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# Biodiversity Analysis and Technical Support for USAID/Africa (BATS)

FIRST QUARTER Report: FY 2008 October 2007– December 2007



**November 2007**

This publication was produced for review by the United States Agency for International Development. It was prepared by the Biodiversity Analysis and Technical Support team.

The author's views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views of the United States Agency for International Development or the United States Government.



**Biodiversity Analysis and Technical Support for USIAD/Africa  
Is Funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development  
(EPIQ II IQC: EPP-I-00-03-00014-00, Task Order 02)**

**Biodiversity Analysis and Technical Support for USAID/Africa is funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development, Bureau for Africa, Office of Sustainable Development (AFR/SD). This program is implemented by Chemonics International Inc., World Conservation Union, World Wildlife Fund, and International Program Consortium in coordination with program partners the U.S. Forest Service/International Programs and the Africa Biodiversity Collaborative Group.**

## ACRONYMS

ABCG	Africa Biodiversity Collaborative Group
BATS	Biodiversity Analysis and Technical Support for USAID/Africa
CTO	Cognizant Technical Officer
FS/IP	USDA Forest Service/International Programs
IUCN	The World Conservation Union
LOE	level of effort
PMP	Performance Monitoring Plan
PMU	Project Management Unit
STTA	short-term technical assistance
TA	technical assistance
WWF	World Wildlife Fund

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## **INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW**

The objective of the Biodiversity Analysis and Technical Support for USAID/Africa (BATS) task order (under the EPIQ II IQC) is to build capacity within the Africa Bureau and its field missions to improve conformance with the Foreign Assistance Framework within Economic Growth Environment Program Area (EG8.1) through timely biodiversity assessments, targeted analyses, and other program development support. By incorporating best practices into operational plans, Mission Strategic Plans and Country Assistance Strategies, this project will serve as a platform for raising awareness of USAID's biodiversity conservation agenda.

For USAID to better integrate natural resource and biodiversity conservation into development activities in Africa, BATS activities need to be timely, relevant, compatible with the evolving priorities within USAID and State, and easily accessible by stakeholders.

BATS provides services to meet mission and partner needs in the following task areas:

**Task A** – Assessing USAID biodiversity conservation experience and determining ways forward

**Task B** – Reviewing and improving the environmental impacts of extractive industries alliances

**Task C** – Supporting conservation in states vulnerable to crisis, in crisis, or emerging from crisis

**Task D** – Conducting assessments and analyses of biodiversity threats and opportunities within Operational Plans in compliance with Sections 118 and 119 of the Foreign Assistance Act

The BATS project described in this report is one part of a larger collaboration organized by USAID to address the tasks listed above. In addition to Chemonics, which manages a BATS activity under the EPIQ IQC, two other groups manage BATS activities: USDA Forest Service – International Programs (FS/IP), and the Africa Biodiversity Collaborative Group (ABCG). While both groups have separate funding and work plans, the three groups meet regularly to coordinate their activities.

To aid in this coordination a core group was formed with representatives from all of the partners with Tim Resch from USAID, Nancy Gelman from ABCG, Mike Chavez from FS/IP, and Brian App from Chemonics.

The first quarter of FY 2008 was the beginning of the second year of the two-year BATS program and continued activities under all of the task areas. Activities included those initially envisioned in the contract as well as those responding to the evolving needs of USAID and project partners.

### **Staff Changes:**

- Katherine Woods replaced Dave Gibson as BATS Director. Mr. Gibson, who served as Director and Technical Team Leader, left Chemonics in the beginning of December 2007.

## **TASK A. THIRTY YEARS OF BIODIVERSITY IN AFRICA**

USAID has been working on biodiversity and conservations issues for more than 30 years, and research into what has been done, what were the results, and why it was or was not successful can provide valuable findings for building on previous successes and learning from past mistakes. With this in mind, the primary objective of Task A is to document lessons learned from 30 years of USAID/Africa biodiversity conservation initiatives and catalyze discussion on priorities for future actions.

In FY 08 Q1, Mr. Gibson and Mr. App revised the Task A document and sent it out to project partners for review, with comments requested by the second week of January 2008. Upon incorporation of comments, a revised report will be drafted for circulation to those interviewed in the course of the report and the wider conservation community.

## **TASK B. MANAGING EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES**

Primarily through its economic growth activities and the Global Development Alliance program, USAID has a history of working with extractive industries in Africa. These programs have positive development impacts as well as the potential for negative environmental consequences. While many of these relationships are predicated on certain levels of environmental consideration, they are closely followed by some conservation groups who are skeptical about corporations that pose as friends to the environment. With this in mind, the primary objective of Task B is to promote best practices for integrating biodiversity conservation into extractive industry activities through the creation of a guide for development practitioners on “Partnering with Extractive Industries for the Conservation of Biodiversity”.

Dr. Joao de Queiroz, who took over the development of the draft manual in September, met with the Task B working group in Washington DC in late November. The working group determined that the manual would comprise of three main parts/objectives;

- 1) an introduction that focuses on various relationship options amongst USAID, industries, and communities, (i.e. development partnerships, company policies, international treaties, trade groups, and certification),
- 2) an outline of the potential pitfalls for different industries and mechanisms to avoid them (taxonomy of different approaches)
- 3) identifying different categories of partnerships opportunities that exist (GDAs, industry funded development activities), and provide specific examples with sites as to where to access information and how to tap into those opportunities.

Next steps determined at the end of the Task B meeting included identifying manual needs to hire/contract assistance as needed and having Dr. de Queiroz present his report to the Task B group for review in mid-late January 2008 (before the originally planned Angola assessment). During his DC visit, Dr. de Queiroz met with experts on extractive industries and biodiversity for

information that would inform the manual. ABCG, a BATS implementing partner, provided these contacts to Dr. de Queiroz. An outline of Dr. de Queiroz's manual was distributed to the working group at the end of December.

## **TASK C. BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION FOR STATES VULNERABLE TO/ RECOVERING FROM CRISIS**

Using the lens of the revised U.S. Foreign Assistance Framework, BATS Task C activities are focused on the “rebuilding” (in or emerging from conflict) country category. Given the sensitive and rapid-reaction nature of countries in this category, Task C needs to be aware and take advantage of opportunities before and as they come up in order to meet the objective of supporting USG capacity to program biodiversity considerations into conflict-vulnerable country programming. With this in mind, the primary objective of Task C is to promote best practices for integrating biodiversity conservation into conflict countries (pre, current, and post) through the creation of a folder packet which will provide a general examination of the intersection of conflict and conservation and more detailed assessments of specific issues including protected area management, conservation capacity, food security, community-based natural resource management, and postwar land policy implementation.

As of FY08 Q1, a draft for the Task C folder packet (An introductory piece, 5 Topical Pieces, and a Reference piece) has been circulated to the working group for review. Feedback for the next version has been received and will be incorporated in to the revised version.

## **TASK D. SUPPORT FOR BIODIVERSITY AND TROPICAL FORESTRY ASSESSMENTS**

The new Foreign Assistance Framework and applicable operational guidance require compliance with Sections 118 and 119 of the Foreign Assistance Act, including timely biodiversity and tropical forestry assessments. During the initial drafting of the RFP, and constantly updated as new priorities and opportunities arose, several countries were targeted for 118/119 assistance at varying levels of investment (ranging from desktop studies to full team in-country assessments).

During the first quarter of FY 2008, Chemonics worked on three 118/119 Biodiversity and Tropical Forest assessments (1 desktop and 2 field assessments). A desktop assessment for [Mauritania](#) was finalized and submitted at the end of November. Field assessments for [Benin](#) and [Guinea](#) were finalized and submitted in November as well.

The Benin assessment was conducted by team leader Dr. Joao S. de Queiroz and local counterpart Professor Kolawolé Sikirou Adam, and given USAID/Benin's current strategy, recommendations included incorporating into an environmental health component into its health strategy (reducing the mosquito habitat, improving household waste management, and addressing the



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Hunter group/management committee presentation of chimpanzee program in Ballayan Souroumba (Credit: Brian App)

dangers of pesticides), and working with the West African Cotton Improvement Program (WACIP) in targeted cotton growing areas proximate to key biodiversity zones to promoting Integrated Pest Management as a means of increasing production while reducing the environmental and economic costs associated with current pest control practices.

The Guinea assessment was conducted by a four-person team made up of two international consultants (Brian App – Team Leader and Julia Watkins of Chemonics International) and two local consultants (Mamadou Saliou Diallo of Guinée Ecologie and Dantily Diakite of the National Directorate of Waters and Forests) working closely with its USAID counterpart, Mission Environmental Officer (MEO) Ibrahima Camara. The report made “Overarching”, “Specific”, and “global” recommendations, which included the following major themes:

- *Support co-management.* USAID should continue its support for co-management activities and should look for opportunities to institutionalize the process so that its impact can be expanded throughout the country and region.
- *Increase cross-border coordination.* Given the importance of Guinea for stability, biodiversity, and livelihoods in the region, USAID should seek opportunities to engage organizations in neighboring countries in cross-border and trans-boundary conservation initiatives.
- *Bolster the capacity of the DNEF.* As the DNEF’s lack of capacity to manage and conserve national resources is a major deficiency that prevents many needed conservation actions, including the creation of national inventories, the application/enforcement of legal codes, and the use of rational/sustainable resource planning, USAID should work to build the DNEF’s institutional capacity to plan, implement, and monitor conservation activities in Guinea.

The field-based assessments anticipated for Angola and Madagascar in November 2007 and January 2008, respectively were delayed. The assessment in Angola was delayed due to holiday-related Mission hiatus and consultants’ scheduling conflicts. The Madagascar Environmental Threats and Opportunities Assessment (ETOA) included a 118/119 assessment and was delayed until late January/early February 2008 to coincide with the Environmental Program Coordinator’s presence in country.

Chemonics received CTO approval to conduct the 118/119 desktop assessment for Côte d’Ivoire. The assessment will incorporate Côte d’Ivoire related information from the Sustaining and Thriving Environment for West Africa Regional Development (STEWARDS) scoping activity report. The 118/119 assessment will draw from the Côte d’Ivoire section of STEWARDS which focuses on transboundary threats to biodiversity.

## **COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY**

To increase impact from products, information, and related resource materials on natural resource and biodiversity conservation generated by BATS, products and services need to be presented in an accessible form and made widely available to USAID staff and project partners and beneficiaries. As such, and to help coordinate efforts with BATS partners, communications plays a critical role in the project.

During the quarter, Lilit Yoo, a home office employee with an IT background, posted FY2007 annual report and FY2008 work plan (BATS home page), Mr. Gibson's CBRM and climate change presentation (Task A), the Task B outline and approach (Task B) and all approved 118/119 assessments (Task D) on the respective Task page of the FRAME website.

BATS is currently working with Michael Jack, a home office employee in the Corporate Training Department, and Tim Resch, the BATS CTO, to create a training manual for mission staff based on the 118/119 training workshop conducted in Montana in 200

## BATS PROJECT PLANNING AND PERFORMANCE MONITORING

Because BATS is highly dependent on mission technical assistance requests and is heavily based on developing toolkits and other biodiversity resources, measuring project progress and results in terms of milestones met or achieved is more appropriate than a more typical indicator-driven project monitoring plan.

Each task's updated results and milestones are presented in the below table.

Results	Milestones	Timeframe	Status
<b>Task A</b>			
USAID Africa biodiversity policy improved through guidance, incorporation, and dissemination	Historical assessment of past 20 years of USAID biodiversity conservation in Africa	December 2007	First draft complete, and revised draft due beginning of January 2008
	Africa review workshops	TBD	ABCG will take the lead on this activity
	Compile future trends and recommendations	TBD	ABCG will take the lead on this activity
<b>Task B</b>			
USAID policy for alliances with extractive industries improved for forest management and biodiversity conservation	Toolkit launched	March 2008	Manual revision/rewrite underway (Nov-Feb 2008)
	Provide mission TA	Ongoing/ as needed	
	Web site protocol approved/ launched	March 2007	Complete with updates, ongoing as needed
<b>Task C</b>			
USAID activities in biodiversity conservation within rebuilding and developing countries improved	Initial communications tools developed	April 2007	Design and consensus for initial tool complete
	Cluster-based best practice guidelines produced	March 2008	First draft complete, and revision additions underway (Nov-Jan 2008)
	Provide TA to missions	Ongoing/ as needed	
<b>Task D</b>			
USAID Country Operational Plans improved by incorporating results of tropical forestry and biodiversity assessments	Finalize prioritization of country support	November 2006	Complete, included in FY07 Work Plan
	118/119 tracker established	March 2007	Complete, with updates ongoing as needed
	FS/IP 118/119 assessment training conducted	June 2007	Complete
	118/119 assessments conducted	Ongoing/ as needed	3 complete; 2 scheduled, and ongoing
	118/119 trainers manual developed	April 2008	Ongoing