



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



WWF for a living planet®

Leader with Associates Cooperative Agreement

*LAG-A-00-99-00048-00
SSO 1 (934-001-01)*

*Ecoregional Exchanges
Annual Report
10/01/2004 - 09/30/2005*

for

World Wildlife Fund

Date Submitted: September 30, 2005

Submitted by:
Sarah Christiansen

Ecoregional Exchanges

Global Conservation Workshop – Antalya, Turkey

In February 2005, WWF convened a Global Ecoregion Conservation Workshop in Antalya, Turkey that brought together representatives from more than 40 Ecoregions. WWF staff were joined by representatives from TNC, FOS and other field-based partners to explore the evolving approaches, achievements, and challenges of ecoregion conservation. GCP-funded ecoregion action programs presented and participated in thematic workshops and training. Sessions included how to identify strategies and leverage opportunity that support enabling conditions for conservation, calculating risk, ensuring sustainability, GIS and landscape tools, addressing threats, monitoring and measures, and mobilizing dynamic communication. Extensive information sharing, discussion, and debate enabled ecoregion staff to learn from each other's experiences, and also from thematic experts in different fields. In particular, USAID-funded efforts in measures ~~& and~~ monitoring ~~that~~ included the testing of the Standards in ~~3~~ three ecoregion action programs (Laos portion of the Forests of Lower Mekong, MesoAmerican Caribbean Reef and the Atlantic Forests). This was the most highly rated session of the week and provided an opportunity to showcase and debate the emerging issues of applying adaptive management principles at national and ecoregional scales. The proceedings of the entire workshop are included in the enclosed ~~ed rom~~ CD-ROM.

Joint TNC/WWF Ecoregional Collaboration

At the Antalya workshop, there was a joint presentation of the TNC/WWF peer review effort. Because WWF and TNC share the ecoregion as the same planning unit, this collaboration has sought to expand learning, enhance innovation, and coordinate as much as possible in conducting ecoregional assessments for plans/visions in places we work. In practical terms, there are three main areas of focus:

- Ecoregional Peer Review Workshops ~~---~~ as a mechanism for practical exchange and training.
- Joint Guiding Principles/Standards for ecoregional assessments ~~---~~ as an expression of best practices from the experience of over 40 peer reviews.
- Ecoregional Conservation Toolbox ~~---~~ as a practical resource that provides basic resources with evolving examples of tools for ecoregional assessments in different contexts.

The peer review workshops provide a mechanism that has fostered an open, honest, and supportive environment for field staff from WWF, TNC and partners. These workshops focus on sharing current challenges with focused working sessions with follow-up "contracts" with managers and peers for tangible progress. Since 2003, over 40 ecoregions ~~---~~ 10 from WWF ~~---~~ have been peer reviewed (see attached map). The cumulative knowledge and distilled best practices have been synthesized into a set of joint guiding standards or principles for ecoregional assessments. This document now serves as the framework for ongoing workshops. GCP funds to support TNC and WWF field staff ~~---~~ who otherwise were not able to participate ~~---~~ has helped to launch and strengthen this collaboration that is now receiving leveraged funding for regular peer reviews. Each organization views this as an important platform for cross-

organizational fertilization in the science of ecoregional assessments and how they inform strategies at the ecoregion scale. -Work is now underway to ensure that these ecoregional assessment standards are linked to and/or embedded in each organization's programmatic standards. -For instance, these joint ecoregional assessment standards will be included as part of the WWF Standards Sourcebook (see below).

Measures & Monitoring

After almost ~~2~~^{two} years of developing, testing, and vetting principles and ideas across the WWF Network, we will officially release the WWF **Standards** for Project/Programme Management in October. -~~(See the final first iteration attached.)~~ -Accompanying the Standards ~~is~~^{will be} a sourcebook that provides guidance on key components with key references and hyperlinks to templates and resources wherever appropriate. -~~(To be released in October.)~~ -The launching of WWF's Standards reflects a rapid culmination of work that began with the CMP Open Standards which were then translated to WWF language and adapted for our own organizational strengths and structures. During this process, WWF came together as a federation of independent organizations to harmonize our many styles, methods, and terminology used for project management. -The resulting synchronization of once disparate ~~and not always complete~~ project management practices ~~has~~^{laid} the groundwork for greater efficiency, coordination and, ultimately, conservation impact.

Following the initial conclusions of the pilot phase (outlined in last year's annual report), **conservation audits** are being mainstreamed into WWF management. -Our goal is to ensure that each programme or project receives a conservation audit every 3-5 years. -Through the pilots and experience shared with CMP (TNC in particular), WWF now has a methodology that is outlined in the WWF Audit Sourcebook.

Through this process, WWF has been both a leader within CMP as well as hugely benefited from the collective sharing of experience, tools, debate, and interaction with CMP colleagues and organizations. -USAID GCP funding that supported this coalition of NGOs as well as testing and applying these ideas within WWF has been a critically important source of funding and philosophical support. -The WWF Standards have been applied to over ~~5~~^{five} ecoregion action programs. - Each GCP ecoregion is undertaking either formal or informal audits to assess strengths and weaknesses against the Standards followed by plans for support in whatever form makes the most sense.

-For instance, EAME just underwent a conservation audit followed by targeted training that is helping to produce a more robust and refined WWF strategic plan (which will include an action plan and monitoring plan). -In addition to this effort in EAME to measure our own management effectiveness, the EAME program initiated an effort to identify ecoregional status measures. This includes a set of indicators that reflect the health and trends or "State of the EAME", regardless of who is working where. -An initial list of agreed upon indicators was developed and categorized in three groups: the state of biodiversity, key threats, and enabling conditions. Follow-up work will include refining this cadre of indicators based on further analysis and investigation ~~on~~^{into} who has what data and how it will be managed and coordinated. -While WWF has initiated and facilitated this process, it is likely that a more appropriate regional partner will become the central repository and coordinator of data management. - Future effort

will also look at how to best support ~~date-data~~ flow and input into national-level commitments such as CBD 2010 targets or the Millennium Development Goals. -With this multi-partner effort to understand status indicators combined with the Standards training to more robustly measure WWF's effectiveness, EAME will be much more able to mobilize awareness as well as measure our own success and contributions towards achieving the EAME vision.

While finalizing and publishing the WWF Standards is a landmark milestone in our institutional evolution, we recognize that the document is only as good as our ability and competency to practice them on the ground. -To support this, a rollout and capacity building plan is underway that includes both internal alignment and harnessing of efforts as well as combining forces with other partners who are moving in the same direction—~~from~~ from software tools to training of trainer models, to formal and informal course curricula and formats. -For example, while WWF uses different informal and/or software tools, we lack a comprehensive information management system for practicing the Standards. -We are particularly interested ~~in~~ and involved in the emerging effort within CMP to develop eAdaptiveManagement which aims to be a software package that allows a project manager to use the best functions of the various programs we use (Word, Excel, MS Project, Arcview, Visio, etc) into one package. -As this is in development, and will not be fully available for ~~and is~~ at least 18-24 months ~~before it's fully available~~, WWF is also collaborating with TNC to provide training to WWF field staff using the TNC CAP Excel tool. -This tool has specific strengths that any existing WWF information management tools do not, and will be of immediate help to field practitioners.

To explore collaborative training and capacity building with academia, WWF also initiated a project with the University of Maryland graduate program in Conservation Biology and Sustainable Development ~~and Conservation Biology~~. -These students will undertake a gap analysis of training and course curricula—~~either~~ either in conservation or in other disciplines. -Using any results they gather, they will develop a course curricula based on the CMP Open Standards which could potentially be tested in the following year.

Population, Health, Gender and Environment

Migration:

In FY04 two consultancies were undertaken on migration: by Professor Dick Bilbrow (University of North Carolina) with WWF GCP funding to review opportunities to reduce impacts of migration, and by Jenny Ericson (former WWF Population-Environment Fellow in Mexico) for CI to undertake specific case studies on migration impacts and interventions by conservation organizations. Judy Oglethorpe, manager of WWF's Population, Health, Gender and Environment Program, has recently integrated both consultancy reports into a more generalized draft document on migration, its impacts on conservation, and interventions the conservation sector can take to reduce impacts. This document includes root causes of migration, such as effects of continued population growth and increase in resource consumption; globalization and world markets including agriculture; armed conflict; climate change; and health issues including HIV/AIDS.

The document focuses on ways to prevent or influence the course of migrations to reduce biodiversity impacts, and ways to mitigate the impacts when migrations do occur. Interventions

can be at policy level, in the area of origin, and/or in the area of destination. Types of migration covered include migrations for economic opportunity, because of environmental degradation, and politically forced migration. Included in the document are experiences from WWF ecoregions that were highlighted during the WWF Global Ecoregion Conservation Workshop in Antalya. Migration was one of four themes discussed during sessions on major threats to biodiversity (the others were agriculture, mining/oil and gas, and climate change).

In addition, at the World Conservation Congress in Bangkok WWF and the USAID's Office of Population and Reproductive Health (GH/PRH) jointly organized a session on population, migration, and HIV/AIDS. Through GCP support, WWF presented work on migration, and in particular from Nanie Ratsifandrihamana (of WWF Madagascar) who spoke on migration in the Spiny Forest. This helped to raise the profile of the importance of migration in conservation.

The draft migration document will be published jointly with CI in the next few months. WWF will contribute a few remaining GCP funds to the publication, but CI will provide most of the funding from Packard Foundation. The publication is intended as an interim document; its two main aims are to provide conservation practitioners with existing information on impacts and interventions that have been tried in various places round the world to date, and to draw attention in the conservation sector and beyond to the considerable biodiversity impacts of this little studied and under-funded but potentially devastating phenomenon. Ultimately we hope to use the document to raise funds to do further work on migration, including piloting of various approaches to produce a tool kit for conservation practitioners that will help them analyze existing and potential migration situations, review possible interventions, and identify key leverage points where they can intervene effectively.

Hence with a relatively small investment over the past two years, GCP has leveraged considerable discussion and review of migration and its impacts on biodiversity, and an interim publication. CI has included migration as one of their areas of focus, two coalitions (ABCG and CCC) have included it in their agendas as a priority, and WWF is giving it much more attention and support.

Reproductive Health:

In FY05 the reproductive health/environment project "Successful Communities from Ridge to Reef- Reef" Project continued with funding from GH/PRH (\$400,000). The project works in East Africa Marine Ecoregion (Kiunga, Kenya), the Spiny Forest in Madagascar, and this year extended into the Sulu Sulawesi Seas (Philippines). In FY06 it will also undertake early activities in the Moist Forest of Madagascar (total funding in FY06 likely to be \$325,000). The project provides family planning and reproductive health services to remote communities living in areas of high biodiversity where there is heavy pressure on natural resources, high human fertility, and unmet demand for these services. It also integrates environmental education and promotes sound natural resource use in this work. Activities under this cooperative agreement have several close linkages with GCP.

In Kiunga, Kenya, there is good synergy among different funding sources to provide an integrated approach to conservation through community health and development. Thus while there is a high demand for family planning and reproductive health services that the project is

helping to meet through mobile clinics and other means, Johnson ~~and~~ Johnson provides general health funds which allow the project (through the health partner African Medical Research Foundation, AMREF) to undertake broader health activities as well. This includes a vaccination program, malaria prevention, rehabilitation of clinic buildings, and improving water supplies through well and rainwater catchments rehabilitation. The GCP funds supporting improved fishing complement this well. Kiunga staff report that the health support and scholarships (see below) greatly improve community relations and help to facilitate buy-in to the natural resource management components.

The project also contains a learning component that aims to identify the added value of the integrated population-health-environment (PHE) approach, examine the factors that make health-environment partnerships work best, and look at ways to scale up population-environment approaches. A workshop was held in Bangkok, Thailand in November 2004, bringing together partners from several PHE projects around the world to share experiences and develop approaches to PHE including monitoring and evaluation. The ~~M&E~~ monitoring and evaluation part of the workshop was facilitated by Foundations of Success, and applied cutting edge methodologies developed in the Biodiversity Support Program and Conservation Measures Partnership with USAID biodiversity funding. This included application of results chains, particularly complicated because of the integration of health and environment activities and outcomes. WWF has carried this methodology forward in developing monitoring and evaluation M&E for its individual PHE projects, and in its learning component. Several GCP partners are participating in the learning component, and results will be made available to GCP partners and their collaborators when they are published in FY06.

HIV/AIDS and Conservation:

(The following section is included for information as it was requested in last year's annual report.)

This year we have continued work on the impacts of HIV/AIDS on conservation capacity and natural resource use, and ways to reduce them. Much of this work has been done in collaboration with the ABCG (with MacArthur Foundation funding), and we have also been looking at the linkages between reproductive health work and HIV/AIDS. At the World Conservation Congress in Bangkok ABCG members and collaborators proposed a successful resolution on HIV/AIDS and conservation that mandates IUCN to take action on this urgent issue, and encourage its partners to do likewise. We will ~~shortly~~ be discussing soon with IUCN how to follow up on the resolution. Also at the Congress WWF ran a round table on HIV/AIDS and environment, in collaboration with the Futures Group and Wildlife and Environmental Society of Malawi. Gratifyingly, this session was attended by a group of actors from various Southern African countries who developed various messages on natural resources and HIV/AIDS to incorporate in future plays for communities undertaking natural resource management in the region.

WWF's Population and Environment Fellow Cara Honzak took part in a workshop on population, health, HIV/AIDS, and environment (PHHE) in Tanzania, organized for the Tanzania USAID Mission to help develop a PHHE strategy. She was able to bring in the ~~monitoring and evaluation~~ M&E experiences from WWF PHE projects including use of results chains.

Formatted: Font: Bold

Recently Judy Oglethorpe undertook an external review of the mainstreaming of HIV/AIDS into the conservation activities of the Namibian Association of CBNRM Support Organizations (NACSO), with funding through the LIFE II Program from the USAID Namibia mission. The program has achieved remarkable results mainstreaming HIV/AIDS at NGO, community-based organization, and community levels. It has focused on the human capacity side through awareness, prevention, and development of institutional policies on HIV/AIDS. It has not looked at impacts of HIV/AIDS on natural resource use, and is just starting to consider how natural resources can support households affected by AIDS, so Judy was able to bring in the ABCG findings from across Africa on this and help NACSO to develop a strategy to incorporate it in the next phase.

Plans for the future include production of a manual on HIV/AIDS for the conservation sector, drawing on experiences such as the ones above, and laying out actions that can be taken to help to maintain conservation capacity, reduce impacts on natural resources, and assist AIDS-affected families and communities through sustainable use of natural resources. More ~~awareness~~ awareness-raising will be undertaken, and support given to organizations to develop institutional policies on HIV/AIDS. Conservation/natural resource training institutions will also be targeted, and we will give emphasis to community responses. Outreach activities and sharing of lessons learned will also be a focus. Efforts to fundraise for this urgent work continue.

Girls' Education:

Following GCP support last year for a workshop to review progress and results from the Girls Scholarship Program, this year the program continued to support girls' education in Kenya, Tanzania, Madagascar, Nepal, Bhutan, and the Philippines. Building on lessons from the workshop, WWF site-based program managers began to refine their programs using results chains-based planning techniques, and build monitoring and evaluation plans linking their girls' education initiatives to conservation outcomes. In addition, four of the six country programs have now identified mechanisms to move towards complete financial sustainability. In the Philippines and Tanzania sites, WWF staff have worked with park managers and communities to ensure that a portion of park fees collected each year are directed to girl scholars. To manage these funds and select deserving scholars, WWF also has helped establish local ~~Boards~~ boards composed of park managers, community members, and parents.

At the global level, the workshop has led to dialogue among WWF and agency representatives with expertise in Girls' Education about the most effective ways to build alliances and scale up their impacts. WWF is now actively seeking support for ideas that have emerged from these discussions.

Subgrantees

There were no subgrantees under this component in FY05.

Formatted: Heading 2