

Performance Report
Kibale National Park Biological Field Station/Uganda Project
Cooperative Agreement No. 623-0124-A-00-5110-00
(for October 1995)

OVERALL PROGRESS STATEMENT

The two-year project started October 1, 1995. Project Manager Dr. K. B. Paul arrived in Uganda on October 4, 1995 and is now in residence at the Makerere University Biological Field Station (MUBFS) at Kibale. The first month focused on Dr. Paul making contact with key personnel affiliated with the station and setting the stage for a strategic planning workshop to be facilitated by Project Technical Director Dr. Terry Sharik and Marketing Advisor Dr. Robert Lilieholm in early December, 1995.

ACTIVITIES

Arrival of PM at Post

As per the agreement between the Consortium for International Development (CID) and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), Dr. K. B. Paul, Project Manager (PM), arrived in country on October 4, 1995. A vehicle from the Grant Management Unit (GMU) met him at the airport and brought him to the hotel.

TDY

Dr. Robert Lilieholm began discussions with Dr. Richard Perdue, Marketing Specialist (Tourism) and Dr. Eric Arnould, Marketing Specialist (Planning) activities to meet goals and objectives for the marketing and ecotourism components of the project.

The Station Staff

Dr. Richard Malenky is the Executive Director of the station. Dr. Malenky has worked with the station staff and has assisted in bringing order to the station's operational procedures. Recently, Makerere University agreed to appoint a new Station Director. Until that person takes over, it appears likely that Dr. Malenky will remain here till the end of the year.

Dr. Gilbert Isabirye-Basuta is the Director of Research and a Senior Research Fellow at the station. He holds the rank of Senior Lecturer at the Makerere University. He is an animal ecologist, and has been at the station for more than 18 years.

Dr. John Kasenene is a Senior Research Fellow in Botany/Ecology, and a Senior Lecturer at the Makerere University. He originally hails from this region, and has been affiliated with the station for almost 16 years.

Both Drs. Basuta and Kasenene are thoroughly knowledgeable about the Kibale forest, its flora and fauna, and the history of the station. Their knowledge and experience is a genuine asset to MUBFS. Both have authored many scientific articles in refereed journals. They are the only persons at the station at this time who are financially supported by Makerere University.

There is a Financial Controller, an Administrator and a cadre of about 70 people at the station (mostly laborers and trail cutters), all of whom are supported by USAID funds.

Training

No training activity took place during October. However, MUIENR has organized a two-week long "Biodiversity" training course that begins on Sunday, October 21, 1995. There will be 28 participants with 23 from various Government departments, and five from private sectors. Drs. Basuta and Kasenene will instruct some of the sessions.

Dr. Lillieholm has met with two prospective graduate students who are interested in working on the Uganda project. Nelson Cronyn is currently working in Africa. He is interested in beginning a Ph.D. program within a year. Alternative proposals are being discussed to fund his Ph.D. program which would complement the project and leverage existing funds. Stephen Whitehall is a prospective M.S. student interested in nature protection strategies in Africa. He is a recent Peace Corps volunteer, and will follow-up with Dr. Lillieholm in November to discuss possible research projects that would enhance project efforts in Uganda and fund his M.S. program.

Meetings

Meeting with the USAID officials: On October 5, Dr. Paul went to the USAID office in Kampala and met with Mr. Daniel Moore, Natural Resource Management Advisor at the Mission, and Project Officer for the Action Plan for Environment (APE) project. Mr. Moore introduced him to Ms. Nightingale Nantamu. Ms. Nantamu assisted Dr. Paul to complete some formalities at the Mission. In the afternoon, Dr. Paul met with Mr. Jim Dunn, the Agricultural Development Officer. Mr. Moore and Dr. Paul paid a courtesy call to Ms. Leticia Diaz, the Deputy Mission Director and Mr. Ray Victurine, Coordinator for the GMU. Mr. Don Clark, the Mission Director, was in Washington, D.C. and thus was not available to receive Dr. Paul. Later in the afternoon, Dr. Paul again met with Mr. Moore and Mr. Victurine, and discussed various project related issues.

Meeting with the MUIENR Director: On October 6, Mr. Ray Victurine and Mr. Isaac Kapalaga, GMU Deputy Coordinator, accompanied Dr. Paul to the Makerere University (MU) campus where the University's Institute for Environment and Natural Resources (MUIENR) is located. Dr. Eldad Tukahirwa, and Prof. Derek Pomeroy are respectively the Director and Deputy Director of this Institute. The Makerere University Biological Field Station (MUBFS) is housed under MUIENR's administrative structure, and thus, Dr. Tukahirwa has the overall responsibility of administering the field station. Dr. Tukahirwa and Dr. Pomeroy organized a

brief meeting for Dr. Paul and Mr. Victurine and Mr. Kapalaga in which Dr. Gilbert Isabiry-Basuta, the Research Director and a senior scientist at MUBFS, also participated.

Dr. Tukahirwa gave a brief overview of MUIENR and the MUBFS. Dr. Paul began by giving a brief description of his professional background, and a brief history of the Consortium for International Development (CID), and its partners who are involved in this project. Dr. Paul emphasized that CID will provide technical assistance to improve the station's infrastructure and efficiency, and will market the station world-wide to increase its use. The ultimate objective is to see that the increased income generated from the user's fees will eventually make the station self-sustaining. Prioritization of research needs, local staff development, and setting up a long-term monitoring plan to track forest health are some of the other components of the project. He added that he will not replace Dr. Richard Malenky as the Station's Executive Director, but will act in an advisory capacity to the Director. The project does not allow CID to run the station, nor pay for the station's operating expenses.

Dr. Paul put the meeting participants at ease by stating that "CID has contractual obligations to deliver certain outputs, but we are not coming here with some preconceived ideas and a concrete work plan. We intend to begin our work by bringing together all the key players and stake-holders, and developing a "Mission Statement" for MUBFS. Then we will develop a work plan consistent with the Mission Statement. Our intention is to facilitate the whole process, and not dictate what should be done." The workshop idea was discussed. At Dr. Paul's request, Dr. Eldad agreed to provide him the names of persons who he thinks should be invited to participate in the workshop. Dr. Eldad announced the upcoming visit to the station of several top University officials including the Vice Chancellor.

Meetings at the station: Dr. Richard Malenky organized a meeting of all station staff on October 11, when he introduced Dr. Paul. Dr. Paul gave a brief account of his background to the group, and described the nature of the CID work under the Cooperative Agreement. He solicited everyone's cooperation.

Meetings with individual staff: Dr. Paul met with several individual staff members in order to get to know them, their roles at the station, and so on.

Dr. Paul participated in several meetings involving the senior staff at the station. Now that donor funding is coming to an end (December 31, 1995), and Makerere University is stepping in to support the station from its own budget, it has become necessary to identify and retain only a bare minimum and essential staff to operate the station. The station administration presented a structure to MUIENR Director proposing to keep 34 full-time personnel, instead of the present 70 plus positions. The Director accepted the recommendations, and instructed that the surplus staff be laid off as soon as possible.

About 12 top officials from Makerere University, including the Vice Chancellor, visited the station on the 17th and 18th of October. After some deliberations, it was agreed that: 1) Makerere will assume the stations' operational budget beginning with its new fiscal year (July 1, 1996); and 2) USAID support to BFS ends December 31, 1995. Thus, it will be necessary to write and submit an unsolicited proposal to USAID as soon as possible requesting funds to support the station effective January 1, 1996 through June 30, 1996; and 3) It was proposed that the station become an autonomous body under Makerere, and be named as an Institute. This will make it easier to market the station world-wide.

The Uganda National Parks (UNP) has appointed Mr. James Omoding to coordinate the development of a park management plan. Dr. Paul participated in meetings held on October 13 and 20 at the IUCN office at Fort Portal.

The Station

The station is really remote; there are no telephone or radio contacts with the outside world. The houses are small cottage-like, without any indoor plumbing. Lighting is provided in each house by a small solar panel enough to see, but not sufficient enough to read or write. The housing is adequate for a short stays. The station setting is beautiful; and very peaceful.

Dr. Paul met with Mr. Moore and Mr. Ray and discussed several issues including the Bridge grant, ETD for the Malenkys, housing, vehicle problems, purchase of computer and equipment, hiring possibilities, etc. Relative to most issues, they agreed that under the Cooperative Agreement, CID has flexibility, and AID approval is not required on all issues. However, CID intends to consult with USAID on most issues and keep them informed.

Dr. Paul presently shares an office with Dr. Malenky. He has access to a lap top computer which has some operational problems. This computer is also used by a graduate student. The station uses solar power in its offices, which appears satisfactory.

Procurement

A video camcorder will be needed to document facilities and events on the BFS, and to supply video footage for promotional materials later on. Dr. Lilieholm has begun researching camcorder options for the project. It appears that a "video Hi8" camera would offer the highest quality picture at a reasonable price, and would also be compatible with the editorial services available on campus at USU. The camera with accessories will cost about \$2,000. The camera will be delivered to Dr. Paul in Uganda by Drs. Lilieholm and Sharik in November, 1995.

Miscellaneous supplies and equipment are being ordered for the project. These include: file cabinet and boxes, field equipment, laptop computer for Dr. Paul, etc.

Constraints to Project Progress

Fax communication from the United States to Dr. Paul at Fort Portal is not good as individual messages must be sent repeatedly, sometimes spanning 4-5 days. The absence of electronic (E) mail capability at MUBS is also a problem.

Recommendations/Plans for the Future

Drs. Sharik and Lilieholm will be in Uganda from November 30-December 10, 1995. The main purpose of their visit is to gain an introduction to MUBFS, its facilities, programs, and affiliated personnel; and to conduct a strategic planning workshop aimed at setting and implementing long-term goals and objectives for MUBFS. Dr. Paul has identified 18 persons to date who might participate in the workshop, and anticipates extending invitations to as many as 25 persons.

Dr. Lilieholm has arranged a meeting with Richard Perdue, Marketing Specialist (Tourism), in mid-November at the University of Colorado, Boulder (Dr. Lilieholm will be in Colorado on other business). At the meeting, they will discuss Perdue's visit to Uganda scheduled for January, 1996.

Chris Shank is a M.S. student in the Forest Resources Department at USU. He has extensive background in GIS, and a strong interest in the Uganda Project. Chris has begun gathering data sources for a GIS map of the area. He is also gathering information on alternative buffer protection strategies used to protect natural areas.

Dr. Lilieholm has begun compilation of the Uganda Project Bibliography. Thus far, a computerized search has been conducted to gather articles, books and reports on Ugandan natural resources, Kibale National Park, ecotourism, etc. The bibliography citations will include a complete abstract, and will also note the location of literature in possession of project personnel. The bibliography will be completed in November, and will be distributed to all project personnel. The bibliography will be updated on a quarterly basis, and tear-out forms will be included in an appendix to allow personnel to report new references not listed in the bibliography.