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AFRICA BIODIVERSITY COLLABORATIVE GROUP

August 16, 2017

Member Organizations



Mission

Tackle complex and changing conservation challenges by catalyzing and strengthening collaboration, and bringing the best resources from across a continuum of conservation organizations to effectively and efficiently work towards the **vision of an African continent where natural resources and biodiversity are securely conserved in balance with sustained human livelihoods.**



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Implementation

- 1. Prioritize:** Mainstream biodiversity conservation in human well-being and development agendas
- 2. Promote** good conservation **practices** among practitioners
- 3. Partner:** Strengthen the role of **social and development institutions** in biodiversity conservation



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Current Phase

- ABCG II cooperative agreement, Oct 2015-Sept 2018
- 5 million over 3 years
- Emphasis on capacity development of African institutions
- Nairobi-based Program Officer



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Thematic Focus Areas

1. Land and Resource Tenure Rights
2. Land Use Management
3. Managing Global Change Impacts on Biodiversity
4. Global Health Linkages to Biodiversity Conservation
5. Emerging Issues



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Advancing an Integrated Vision that Incorporates Health Outcomes into Biodiversity Conservation

Global Health Linkages to Biodiversity Conservation Task Area
Population-Health-Environment (PHE)

Agenda

- PHE Task Group Goal
- Objectives
- Activities
- Accomplishments
 - Literature Review
 - Pilot Projects



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Goal and Objectives

Goal:

Pilot an integrated PHE approach in two different geographical areas, Western Tanzania and Southeastern Cameroon, to improve biodiversity conservation and human well-being

Objectives:

- 1) Build multi-sectoral partnerships to ensure biodiversity conservation and human well-being outcomes are achieved in tandem;
- 2) Strengthen the evidence base for USAID and others, of successful examples that integrate biodiversity conservation and development;
- 3) Incorporate the PHE approach into conservation and development planning.



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Activities Planned

Main activities to achieve the task objectives are:

- Conduct a literature review and interviews with PHE experts/practitioners, to analyze existing PHE integrated approaches, and identify best practices and promising approaches
- Pilot activities in two sites to explore interrelationships and interdependencies in PHE, by combining actions to reduce deforestation, improve food and nutrition security and conserve watersheds



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PHE Literature Review

Exploring Cross-sector Linkages Between Population, Health, Environment, Nutrition and Food Security – A review of Best Practices and Lessons Learned

Context:

- Several evaluations and assessments have shown improved human health and biodiversity conservation outcomes, using integrated approaches including the sectors of health and natural resource management
- Through improved agricultural practices promoting biodiversity conservation, projects have attempted to reach food security goals with vegetable gardens, small-scale livestock production, alternative enterprises, etc.

Purpose:

- To document best practices for integrating nutrition and food security interventions into existing PHE projects.
- Use integrated approaches to inform organizations seeking to improve ecosystem health and conservation outcomes along with improved human well-being, living in and around areas of key biodiversity.



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PHE Literature Review

Findings:

Through desktop review and key informant interviews the PHE Task Group determined:

- A lack of PHE projects which have measured and systematically monitored the impact of nutrition and food security on biodiversity and health outcomes
- A very limited set of projects/studies from which best practices can be drawn to help PHE practitioners strengthen food security, nutrition and agriculture outcomes

PHE Literature Review

Best Practices Recommended:

- Incorporate explicit nutrition objectives and indicators into the design of projects to seek synergies with economic, social and environmental objectives.
- Assess the context at the local level to design appropriate activities that address local priorities, including food resources, seasonality of food production, access to productive resources, market opportunities, etc.
- Incorporate WASH into nutrition and food security programs to enhance health and nutrition outcomes.
- In designing PHE programs, with nutrition/agriculture/food security interventions, it is critical to gain in-depth understanding of gender roles, dynamics, women and men's access, use and decision-making around resources.
- Recognize and respect local knowledge of both women and men and most marginalized groups who depend the most on natural resources for their survival.



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PHE Pilot Project Sites: SE Cameroon

Pilot Project Activities

- Training of Health and Environment Scouts and School Clubs, local NGOs and govt. partners
- Collaborative work with local partners (CSOs, government - Health, Ag., Education and Forest/Water Ministries)
- Conduct campaigns on integrated PHE messages and best practices - Sustainable agricultural techniques, nutrition/food security, WASH, FP/RH, natural resources management, etc.
- Provide technical support to communities (including women's groups), to build household latrines, engage in kitchen gardening, use improved ag. techniques, small animal husbandry – poultry.



PHE Pilot Project Sites: SE Cameroon

Main Accomplishments

- Baseline survey conducted to collect data on PHE
- Training/refresher training of 36 Health and Environment Scouts on integration of PHE with nutrition/food security
- 30 School Clubs developed an action plan – Hygiene, sanitation and environment
- Reached over 500 women - Awareness on nutrition, feeding practices and food security, including practical workshops
- Conducted over 10 large-scale campaigns on integrated PHE messages and best practices - Sustainable agriculture, nutrition/food security, WASH, family planning, natural resources management.



Pineapple planting using sustainable agricultural techniques - an income generating activity in the Mambele Women's Association in Cameroon. Photo Credit: Olivier Njounan Tegomo, WWF & Jengi, TNS.



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PHE Pilot Project Sites: SE Cameroon

Challenges and Lessons Learned

- The cultural food taboos among the Indigenous Peoples are challenging to address but with time and practical demonstrations, progress can be made
- The engagement and commitment of local authorities and various branches of the government (Health, Ag., Education and Forest/Water) is invaluable
- It is essential to conduct assessments on the knowledge, attitude and perspectives of community members relating to nutrition and food security before targeting activities



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PHE Pilot Project Sites: SE Cameroon

Next Steps – Year-3 of project

- Continue project implementation as in previous year
- Collect end-line survey data to identify changes in practices and measure project impact
- Identify all lessons learned and compile them to share through a workshop with ABCG partners, PHE project stakeholders, decision-makers, etc.



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PHE Pilot Project Sites: Western Tanzania (TNC)

Tuungane (“Let’s Unite” in Kiswahili): Project Introduction

- Collaborative project between The Nature Conservancy and Pathfinder International to empower communities to create healthier families, forests, and fisheries.
- Goal is to work with local governments and communities to address environmental and health challenges in the Greater Mahale Ecosystem, in Western Tanzania.
- ABCG-funded pilot is supporting Tuungane’s Model Household Initiative, which encourages communities to practice positive behaviors in health and conservation.
- The initiative involves PHE awareness-raising, improving household food security, and empowering women and girls through improving livelihoods.



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PHE Pilot Project Sites: Western Tanzania (TNC)

Tuungane: Activities

- Collect preliminary socio-economic data and categorize Model Households (MHs)
- Conduct training on PHE for selected MH representatives
- Facilitate Training-of-Trainers training for Community Change Agents to support selected MHs
- Promote alternative environmentally-friendly livelihood activities (e.g., mushroom farming, local chicken husbandry, planting fruit tree seedlings)
- Enhance food security for MHs (e.g., conservation agriculture, horticulture, proper livestock husbandry, and post harvesting processing of food crops)



The Katunka family in front of their home in Mgambo on Lake Tanganyika, Tanzania. Photo Credit: Ami Vitale.



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PHE Pilot Project Sites: Western Tanzania (TNC)

Tuungane Accomplishments:

- Model Household (MH) & PHE Communication Trainings:
 - 30 MH motivators trained (14 women & 16 men)
 - Newly recruited MHs trained on integrated PHE approach with total of 1258 MHs recruited
 - 100 youths trained to use Theatre for Development techniques to communicate PHE in low literacy communities; to date, 10,000 people, including youths and adults, have been reached with PHE messages in the project area
- Food Security & Improved Livelihoods:
 - More than 900 farmers from 16 project villages attended Farmer Field School Trainings to learn best agronomic practices, resulting in climate-smart agricultural techniques adopted by 375 smallholder farmers
 - 120 Beach Management Unit members trained on how to control post-harvest loss of fish products
 - 46 youths (25 female & 21 male) attended general training on entrepreneurship and livelihood diversification options
 - 24 adolescent mothers' trained on entrepreneurship, including soap making skills



TNC's Agriculture Officer Clement Mabula teaches a group of farmers sustainable agriculture methods in Mgambo. Photo credit: Ami Vitale.



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PHE Pilot Project Sites: Western Tanzania (TNC)

Tuongane Lessons Learned

- Consistent community engagement is critical to ensure acceptance and promote positive behavioral change in health and conservation
- Drama and storytelling is very successful in communicating PHE messages
- Since the project started applying drama techniques, we've observed increased trust by community members, including more open and positive discussions of PHE

Tuongane Challenges

- Lack of village Agricultural Extension Officers and services in the program area limit smallholder farmers in the adoption of climate smart agriculture (e.g., some farmers are unable to identify appropriate land for farming or continue to use inappropriate crop varieties, plant spacing, and/or pesticides, etc.)
- Outbreak of crop pests and diseases, including infestation by stalk borers in half of maize farms in target villages and on Farmer Field School demonstration plots



PHE Drama groups performing in the community. Photo credit: Nelson Mmari, TNC.



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PHE Pilot Project Sites: Western Tanzania (JGI)

Gombe Masito-Ugalla Program

- Goal is to conserve biodiversity and to protect wildlife habitat in critical ecosystems in western Tanzania
- GMU covers 1,510,500 ha, with 50% of the area covered by forest and miombo woodlands ; includes Gombe National Park, Tongwe East Forest Reserve, and village, district, and national forest reserves, totaling over 220,000 ha
- Harbors endangered wildlife species such as chimpanzees and elephants and important watersheds that drain into Lake Tanganyika
- Key threats are forest loss due to unchecked development of settlements and agricultural expansion, as a result of rapid population growth , uncontrolled logging, and unsustainable land use practices
- Among the poorest regions in the country
- ABCG-funds were incorporated into the GMU Program to begin to raise the profile of PHE in western Tanzania and implement lessons from the literature review



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PHE Pilot Project Sites: Western Tanzania (JGI)

Pilot Project Activities & Results

- Facilitated establishment of the western zone PHE Network in Tanzania to build capacity among key decision makers in the district and region, donors and NGO partners (TNC, Belgium Technical Corporation, Millennium Villages – Tabora, Catholic Development Agency (CARITAS), Kigoma Development Promotion Agency (KPDA), and Community Empowerment Development Organization (CEDO))
- Sensitization and education efforts on PHE held within organizations and to district leadership
- PHE knowledge exchange and learning visit for 11 members of the network and four community health volunteers to the Tuungane Project to see how activities to enhance food security have been integrated in their project



Dorah Neema, Coordinator for the National Steering Committee for PHE in Tanzania. Photo credit: JGI



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PHE Pilot Project Sites: Western Tanzania (JGI)

Next Steps – Year-3 of project

- Continue to facilitate learning, information dissemination and sharing within the western zone PHE network
- Identify key lessons learned from the literature review completed in June 2017 that can be incorporated into the GMU Program
- JGI recently received funding to fully integrate health/family planning into the GMU Program, hence the need for clarity on what lessons the ABCG funding will be supporting



Thank You!



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