments to date for FY 2016 include the following:

The entire GCI working group has worked in person and online to refine ideas for a final survey instrument. This new instrument will be more robust and quantitative in nature than the previous survey conducted under the ABCGI project, and allow easier analysis of data collected. While the team is referencing the survey generated during FY 2014 activities of the same group, the new survey tool will be wholly redesigned to maximize the quantitative data return from each survey and focus on biodiversity impacts from human responses to climate change.

The task group has also discussed a preliminary timeline, and identified a diverse set of more than 15 survey sites across Africa based on organizational capacity and climate impacts already observed on the ground at those sites.

An Africa-based consulting group will create the expanded survey and is currently completing this deliverable. The final version (including feedback from the task group) should be completed by the end of May 2016. At this point, field teams will be in a position to begin data collection at one site per organization.

A literature review has begun on human coping responses to climate change and how those responses may impact biodiversity, and will soon begin outreach to development organizations. The literature review will include analysis of peer-reviewed literature, but also more non-traditional sources, like grey literature and news articles.

2.3.2.2. Implementation status

Since January 2016, the CGI Task Group has accomplished the following:

Intermediate result 1—Implement human response field surveys and develop a typology of human responses to climate change:

This activity is on track to be completed within the indicated timeframe, however the number of field sites surveyed may be affected by site selection changes due to instability and aligning survey implementation with local agricultural calendars. The modified survey instrument is expected to be completed in the month of May. Field teams will likely be able to complete at least 1 site per member organization in FY 2016 and expect to complete surveys at an additional two sites per member organization in FY 2017. In FY 2017 the typology will be developed once all the data has been received.

Intermediate result 2—Produce literature review of human coping responses to climate change including outreach to development organizations:

The literature review is underway. The team anticipates that this will be completed half way through FY 2017.

2.3.3. Integration of Crosscutting Issues

2.3.3.1. Gender

Gender issues are a priority for the GCI task group and have been explicitly considered in the refined data collection protocol/survey, and this will have a strong influence on the field activities. The

consultant is currently working on a draft of the survey, and will include guidance on how to incorporate gender when choosing whom to interview, as well as considerations for conducting the interviews.

2.3.4. Stakeholder Participation

The GCI task members have been working with their corresponding Africa country offices and other field partners to identify sites for data collection, and will soon be reaching out to other conservation and development organizations for the literature review.

Likewise, the task team believes that the data generated from this project will contribute to USAID projects throughout the region, as some of the biggest knowledge gaps in the field of climate change adaptation are addressed. The team will actively reach out to USAID missions to communicate progress, goals and share results of the project.

The outcomes from the pilot activity in FY 2014 were presented at the monthly USAID global climate change adaptation community meeting, and were very well received. The presentation can be seen via [this link here](#).

2.3.5. Challenges and Constraints

The delay in project startup has resulted in activities running a few months behind schedule, however despite the slow start in FY 2016, the team will be able to regain ground on implementation in FY 2017 and complete all activities on time.

2.3.6. Planned Activities and Upcoming Events

Intermediate result 1—Implement human response field surveys and develop a typology of human responses to climate change:

The final survey instrument will be completed by the end of May 2016. The team will then complete surveys at one site per organization before the end of FY 2016. Site surveys will be complete half way through FY 2017. The typology will then be developed and produced before the end of FY17.

Intermediate result 2—Produce literature review of human coping responses to climate change including outreach to development organizations:

The team will begin outreach to development organizations before the end of FY 2016, and this activity will likely be complete half way through FY 2017.

2.3.7. Best Practices and Lessons Learned

The pilot work conducted in FY 2014 under the ABCGI has been very useful in guiding task activities for this new agreement. Based on that work, the team will adjust data collection protocol, and including honing in on the field-based targets. The team is becoming well-versed in best practice methodology for implementing surveys, and will have an Institutional Review Board approve the implementation plans. The team anticipates that there will have much more to report on lessons learned as implementation of the field surveys begin in the coming months.

2.4. TASK ACTIVITY 4: GLOBAL HEALTH LINKAGES TO BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION: POPULATION HEALTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT (PHE)

2.4.1. Task Activity Description

The PHE task activity is based on an integrated vision of health that links the health of wildlife populations, human health, the health of domestic animals, and ecosystem health. The main goal of the PHE approach is to improve ecosystem health and conservation outcomes in tandem with improved human health for communities living in and around areas of key biodiversity.

The objective of this task is to pilot a PHE integrated approach in two different geographical areas, Western Tanzania and Southeastern Cameroon, to improve biodiversity conservation and human well-being by implementing and promoting effective approaches that integrate biodiversity with actions that contribute to improving global health. The expected outcomes are to: 1) build multi-sectoral partnerships to ensure biodiversity conservation and human well-being outcomes are achieved in tandem, 2) strengthen the evidence base for USAID and others of successful examples that integrate biodiversity conservation and development, and 3) incorporate the PHE approach into conservation and development planning.

The main activities to achieve this task objective are to analyze existing PHE integrated approaches and identify best practices and promising approaches in this field through a literature review and interviews with PHE practitioners and experts in the field. Pilot activities in two sites, to explore the interrelationships and interdependencies between population, health and the environment, combining actions to reduce deforestation, while improving food and nutrition security and conserving watersheds, will be implemented. Throughout these activities, the participation and integration of women and marginalized populations such as the poor and youth in decision-making processes is particularly important in relation to health and ecosystem services, and will be a key component of piloting and promoting best practices around PHE activities. The resulting information will contribute to assessing the efficiency of a PHE approach, including how actions taken in one sector influence the other two, to ultimately conserve the health of the ecosystem and that of humans who depend on it.

2.4.2. Activity Implementation Progress

2.4.2.1. Progress narrative

Despite an initial setback due to delays in securing sub agreements, the PHE task group has convened three meetings with key PHE practitioners to launch the first activity, in December 2015, February 2016 and March 2016. At these meetings, task team members discussed a literature review process to identify and analyze existing projects that integrate population with other health and environment sectors, and to identify best practices and promising approaches on the analysis and implementation of integrated PHE projects at the regional and national scales.

The scope of the literature review has been revised from the initial work plan, to more efficiently frame the questions that need to be addressed through this exercise and actions that need to be implemented on the ground in the pilot projects. This revised approach will enable the team to focus their efforts to identify the gaps in research and approaches that exist to further demonstrate the value-added of integrated approaches in conservation programs/projects.

2.4.2.2. Implementation status

To date, approximately 30 percent of the literature review activity has been accomplished and it is foreseen that by the middle of the next reporting period (end of June 2016), this activity will be complete with all deliverables. The modifications that had to be made to this activity to accommodate for the delay encountered in the implementation of activities in this reporting period include: decreasing the scale and the extent of the literature review; redirecting the scope and vision of the literature review; and taking a more focused approach to answer a more concise set of questions.

Following the first meeting that the ABCG PHE task group convened with colleagues from the PHE Policy & Practice Working Group (DC-based PHE Community of Practice; composed of several health, family planning and reproductive health and conservation NGOs), the group adopted a more realistic vision of the PHE activities (analysis of approaches and pilot project implementation) which is expected to streamline the questions and impact that this project has envisioned.

A list of potentially useful resources (project/program reports, scientific articles, previous reviews of PHE projects, etc.) has been developed following the meetings held with various practitioners in the field of PHE integrated approaches, and ABCG Global Health PHE task partners. A set of keywords has been identified to facilitate the research of relevant resources and direct the interviews with PHE practitioners, to ultimately focus the literature review to serve the conservation and PHE community and beyond, in order to better advocate for this approach among influential policy and decision-makers, and other stakeholders.

2.4.3. Integration of Crosscutting Issues

2.4.3.1. Gender

A central part of the PHE approach is gender equity and women's empowerment as very important stakeholders of this approach. The literature review and pilot projects will highlight the role of gender as being central to conservation and biodiversity projects. The expectation is that PHE projects that

disregard gender and women's empowerment will be less impactful, and could potentially lead to detrimental effects.

2.4.3.2. Wrap around activities (HIV/AIDS)

The PHE integrated approach involves several aspects of human health and wellbeing into conservation projects, therefore the health angle of this project takes into account this wrap around activity. The literature review process will seek to identify the benefits of including health/development sector into conservation projects.

2.4.3.3. Public Private Partnership (PPP) / Global Development Alliance (GDA)

The project has not yet addressed this. Once the pilot projects are underway, local and global partners will be identified, if applicable. However through the literature review, lessons learned and identification of best practices on the engagement of private sector partners will be explored, and applied in the pilot sites, as appropriate.

2.4.3.4. Sustainability mechanisms

Identification of best practices will include an examination of the sustainability of PHE approaches, ideally over time and across various geographical areas. However, of importance to note is that the institutions that will be implementing activities in pilot sites under this task, have been working with the government (district, regional and national), local CBO's, and other local structures, and will ensure that results from these interventions are sustained well beyond the project period.

2.4.3.5. Climate change (adaptation and/or mitigation)

The very basis of a PHE integrated approach helps communities and individual households become more resilient to climate change as their food security, nutrition, health and wellbeing in general and the management and protection of their natural resources are taken into account, making them more apt to respond and be self-sufficient in the face of natural disasters and climate change. This aspect is an integral part of the literature review and pilot projects. The task group member organizations are part of the PHE Policy and Practice community and through sharing of experiences and lessons. The group will have access to information from a large group of experts from organizations such as Population Reference Bureau (PRB) for example, who are currently working on a research project in two African countries studying the linkages between family planning and resilience to climate change, which will be an important group to share tools/resources with to better address this issue as implementation of the pilot projects begins.

2.4.3.6. Policy support

Policy advocacy work will start once the pilot projects are underway and impacts, results, lessons learned and best practices will be reported.

2.4.4. Challenges and Constraints

One obvious constraint and challenge has been the delay in getting the project underway, which has a ripple effect of delaying the start of the pilot projects on the ground. However, this has been addressed by modifying the scope and scale of the literature review and has streamlined the whole approach.

2.4.5. Planned Activities and Upcoming Events

Full development of the literature review is underway with each partner organization involved in this task responsible for one aspect of the literature review, interviews, gathering of documentation and analyzing the information available to date.

2.5. TASK ACTIVITY 4: GLOBAL HEALTH LINKAGES TO BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION: FRESH WATER SANITATION AND HYGIENE

2.5.1. Task Activity Description

This task aims to generate information on the impacts of infrastructure developments on watersheds in Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA), as well as the impacts of freshwater conservation in meeting water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) goals. By linking freshwater conservation and WASH, ABCG expects reduced watershed degradation and pollution will improve the health of freshwater ecosystems and species. Building on successful project activities under ABCGI, pilot projects in South Africa (CI and Conservation South Africa, CI's local affiliate office) and Uganda (JGI) will involve local stakeholders and authorities to ground-truth the effectiveness of implementing integrated development and conservation projects. The task will also share learning and build capacity in SSA for advancing integrated freshwater conservation and WASH projects through the creation of an Africa-based COP (co-led by AWF and CI), anchored in Nairobi.

2.5.2. Activity Implementation Progress

2.5.2.1. Progress narrative

The group began collaboration in November 2015, to respond to the task-specific questions from the USAID Contract Officer, which were submitted shortly after to the ABCG Coordinator. Since then, members met in February and March 2016, as part of their agreed-upon monthly meetings, to review deliverables, clarify roles and responsibilities and share progress on each of the components of this subtask. Task team members created a Google Drive to exchange information at the task level, about

each pilot site, and among the organizers of the Community of Practice. Details on each of the components of this task are described below by pilot sites and the COP.

South Africa Pilot, CI/Conservation South Africa (CSA)

CSA, with technical assistance from CI, is piloting the ABCG FW-WASH guidelines and M&E Framework in four sites, located in the Alfred Nzo District of South Africa's Eastern Cape Province. Key partner in this project include the Alfred Nzo District Municipality (ANDM), which has the governmental mandate to provide WASH services, local water operators—individuals employed by ANDM to monitor WASH infrastructure and water sources—traditional courts in each of the villages, and local community members. This area is especially important for biodiversity. It is part of the Maputaland-Pondoland-Albany Hotspot and is the headwaters of the Mzimvubu River, South Africa's last free-flowing river that supplies water to over one million people.

During this reporting period, CI and CSA were able to make significant gains, thanks to additional grants secured to complement the ABCG activities. A grant from the Starwood Foundation provides additional funds for CSA to include the rehabilitation of natural springs, where many community members source their water when water taps are not functioning properly, along with the ABCG promoted integrated freshwater and WASH practices. In January 2016, the CI point person for this task Colleen Sorto spent a week with the CSA team to narrow down the site selection criteria, review the ABCG tools, and use the guidelines as a framework for designing the overall project work plan. Following her visit, CSA staff designed the methodology for the gender-analysis and the CSA team conducted key-informant interviews. The data is being analyzed to make adjustments/edits to the work plan.

In March, CI staff helped CSA review the ABCG M&E Framework, select key indicators and draft additional indicators needed that were not in the ABCG Framework. This list of indicators is the base of the Performance Management Plan (PMP), which compliments the ABCG M&E framework.

During this reporting period, CSA also held four community meetings, in coordination with the leaders of the traditional courts, worked with community volunteers to map (via GPS coordinates) the natural springs where community members are sourcing their water, researched best practices for rehabilitation of degraded springs and conducted one hygiene awareness activity, in coordination with ANDM.

Uganda Pilot, JGI

JGI will pilot FW-WASH activities in 10 villages in the Albertine rift region of Hoima and Masindi Districts. This area is known as the Budongo-Bugoma Corridor, which represents critical habitat for the chimpanzees JGI seeks to conserve. JGI will be working with the Hoima and Masindi district councils, as well as the local sub-counties and parishes as part of this activity. Additionally, local institutions such as Kidoma-Kabaale Community Development Association (KACODA) will be engaged in outreach activities. JGI will also work with 10 schools to reach young people with sensitization and education messages on water conservation and improved sanitation.

During this reporting period, JGI delayed initiating activities planned for implementation, because their sub-agreement was not in place. Accordingly, without the agreement and funding committed to support this work, JGI could not initiate activities until late February/early March when the sub-agreement was signed with WCS.

However, this period provided an opportunity to discuss how findings from the gender analysis conducted through this task could be incorporated into a new grant JGI recently received. A SOW has been prepared and is under review internally, prior to finalization and advertisement. This document incorporates questions from the gender questionnaire implemented by CI in South Africa, but will be grounded to ensure that it applies to the local context. By having similar questions to those administered by CI, it will enable the team to compare across sites findings from the analysis, as well as proposed actions.

Community of Practice, AWF and CI

The task team members began to plan and organize the community of practice, starting with the organization participating in these activities, despite the plan to officially kick-off the activity in the third quarter of Year 1. In the sub-folder of the task's shared Google Drive, documents have been created including a draft list of individuals to engage in the community of practice, building off the ABCGM&E workshop held in Nairobi in July 2015, and a spreadsheet of activities for organizing the community of practice that lays out next steps and contributors.

2.5.2.2. Implementation Status

South Africa Pilot, CI/CSA

35 percent implementation. This is a little bit behind the original Year 1 work plan, however additional time was needed to complete the baseline analysis for the project. Given how important the baseline information is for reporting results and designing the PMP, the program feels this slight delay was necessary. The intention was that the gender analysis would be completed by this point, but this has been a little delayed. It is expected that once the PMP is finalized, including adjustments informed by the gender analysis, the program will be on track to meet its end of year targets.

Uganda Pilot, JGI

15 percent implementation. A draft SOW has been prepared and is under review for finalization and advertisement. At this point in time, the gender analysis should have been completed and task groups should have begun initiating activities within the villages.

The JGI team is developing the criteria for site selection of the 10 pilot villages. Illustrative criteria will include, but not be limited to villages; i) that have had no WASH activities implemented in the past but are in forest corridors, ii) where JGI had WASH activities in the past, and iii) where JGI initiated forest restoration activities in January 2016.

Throughout this reporting period, task team members shared useful resources on WASH and uploaded them to Google for all members to access. This will assist with cross learning and implementation into ongoing projects.

Community of Practice, AWF and CI

10 percent implementation. No formal activities were planned for the community of practice during this reporting period, so the 10 percent completion is ahead of schedule.

2.5.3. Integration of Crosscutting Issues

2.5.3.1. Gender

Both of the pilot sites are conducting gender analysis. This data will be used to inform/adjust project activities and sex-disaggregated data will be collected as part of the monitoring and evaluation plans. Gender is also one of the topics the community of practice is considering to feature in a capacity building webinars.

2.5.3.2. Wrap around activities (HIV/AIDS)

While activities are not directly addressing HIV/AIDS related issues, access to clean and potable water has an impact on HIV/AIDS affected households, by reducing opportunistic infections and level of effort and energy needed to collect water from far off distances.

2.5.3.3. Public Private Partnership (PPP) / Global Development Alliance (GDA)

This has not yet been discussed. As the pilot gets underway, task members will look for ways to build upon existing partnerships to incorporate WASH.

2.5.3.4. Sustainability mechanisms

Both CI and JGI have been working in the pilot regions for a long time and are fully invested in ensuring that results from these interventions are sustained in the future. Accordingly, JGI will be working with local community associations, schools, etc. and building their capacity to sustain achievements from this work. CSA is working with government partners, members of the traditional governance systems of the local communities, and is a partner of the Mzimvubu Catchment Alliance, a 35-member partnership focused on sustainability efforts for the Mzimvubu catchment.

Additionally, JGI has been working closely with Hoima and Masindi district councils, as well as the local sub-counties and parishes. Because these efforts are part of their district development strategies, it is within their mandate and interest to provide oversight and support beyond the project period. An overarching activity is sensitization and education on water conservation and improved sanitation will not only raise awareness, but support sustaining of results from the WASH task.

2.5.3.5. Climate change (adaptation and/or mitigation)

No specific activities planned for climate change under this task. However, CSA worked with ANDM to design the district's climate change strategy and they are working to identify opportunities to link that strategy with FW-WASH efforts.

Through JGI's conservation and sustainable livelihood activities that this work will be integrated, they hope to have an impact on human and ecosystem health, leading to enhancing communities' ability to adapt to climate change.

2.5.3.6. Policy support

CSA's relationship with ANDM helps to support how policy decisions are implemented at a local level and provide a feedback loop from the local level back to decision makers. The existing disconnect largely

contributes to why land management practices, WASH investments, and climate change adaptation strategies decisions are happening in silos.

JGI has been working closely with Hoima and Masindi district councils, as well as the local sub-counties and parishes. Because these efforts are part of their district development strategies, it is within the council mandates and interests to provide oversight and support beyond the project period. These efforts at the district level are part of a larger policy framework for Uganda and lessons learned will be communicated and shared.

2.5.4. Stakeholder Participation

2.5.4.1. South Africa Pilot, CI/CSA

Key partners in CI's pilot in South are:

Africa Alfred Nzo District Municipality (ANDM): As the local authority mandated and resourced to provide water and sanitation infrastructure, they lead on WASH infrastructure and hygiene awareness raising efforts. ANDM also provides strategic leadership on alignment on priority areas and other funding programs for job creation around ecological restoration of the catchment.

Matatiele Local Municipality and Traditional leaders in Ward 14 and Ward 2: These authorities work at the local level to coordinate activities amongst multiple local communities. They also assist with coordination of community stakeholder's meetings and workshops.

Umzimvubu Catchment Partnership Programme (UCPP): UCPP partners are committed to collective action to develop and implement a catchment management strategy and restoration plan for the Umzimvubu River corridor.

2.5.4.2. Uganda Pilot, JGI

Activities on the ground related to this task have not yet been implemented, so stakeholder engagement has not begun in earnest. However, district stakeholders from Hoima and Masindi and local sub-counties and parishes have been involved in discussions about the gender analysis and will be included as part of the data collection process. They will also be fully engaged in the feedback process and discussing interventions to address findings from this work, as well as capacity building and outreach to communities and schools.

2.5.5. Planned Activities and Upcoming Events

2.5.5.1. South Africa Pilot, CSA/CI

- Analyze data from the gender key-informant interviews
- Complete the PMP

- Initiate activities in all four pilot sites communicated to community members, via meetings coordinated with the traditional courts.

2.5.5.2. Uganda Pilot, JGI

- Finalization of the SoW
- Implementation of the gender analysis
- Initiation of activities in five pilot sites

2.5.5.3. Community of Practice, AWF/CI

- Hold a meeting in Nairobi to gather interest in participation in the Community of Practice
- Complete a list of potential capacity building topics to cover and institutions to engage
- Host one webinar event for members of the Community of Practice

2.6. TASK ACTIVITY AREA 5: EMERGING ISSUES

2.6.1. Task Activity Description

The Emerging Issues Small Grants program builds on ABCG’s position as a partnership of seven international conservation NGOs with a strong field presence in priority areas across the continent by creating teams to analyze emerging threats or opportunities, and convening stakeholders in the U.S. and Africa to present data and catalyze discussion. Through its small grants program, ABCG identifies and develops strategies to respond to emerging issues that are likely to shape conservation priorities in the coming years, and influencing the effectiveness of biodiversity conservation efforts in Africa.

African institutions working with ABCG partners will play key roles in identifying these issues, and planning and implementing the pilot projects supported by Emerging Issues Small Grants. Through participatory processes, Emerging Issues Small Grants promote gender equality, and women’s and youth empowerment as powerful drivers for inclusive and sustainable development.

Eligible applicants are the member organizations of the ABCG. A minimum of two ABCG members may partner to develop and submit an application with one member serving as the lead applicant and primary contact for the proposal. Partnering with a local organization is highly encouraged.

In addition, a project concept under the Emerging Issues Small Grants program should:

- Propose a novel or innovative approach, which incorporates a new technology or model for addressing an emerging issue;
- Engender ABCG's core competencies: generating knowledge, communicating best practices, and fostering communities of practice;

- Address issues that have application at the landscape level- beyond one country or at a transboundary or multinational scale, such as East and Southern Africa or West Africa;
- Include two or more member organizations with clearly defined roles and relationships;
- Include local partnerships with African intuitions and/or civil society and reflect a multi-stakeholder planning process with broad participation;
- Propose a tangible, short-term output (e.g., direct conservation impact, science product, due-diligence scoping study, pilot study conclusions, and/or policy recommendations); and
- Be consistent with and supportive of the [USAID Biodiversity Policy](#) and USAID Africa Bureau Regional Development Cooperation Strategy.

2.6.2. Activity Implementation Progress

2.6.2.1. Progress narrative

Thematic Areas

Potential themes were identified by ABCG’s extensive network of field teams and local partner NGOs. ABCG members proposed a number of themes based on their assessment of knowledge gaps, potential linkages, and new challenges that have not garnered adequate attention.

Proposed themes were required to adhere to Selection Criteria 1. *A topic that ABCG member organizations are not addressing (e.g., HIV and conservation), or a new dimension to an existing issue (e.g., the scale and complexity of wildlife trafficking), or issues where an ABCG funded intervention would compel additional activities at scale (e.g., impact of responses to climate change).*

The Steering Committee then individually ranked the proposed themes and decided on the following three:

1. Wildlife Trafficking
2. Infrastructure Development
3. Strengthening African Civil Society

1. Wildlife Trafficking

Africa’s biodiversity faces significant pressure from a growing demand for wildlife products and live specimens in a context of inadequately protected supply and well-equipped criminal trafficking networks that are fueling a surge in wildlife trafficking at a trans-continental scale. From capture to sale, the \$19 billion illegal wildlife trade industry impacts a wide range of flora and fauna around the world and represents a significant and urgent threat to the maintenance of viable wildlife populations and their habitat.

The US Government has committed to a whole-of-government approach to combat wildlife trafficking. ABCG members work in partnership with the US government and all other global partners to combat wildlife crime across the globe. ABCG acknowledges the global multi-stakeholder, multi-disciplinary institutional commitments and leadership from the US, Chinese, UK and other governments and

multilateral institutions to deploy holistic, multifaceted interventions to choke the illicit trade along the entire chain. ABCG further notes the prioritization given to combating poaching and illegal wildlife trafficking by the African Union as showcased in the Agenda 2063 Vision and reinforced by the Brazzaville Declaration of April 2015, and the explicit inclusion of the issue in the Action Plan of the recent 6th Forum on China Africa Cooperation Summit (FOCAC) held in Johannesburg, South Africa in 2015.

Recognizing the complexity of wildlife trafficking, this call for concepts is designed to support these objectives by contributing to existing knowledge, ongoing activities, and emerging innovative approaches that will result in the promotion of cross-site, cross-institutional, regional, and international sharing of best practices to effectively interdict wildlife crime along the entire value chain from source and transit to demand reduction and end markets.

The findings are expected to provide a ‘recommendations menu’ of best practices that holistically address wildlife trafficking, informed by documented lessons learned (both positive and negative) that can be adaptively applied.

In addition to proposals focused on organized wildlife crime, such as international trafficking of products like elephant ivory, rhino horn, and live animals, applicants are encouraged to consider research and activities that focus on the illegal trade in endangered non-charismatic species where funding is less readily available, and on pathways to nontraditional end markets. Note that this theme is focused broad-scale cross-border trafficking of live wildlife and wildlife products and is not intended to address localized poaching and markets for bushmeat trade.

2. Infrastructure Development

There is an unprecedented growing demand in Africa for mineral extraction, increased agricultural output and energy resources, all of which threaten African biodiversity and conservation. Investments in large scale infrastructure are high on Africa’s agenda and this is core to the African Union Agenda 2063 Vision & Priorities, and the Forum on China Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) Action Plan. Billions of development dollars are earmarked for Africa large dam projects, mega road and railway networks to upgrade sub-Saharan Africa’s poor road network which lags far behind the rest of the world. These growing demands are due, in part, to Africa’s economic growth rates over the last decade. According to the IMF, from 2011-2015 seven of the world’s 10 fastest-growing economies were in Africa. This growth, in many places, is leading to poorly planned infrastructure development and ABCG seeks to engage development partners and governments to ensure that large scale infrastructure development does not undermine conservation and ecosystem services critical to wildlife and African livelihoods alike. Efforts to conserve biodiversity will fail if poorly planned large-scale infrastructure investments continue unchecked and without consideration of environmental impacts. There is an emerging and urgent need to identify major infrastructure projects and to help resolve conflicts between protecting the environment and supporting development.

ABCG invites proposals that address the threat of poorly planned infrastructure development in Sub-Saharan Africa. Projects can include, but are not limited to: 1) tools designed for tracking and consolidating information on infrastructure projects, 2) support for sustainable and environmentally sound infrastructure planning, 3) review of environmental safeguard systems and the promotion of environmental best practices, and/or 4) tools to help key stakeholders improve decision making around infrastructure development, including choices about tradeoffs and highlighting where development and conservation objectives overlap.

3. Strengthening African Civil Society

One of the foremost determinants of success of conservation outcomes in African countries is the capacity and performance of local and national civil society organizations (CSOs). That support varies, from engaging CSOs to conduct specific project-level work, to providing training on research and communications, to providing specific technical assistance designed to strengthening target organization (e.g., Board of Directors development, medium-term organizational strategy, financial management). Most often such work is embedded into the project work plan of the ABCG member. The efforts of ABCG members and other international conservation organizations are often largely dependent on having effective collaborations and partnerships with local CSOs, and progressively building their capacity and their ability to have impact on policy and practice. Such international-local partnerships are also a critical component of empowering local CSOs to develop and thrive. These efforts by ABCG members to strengthen African CSOs are expected to continue as the new USAID Cooperative Agreement is implemented.

This call for concepts is designed to build on and compliment these continuing efforts—to explore and develop strategies, methods and tools for investing effectively in the capacity, impact, leadership, and sustainability of African CSOs as a key element of addressing major conservation challenges and goals in the region today and in the future. The findings of this work are expected to provide options for improving and scaling the capacity-building work of the ABCG members and other conservation organizations around the world. Note, this call is not intended to support ongoing capacity-building initiatives of the ABCG members

Call for Concepts

Following the drafting of an application, a call for concepts was released in early February for the Steering Committee members to share broadly within their organizations.

There were four submissions:

- TNC/WRI: Piloting Mechanisms for Strengthening African Conservation Leadership and Organizational Capacity
- AWF/WRI: Introducing Development Alert! Tool and platform for Kenya to track investments in Infrastructure
- WWF/TNC: Building the foundation for a basin/national scale approach to water infrastructure planning in Zambia
- WCS/WWF: A scalable approach to engaging Chinese overseas enterprises to mitigate impacts of wildlife trafficking in Africa

Selection Criteria and Award Process

The Steering Committee, representing the panel of judges, scored final proposals based on the selection criteria (Appendix 3.2). In order to prevent conflict of interest, the representatives whose organizations submitted the proposal under review did not participate in scoring.

The Steering Committee reviewed individual assessments during the second quarterly Steering Committee meeting and discussed the strengths, weaknesses, and overall applicability of the four submissions. During this deliberation, several questions were raised, which were communicated to the two highest scoring applicants as requests for more information. These applicants were then awarded

2.7. ABCG CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION

2.7.1. Activity Implementation Progress

2.7.1.1. Progress narrative

The Central Administration (Secretariat), including the Coordinator and Program Officer (PO), coordinated the kick-off of the current Agreement since the inception of the Agreement awarded on September 22, 2015. In conjunction with WCS's Program Lead, the Secretariat's activities included reviewing the key stipulations of the Agreement; facilitating introductory meetings with the USAID/AFR Agreements Officer Representative (AOR) to deliberate on the administrative and other terms of the Agreement, and determine regular channels for corresponding with USAID/AFR.

Programmatic Meeting Coordination

The Secretariat compiled the current Agreement work plans; developed the initial Annual Work Plan (AWP) narrative and accompanying matrix in preparation for submission within 30 days of the start of the Agreement. Further, the Secretariat conducted a similar activity for the Life of Agreement Work Plan as with the AWP, and developed the Monitoring and Evaluation Plan for submission with the AWP.

The Secretariat coordinated regular, formal assemblies of representatives from each of the seven member organizations through Steering Committee meetings. The first quarterly Steering Committee meeting was held on December 03, 2015 primarily to review the task charge, establish task group composition and reporting procedures.

A second was held on March 30, 2016, which included the ABCG USAID Agreements Officer Representative. The meeting focused on Emerging Issues proposal decisions, USAID pipeline planning and reporting details, and presenting the Africa Engagement Strategy.

Global Engagement

Thematic Event Coordination

The ABCG has co-hosted several brown bag events in the first half of the fiscal year. This speaker series draws in experts from various conservation fields affiliated with or related to ABCG projects. Since the new Agreement commencement, ABCG has organized the following brown bags, all of which are non-direct ABCG member or project events:

1. [Gorilla Tourism in Dzanga-Sangha—A 17-year story—that continues](#)
2. [Wildlife law enforcement: A dissection of the challenges and the available tools](#)
3. [Hidden gold in the dirt? Soil carbon, climate change, and socio-economic development in East Africa](#)
4. [Staring down the poaching barrel in N. Luangwa: Protecting Zambia's black rhino & elephants](#)
5. [The Salonga National Park: A conservation imperative and too big to fail!](#)
6. [Responsible Forest Management for the Benefit of Local Communities and Biodiversity \(April 2016\)](#)

7. [The Northern Rangelands Trust Community-Conservancy Model: Sustainable Agriculture and Natural Resource Conservation](#) (April 2016)

All events are posted to www.ABCG.org, to reach a broader audience as part of our global engagement strategy. This activity also meets ABCG's broader objectives of encouraging the exchange of ideas and experiences with partners, affiliates, stakeholders and practitioners. This is done in part by offering an interactive forum where the discourse can continue online, for as long as the ABCG program runs. Website analytics for www.ABCG.org reflect 3,850 visitors since September 22, 2015 with over 70 percent of this figure being new users worldwide. In Africa, there is increasing interest with 22 percent of the global share, second to the Americas at 42 percent.

Online Communications and Engagement

As part of ABCG's social media outreach, event output is echoed on the [ABCG LinkedIn® page here](#). ABCG's other social media channels include [Facebook–ABCGconserve](#), where our audience has grown as indicated with over 60 likes since September 22nd (currently at 791), and over 3,060 visitors reached in the same period; On ABCG's [Twitter account–ABCGconserve](#), a similar growth in influence is reflected through our increasing number of followers—up to over 511, an increase of over 25 since September 2015.

ABCG.org subscribers have increased steadily to a current count of 1,680 as of March 31, 2016, an increase of over 140 in the past three months.

Africa Engagement Strategy: Planning and Implementation

As part of enhancing ABCG visibility and fostering broader outcomes for the overall program deliverables, ABCG has begun activities on a strategy to ramp up engagement with African stakeholders including local, national and regional actors with mutual interest in biodiversity conservation. The Secretariat has compiled a preliminary list of contacts at the individual, institutional and civil society levels, primarily based in Kenya and elsewhere in East Africa. This activity feeds into a goal of nurturing working relationships for the exchange of cross-cutting ideas, developments and challenges in order to promote adoption of ABCG products by target audiences, and receive insightful feedback in exchange.

2.7.2. Integration of Crosscutting Issues:

2.7.2.1. Public Private Partnership (PPP) / Global Development Alliance (GDA)

Regarding communications and outreach, ABCG continues to grow a matrix of contacts from individual to institutional levels, and across socio-economic sectors as a preliminary activity. Primary focus has been in Kenya, where the PO is positioned to make preliminary progress in a practical manner before considering a regional scale.

2.7.2.2. Policy support

USAID's Global Development Alliance, the Regional Development Cooperation Strategy, and Biodiversity Policy are policy pieces that facilitate the planned engagement of the ABCG program at a strategic level towards fulfilling mutual goals of integrated conservation and social development. ABCG plans to

approach USAID mission offices that have been identified as potential beneficiaries of ABCG output and deliverables from our thematic projects as progress is made in conjunction with the Secretariat engagement and outreach activity.

Preliminary introductions have been established with USAID/ Kenya and East Africa mission, Office of the Environment.

2.7.3. Planned Activities for 3rd Quarter, FY 2016

At this stage, ABCG has organized two events for the next quarter:

4. A Brown Bag event entitled *Law Enforcement Monitoring in the Greater Mekong and Central Africa Region* by Crispian Barlow and Alain Ononino, WWF;
1. A Brown Bag event by Alex Piel, Co-Director of the Ugalla Primate Project who will speak on overall research program of the Ugalla Primate Project;
2. ABCG Phase II Launch event introducing the new thematic focus areas.

3. APPENDICES

3.1. ABCG PHASE II MONITORING AND EVALUATION PLAN

Table A-2. ABCG Phase II Monitoring and Evaluation Plan

Intermediate Result	Indicators	Targets	Means of Verification
ABCG Central Administration			
Present the work of ABCG.	Number of external-facing events (meetings, workshops, brown bag talks, etc.) that occurred and were broadcast.	At least 1 event per working group per year.	Annual report; announced on social media; webinar recording posted to website.
	Number of thought-leadership materials (analyses, white papers, peer-reviewed articles, etc.) distributed.	At least 1 item per working group per year.	Annual report; posted to website; announced on social media.
	Technical reports on activities distributed.	At least 1 per working group per year.	Annual report; submitted to www.DEC.USAID.gov ; posted to website.
Provide forum for information-sharing by others in African biodiversity conservation	Number of non-ABCG brown bag talks (i.e., by member-NGO staff on non-ABCG work, by non-ABCG people) that occurred and were broadcast.	At least 10 per year.	Annual report; announced on social media; webinar recording posted to website.
Maintain online presence through listserv, website, Facebook, and Twitter.	Number of listserv subscribers.	2,500 “active” subscribers by Sept. 2018.	Constant Contact Email statistics.
	Average open rate for listserv emails.	35% email open rate.	Constant Contact Email statistics.
	Number of visits to website.	1,500 visits per month.	Google Analytics administrative report.

	Number of downloads from website.	450,000 total downloads.	ABCG website administrative report.
	Number of “likes” of Facebook page.	1,000 Facebook “likes” by 2018.	Facebook page administrative report.
	Number of Twitter followers.	900 Twitter followers by 2018.	Twitter account administrative report.

Land and Resource Tenure Rights (LRTR)

Provision of a Certificate of Customary Rights of Occupancy (CCROs) for six villages, Greater Mahale Ecosystem, Tanzania (TNC, JGI)	Number of joint workshops, symposia, research, and analysis held with stakeholders and partners	2 workshops	Workshop reports
	Number of people receiving USG-supported training in natural resources management and/or biodiversity conservation (disaggregated by sex)	492 (329 men & 163 women)	Workshop reports
	Number of changes in policies, programs projects and practices cited as a result of analysis and influence activities in this program	1-2 policy changes	Annual Progress reports
	Increase in number of policies, laws, agreements, and/or regulations that promote conservation of biodiversity	1 policy or agreement/regulation	Annual Progress reports
Develop mechanism for easements and formal recognition of community and customary rights over land and natural resources, Northern rangelands, Tanzania (AWF, WRI)	Number of countries in which ABCG has contributed to drafting guidelines for private voluntary initiatives.	At least one country	Workshop reports
	Number of guidelines incorporated into national policies or regulations in at least one country.	At least 1 country adopts policy guidelines	Workshop reports
Establish new IUCN Category VI Protected Area, Democratic Republic of Congo (WCS, WWF)	Number of changes in policies, programs projects and practices cited as a result of analysis and influence activities in this program	1 policy change	Annual Progress reports
	Number of joint/co-hosted workshops, symposiums, research and analysis conducted with stakeholders and partners	2 workshops	Workshop reports

	Number of people receiving USG-supported training in natural resources management and/or biodiversity conservation (disaggregated by sex)	25 people	Workshop reports
	Increase in number of policies, laws, agreements, and/or regulations that promote conservation of biodiversity	1 PA registration	Protected area registry in DRC government

Land Use Management

Implement human response field surveys and develop a typology of human responses to climate change	Number of sites surveyed	21	Annual report on field survey data
	Number of people interviewed	10 per site	
	Number of new analytic tools in biodiversity provided by USAID tested by key stakeholders in targeted African countries.	1 typology	Annual report on field survey data
Produce literature review of human coping responses to climate change including outreach to development organizations	Number of organizations beyond ABCG partners that contribute to the review	5 organizations	Bi-annual Report
Map human responses in relation to climate impacts and where people are likely to demonstrate varying coping strategies	Number of new analytic tools in biodiversity provided by USAID tested by key stakeholders in targeted African countries. (maps)	4 maps	Bi-Annual Report
Identify and prioritize adaptation strategies that improve biodiversity outcomes	Number of sites in Africa for which strategies are identified	TBD, based on number of coping responses identified in the typology	Bi-Annual report
Develop and pilot a methodology to identify areas and prioritize adaptation efforts	Number of joint workshops, symposia, research, and analysis held with stakeholders and partners	1 workshop	Annual Report

Managing Global Change Impacts on Biodiversity (Global Change)

	Number of landscapes that set objectives	4 landscapes	Progress report
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Define objectives for each land use management site	Number of joint workshops, analysis and research held with stakeholders and partners.	4 workshops	Workshop report
Characterize the landscape, establish evaluation metrics, and understand drivers of change	Number of new analytic tools in biodiversity provided by USAID tested by key stakeholders in targeted African countries.	4 key drivers of landscape change models tested 3 climate change landscape-scale assessments tested	Progress report
Develop alternative scenarios and recommend response options	Number of new analytic tools in biodiversity provided by USAID tested by key stakeholders in targeted African countries.	4 trade off models comparing performance of future land-use plans tested	Progress reports
Provide decision support tools and build capacity for adoption	Number of new analytic tools in biodiversity provided by USAID tested by key stakeholders in targeted African countries.	4 decision support frameworks tested	Progress report
	Number of people receiving USG-supported training in natural resources management and/or biodiversity conservation (disaggregated by sex)	60 people	Workshop reports by site
Synthesize best practices based on experience in multiple landscapes and present them to fifth landscape	Number of NGOs (US-based and African) participating in the conservation and development community of practice	5 NGOs	Lessons learned document
	Number of lessons that can be applied beyond initial pilot sites.	2-3 per site	Lessons learned document
	Number of additional sites in which best practices from LUM are presented	2 sites	Meeting report
	Number of countries in which best practices from LUM are presented	2 countries	Meeting report
Global Health Linkages to Biodiversity Conservation			
Joint pilot test the guidelines and M&E framework produced by ABCG members and	Number of new analytic tools in biodiversity provided by USAID tested by key stakeholders in targeted African countries.	2 analytic tools tested	Project report

development organizations engaged in WASH.	Number of joint workshops, analysis and research held with stakeholders and partners.	1-2 workshops per pilot site and 2-3 analysis or research efforts conducted per site	Project report
Formalize an Africa-based community of practice and host online capacity-building events.	Number of capacity-building webinars for the community of practices	4-6 capacity-building webinars	Webinar recordings
	Number of NGOs (US-based and African) participating in the conservation and development community of practice	. 10-20 NGOs	Names on participant lists and email addresses included in mailing list
Document lessons learned and proposed refinements to the ABCG Guidelines and M&E Framework through the Africa-based community of practice.	Number of proposed refinements to ABCG-designed tools as a result of pilot projects.	At least 3 per tool	Lessons learned document
	Number of lessons that can be applied beyond initial pilot sites.	3-4 per site	Lessons learned document
Emerging Issues			
Steering committee reviews and awards small grants	Number proposals funded by Steering Committee each year	At least 2	ABCG annual report
	Number of non-ABCG partners participating	2 per year	ABCG annual report

3.1.1. Indicator Progress Table: Land and Resource Tenure Rights

Table A-3 Progress Indicators: Achieved progress versus planned for FY 2016–Q1, 2

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE:												
INTERMEDIATE RESULTS	INDICATOR	Data Source	Baseline data		FY 2016		Quarterly Status FY 2016				Performance Achievement (%) for reporting period	Comment(s)
			Year	Value	Annual Cumulative Planned target	Annual Cumulative Actual	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4		Target
Intermediate Result:												
Provision of a Certificate of Customary Rights of Occupancy (CCROs) for six villages,	Number of joint workshops, symposia, research, and analysis held with stakeholders and partners	Workshop reports	2016	0							5%	2 workshops
Greater Mahale Ecosystem, Tanzania (TNC, JGI)	Number of people receiving USG-supported training in natural resources management and/or biodiversity conservation (disaggregated by sex)	Workshop reports	2016	0							5%	492 (329 men and 163 women)
	Number of changes in policies, programs projects and practices cited as a result of analysis and influence activities in this program	Annual Progress reports	2016	0							5%	1-2 policy changes

Intermediate Result:												
	Increase in number of policies, laws, agreements, and/or regulations that promote conservation of biodiversity	Annual Progress reports	2016	0							5%	1 policy, agreement or regulation
	Number of countries in which ABCG has contributed to drafting guidelines for private voluntary initiatives.	Workshop reports	2016	0							5%	At least 1 country
	Number of guidelines incorporated into national policies or regulations in at least one country.	Workshop reports	2016	0							5%	At least 1 country adopts policy guidelines
Intermediate Result:												
Establish new IUCN Category VI Protected Area, Democratic Republic of Congo (WCS, WWF)	Number of changes in policies, programs projects and practices cited as a result of analysis and influence activities in this program	Annual Progress reports	2016	0							5%	1 policy change
	Number of joint/co-hosted workshops, symposiums, research and analysis conducted with stakeholders and partners	Workshop reports	2016	0							5%	2 workshops
	Number of people receiving USG-supported training in natural resources management	Workshop reports	2016	0							5%	25 people

	and/or biodiversity conservation (disaggregated by sex)											
	Increase in number of policies, laws, agreements, and/or regulations that promote conservation of biodiversity	Protected area registry in DRC government	2016	0							5%	1 PA registration

3.1.2. Indicator Progress Table: Land Use Management

Table A-4 Land Use Management Indicator Progress Table

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE:												
INTERMEDIATE RESULTS	INDICATOR	Data Source	Baseline data		FY 2016		Quarterly Status FY 2016				Performance Achievement (%) for reporting period	Comment(s)
			Year	Value	Annual Cumulative Planned target	Annual Cumulative Actual	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4		Target
Intermediate Result:												
Define objectives for each land use management site	Number of landscapes that set objectives	Progress report	2016	0	4		0	2	1	1	0	
	Number of joint workshops, analysis and research held with stakeholders and partners.	Workshop reports	2016	0	4		0	2	1	1	0	
Intermediate Result:												
Characterize the landscape, establish evaluation metrics, and understand drivers of change	Number of new analytic tools in biodiversity provided by USAID tested by key stakeholders in targeted African countries.	Progress report	March 2016	0	4		0	0	2	2	0	

3.1.3. Indicator Progress Table: Global Change Impacts

Table A-5 Global Change Impacts Indicator Progress Table

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE:												
INTERMEDIATE RESULTS	INDICATOR	Data Source	Baseline data		FY 2016		Quarterly Status FY 2016				Performance Achievement (%) for reporting period	Comment(s)
			Year	Value	Annual Cumulative Planned target	Annual Cumulative Actual	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4		Target
Intermediate Result:												
Implement human response field surveys and develop a typology of human responses to climate change	Number of sites surveyed											
	Number of people interviewed				21 sites in FY 16/17 and 10 people per site	0	0	0			0	
Intermediate Result:												
Produce literature review of human coping responses to climate change including outreach to development organizations	Number of organizations beyond ABCG partners that contribute to the review				5 organizations	0	0	0			0	

3.1.4. Indicator Progress Table: Global Health–PHE

Table A-6 Global Health–PHE Indicator Progress Table

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE:												
INTERMEDIATE RESULTS	INDICATOR	Data Source	Baseline data		FY 2016		Quarterly Status FY 2016				Performance Achievement (%) for reporting period	Comment(s)
			Year	Value	Annual Cumulative Planned target	Annual Cumulative Actual	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4		
Intermediate Result:												
Analyze existing projects that integrate population with other health & environment sectors	Number of projects integrating PHE analyzed	Engage with PHE Policy and Practice group (DC-based NGOs) to develop analysis tools/criteria	NA	NA			10%	30%			30%	3 meetings were convened to launch this activity, in late 2015 and early 2016. The activities associated with the 3 indicators in this table were delayed due to issues relating to delays in the signature of sub-agreements
Intermediate Result:												
Identify best practices based on the analysis for integrated PHE projects at the regional and national scales	Number of successful approaches identified	Review existing and past projects for key success themes and compile various formats to share w/ ABCG and beyond	NA	NA			10%	30%			30%	See above

	Number of PHE champions promoting PHE as a biodiversity conservation tool	(See above)	NA	NA			10%	30%			30%	See above
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3.1.5. Indicator Progress Table: Global Health–WASH

Table A-7 Global Health–WASH Indicator Progress Table

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE:												
INTERMEDIATE RESULTS	INDICATOR	Data Source	Baseline data		FY 2016		Quarterly Status FY 2016				Performance Achievement (%) for reporting period	Comment(s)
			Year	Value	Annual Cumulative Planned target	Annual Cumulative Actual	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4		Target
Intermediate Result:												
	Completed gender analysis											Underway not completed
	Number pilot workshops, analysis and research held with stakeholders and partners											Underway but delayed
	Number of NGOs (US-based and Africa) participating in the community of practice											Planning underway

3.2. EMERGING ISSUES SMALL GRANTS SCORING CRITERIA

1) Applicant provides strong rationale for proposed activities, including a project theory connecting an identified knowledge gap and planning to on-the-ground actions and project goals

Applicant provides strong evidence of links between identified knowledge gaps and proposed actions. A planning process or theory of change specific to the thematic area is evident. Does the project presented represent a focused and specific approach to conservation for wildlife and ecosystems? In contrast, would you consider this project to be more focused on generalized conservation outcomes?

2) Project will conduct novel or innovative actions for conservation under one of the thematic areas

Are the on-the-ground actions proposed novel or innovative based on your experience? This can be defined by the novelty of specific actions or methods proposed; or if the actions are 'business as usual'. Is there novelty or innovation in how, when, or where the projects proposes to engage in these activities?

3) Partnerships

The applicant presents evidence of established relationships with necessary partners to complete work successfully. For example, if the project proposes work in government-held classified forest zones or national parks, we would expect that the local authorities would be listed prominently as a committed partner, appear in the budget, etc.

4) Capacity Development

The project concept reflects a multi-stakeholder planning process with participation from local partners. The applicant has a clear strategy to build organizational/institutional capacity of key local partners to manage similar projects, through the proposed activity, including transparent personnel, procurement, and financial management systems.

5) Applicant provides a strong plan for communicating lessons learned from the project about on-the-ground results. They effectively target audiences that will help to build interest and increase the likelihood for replicability

We are seeking projects that can effectively communicate lessons learned to other conservation practitioners about how to address emerging issues and potentially replicate actions across a landscape. We are seeking projects that utilize strong communications to increase or leverage the impact of our investments.

6) Potential for broad-scale impact

We are seeking projects that will create change at a broad level, either through landscape-scale efforts, or place-based efforts that directly support broader multi-jurisdictional conservation goals.