

COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT NO. 72062122CA00004 –
MARA RIVER CATCHMENT (MRC) IN TANZANIA

QUARTERLY REPORT
APRIL 11 – JUNE 30, 2022



*Farewell and Newcomer Partners – USAID/Tanzania Implementing Meeting 26th
May, 2022*

I. ACTIVITY OVERVIEW/SUMMARY

Activity Name:	Mara River Catchment (MRC) in Tanzania
Activity Start Date:	April 11 th , 2022
Activity End Date:	April 10, 2025
Name of Prime Implementing Partner:	World Wildlife Fund, Inc.
[Contract/Agreement] Number:	72062122CA00004
Name of Subcontractors/Sub awardees:	World Wild Fund for Nature – Tanzania Country Office
Major Counterpart Organizations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• IHE Delft (Consultant for the project)• Ministry of Water• RUWASA• LVBWB• The 6 Local/District Government Authorities
Geographic Coverage (Districts, Regions and or Zanzibar)	6 Districts (Musoma, Serengeti, Rorya, Butiama, Tarime and Bunda) of Mara Region
Reporting Period:	April 11- June 30, 2022

I.1 Executive Summary

This first quarter of the project kicked off as planned but was significantly hampered by delays in obtaining a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) from the Federal Government for our main implementing partner, WWF Tanzania Country Office (WWF TCO). Without an UEI number, we were unable to sign an agreement for the work with WWF TCO or transfer any funds to allow for key planned project start up steps in this first quarter. Key planned steps impacted by the UEI delay included recruiting and hiring staff, holding meetings with key stakeholders like the Ministry of Water to co-create the implementation work plan, and purchasing needed equipment and supplies.

(Note: The UEI was issued to WWF TCO on July 14th thanks to repeated and regular follow-ups with the SAM.gov site and helpdesk. The agreement between WWF US and WWF TCO has been signed and work is now proceeding.)

Despite the limitations caused by the lack of the UEI, WWF US and WWF TCO were able to undertake some project start up activities. This included: preparation of the subgrant agreement to WWF TCO, drafting of job descriptions, participation in USAID/Tanzania implementation partner learning and orientation workshop, WWF US trainings for WWF TCO staff on USAID rules and regulations and on financial reporting, and project introductions to LVBWB and three RUWASA Offices (Regional, Bunda, and Serengeti offices).

The priority for the next quarter is to concurrently hire the needed staff, engage key stakeholders to finalize the implementation workplan, complete the MEL plan, and hold an official launch in mid-August.

1.2 Summary of Results

- Four WWF TCO staff attended USAID/Tanzania's two-day implementation partner workshop
- 26 WWF TCO staff were trained on USAID rules and regulations
- 12 WWF TCO staff were trained on financial reporting
- Two water management authorities (LVBWB and RUWASA) introduced to the project
- Five project staff position descriptions drafted and ready for advertising

1.3 Evaluation/assessment status and/or plans

N/A

2. ACTIVITY IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS

2.1 Progress Narrative

The purpose of this activity is to address the water security and climate resilience challenges faced by, and growing among, communities in the Mara River Catchment (MRC) in Tanzania. It shall tackle local water resource degradation, catchment management challenges in Tanzania, and transboundary water management coordination with WWF Kenya. Learning from this project shall also be shared to promote catchment conservation approaches across the country.

WWF TCO is our main implementing partner and will use its convening power and technical expertise to bring together relevant stakeholders to craft and implement meaningful shared water management goals, to acquire the tools to inform collective decision-making and to develop incentives for better resource management. As such, it is key to the implementation approach to begin this work in a collaborative way by meeting with the stakeholders and socializing the project's aims and benefits, and co-developing an implementation plan with key stakeholders that will enable collective ownership over the outcomes.

During this quarter, initial efforts were made to engage stakeholders and lay the foundation for implementation; however, the delay (until July 14) in obtaining a UEI number for WWF TCO meant that we could not sign an agreement with WWF TCO and provide the funds needed for some of the planned initial steps, particularly around stakeholder engagement and staff recruitment. Now that the UEI number has been assigned and funding for activities can begin to flow, stakeholder engagement will be a priority to make up for the first quarter delays. Despite the delays with obtaining the UEI number, WWF US and WWF TCO were able to undertake some start up activities. These included: drafting of the subgrant agreement to WWF TCO, drafting of job descriptions, participation in USAID/Tanzania implementation

partner learning and orientation workshop, WWF US trainings for WWF TCO staff on USAID rules and regulations and on financial reporting, and project introductions to LVBWB and three RUWASA Offices (Regional, Bunda, and Serengeti offices).

2.2 Implementation Status and Planned Activities

2.2.1 Intermediate Result 1: Water Institutions in the MRC in Tanzania are enabled to engage, coordinate, and implement transboundary water resources governance

Meetings to introduce the project to the LVBWB and the Regional, Bunda, and Serengeti RUWASA offices were held and the project was well-received. Further engagement with these and other stakeholders will take place in the weeks ahead with mid-August the target for a project launch meeting that will bring together these stakeholders for the first time. A key stakeholder to be engaged in early August is the Ministry of Water and these meetings are currently being scheduled.

2.2.2 Intermediate Result 2: Community water supply is improved and sustained through water resources conservation best practices in the MRC in Tanzania

Work on this IR has yet to begin.

2.2.3 Intermediate Result 3: Recommendations are developed for water user financing mechanisms that enhance catchment conservation for the MRC in Tanzania

Work on this IR has yet to begin.

3. INTEGRATION OF CROSSCUTTING ISSUES AND USAID FORWARD PRIORITIES

3.1 Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

Opportunities to enhance gender equality and empower women will be considered and prioritized during preparation of the project implementation plan.

3.2 Youth Engagement

Once the project is in full operation, youth will be engaged as 'interns' to work with the project and give them professional development experience. The interns will work closely on forming and working with environmental health clubs, and with some of the water users association (WUAs) members on river health assessment.

3.3 Local Capacity Development

The project is planning to engage with Engineers Registration Board (ERB) to allow the Graduate engineers to join the project for the aim of building their capacity and allow them to be registered by the board within a shorter period. The graduate engineers will support the simple design of water supply systems.

Furthermore, the project will build capacity in local organization staff by organizing trainings to different groups including gauge readers, government staff like RUWASA and Basin Water Board staff.

3.4 Integration and Collaboration

The project is planning to work with other related and complementary projects like the 'Maji na Usafi wa Mazingira (MuM) Project funded by USAID/Tanzania in the area of building capacity in government institutions, especially RUWASA and Water Basin staff, to be able to integrate water sources conservation with water supply management.

3.5 Sustainability

The project will work closely with government agencies like the RUWASAs, Lake Victoria Basin Water Board (LVBWB), and Local Government Authorities (LGAs) to institutionalize shared water governance principles and processes after the end of financing support.

3.6 Environmental Compliance

An IEE and EMMP will be developed to ensure environmental safeguards are addressed.

OPTIONAL SECTIONS: Address if these topics are applicable to the activity.

3.7 Global Climate Change

3.8 Policy and Governance Support

3.9 Private Sector Engagement, Public Private Partnerships (PPP), and Global Development Alliance (GDA) Collaboration

3.10 Science, Technology, and Innovation

4. STAKEHOLDER PARTICIPATION AND INVOLVEMENT

The project has already engaged key stakeholders through organized meetings and included a few staff from the Ministry of Water (MoW), Lake Victoria Basin Water Board (LVBWB) and some of the RUWASA offices (Regional, Bunda and Serengeti). Presentations on the MRC project were made and participants provided advice on how to engage with higher level stakeholders at the Ministry of Water and identified more stakeholders to engage.

More engagement with stakeholders is planned for the month of August, especially to support the development of the implementation and MEL plans.

5. MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES

The most significant administrative issue during this first quarter was the delay in obtaining a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) from the Federal Government for our main implementing partner, WWF Tanzania Country Office (WWF TCO). Without an UEI number, we were unable to sign an agreement for the work with WWF TCO or transfer any funds to allow for key planned project start up steps in this first quarter. Key planned steps which were subsequently delayed included recruiting and hiring staff, holding meetings with key stakeholders like the Ministry of Water, purchasing needed equipment and supplies, and preparation of the implementation plan and MEL plan. Efforts will be made in quarter 2 to accelerate progress, where possible.

Some important events and trainings were able to proceed despite the UEI delay, including:

- **Post – Award Orientation Conference – 20th April 2022.** USAID/Tanzania organized a virtual post-award conference on 20th April 2022. The conference was attended by technical and operations staff from WWF-US and WWF TCO, as well as USAID/Tanzania. Deputy Mission Director, Alexander Klaitis, shared in his opening remarks that their decision to fund WWF’s unsolicited proposal is a testament to the unique approach put forward to address on fundamental issues of water resource management and shared USAID’s enthusiasm to cooperate to deliver the said objectives.
- **WWF Training on USAID Rules and Regulation 18th May and 3rd June 2022:** WWF US organized an internal training on understanding the rules and regulation of the USAID. Two trainings were organized – one for finance and accounts staff on 18th May and the second one was with WWF TCO conservation staff (on 3rd June). Twenty-six staff in total (more than a third of all WWF TCO staff) attended one of the trainings and are aware of USAID’s rules and regulations to facilitate smooth implementation of the project.
- **USAID/Tanzania Implementing Partners Meeting 25th and 26th May 2022:** USAID/Tanzania organized an in-person conference for all implementing partners. The aim of the conference was to get to know each other, particularly after a long time without holding meetings due to COVID-19. Also, the meeting aimed at sharing experiences and highlighting the good relationship USAID/Tanzania has with the Government of Tanzania. WWF TCO’s Country Director, Amani Ngusaru, and WWF TCO Chief of Party, Christian Chonya, joined and gave a brief introduction to WWF, our work in Tanzania, and the Mara River Catchment project.

6. MONITORING, EVALUATION, AND LEARNING

- MEL indicators have been drafted but will need to be finalized and incorporated in a MEL plan once the project has hired its MEL staff position.

7. SPECIAL EVENTS FOR NEXT QUARTER

- Planned visit to the Ministry of Water to introduce the project.
- The project is planning a launch event for mid- August 2022. This activity will involve government officials and media coverage. The activity will be combined with stakeholder meetings to co-develop the MRC project implementation plan and build buy-in for project implementation and success.

8. HOW IMPLEMENTING PARTNER HAS ADDRESSED A/COR COMMENTS FROM THE LAST QUARTERLY OR SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT

- This is the first quarterly report.

9. FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Award Budget	Obligated Budget	Amount Spent (Prior Period)	Amount Spent (Reporting Period)	Cumulative Spending
\$2,000,000	\$1,500,000	[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]

ANNEXES

Post – Award Orientation Conference – 20th April 2022 – WWF Participants

- **WWF-US:** Laura Bennett (Director of Grants Administration and Compliance), Debbie Brandon (Senior Program Administrator), Sarah Davidson (Director of Freshwater Policy)
- **WWF TCO:** Christian Chonya (Chief of Party), Kennedy Mawole (Finance Manager), Lucason Maiga (Operations Manager)

WWF Training on USAID Rules and Regulation 18th May and 3rd June 2022 – WWF TCO Participants

- Lawrence Mbwambo (Forest Coordinator and Acting Conservation Manager)
- Lucason Maiga (Operation Manager)
- Matrida Semfukwe (Monitoring and Evaluation Manager)
- Joan Itanisa (Communication Manager)
- Yohana Mpagam (Human Resources Manager)
- Severin Kalonga (Partnership and Resource Mobilization Manager)
- Christian J, Chonya (Freshwater Lead, CoP)
- Kanuni Kanuni (MRC Project Officer)
- Rolf-Dieter Sprung (Southern Kenya – Northern Tanzania (SOKNOT) Transboundary Landscape Lead)
- Noah Sitati (Tanzania SOKNOT Landscape Coordinator)
- Novati Kessy (Project Manager)
- Amani Shipella (Project Executant – Land for Life Project)
- Savinus Kessy (Energy and Climate Change Lead)
- Abubakari Kijoji (Care-WWF Alliance Manager)
- Happiness Minja (Sustainable Investment Officer)
- Langen Mathew (GIS expert)
- Ezeieli Mbilinyi (ITC Officer)
- Peter Ndaki (Procurement Officer)
- Mariam Feisal (Procurement Officer)
- Elizabeth George (Assistant Procurement Officer)
- Venance Dominic (Grant and Contract Manager)
- Manyerere Wajama (Accountant)

- Sorais Christopher (Accountant)
- David Mjema (Quality Assurance Manager)
- Renatus Rwamugira (Accountant)
- Nancy Kiiiza (Accountant)

USAID/Tanzania Implementing partners Meeting 25th and 26th May 2022 – WWF TCO Participants

- Amani Ngusaru – Country Director
- Christian J. Chonya – Chief of Party
- Joan Itanisa (Communication Manager)
- Matrida Semfukwe (MEL Manager)