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BIODIVERSITY ANALYSIS AND TECHNICAL SUPPORT (BATS) FOR USAID/AFRICA

BUREAU FOR AFRICA

PURPOSE

The Biodiversity Analysis and Technical Support (BATS) for USAID/Africa is a two-year program that will provide analytical and technical assistance to USAID/Africa and support its operating units in the design and implementation of development, security, and humanitarian assistance activities in Africa in a manner that conserves natural resources and biodiversity, including tropical forests and other critical habitats. This program will develop practical documentation of USAID's biodiversity conservation experience and resulting best practices and policy considerations, coordinate extractive industry activities with conservation initiatives, provide technical assistance for biodiversity conservation programs in conflict and crisis states, and conduct biodiversity and tropical forestry country-level assessments.

This project will serve as a support facility which provides services to meet mission and partner needs in:

- Country-level 118/119 assessments, including threats, analysis, and actions necessary for biodiversity conservation
- Forestry and biodiversity conservation in states vulnerable to crisis, in crisis, or emerging from crisis
- Collaborating with extractive industries to reduce environmental impacts
- Reviewing USAID/Africa's conservation history, lessons learned, and way forward

OVERVIEW AND GOAL

Biological diversity and sound natural resources management are vital to Africa's economic growth, yet they are continually threatened by rapid development accompanied by poor planning and management, corruption, and inappropriate policies. Civil conflict exacerbates these concerns. Immediate causes for species loss and population decline include habitat fragmentation and over-harvesting, spread of invasive species, and inefficient water use and waste management. These factors are often rooted in inadequate and inequitable representation in resource decision making, lack of alternative income sources, or poor access to improved management practices, transformation technologies, and markets. The consequences of biodiversity loss and poor resource management are severe: adaptive capacity to changing climates is compromised, ecosystem services and carbon fixation is decreased, erosion is increased, livelihoods are diminished or destroyed, and social and cultural values are lost.

In the face of these challenges, efforts have been taken to conserve and promote sustainable use of the continent's natural resources. Although USAID's environmental activities have been a major presence in global biodiversity conservation, these activities have not always been folded into broader USAID programming. This project will serve as the platform for greater awareness of the biodiversity conservation and natural resource management agenda by incorporating best practices into mission operational plans and activities. The goal of this project is to build the Africa region's capacity to develop and implement biodiversity conservation programs at the USAID mission and bureau levels.

The critical expectation is that lessons learned from USAID's long involvement in natural resources management (NRM) in Africa be translated into practical solutions. We will reach this goal by emphasizing the importance of knowledge coordination, capacity building, and outreach throughout our interactions with USAID missions and partners.

THE FOUR TASKS

Support for biodiversity and tropical forestry assessments

Overview. The development of USAID/Department of State operational plans will require biodiversity and tropical forestry assessments. Bilateral USAID missions in Africa have previous 118/119 analyses in place, but quality varies and analyses may need to be updated. The primary goal of this task is to provide missions with technical assistance to complete these assessments.



The lemur (top) and the bongo antelope are two species that represent Africa's biodiversity as well as its issues with development-related endangered species. Chemonics has 53 African project offices working in a variety of technical fields, supporting our ability to protect biodiversity through multidisciplinary efforts using our network of African experts.

PRIME CONTRACTOR

Chemonics International Inc.

CLIENT

USAID/AFR/SD

DURATION

2006-2008

ASSOCIATED ORGANIZATIONS

World Conservation Union (IUCN)

World Wildlife Fund (WWF)
International Programs Consortia,
Inc. (IPC)

TASK ORDER PARTNERS

Africa Biodiversity Collaborative
Group (ABCG)

USDA Forest Service/
International Programs (FS/IP)

Approach. This activity will support USAID's leadership in producing and updating countries' tropical forestry and biodiversity assessments (under FAA 118 and 119) and support environmental and natural resources activities (under FAA 117) as needed.

We will engage African experts and use our consortium's network to ensure the greatest possible knowledge of the region. To enable systematic assessments, we will develop criteria to determine the highest priorities as well as a set of standards against which existing reviews can be compared and updated. This step is critical to ensuring that quality issues are addressed and that assessments are incorporated into country operational plans. Services will be provided to missions gratis, although cost sharing will be encouraged for larger presence country missions.

OFFERINGS: BIODIVERSITY AND TROPICAL FORESTRY ASSESSMENTS

- Provide technical assistance to missions in environmental areas such as regional 118/119 assessments, environmental management plans, environmental monitoring and evaluation, management systems, and interagency cooperation on environmental actions.
- Facilitate regional training to build African capacity to conduct 118/119 assessments. Chemonics can offer the African capacity fund as a potential source of funding and welcomes additional mission support, as we believe that this sort of capacity development will be invaluable to USAID missions.

Managing extractive industry alliances for environmental gain

Overview. The USAID/Africa bureau is concerned with extractive industry impacts on the economy, including the distribution of benefits, control, and access as well as the potential for extractive industries to link with conflict. Extractive industries include a wide range of commodities such as oil and gas, gold, diamonds and gems, and other natural resources, each with a unique value chain and set of stakeholders. The environmental implications of extractive industries are understood poorly and addressed marginally, putting USAID and its alliances at risk.

Several operating units are designing and implementing new initiatives in this sector, often under the Global Development Alliance (GDA) framework. This activity will look to emerging trade standards and corporate social responsibility as tools to connect surging consumer interests in environmentally friendly and safe food and manufactured products.

Approach. We will prepare a toolkit that highlights outstanding case studies, important literature, and successful implementation strategies organized by the following primary commodity classes: timber, mining, oil and gas, and fisheries. We will document USAID's experience in extractive industry initiatives through desktop and in-country research and interviews with experts and industry representatives. As ABCG members (in particular WWF, CI, IUCN, and WCS, as well as USFS) have entered into multiple initiatives with extractive industry groups, we will incorporate their experience in developing guidance for future alliances and provide technical assistance to missions upon request. We will also review existing and potential GDAs to identify opportunities for integrating biodiversity conservation and improved forest management.

OFFERINGS: MANAGING EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES

- Identify or develop a toolkit of case studies and best practices for use by the Africa Bureau and missions when forging new alliances. The toolkit will integrate findings from desktop research and interviews and will be vetted with appropriate industry associations.
- Showcase the analysis, reports, toolkit, and other products from offerings on an easy-to-navigate Web site for ease of access.
- Provide technical resources for missions in conducting feasibility assessments or developing ideas for specific interventions.

Biodiversity conservation in states vulnerable to/recovering from crisis

Overview. Maintaining natural resources and biodiversity is particularly vital in crisis situations in which the poor are highly vulnerable and extractive abuse can undermine their future livelihoods and long-term peace prospects. In rebuilding and developing countries, investments in infrastructure and agriculture create the potential for damage to surrounding ecosystems. At the same time, post-crisis policy reform often provides an opportunity for visionary approaches that can be incorporated into countries' program elements and conflict mitigation policies and practices. This task provides an opportunity for FS/IP, Chemonics, and ABCG to work with USAID and host country governments to develop approaches to reducing the impact of crises on natural resources and biodiversity at the critical point of integration before a program or project is set.

Approach. The Chemonics conflict management and mitigation specialist and FS/IP will implement three primary subtasks: provide technical assistance to missions for program development and elaborate and improve on the Foreign Assistance Framework. These activities are interrelated and will be coordinated in order to maintain a unified approach to biodiversity conservation.

OFFERINGS: BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION AND CONFLICT

- Produce a catalog of available technical assistance and reference material, listing expatriates and local staff and synopses of their experience related to conflict. This catalog will aid missions in determining whose skills and which case studies best match their unique circumstances when requesting technical assistance for SO development.
- Provide technical resources for missions in conducting NRM conflict vulnerability assessments for specific interventions.

20 years of biodiversity in Africa: Lessons learned, and way forward

Overview. Beginning with the first earmarks for USAID biodiversity conservation in 1987, USAID's portfolio of biodiversity activities in Africa has grown and evolved, with current spending at \$50-60 million per year. The analysis will review that experience, identify the lessons learned from the investment, and examine current trends in natural resource management and conservation, including cross-sectoral approaches. This will inform USAID's strategic programming in biodiversity conservation in Africa into the future. The analytic approach will include information gathering via a literature review, historical perspectives, focus group discussions, interviews and consultations within the community, a pan-African meeting of experts to review findings, and outreach across Africa for completed products.

Approach. The Chemonics team will conduct a thorough literature review of USAID's biodiversity policy and practices in Africa and synthesize the results in an annotated bibliography and historical perspectives paper. This activity will be done in collaboration with ABCG, which will lead validation and recommendation of development activities. We will collaborate with ABCG and FS/IP throughout this task, involving missions and African governmental and non-governmental institutions in the validation activities.

OFFERINGS: BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION

- Contribute our experience in workshop planning and training to assist in outreach efforts, and leverage our African capacity fund to partially support ABCG-led regional workshops during the validation and outreach phases.
- Develop case studies (for example, Uganda, Madagascar, and Kenya) with mission support that could be highlighted in the workshops and encourage the participation of USAID's environmental officers in the validation exercises.
- Provide recommendations on future path(s) for USAID approaches to biodiversity conservation based on lessons learned.

THE TEAM

The Chemonics team includes WWF, IUCN, and IPC. Chemonics has implemented more than 250 environmental projects globally, and IUCN and WWF have offices in more than 30 African countries. We represent the world's largest conservation network and bring more than 50 years of experience implementing cross-cutting approaches to biodiversity conservation. Our team has expertise in gender impact analysis and conflict management and a history of natural resource-based work in Africa. Chemonics will also leverage WWF and IUCN's membership in the Africa Biodiversity Collaborative Group (ABCG) to enhance the close coordination with the project's partners and increase our ability to implement this project.

ABCG consists of conservation organizations with field based activities in Africa. Its member organizations include the African Wildlife Foundation, Biodiversity Support Program, Conservation International, Wildlife Conservation Society, and the World Resources Institute. ABCG members bring extensive experience in executing and promoting biodiversity conservation programs and networking with a wide range of local and international resources.

FS/IP is a longtime partner of USAID and offers a cadre of technical specialists that intervene in sustainable forest management and biodiversity conservation worldwide.

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