

# **SUCCESSFUL COMMUNITIES FROM RIDGE TO REEF**

**World Wildlife Fund**

**FY07 ANNUAL REPORT  
1 JANUARY – 30 JUNE 2007**

**Submitted to USAID Global Health Bureau  
Office of Population and Reproductive Health**

**USAID Cooperative Agreement GPO-A-00-03-00008-00**

10 October 2007  
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## Acronyms

<b>ALT-Energy</b>	<b>Andrew Lees Trust-Energy</b>
<b>AMREF</b>	<b>African Medical and Research Foundation</b>
<b>ASOS</b>	<b>Action Santé Organisation Secours</b>
<b>CBD</b>	<b>Community Based Distribution Agent (for FP/RH &amp; PHE)</b>
<b>ESU</b>	<b>Endangered Spaces Unit, World Wildlife Fund</b>
<b>FP/RH</b>	<b>Family Planning/Reproductive Health</b>
<b>FY</b>	<b>Fiscal Year</b>
<b>KMNR</b>	<b>Kiunga Marine National Reserve</b>
<b>LGU</b>	<b>Local Government Unit</b>
<b>MoH</b>	<b>Ministry of Health</b>
<b>MSWD</b>	<b>Municipal Social Welfare and Development Office</b>
<b>PCD</b>	<b>Communal Development Plans</b>
<b>PE</b>	<b>Population and Environment</b>
<b>PHE</b>	<b>Population, Health and Environment</b>
<b>PMCTC</b>	<b>Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission</b>
<b>PSI</b>	<b>Population Services International</b>
<b>TBA</b>	<b>Traditional Birth Attendant</b>
<b>VS</b>	<b>Voahary Salama</b>
<b>WWF</b>	<b>World Wildlife Fund</b>

## **1 Introduction**

This is the fourth annual report for WWF's project Successful Communities from Ridge to Reef, funded under cooperative agreement GPO-A-00-03-00008-00 by the Population and Reproductive Health Office of USAID's Global Health Bureau.

In FY07, WWF and partners Action Santé Organisation Secours (ASOS) and the Ministry of Health in Lamu District, Kenya continued to carry out integrated population and environment activities in two African project sites established in FY04 – the Kiunga Marine National Reserve (KMNR) of Kenya and the Spiny Forest of Madagascar. The project in Palawan, Philippines in the Coral Triangle which was established in FY05 has made substantial progress on family planning and environmental issues this year in collaboration with the Local Government Unit, following technical assistance from Save the Children. The population analysis component also gained momentum this year, with completion of case studies, new tools, the launching of the global population and environment evaluation, and initial preparation for the health and conservation manual.

In FY07, the Madagascar Spiny Forest population, health and environment (PHE) Project entered a new and accelerated phase. Launching the Champion Commune Process in four communes, in the second half of FY07, WWF and ASOS saw steady improvement in key PHE indicators, including family planning users. All participating communes set their goals and priorities, all community based distributors (CBDs) and volunteer PHE workers were trained and retrained, and the Project noted significant improvements in cooperation between CBDs and the Ministry of Health (MoH) - a promising sign that the project is becoming more sustainable.

In WWF's PHE Project in Kenya, WWF and the MoH continued to provide family planning/reproductive health (FP/RH), integrated general health care (funded by Johnson and Johnson) and PHE information, education and communication throughout the Kiunga Marine National Reserve (KMNR), adjacent island communities and remote inland Boni communities. During the second half of FY07, WWF also made good progress in developing a new partnership for PHE with Family Health International, a non-governmental organization which is carrying out integrated health work along the coast of Kenya. WWF staff report continuing progress in changes in community attitudes towards conservation. For the first time, fishermen have set aside fish regeneration or no-take zones, boding a promising future for marine conservation in the KMNR and food security and sustainable livelihoods for local communities.

The second half of FY07 was marked by impressive results for the Philippines PHE Project. The Local Government Unit contributed substantial funds towards PHE activities, and municipal policies passed in support of PHE activities in the previous year began to be implemented. PHE workers trained last year reached 67% of the target population with IEC. The PHE workers conduct Family Planning Actions Sessions (FPAS – a community participation tool that helps couples learn about PHE linkages and prepare for their FP needs), distribute FP commodities, and monitor coastal resources. The FP commodity distribution system established by the project continued to function

effectively. Measured improvements in fisheries and declines in illegal fishing practices were noted through WWF monitoring. Finally, the 7 MPAs that the project had been working to establish are now established and mapped, and project staff is working closely with stakeholders to develop management and monitoring plans.

At the WWF-US headquarters advances on the Population Analysis accelerated, in cooperation with other WWF offices and global PHE learning participants. Surveying is completed for all studies, an interim report for the partnerships study was disseminated among select stakeholders (but full dissemination is pending the final year of the project when our results will be fully documented and disseminated together). Case studies for scaling up were completed, peer reviewed and finalized, and analysis of “value-added” PHE surveys is ongoing. The global evaluation of all WWF’s PHE projects was launched, and will be followed by a PHE manual for conservation practitioners that will integrate our results into one product. Other PHE tools and products are also being planned as part of the communications strategy that has now been drafted. Technical support to the field continued.

Following is a summary of project status and highlights from the second half of FY07.

## **2 Madagascar**

### ***Overview***

After the reorientation of WWF’s PHE project strategy that followed WWF Madagascar’s June 2006 internal evaluation of PHE, WWF has made substantial progress on mobilizing Spiny Forest communities to achieve the “small doable actions” (as described in previous PHE reports) of their Champion Commune (CC) plans.

By the second half of FY07, the ninety-two community volunteers in the project’s 23 target sites attended new or refresher PHE trainings (2 CBDs and 2 community “motivators” per site). All trainings included a component on PHE sensitization and the Champion Commune approach. The project also provided CBDs with a variety of social marketing products, tools for replenishing supplies and monitoring supplies, and ideas for ensuring the sustainability of their efforts. For new community volunteers identified during this period, trainings were held on: FP/RH, communal and household reforestation, fire prevention, reducing deforestation, and PHE IEC tools.

The project succeeded in motivating Madagascar’s Ministry of Health to compile a list of active CBDs in the Spiny Forest, and to make the list available to local health centers (CSBs). These active lists have the potential to greatly improve supply flows of health and FP commodities to CBDs and communities. During FY07, the PHE Project also placed significant emphasis on encouraging the MoH to improve its cooperation with the decentralized group of CBDs in the Spiny Forest. These efforts appear to be succeeding: CSBs are now working closely with CBD volunteers to jointly organize social mobilization days, and CBDs and CSB staff have now been observed working together at all of these events. In May and June 2007, all of the commune capitals held social mobilization days, and public messages delivered at each of these events conveyed that

all communes are now comprehending, taking ownership of, and articulating integrated PHE themes.

Further, in every township, the PHE Project has helped establish coordination committees which aim to increase community commitment to environmentally sustainable, health-focused development. The Project provided committee members with training on monitoring of PHE activities. The committee structure is comprised of two groups: the “social” group and the “environmental” group. Each group will hold local monthly meetings and be assisted by field-based project staff members.

Reforestation efforts were highly successful during this period. As a result of PHE Project efforts and partnerships with several other NGOs, 4800 saplings were planted in the Spiny Forest, which is anticipated to lead to 100,000 square feet of reforested area. Technical assistance was also leveraged for this component of the project from the Ministry of Water and Forest. In addition, CC plans in all 4 of the target communes are calling on households to plant at least 20 native tree species within their communes. This activity is expected to help increase community awareness of environmental conservation and contribute to reforestation efforts. According to the CC schedule, this activity is planned for a “2007-2008 campaign.”

Fuel- saving stove promotion has also been quite successful during this period. ASOS and WWF have promoted the stoves among forest resource and wildfire managers, and among community members who are involved in the transfer process of community-based natural resources. A substantial increase in use has been noted, as has a steady continuation rate for previous users. Exact numbers of users can be seen in WWF’s PHE PMP.

Finally, at the end of this year, WWF-Madagascar announced that the PHE project will serve as a model for other WWF projects in how it implements network-wide WWF project management standards. This is expected to bring additional publicity to the project and is a high compliment to the management and monitoring standards that this project has developed. For the last several years, staff in the global WWF Network have been developing management standards, and WWF is now in the process of rolling out the standards throughout the Network-- providing training to staff and learning how to apply the standards in active WWF projects. The fact this project was highlighted for this purpose is a testament to the strong management skills of WWF-Madagascar PHE Project Coordinator, Voahanginirina Rasoarinoro, and the good communication WWF-US has enjoyed with this project.

### **Strategic Objectives**

Objective 1: To internalise PHE at all levels (community, commune, region, national level and amongst WWF Projects/programs)

Objective 2: To improve family planning and reproductive health knowledge, services, and use in priority areas of the ecoregion

Objective 3: To increase capacity and responsibility of communities to effectively manage natural resources in priority areas of the ecoregion

Objective 4: To improve sustainability of operations in priority areas of the ecoregion

**Activity Status**

<b>Activity No.</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Comments</b>
<i>Activity 1.1 Improve coordination of PHE programs</i>	On track	<p>PHE is promoted through the CC process which is currently focused on reproductive health, general health, environment, and governance (the CC process is based on a framework that includes elements of a “nature/environment, wealth, health and power/governance” framework; presently there are not enough partners to promote “wealth” as part of the CC process for the whole commune. 100% of the partners from the project’s first phase are still involved; they are composed of about 50% of development actors from the PHE project’s target area). Better collaboration and synergy has been observed between the PHE project and 4 other WWF projects. The other WWF projects provide capacity- building on biodiversity and natural resources management, promote PHE messages, and help with transportation. Several meeting were held at all levels (national, regional, local) to prepare and launch the CC process. For each of the 4 target communes, a CC Steering Committee has been created. Most stakeholders are involved in this committee and so this is a key target audience for PHE messages.</p> <p>WWF brought together ASOS partners to plan an organizational audit of ASOS. The PHE Project worked with SANTENET to prepare for a “Week of Social Mobilization for the Health of Mothers and Children.” Multiple meetings organized with MoH to improve service delivery. A social mobilization day was organized in every commune center.</p>
<i>Activity 1.2: Implement Champion Commune (CC) approach</i>	On Track	<p>Within the CC process, SANTENET and the PHE Project collaborate by sharing costs of health promotion activities within the 4 PHE target communes (23 villages for the PHE Project, 59 for SANTENET). ASOS implements both the WWF-supported PHE Project and the SANTENET Project. To improve results, this year the PHE Project organized more meetings than in the past this year</p>

		among the three partners and the MoH. An MOU related to CC commitments was formalized with the Commune Authorities in 100% of the PHE target Communes.
<i>Activity 1.2.1: Facilitate participatory identification of priority actions/objectives</i>	On Track	This is the next step after the introductory meetings, and 100% of PHE communes defined their priorities and objectives related to Health and Environment promotion using a participatory process and with involvement of most local stakeholders.
<i>Activity 1.2.2: Identify/train local actors in PHE tools &amp; CC process</i>	On Track	All of the 92 experienced CBDs and new volunteers were given refresher/new courses on PHE, the use of available tools, the CC process and their roles. There are two CAs (Community Animators) and two CBDs for each site. All CAs and CBDs received the same training.
<i>Activity 1.2.3: Provide CC volunteers with PHE communications/M&amp;E</i>	On Track	New CC Process Guidance materials were distributed to all volunteers. Each volunteer is now using at least 2 types of PHE IEC & M&E tools after retraining in May.
<i>Activity 1.2.4: Facilitate creation of and support M&amp;E committees for CC</i>	On Track	All of the PHE communes now has an operational M&E CC committee. Each committee includes two commissions- Health and Environment- and the members have received training on monitoring and been given CC tools and IEC aids.
<i>Activity 1.2.5: Support communities in follow-up</i>	On Track	The PHE team continues to monitor communities and PHE volunteers during monthly visits to each site. The first CC follow up, which occurs after 100 days of implementation is conducted by the CC Committee and will take place soon. It could be delayed because of delays in funding. It is to be noticed that formal follow up is normally conducted after 100 and 200 days of implementation. However, the CC M&E committee organizes monthly meetings with ASOS to conduct monitoring of data collected by the volunteers.
<i>Activity 2.1: Enhance targeting of FP/PHE in communities</i>	On Track	After the first phase, early FP adopters had already expressed interest in providing “testimonies” to potential new users; however the team had not yet tapped into this resource. Volunteers were retrained in organizing “testimonies” from early FP adopters. At least one testimony per month per CBD was organized to improve receptivity to FP among these traditional communities. There was a very high increase of new users in Ankililaoka and Tranomaro, as noted in the PHE Project PMP.
<i>Activity 2.2: Strengthen PHE</i>	On Track	CBD training was held and MoH clinic agents gave

<i>CBD Capacity</i>		their support to the training, providing staff, resources and TA.
<i>Activity 2.2.1: Provide refresher training to CBDs</i>	Completed but requires follow-up	All veteran and new PHE Project volunteers were retrained or trained on different awareness-raising techniques such as testimony, FP/RH topics, use of IEC communication tools, and management and planning of activities
<i>Activity 2.2.2: Help CBDs recruit new users</i>	On Track	Thanks to trainings and refresher trainings, about 50 new users per month are registered in all sites during April and May 07.
<i>Activity 2.2.3: Monitor/mentor CBDs</i>	On Track	All CBDs were visited monthly from February to June 07 by the PHE Team or another WWF project team that works closely with PHE.
<i>Activity 2.2.4: Facilitate CBD/MoH collaboration</i>	On Track	MoH clinic agents actively contributed to CBD trainings in all of the target communes. In addition CBDs and MoH clinic agents have now begun to meet on a regular basis to monitor activities, supply CBD with contraceptives and solve problems
<i>Activity 2.3: Improve access to FP commodities/ health supplies</i>	On Track	In February 07, PSI replenished start up funds for CBDs who had been unable to recover their costs. MoH clinics have also continued to provide supplies.  82% (19/23) of experienced project CBDs had 0 stock-out of supply during this period. This is an improvement from 68% in the last period.
<i>Activity 2.4: Improve FP/RH Quality of Care</i>	On Track	The process to implement “PQS”- a Quality of Care model -was started in the first half of FY07 within the 4 MoH clinics of TLE and FTU with the collaboration of Santenet. As of June 2007, 50% of MoH clinics (FTU) of the 4 communes are implementing PQS.
<i>Activity 3.1: Promote energy saving stoves among rural households</i>	On Track	As a result of additional support from another WWF project to help promote fuel stoves, there was an increase in stove use in Beahitse/TLE (3 old sites). In contrast to this situation, there were fewer users in Behara/FTU (3 old sites); some stoves stopped being used due to inadequate availability of materials. This situation is one of the sustainability challenges that the project continues to try to overcome. Between February and May 07, the no. of households using the stoves increased from 5.1 to 7.7% within the 23 old and new sites. Retraining of ASOS field agents in stove construction turned was successful, particularly in Ankiloaky, Tulear. Another partnership to promote solar cookers has been initiated in TLE (SALFA)
<i>Activity 3.2: Encourage and support tree planting</i>	On Track	After the rainy season, all communes began to plant trees. 106,250 trees were planted between January

		2006 and May 2007. Many of these were provided through partnerships with IPSTE, GTZ, ACORDS and the Ministry of Forest & Water.
<i>Activity 3.3: Support set up and/or with local authorities enforce community system to protect from bush-fires</i>	On Track	In this period, the Project stressed individual commitment to the preservation of forest heritages, through the traditional “dina.” Project staff have led numerous dialogues and conducted mediation to ensure relevant structures are in place to maintain this commitment.
<i>Activity 3.4: Continue promotion of CBNRM/ establishment of System of Protected Areas (SAPM)</i>	On Track	There are now 9 active CBRNM processes within the 10 sites in Fort Dauphin and 1 contract was signed in October 2006 in Tulear.
<i>Activity 3.5: Use population-health awareness sessions to promote conservation</i>	On Track	After the restart, the ASOS team (even the doctors) were refreshed on the fundamentals of biodiversity and natural resources sustainable management. During each visit to the sites, they were able to sensitize CBDs as well as the local community on these topics. One community-Antshivavia, a new site in FTU- heard about PHE and demanded PHE interventions on tree planting and basic medicines. During many of the monthly visits, it has been observed that the health and wealth awareness sessions held by staff and volunteers are helping promote conservation and FP promotion. Additional partnerships are also sought for wealth in many of the PHE sites.
<i>Activity 3.6: Promote use of bricks in house construction</i>	Delayed	This activity has not yet started because it is lower priority after the restart. Instead, training of CBDs and CC promotion was prioritized.
<i>Activity 4.1: Ensure continuous motivation of FP/RH CBDs</i>	Mixed performance	The MoH has recently decided that contraceptives must be provided free of charge throughout the country, which they anticipate will accelerate increase of FP acceptance. But the issue of continuous supply of contraceptives then must be seriously addressed. A major motivation for CBDs is that they benefit from the sale of FP commodities.
<i>Activity 4.2: Facilitate collaboration with public institutions (See 2.2.4)</i>	On Track	See 2.2.4. This was still true during the second half of FY07. Also the MoH clinic staff participated in trainings and re-trainings of CBDs. US laws and legislation related to FP and abortion was also transmitted during these clinics.
<i>Activity 4.3: With MoH coordinate supply of contraceptives/basic medicines to CBDs (See 2.3)</i>	On Track	A list that includes all of the Project’s CBDs is now available at the central MoH Clinic and CBDs are now receiving most of their FP supplies from the MoH.

### *Challenges and Lessons Learned*

A major challenge is to set up the integrated Champion Commune approach in the sites in complete synergy with other stakeholders involved in commune development. Communicating with the other stakeholders is difficult given poor communication systems and the large distances that must be travelled between project sites and institutions headquarters. However, close collaboration with all of the key partners in the Spiny Forest is making this challenge less daunting, including an increasingly engaged Ministry of Health.

## **3 Kenya**

### *Overview*

This year the PHE project in Kenya continued to improve access to quality family planning, reproductive health, and general health care for the remote communities in and around the Kiunga Marine National Reserve. From the beginning of the project, WWF worked closely with the Kenyan Ministry of Health (MoH) and African Medical and Research Foundation (AMREF) to provide this care, complementing the USAID-supported activities with general health resources provided by Johnson and Johnson. The partnership with AMREF ended last year (due to AMREF's high operational costs and continuing fears of insecurity), but throughout FY07, the project's mobile clinic and other PHE activities proceeded uninterrupted. WWF's strong partnership with the MoH, the project-trained community-based distributors (CBDs), and a budding relationship with Family Health International (FHI) made this possible. In the second half of FY07, WWF formalized the partnership with FHI and has been pleased to note the organization's high level of commitment to the project and to overcoming the challenges experienced by AMREF.

The USAID and Johnson and Johnson supported work continues to facilitate WWF's relationship with local communities and stakeholders as WWF works towards building an effective co-management structure for the Kiunga Marine National Reserve. In the second half of FY07, the new project-sponsored dispensary constructed in the KMNR was registered by the Ministry of Health and the MoH hired a temporary staff member for the facility while awaiting finalization of the Ministry's recruitment process.

This USAID funded component of the PHE project has continued to make significant advances in raising awareness levels, while improving quality and access to FP and RH—a critical step towards ensuring the long-term welfare of the residents of the KMNR. Between December 2006 and March 2007, the project recorded distribution of: 305 injectables, 1626 pills, 8 implants, and 2148 male condoms by CBDs and target area health care workers. Furthermore, the remote Boni communities served by the mobile clinics in four key areas continue to receive reproductive health care. Targeted sensitization and awareness trainings have continued with a high demand for RH materials from local leaders, adults and youth, clinical staff, and traditional birth attendants in the area.

The WWF Kiunga Project is now a member of the Lamu District Health Board, and the Ministry of Health has committed to providing a permanent, full-time nurse for the dispensary at Mkokoni village within the Kiunga Marine National Reserve.

***Strategic Objectives***

Objective 1: To increase awareness and adoption of family planning and reproductive health

Objective 2: To improve institutional and infrastructural capacity for provision of quality curative and preventative health care

Objective 3: To improve community capacity for reproductive health by changing behavior and practices

Objective 4: To promote the sustainable use of natural resources, and to secure the long-term welfare of the area’s habitats, species and communities.

***Activity Status***

<b>Activity No.</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Comments</b>
<i>Activity 1.1: Promote RH education</i>	On Track	10 male and 10 female youth from each of the 7 villages within and adjacent to KMNR attended FP/RH and environment sensitization workshops aimed at creating awareness on these health issues and how they relate to environmental conservation. 11 health care workers and 17 CBDs were also trained in youth-friendly FP/RH.
<i>Activity 1.2: Provide integrated FP/RH</i>	On Track	In FY07 17 CBDs were trained and are operational. The integrated monthly health outreach services continue and include PMTCT and VCT. 2803 women in the district received FP commodities this year (MoH district figures exclude data from CBDs within KMNR)
<i>Activity 1.3: Provide/ promote ante-natal care</i>	On Track	The highly publicized monthly health outreach services continue to address the needs of expectant mothers in malaria control, weighing, palpitation and PMTCT, jointly funded by USAID and Johnson & Johnson. 40 TBAs were given refresher trainings with emphasis placed on identification of early danger signs in pregnancy and referral for hospital deliveries. Deliveries conducted by skilled staff in the district increased in FY07 to 1490 out of 2628 total deliveries. A link was also developed between TBAs and health care workers.

<i>Activity 2.1: Improve RH infrastructure</i>	On Track	One of the villages within KMNR was provided with clean water from an underground rain water harvesting and storage tank fitted with a hand-pump. 20 delivery kits issued to the MoH; (there was a shortage of MoH-supplied contraceptives during this period and J&J funds were used to fill the gap, purchasing 3000 injectables and 3000 pills).
<i>Activity 2.2: Continue mobile RH clinic to Boni</i>	On Track	Boni villages and those of Kiwaiyu, Ndau, and Mkokoni lacking skilled health care workers continue to receive FP/RH and general health care through the monthly outreach mobile clinics.
<i>Activity 2.3: Improve transport of contraceptives</i>	Mixed Performance	The project continues to provide logistical support for medical supplies to all villages that are covered by MoH-operated mobile clinics. Work plans prepared and review meetings held jointly with MoH.
<i>Activity 3.1: Continue training community based workers/volunteers</i>	Mixed Performance	17 CBDs were trained, are now operational and are supervised by MoH personnel which will promote sustainability. 24 community health workers were re-trained with an emphasis on identifying cases and easing referrals to health facilities; all community trainings were carried out in collaboration with and by MoH and WWF staff
<i>Activity 3.2: Provide FP/RH training to health personnel</i>	On Track	11 health care workers received training on youth-friendly RH services
<i>Activity 3.3: Train gender and youth groups</i>	On Track	10 male and 10 female youth were sensitized on FP/RH issues and how population relates to environmental sustainability
<i>Activity 4.1: Sensitize/mobilize communities on environmental issues</i>	On Track	Sensitization on coastal resource management, environmental health, FP/RH issues and PHE linkages is ongoing for local fishermen and women. Communities continue to take more ownership of their resources. Through the initiative of local fishermen, fish regeneration zones (called “no-take” zones) have now been established adjacent to the KMNR. Youth continue to volunteer in marine turtle conservation initiatives, and they have formed two ecotourism-based youth groups that are actively involved in mangrove and turtle conservation.
<i>Activity 4.2: Support/expand long term welfare of KMNR</i>	On Track	Investments in RH, with USAID support, and general health, through Johnson & Johnson

		<p>funding, continues to enable the KMNR Project to leverage increased good-will from local leaders and stakeholders. This has been enhanced with the increased local government commitment to provide long-term support for FP, RH, health, and overall reserve management in the Kiunga area. Communities continue to report turtle nests to WWF, so that nests can be monitored and hatchlings released. The Kenyan Wildlife Service and other government agencies have also demonstrated increased commitment to participate in co-managing the KMNR.</p>
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***Challenges and Lessons Learned***

This year has held a number of challenges for the Kiunga PHE Project, but has also been a year of exciting transition that may offer opportunities for sustaining PHE efforts in Kiunga.

For example, WWF installed new communication equipment in the WWF-Kiunga camp for more efficiency, but depending on a single generator for electricity supply has proven challenging. Breakdowns continue to slow down the pace of work at the project site. We are now planning to install windpower with assistance from a US-based donor.

The end of FY07 was also marked by a shortage of family planning commodities throughout Lamu District (which contains but is larger than the KMNR). This has at times demoralized CBDs, although WWF helped ease this situation by using Johnson and Johnson PHE funds to purchase a supply of 3000 injectables and 3000 pills. In addition, in anticipation of FY08 funding cuts, the project scaled down efforts in certain areas (though the scope remains the same). This resulted in being unable to undertake an adequate level of sensitization on FP/RH and integrated PHE messages in some areas.

On a more promising note, since the exit of AMREF in 2006, WWF has been working on developing an agreement with Family Health International who is moving into the district with the USAID-supported AIDS, Population and Health Integrated Assistance II Project (APHIA II). This effort is looking quite hopeful since integrated health outreach is already being carried out in partnership with the “APHIA II Coast” Component of the APHIA Program-an FHI Project in Kenya’s coastal region.

Overall, WWF continues to find that the PHE approach produces positive results for conservation, health and family planning and that the integrated approach is easily accepted by target communities and partner institutions.

## 4 Philippines

### *Overview*

This report falls in the third year of the USAID-funded Roxas Population, Health & Environment Project (PHE) in Roxas, Palawan, Philippines—a PHE project that started in April 2005. During the second half of FY07, the project made significant advances in implementation of plans developed during the first two years of the project. Municipal ordinances, resolutions and executive orders which were passed in support of project activities in the previous year were implemented during this period. PHE workers who were trained last year for Family Planning Actions Sessions (FPAS- the Save the Children community participation tool that helps couples learn about PHE linkages and prepare for their FP needs), commodity-distribution and monitoring of coastal resources were able to conduct activities for which they were trained. Comprehensive results for the indicators of the project's PMP were also obtained during this period. In addition, this year was marked by a substantial release of funds by the Local Government Unit (LGU) of Roxas for PHE activities – for the purchase of FP commodities, monitoring of core areas of coral reefs and seagrasses and the establishment of these core areas as Marine Protected Areas (MPAs). The LGU's counterpart contribution for this period amounted to \$ 21,638.

The 25 PHE workers and volunteers who were trained by Save the Children in FY 06 continued to conduct FPAS for couples with unmet needs in the 7 target communities as well as to couples attending pre-marriage counseling (in the last report to USAID, WWF indicated that the LGU has now made this a requirement prior to the issuance of a marriage license) at the Municipal Social Welfare and Development Office (MSWD). A total of 61 FPAS have been conducted in the target barangays and 15 FPAS have been conducted at the MSWD. The FPAS reached 67% of the target audience in the 7 barangays and a total of 188 couples in the MSWD.

The operation of the Family Planning Commodity Distribution System (FP-CDS) which was launched last November 2006 using seed money of PhP 70,000 from the local government unit, is still successfully continuing under the management of the FP Coordinator (a midwife who is staff of the Municipal Health Office). Contraceptives can now be bought from the 21 community-based distributors (CBDs) within the 7 target barangays as well as from the Rural Health Unit/Municipal Health Office (RHU/MHO) at prices lower than those in commercial establishments. CBDs also serve clients from the other barangays of Roxas (outside of the 7 target areas) and the central management committee of the LGU has already started talking about expanding the FP-CDS to include the other barangays.

In the pilot barangays, oral contraceptive pills are still the most commonly-used method of contraceptive with a total of 1,183 cycles sold from January-June 2007. Injectables and condoms are also sold by the CBDs. Other contraceptive methods locally available include the intra-uterine device (IUD), which is being provided by the Rural Health Unit and bilateral tubal ligation (BTL) which was conducted through a medical outreach

mission supported by WWF's PHE project. Thirty-five women obtained tubal ligations last April 2007 and sixteen of them came from the pilot barangays of the project. With PHE information, education and communication (IEC) and accessibility of contraceptives being provided by WWF in the pilot barangays, 112 new FP acceptors have been recorded from January-June 2007. Current CPR was also just calculated at 33% by a new WWF survey; this represents a 1% increase from last year.

An improvement in fisheries has been reported by fishermen and this is supported by measurements of Catch Per Unit Effort (CPUE) which increased to 1-3 kg per manhour compared to a baseline of 0.07-2.4 kg per manhour obtained 2 years prior. Increase in CPUE can be partly attributed to the strict enforcement and more frequent patrolling that has been conducted during the 2006 calendar year, and motivated by the PHE project. These increases have greatly reduced the operation of illegal fishing methods (including use of dynamite and cyanide) and commercial fishing (Danish seine, trawl) inside municipal waters—representing a huge success for the food security and sustainable livelihoods of local Roxas communities. This year, patrolling of municipal waters for illegal fishing is being conducted less frequently by the LGU and local fishing communities than last year (which seems to be related to recent mayoral elections but once the new fiscal year begins it is hoped that this will return to previous levels). Meanwhile, monitoring of the fish catch of the local fishermen for trends in fish stocks is on-going.

Maps of Green Island Bay's coastal resources and populated areas have been finished and were used in helping to establish 7 marine protected areas (coral reef and seagrass core zones) within Green Island Bay. Of these 7 MPAs, 5 belong to the target barangays of the project. Stakeholder consultations and workshops for the formulation of MPA management plans and management bodies of each MPA have been conducted in the five barangays. Monitoring surveys for proposed MPAs or core areas of coral reefs and seagrass areas show that these areas are still in relatively good condition overall, with most of the proposed MPAs in fair to good condition. Permanent transects have also been laid inside and outside of these MPAs and subsequent surveys will reveal whether protection of these MPAs has been beneficial. An ordinance for these 7 MPAs is currently under deliberation in the municipal council.

WWF's relationship with Save the Children-Philippines continued to enrich the work of the PHE project in Roxas. The FPAS tool and exchange visits taken by Roxas leaders and stakeholders to Save and PATH project sites have proven invaluable for project success. Further, although Save does not have a physical presence in Palawan, the two organizations have continued to dialogue with one another to exchange technical assistance and discuss ideas for scaling up.

### ***Strategic Objectives***

Objective 1: To improve FP, RH, coastal resources management and PHE knowledge and awareness among coastal communities, and build capacity

Objective 2: To improve access and infrastructure promoting FP/RH commodities and service delivery

Objective 3: To promote sustainable fishing practices and techniques among fisherfolk families and policy makers

Objective 4: To identify and develop sustainability measures to promote PHE in the municipality of Roxas

**Activity Status**

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Comments</b>
<i>Activity 1.1 Update household database</i>	Completed	Household database was updated through survey of all the households in the 7 target barangays by Barangay Health Workers (BHWs) from June-August 2007. <b>1.2a: 33% CPR</b> <b>1.2d: Total new FP acceptors from Jan-June 2007 is 112 distributed in the 7 target barangays</b>
<i>Activity 1.2 Identify/recruit community PHE workers for FP/RH mobilization</i>	Completed	PHE workers were identified and participated in several trainings in FY06. In FY07 they began operations and have been actively monitored and supported by the PHE project. <b>1.2b: 21 CBDs trained and operational since December 2006</b>
<i>Activity 1.3 Conduct trainings</i>	Completed	<b>1.2c: 2 FPAS volunteers</b> have been added to the pool of 25 trained in November 2006 and are currently conducting FPAS in their respective barangays, bringing the total to 27 FPAS volunteers as of June 2007.
<i>Activity 1.4 Organize meetings on FPAS</i>	Completed	<b>Voluntary Indicator 1.1a4:</b> 61 FPAS conducted in the 7 target barangays and 15 FPAS conducted at the MSWD from January to June 2007. 1 Medical Outreach Mission for BTL was conducted in coordination with Marie Stopes (NGO) and the Provincial and Municipal Health Offices. <b>Voluntary Indicator 1.1a5:</b> 768 members of the target population reached through FPAS (67% of target population) in the 7 target barangays. 188 couples reached through FPAS conducted at the MSWD.
<i>Activity 1.5 Assess capacities of community health workers</i>	Completed	Training needs assessment completed and subsequent trainings given to volunteers in FY 06.

Activity	Status	Comments
<i>Activity 1.6 Develop &amp; implement monitoring tool</i>	Completed	A PHE project monitoring tool was developed with participation of stakeholders and is being used to track progress of work.
<i>Activity 1.7 IEC materials development</i>	Delayed	PHE IEC material on study results and project activities will be developed and is anticipated for printing by 3rd quarter of 2007, but will depend on a number of external actors and stakeholders.
<i>Activity 2.1 Forge partnership agreements with LGU, the private sector, NGOs</i>	On-track	<b>Voluntary Indicator USAID SO2:</b> New supplier for commodities obtained – doctor’s account in Manila and Saturn Marketing in Puerto Princesa
<i>Activity 2.2 Attend meetings with Municipal Health Board</i>	On-track	1 Municipal Health Board Meeting attended. There is a new SB ( <i>Sangguniang Bayan</i> or Municipal Council) Chairman on Health and a Municipal Health Board Meeting was conducted to orient him to the different NGOs/ projects on health currently operating in the municipality of Roxas. The resolution on fees for RHU services will be followed up in the coming year, as will the resolution on funds that can be collected from other barangays (outside of the 7 pilot barangays) that adds to the seed money for contraceptives.
<i>Activity 2.3 Establish commodity distribution system outlets in barangays</i>	Completed	The FP-CDS was formally launched last November 2006 in the 7 target barangays under a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) and with 21 CBDs/ outlets; it is still operating successfully. Other suppliers have been sought in Manila through additional contacts since the prices being offered in Puerto Princesa are much higher than those in Manila. <b>1.4b2: 1,505 FP commodities dispensed within the period Jan-June 2007 (1,183 cycles of oral contraceptives, 157 injectables and 165 packs of condoms).</b>
<i>Activity 2.4 Technical assistance to business partners of the commodity distribution system (CDS)</i>	On-track	Technical assistance on the accounting and monitoring system for the FP-CDS is being given by WWF’s Finance & Admin staff to the FP Coordinator/ CDS Chairman. The RHU Head will have to recommend another person/s (probably a younger midwife and the RHU admin person who can assist the

Activity	Status	Comments
		CDS Chairman) that can be trained in this since the CDS Chairman nearly of retirement age and will be replaced in 2-3 years.
<i>Activity 2.5 Conduct training</i>	Mixed performance	<p><b>1.2c: For PHE workers several trainings have been completed: FPAS (25 persons), commodity distribution (21 persons) and Non Scalpel Vasectomy motivation (29 persons) in FY 06.</b> However, training for RHU physicians to do NSV has been delayed – and may not be done. The number of prospective clients is not yet sufficient, and WWF has not been successful in convincing the RHU physician to learn to perform NSV. Instead medical outreach missions conducting BTL and NSV will be utilized to provide these services as needed. A medical outreach mission was conducted last April 2007. 16 women from the 7 pilot barangays were able to obtain BTL. Another outreach mission is expected in Oct. or Nov. 2007 and clients for BTL and NSV are already signing up. Those preferring IUD are referred immediately to the RHU.</p> <p><b>1.4b1: 7 IUD insertions from January-June 2007 (2 of them had attended FPAS) and 16 BTL cases.</b></p>
<i>Activity 2.6 Develop monitoring tool for CDS</i>	On-track	An M&E tool has been developed through a participatory workshop. Monitoring for indicators is being conducted by individuals/offices that need to provide data and information. CBDs have monitoring forms which they fill out and submit to midwives monthly. These forms are then submitted to the CDS Chairman who collates them and submits a summary to WWF.
<i>Activity 3.1 Update biological information through monitoring surveys (seagrass, dugongs, and fisheries) and assessment of other habitats</i>	On-track	<p><b>Voluntary Indicator 1.1a4:</b> Monitoring of coral reefs and seagrass was conducted with trained locals. 23 new volunteers have been trained from different barangays for coastal resources monitoring.</p> <p><b>1.3b3: CPUE – 1-3 kg/manhour</b> (2006 data) which has increased from the baseline of 0.07-2.4 kg/manhour (2004 data) reported in 2005.</p> <p><b>Voluntary indicators towards establishment</b></p>

Activity	Status	Comments
		<p><b>of sanctuaries 1.3b4:</b>  <b>% live coral cover</b> – Under review by the municipal council right now is the proposal for the establishment of 7 MPAs distributed in 5 barangays. 5 MPAs among the 7 proposed MPAs are located in the pilot barangays of the project. Most of these coral reefs/ MPAs are in fair to good condition with one MPA in excellent condition.  <b>Fish abundance</b> – The overall combined total abundance was 41,267 individuals. Mean total estimated fish abundance was 983 (<math>\pm 735</math>) individuals/150m<sup>2</sup>.  <b>Species richness</b> – A total of 210 species from 33 families were recorded combined with a mean total of 47 (<math>\pm 10</math>) species/150m<sup>2</sup>.  <b>Biomass</b> – The overall combined fish biomass estimated was 232 kg. The mean total fish biomass was low at only 5.5 (<math>\pm 5.6</math>) kg/150m<sup>2</sup>.  <b>Dugongs</b> – One (1) dugong has been released alive (by-catch from fish corral) and one (1) dugong has died (by-catch from seine net).</p>
<i>Activity 3.2 Develop/ distribute PHE IEC materials</i>	Delayed	Reports are currently being reviewed and edited; development of a popular version in brochure form is expected by the 3 <sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2007.
<i>Activity 3.3 Draw out management actions/ policy through a planning workshop</i>	On-track	<b>1.3b4: Barangay consultations for MPA establishment, MPA management planning, “writeshop” and stakeholder workshop conducted in 5 barangays. Ordinance to legitimize MPAs is under deliberation by the municipal council.</b>
<i>Activity 3.4 Support communities for management and protection of natural resources</i>	On-track	<p>Patrolling of municipal waters conducted by fishermen’s association (MMCPC) and Bantay Dagat (supported by the LGU).  <b>1.3b1: Total of 70 days of patrolling conducted in the municipal waters of Roxas from January-June 2007 (Bantay Dagat = 22 days &amp; MMCPC = 48 days)</b>  <b>1.3b2: 8 apprehensions done by Bantay Dagat with confiscation of gear. No cases have been filed in court for this period.</b></p>
<i>Activity 3.5 Technical/ IEC support to marine</i>	On-track	Rescue and support given to calls for release of one (1) live dugong from a fish corral and

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Comments</b>
<i>mammal stranding network</i>		burial of one (1) dugong which died due to drowning (by-catch from seine net).
<i>Activity 4.1 Mainstreaming PHE in local development planning</i>	On-track	Environment activities of the project included in the funds obtained from LGU for environmental activities: MPA monitoring, barangay consultations, planning & workshop.
<i>Activity 4.2 Work with LGUs in allocating annual LGU budget supporting PHE</i>	On-track	Copy of Municipal Annual Investment Plan of the LGU for 2007 has been obtained which included budgets for health (at 5% of the total budget, when last year it was only 4%) and for environmental monitoring and management (at 3% and last year it was only .6%). <b>Voluntary Indicator 1.4:</b> Counterpart contribution from January-June 2007 = \$ 21,638 US
<i>Activity 4.3 Support the attendance to PHE conference, national or international</i>	Still to be done	Project can probably support 4-5 partners/ individuals from Roxas to attend the PHE conference on March 2008 and present papers for the project. Draft abstracts currently being prepared for submission to the PHE conference secretariat.

### ***Challenges and Lessons Learned***

Challenges have included:

- Motivating the municipal government to provide sufficient funding for activities being conducted for coastal resources monitoring and management, although the project has high hopes that early next year a municipal ordinance will be passed that will provide funding for MPA management (relevant municipal staff have indicated this is likely to happen).
- Organizing the communities in forming groups who will be responsible for the management of their own MPAs. Communities are concerned about how they will sustain current technical assistance and funding levels for MPA management when WWF pulls out next year. However, WWF is working closely with the LGU and other organizations to overcome this obstacle and inspire community confidence and motivation.
- Absence of a local NGO health partner in Roxas. This has now been partly overcome by collaboration with Save the Children, who has provided technical assistance and capacity building to WWF, and helped with strategic planning. WWF has continued this relationship through a formal MOA..

Lessons learned have included:

- When community members, and local formal and informal leaders comprehend PHE linkages and the importance and benefits that will be reaped from MPAs, it is easier for communities to organize themselves in forming management bodies that will be responsible for the management of their MPAs.
- Networking and linking community organizations to other institutions and agencies will be very important in ensuring sustainability of the project in the coming year. WWF is already seeking out these relationships and trying to establish this kind of network.

## **5 Population Analysis of PHE Approaches and Linkages, and Capacity Building**

### ***Overview and Highlights***

Work continued on implementing the PHE Analysis priorities selected in consultation with population and population-environment partners (the first four items below), and the new activities that were added at the end of FY06 as a result of matching funding from Johnson and Johnson and requests from the field (the last two items below):

- Determining the value added for conservation organizations of combining FP and RH with ongoing conservation activities. This includes: documenting the current status of knowledge about PHE and creating a framework of benefits.
- Creating decision-making tool/s to for conservation managers to decide when and how to integrate FP/RH into planning and program/project design. This includes an analysis of basic population trends for the WWF priority ecoregions.
- Documenting how to make PE partnerships work most effectively.
- Undertaking an analysis on how to scale up PE interventions, in which the lessons learned by WWF and other organizations doing PE projects will be considered.
- Conducting an evaluation of WWF's USAID-funded PHE projects within the context of a larger scale evaluation of all WWF's general health and conservation projects, including those funded by Johnson & Johnson.
- Producing a PHE manual for conservation practitioners that will be based on all of the above analytical results and the global evaluation.

**Value-added and partnerships analysis:** In the second half of FY07, an interim report from the PHE partnerships analysis was disseminated among participants in the survey and select other audiences (full dissemination will not take place until these results are integrated into more user-friendly PHE communication pieces and the manual). The value-added interviews have been completed and analysis continued in this last fiscal year but at a slow pace given the part-time status of the WWF staff who has led this effort.

**Tools:** The final draft of the Population Trends Analysis for WWF-US's 19 new priority places- completed in the first half of FY07- was utilized this year in internal WWF network communications: to advocate for PHE within WWF-US, to respond to WWF Board members and the general public on queries about WWF's work on population

issues, and to communicate more effectively with potential donors to the PHE program. This is the first draft to take into account the new boundaries of the WWF-US Priority Places, because those boundaries were just finalized last year. It is anticipated that this analysis will also be included in the final products produced -as part of the PHE Analysis- for external audiences, and will continue to build support for PHE and help prioritize PHE efforts for WWF and for other actors within the conservation and health sectors.

**Scaling up:** Substantial progress was made on learning about and beginning to scale up PHE. The scaling up case studies that were commissioned for Madagascar and the Philippines were completed, peer reviewed and finalized. The findings of these case studies will also be integrated into the final set of learning products WWF will produce next year and WWF's PHE manual.

WWF has continued to work closely with the Population Reference Bureau (PRB) on scaling up PHE in East Africa, a regional 'living case study' where we are learning as we go. We have collaborated closely in the planning of the PHE conference in Addis Ababa in November 2007, will play an active role in the conference, and will be eagerly observing the outputs and outcomes of the conference and the country assessments facilitated by PRB.

In the US we have co-facilitated the establishment of the Policy and Practice PHE Coalition which brings together domestic and international PHE organizations. Domestic NGOs are keen to use our PHE results from the field in their advocacy work, and the coalition provides an excellent forum for exchange of results, ideas and approaches. We hope through the coalition to be able to influence policy and fundraising for PHE. We are also trying to identify possible roles for WWF with other donors and governments, and in the global population arena (where we see our role as one of providing information and collaborating with leaders in this field).

Funding leveraged from J&J for the evaluation and manual (\$30,000 for each of these components during FY07 and FY08 respectively) has better equipped WWF and other conservation organizations to scale up PHE.

WWF's new PHE project in the Terai Arc of Nepal, which started in FY07 under the Environmental Health Integrated Program task order, is off to a successful start. The carefully designed project is complementing very effectively the existing work funded by Johnson & Johnson, and is helping to magnify and build on its work to reach a scale not previously possible with J&J funding alone. The project has smoothly integrated into the existing WWF portfolio of PHE projects, feeding lessons into the learning component and benefiting from some technical assistance from WWF-US, as well as from ADRA in Nepal. WWF Nepal is very keen to expand PHE efforts to other project sites and landscapes, and this in-country pilot experience will be very valuable. We have also received requests from WWF offices to help scale up PHE in the Galapagos, Cambodia, the Congo Basin, East Africa and the Philippines.

**WWF PHE Evaluation:** The WWF PHE Evaluation was launched in the second half of FY07, with the selection of consultant David Carr, design of evaluation tools,, and three evaluation trips organized. The first trip of the Evaluation is planned for August, the second for September, and the final trip is planned for late October and November—to coincide with the East Africa PHE Conference in Addis Ababa. Just before the conference WWF will hold a one-day workshop for WWF PHE staff in Africa, to review results of the evaluation, plan an outline for the manual, and exchange results and lessons across WWF projects. A final working draft of evaluation results is expected by the end of December 2007, at which time work will begin on writing the manual and integrating these results into other PHE learning materials.

**Capacity building:** Capacity for management and for M&E in WWF's USAID-funded PHE sites continued to improve during this period, with assistance from WWF-US and with new staff. In Madagascar, WWF-US worked closely with M&E Specialist and PHE Project Coordinator, Voahanginirina Rasoarinoro, who as manager of the PHE project, is now able to dedicate most of her time to the project. Given her M&E expertise and a demonstrated record of success in improving field coordination of this project, this is a real asset to the project. Also, the efforts of WWF-Madagascar's newest PHE project staff, Fidy Raobelison, who is based in Ft. Dauphin rather than the capital of Madagascar, have already led to substantial improvements in the quality of monitoring and communication among project staff across the vast Spiny Forest and between WWF and partner ASOS. An indicator of this success is that PMP results this year are more reliable, and therefore useful than before.

The idea of an organizational audit of ASOS, originally discussed about one year ago, was re-visited by WWF in the second half of FY07. The purpose of this audit is to improve ASOS' capacity to manage field operations and to contribute to the NGO's long-term viability as a leading local provider of non-governmental social services in this vast, remote, and deeply marginalized part of the country. WWF mobilized a large group of ASOS donors and partners to develop the scope of work for the audit, and began the search for a consultant to do the work. We hope the selection of a consultant will be finalized soon, and the audit undertaken shortly.

In the Philippines, PE Fellow Bill Fischelis, who moved from Save the Children Philippines to Conservation International Philippines, has been in continued dialogue with the WWF-Philippines PHE Project. We hope that once we receive FY08 funding, he will provide further support to WWF before he leaves the Philippines, including advice on scaling up.

In Kenya, WWF-US continues to work closely with the KMNR PHE project- particularly in maintaining continuity of FP/RH care - as WWF-KMNR develops a new PHE partnership with Family Health International who are working specifically on youth PHE aspects in Kiunga. Our partnership with the Ministry of Health in Lamu District continues to thrive

**Outreach:** We provided information on our PHE program during training sessions organized by the Sierra Club. Less formally, we also briefed several partner organizations and individuals on our PHE approach. We developed PHE pages on the WWF-US website, and included WWF PHE stories first written for USAID’s PHE site. We have also taken various opportunities to raise awareness of PHE issues within WWF, including during visits to WWF field offices and when field staff visit Washington DC. We have integrated PHE approaches into presentations on migration and biodiversity, HIV/AIDS and the environment, and conflict and the environment. We have appreciated the various meetings of USAID-funded PHE projects, which are great networking opportunities.

Our communications strategy has been drafted and will be finalized once the results of the global health evaluation are completed. The results will shape the final strategy. Once the results of the analytical work are available, outreach will become a major focus.

***Strategic Objectives***

Objective 1: To analyze the value of reproductive health work in biodiversity conservation, evaluating the effectiveness of different approaches

Objective 2: To build capacity for population-environment work, especially in the conservation sector

***Activity Status***

<b>Activity No.</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Comments</b>
<i>Activity 1.1: To undertake participatory strategic planning for the learning program and establishment/refinement of M&amp;E for WWF PE sites</i>	On Track	Learning strategy completed in FY05; Ongoing M&E support provided to all existing and potential WWF PHE sites to refine PHE M&E indicators, quality, and capacity.
<i>Activity 1.2: To undertake activities to implement the population analysis strategy</i>	On Track	Partnerships review interim report completed; value added analysis ongoing; two scaling up case studies completed; communications strategy drafted; working closely with Population Reference Bureau to organize PHE conference in East Africa.
<i>Activity 1.3: To develop a population decision-making framework and tools for field practitioners</i>	On Track	Tool finalized indicating population growth rates and other factors, to help prioritize WWF Ecoregions for PHE approach in the future; publication under discussion.
<i>Activity 1.4: To continue and refine project PHE monitoring</i>	On Track	PHE M&E system developed in FY05 and being applied & continuously refined.
<i>Activity 1.5: To conduct an evaluation of all WWF’s PHE</i>	On Track	Currently underway, began in July and will end in December 2007

<i>projects</i>		
<i>Activity 2.1: To support population-environment projects in WWF field sites</i>	On Track	Technical assistance, including US legal compliance guidance, provided to the 4 USAID-funded field sites (this includes the new site in Nepal). Technical guidance notes provided to field on a regular basis.
<i>Activity 2.2: To undertake networking and outreach on population/health-environment issues</i>	On Track	We have continued to raise awareness of PHE issues within WWF and beyond; formal outreach included presentations during Sierra Club training sessions. Our communications strategy has been drafted and will be refined once the global evaluation is complete. Results will be integrated into the strategy.

### ***Challenges and Lessons Learned***

A continuing challenge during the second half of this year has been that the PHE technical advisor, Cara Honzak, works only part-time (at 60% time which started in the beginning of FY07, and although planned, it is a reduction in time from about 90% previously). Meanwhile the size of WWF's PHE portfolio increased to include one more project in Nepal. WWF-US has been fairly successful in overcoming this challenge by finding ways to reduce Cara's workload and focus on priorities, but this makes it more difficult for the PHE team to engage in any extra activities or respond to special requests from USAID. We have also had to continue spending additional time on USAID legal compliance issues. This situation will be partly relieved if we receive a PHE Fellow for Nepal/Asia, who can provide TA to our Asia projects and help with reporting.