



Enhanced Management and Enforcement of Ethiopia's Protected Areas Estate Project

Report on Project Status (January – May 2018)

Summary of what has been done during the preparatory stage

The preparation of the AWP of the project has been completed on time in early January and its approval didn't take much time. Following the approval establishment of the PMU through staff assignment, recruitment and provision of an office by EWCA has been done. After submission of budget request to UNDP CO, advances have been released for the two quarters for both institutions (EWCA and EBI). The two implementing institutions have prepared procurement plan for 2018 even if most of the procurements are not yet completed. Micro plans have been prepared to ensure an accelerated and timely implementation of planned activities on quarterly basis. The project was able to organize two steering committee meetings where permanent members have been scrutinized and ToR discussed in detail. A number of opinions and directions have been provided by the members of the PSC to quickly start up the project and advices entertained to ensuring effective management of the project. The national inception workshop has already taken place where a number of key stakeholders were found in Addis Ababa. On this workshop project document has been presented and discussed in detail. Important inputs were provided by participants of the workshop for successful implementation. The report for the inception workshop has already been submitted. Submission of FACE report for the 1st quarter of 2018 and budget request for the 2nd quarter. Advances were released for the first and second quarter.

In general, there have been delays to set up the project management unit due to prolonged processes of recruitment. The advance release for the first quarter has been done at the end of February and this had an impact on timely implementation. As the project is new and just starting these delays should be tolerable and assistance and follow up of the EWCA, EBI and UNDP is very important.



Regardless of the delays during the first quarter, it is possible to conclude that the project is in a good track and will quickly enter to an extensive mode of implementation. So far, we start implementing a number of planned activities it is presented in the following paragraphs.

Details of Implementation

Output 1.1: The formulation of protected area management plans and initial implementation supported

- ToR has been developed for preparation of General Management Plan for two protected areas namely Kafta Sheraro National Park and Mago National Park
- A working group that has been established in EWCA for development of management plan in Kafta Sheraro National Park
- 15 Wardens and Senior have been trained in Tanzania, College of African Wildlife Management on protected area management techniques, wilderness skills, planning protected area conservation, application of technology in wildlife management, protected area operations, infrastructure development and human wildlife conflict,
- An action plan has been developed to start the demarcation of Omo National Park and Babile Elephant Sanctuary; the actual work will start soon,
- Preliminary information has been gathered to develop the management of Mago National Park; the information gathered includes the opinion of the administrative bureau of the Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples' Regional State, site level situation of Mago National Park, the legal status of this protected area and general discussion with the key stakeholders on how to work on it,
- Collection of baseline data has been started in Chebera Churchura, Omo and Mago National Parks on the threats facing the conservation of these protected areas

Output 1.2 : Tools and systems for protected area management developed and initial operationalization supported

- A ToR is being developed to recruit a consultant to work on the Standard Operation Procedure (SOP) for the project sites; the recruitment will take place within few weeks period,
- Before developing the SOP for the selected protected areas, inputs has been gathered through the review of policies, strategies, legislations, regulations and guidelines of the Ethiopian



Wildlife Conservation Authority. Site level implementation pitfalls and challenges had been seriously evaluated and relevant information has been collected.

Output 1.3: Site level law enforcement initiatives are supported

- In Kafta Sheraro National Park law enforcement agencies have been identified, workshop organized and park management consultative committee has been established at wereda level. The weredas incorporated under this law enforcement initiative workshop include; Kafta Sheraro, Tahtay Adeabo and Welkayt. Two types of committee were established on this workshop; the administrative committee and the technical committee. Roles and responsibilities have been formulated and agreed among the law enforcement agencies at this level. The next step will be establishment of similar law enforcement and park management committees at kebele level. The administrative bodies at the zonal and regional levels will have the responsibility to oversee the committees established at wereda and kebele level.
- An action plan has been prepared to do the same activity in the rest of the project sites and preparations are completed to carryout quarterly meetings among law enforcement agencies in Mago, Omo, Chebera Churchura National Parks and Babile Elephant Sanctuary,
- ToR to conduct need assessment study in the five project sites has been completed and submitted for processing to recruit a consultant,
- Procurement of 4 vehicles, field equipment and materials is on progress,
- In Babile Elephant Sanctuary training has been organized for rangers and experts to mitigate human elephant conflict

Outcome 2: Strengthened national and local capacity for conservation of endangered fauna and flora through implementation of anti-trafficking measures

Output 2.1: International cooperation on illegal wildlife trafficking (IWT) is supported

- Contacts has been made and meetings organized with the Horn of Africa Wildlife Enforcement Network (HAWEN) that comprises Ethiopia, Kenya, Somaliland, Djibouti, South Sudan, Sudan representatives to discuss on issues of wildlife trafficking in the region and measures to be taken to halt the problem. Similarly, the project supported contacts between the Ethiopian Wildlife Conservation Authority and the China CITES management group on issues to discuss how the two countries reduce trafficking and reduce demand. An agreement has been done between the



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authorities of the two countries to strengthen collaboration to reduce trafficking and demand on wildlife products especially Ivory trade.

Output 2.2: Proposals to strengthen the illegal wildlife trafficking steering committee (IWT SC) are developed

- The project supported quarterly meetings of the illegal wildlife trafficking steering committee and proposed a mandate to be enriched and agreed for the upcoming meetings. On this meeting the project plan with regard to wildlife and wildlife products trade and trafficking has been presented and the SC members well aware and oriented.
- The EWCA is currently revising its policy and strategy in which the existing strategies of global wildlife crime will be taken in to consideration,

Output 2.4: Establishment and functionality of an environmental crime unit (ECU) within the federal serious crime unit

- The need and importance of establishing an environmental crime unit has been communicated to concerned high level officers and further meetings are planned on how to deal with procedures,

Output 2.7 Support for the development of a management system for wildlife products and live animals that are confiscated, seized and/or collecting in the field

- A national assessment on the stock reserve of wildlife products in has been made; after the inventory has been done wildlife products are now properly registered and stockpiled,
- Similar assessment and inventory is planned to work on the remaining uncovered areas in the different regions including confiscated animals

Outcome 3: Improved conservation of forestry and agro-biodiversity resources through a landscape approach based on community-based natural resource management

Activity 3.1.1 Collect landscape (geospatial, forests, agrobiodiversity, ecological, etc.), socioeconomic, ethnobotanical data for detailed map and ILM plan development of selected priority areas.



- A consultant has been hired and submitted its inception report of the integrated landscape management plan development, socio-economic study and establishing/strengthening microcredit schemes in Chebera Churchura National Park.
- Budget Utilization = 100%

Activity 3.2.6 Procure field and laboratory equipments for data collection and processing (Vehicle, GPS, Refrigerator, Video camera, Gene bank and laboratory, etc.)

- Delegation letter for Procurement of Goods (Vehicle, Audiovisual materials, Laboratory materials and Field Equipments) has been prepared and submitted to UNDP.
- Specifications for Procurement of Goods (Vehicle, Audiovisual materials, Laboratory materials and Field Equipments) have been prepared in collaboration with Relevant Directorates in EBI and submitted to UNDP.
- Budget Utilization = UNDP is delegated for this budget

Activity 3.2.7 Travel outside Ethiopia (Visits and experience sharing in Africa – Tanzania, South Africa, 5 people for 15 days) and in country.

- A ToR/Travel Proposal consisting of the objectives, places to visit, List of activities, outcomes, list of visitors, etc. has been prepared and submitted to UNDP with an accompanying delegation letter.
- Budget utilization = UNDP is delegated for this budget
- Activity 3.3.1 Prepare ToR for the study of value chains for forestry and agrobiodiversity (crop and Livestock) products of Omo-Mago-Chebera Churchura, Babilie and Kafta Shiraro NPs.
- A draft ToR has been prepared by Project Office and reviewed by the Animal, Crop and Forest Biodiversity Directorates.
- The finalized ToR has been printed and distributed to potential bidders following the announcement of the "Bid for Consultancy Service" on the Ethiopian Herald.
- The recruitment process is in progress.

Activity 3.4.1 Prepare ToR for household surveys, socioeconomic studies and establishment of Microcredit schemes in CCNP.

- This was finalized (as indicated in Activity 3.1.1 above) by including it with the call for consultancy service of Integrated Landscape Management Plan Development.



- Budget Utilization = 100%

Activity 3.5.1 Conduct general assessment on the priority project areas and surrounding landscapes

- General assessment on the priority project areas and surrounding landscapes was conducted by EBI experts, EWCA park wardens, local administration and local communities in Chebera Churchura NP, Babilie Elephant Sanctuary and Kafta Shiraro National Park.
- Based on the assessment and data analysis, three specific project sites (each 15,000 ha) and demonstration farm sites were selected and proposed by the investigation team.
- Budget Utilization = 100%

Outcome 4. Lessons learned by the project through participatory M&E, including gender mainstreaming, are used to fight poaching and IWT, and promote community based conservation nationally and internationally

Output 4.1. M&E provides sufficient information for adaptive management, gender mainstreaming and learning via active participation of key stakeholders in the project implementation

- Lessons have been learnt using the online knowledge exchange platform organized by the Global Wildlife Program (GWP) on different issues of wildlife management such as crime prevention, law enforcement, engaging communities, working with national and international agencies etc.
- The Ethiopian Wildlife Conservation Authority has been sending representatives from the institution for experience sharing in different countries such as Gabon, India, Sri Lanka and Mozambique. This experience sharing program is also organized by the GWP
- The project has made an extensive awareness and discussion with regard to the project plan and its implementation both at head quarter and site level

Conclusion

Despite the delays during the first quarter, the project is now well organized and integration created with the project sites. In the coming weeks, we expect better performance of planned activities. The budget utilization from EWCA side is still low but this has to be augmented in the sense that there are a number of payments on pipeline and this will increase the budget utilization.

