



## AFRICA BIODIVERSITY COLLABORATIVE GROUP

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# AFRICA BIODIVERSITY COLLABORATIVE GROUP FY 2019-2020 WORK PLAN

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# **ARFRICA BIODIVERSITY COLLABORATIVE GROUP FY 2019-2020 WORK PLAN**

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Africa Biodiversity Collaborative Group (ABCG II)

## **DISCLAIMER**

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## ACRONYMS

ABCG	Africa Biodiversity Collaborative Group
ANDM	Alfred Nzo District Municipality
AWF	African Wildlife Foundation
CBFM	Community-Based Forest Management
CCRO	Certificate of Customary Right of Occupancy
CI	Conservation International
CIFED	Centre for Information and Training for Environment and Development
CLA	Collaborating, Learning and Adapting
COP	Community of Practice
CSA	Conservation South Africa
CSO	Civil Society Organization
DRC	The Democratic Republic of the Congo
GCI	Global change Impacts
GIS	Geographic Information System
IUCN	International Union for the Conservation of Nature
JGI	Jane Goodall Institute
KACODA	Kidoma-Kabaale Community Development Association
KEWASNET	Kenya Water and Sanitation Civil Society Network
LRTR	Land and Resource Tenure Rights
LSLA	Large-Scale Land Acquisitions
LUM	Land Use Management
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MEL	Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning
NGO	Non-governmental Organization
PHE	Population Health and Environment
ROC	Republic of Congo
SA	South Africa
SA	Strategic Approach
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SCP	Systematic Conservation Planning
SMART	Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool
TNC	The Nature Conservancy

TOR	Terms of Reference
TOT	Training of Trainers
USAID	U.S. Agency for International Development
USAID/AFR	USAID Bureau for Africa
USG	U.S. Government
FW-WASH	Freshwater Conservation and Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene
WCS	Wildlife Conservation Society
WRI	World Resources Institute
WWF	World Wildlife Fund

## ACTIVITY INFORMATION

Program Name:	Africa Biodiversity Collaborative Group (ABCG II)
Activity Start Date And End Date:	September 22, 2018 - September 21, 2020
Name of Prime Implementing Partner:	Wildlife Conservation Society
Agreement Number:	AID-OAA-A-15-00060
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Reporting Period:	September 22, 2018 - September 21, 2020

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## 2. INTRODUCTION

ABCG is a voluntary coalition of seven US-based international conservation organizations with field-based programming in sub-Saharan Africa. Together with their African partners, they collaborate to advance understanding of critical conservation challenges and their solutions in sub-Saharan Africa.

In October 2015, USAID entered into a three-year, \$4.5 million Cooperative Agreement with ABCG, through the prime recipient, WCS, (African Biodiversity Collaborative Group II; Cooperative Agreement No. AID-OAA-A-15-00060). ABCG II seeks to further integrate biodiversity conservation into human well-being and development and is pursued within the context of five thematic foci critical to effective conservation efforts: 1) Land and Resource Tenure Rights; 2) Land Use Management, 3) Managing Global Change Impacts on Biodiversity, 4) Global Health Linkages to Biodiversity Conservation: Population Health and Environment; Water Sanitation and Hygiene, and; 5) Emerging Issues. Thematic areas were determined following a deep threats analysis using the methodology of the Conservation Measures Partnership Open Standards for Conservation and considering members' capacity to address threats based on their work across sub-Saharan Africa.

In May 2018, USAID awarded a extension in the period of performance and increase in total estimated amount to two years and \$3 million. Through the FY 2019-2020 cost extension, ABCG will to continue to serve as a thought leader in identifying important issues for biodiversity conservation in Africa, and constructing tools and strategies to address conservation challenges. Owing to the wide-ranging networks of its members, ABCG is in a unique position to inform and influence conservation practice by developing, testing, and promoting new practices and approaches with broad stakeholders ranging from local African communities to global conservation professionals, and particularly with policy and decision makers in Africa, the US, and beyond. In so doing, ABCG will provide support in program planning, implementation, evaluation, and knowledge management and outreach to USAID-supported biodiversity conservation programs in sub-Saharan Africa.

### 2.A. Context or Problem Analysis

In the first quarter of FY 2019 (the first year of this extension) ABCG conducted a pause and reflect workshop comprising a threats-based assessment and priority-setting exercise, the outcomes of which determined critical areas of activity during the extension period.

The objectives of the threats-based assessment were to:

1. Define logical next steps to maximize the dissemination of lessons learned and consolidate the adoption of tools developed through FY 2018;
2. Identify key threats to biodiversity that are either ongoing or that have emerged since the beginning of ABCG II, which ABCG is well positioned to address based on its knowledge and skills, and experience and presence in the region, and;
3. Devise and adopt a clear strategy to capitalize on ABCG strengths and maximize its contribution to conserving African biodiversity.

The threats assessment found that the threats and drivers to biodiversity loss in Africa that guided our work during 2015-2018 continue to be the most important threats and drivers. Key impacts of threats to biodiversity are species loss, habitat loss and fragmentation, and disruption of ecosystem services. Direct threats to habitat include increased logging and extraction of other natural resources, unmanaged fire, effects of invasive species, and overgrazing. Direct threats to animal species come from loss of range, biological invasion, and unsustainable hunting. Predicted changes in the global climate as a result of greenhouse gas emissions are now measurable. These changes will in some cases constitute direct threats (e.g., changing precipitation patterns and temperature increases) and will potentially magnify other biodiversity threats (e.g., invasive species, unmanaged fire, population dislocation and environmental refugees). While air and water pollution are not major threats at a continental level, they are very serious in certain sites and countries, and are a growing problem in the face of expanding industries, especially mining, with globalization of trade.

The drivers and root causes of these threats include poor governance, limited capacity for regulation and enforcement, inequitable access to land and resources, absolute shortage of land, insecurity and conflict; trade impacts at many different levels, including: poor standards and practices; population growth; poverty, food insecurity, and poor health; and diseases such as HIV/AIDS and malaria.

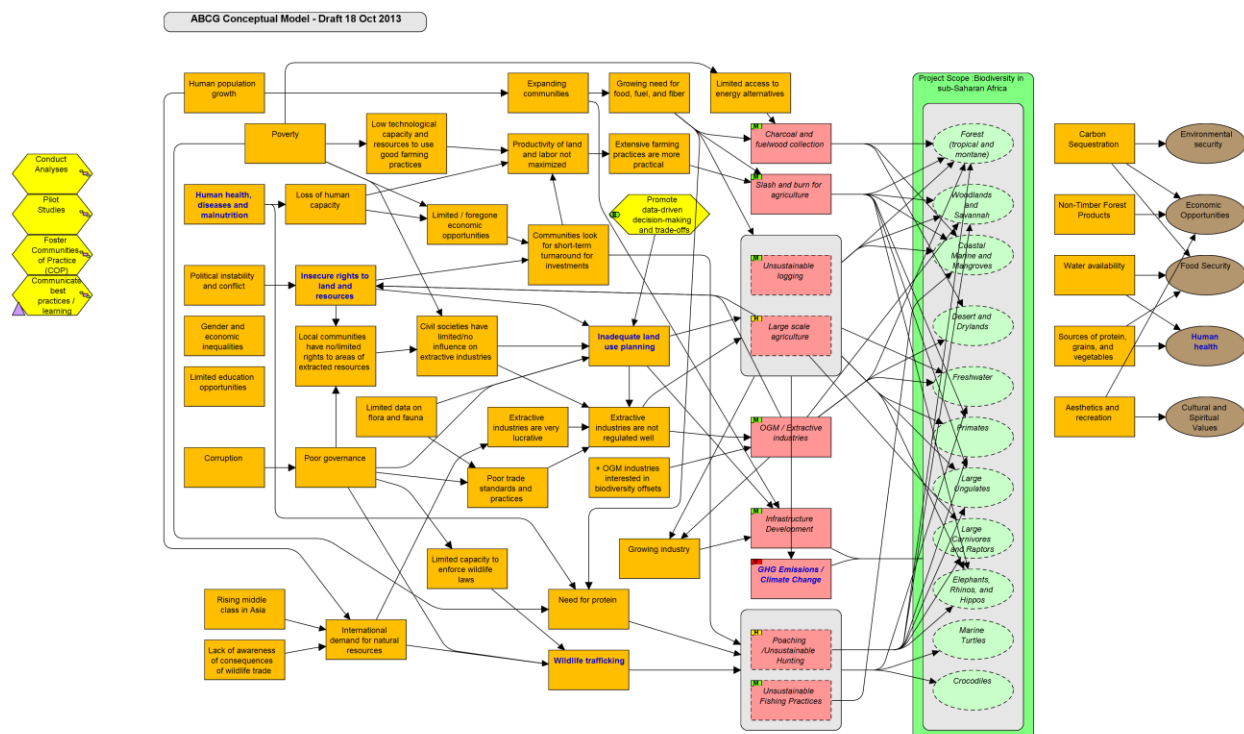


Figure 1. ABCG FY 2015-2018 situation model.

The following are the six thematic areas considered high priority biodiversity conservation issues encompassing key threats and opportunities to tackle them.

## **LAND USE MANAGEMENT**

Historically conservation has primarily been a reactive discipline, and land use planning as a tool for achieving conservation outcomes has often been reactive as well. As problems arise, the conservation sector initiates a new planning process to assess impact and identify solutions. This piecemeal approach to conservation planning is insufficient to address the complex realities and conservation challenges of today. Each landscape we work in is being reshaped, not by a single driver, but by a suite of drivers including population growth, changing resource utilization patterns, economic development and climate change. Conservation planning frameworks need to recognize this reality and incorporate the current and forecasted future cumulative impact of these drivers of change to identify more robust conservation interventions.

## **GLOBAL CHANGE IMPACTS ON BIODIVERSITY**

Climate change is dramatically changing the landscapes of Africa through altered rainfall regimes, shifts in seasonality, and increased frequency and intensity of extreme events like floods and droughts. Successful conservation requires ensuring that our actions are "climate smart" or resilient to the full suite of climate change impacts including direct physical changes that occur over a range of temporal scales (discrete, seasonal, long-term and continuous) and indirect impacts from human responses to climatic change. The challenge in the global change adaptation field today is overcoming the many barriers that prevent conservation organizations and decision makers from engaging in climate smart planning. Those barriers include but are not limited to, (i) a paradigm dominated by a focus on the longer term and direct impacts of climate change at the expense of both near term and indirect impacts, and (ii) uncertainty around how to incorporate climate change in existing project and planning frameworks.

Over the past three years, the analytical and review work of the ABCG climate change adaptation group has sought to address these gaps, and has shown: (i) implementation of adaptation activities with conservation goals is not happening fast enough or at broad enough scales (ii) the lack of implementation is largely due to the fact that the needs of people have not always been adequately considered in the design of conservation projects (both during vulnerability assessments and planning phases), and (iii) the failure to consider the human responses to climate change may result in misguided investments and lost opportunities.

## **COMMUNITY-BASED FOREST MANAGEMENT**

In February 2016, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) signed into law the final legislative processes to enshrine community ownership of forest concessions, providing rules governing forest concession management by communities. Under this Decree, a community forest concession grants the community significant rights in perpetuity to both trees/forests and land. The community may use the concession land for timber (with restrictions on level of mechanization), non-timber forest products, ecotourism, wood energy, and/or for other purposes subject to a management plan approved by the

local administration. As of June 2018, 34 community forest concessions had been allocated in three provinces, covering 253,211 hectares.

To date, there have been few organized attempts to bring together the broad range of organizations and interests working on forest concessions in the DRC. In addition to five of the ABCG partners, this includes bilateral donor organizations, local and international NGOs and Civil Society Organizations (CSO) and international development agencies. Using the foundation of the core ABCG membership, the Community-based Forest Management (CBFM) Working group has identified scope to initiate a Community of Practice (CoP) of CBFM stakeholders in the DRC, where organizations can come together at a number of different scales (local, provincial and national) to share experiences, best practices and develop common standards for program design and implementation. In addition to the learning generated through these processes, WRI has access to formal training resources in the form a Guidebook, which this project will support the introduction of.

### **GLOBAL HEALTH LINKAGES TO BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION-POPULATION, HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT**

Human population growth in Africa remains a significant driver of threats to biodiversity, as the population is expected to double from 1.2 billion in 2018 to 2.5 billion in 2050. According to the 2018 IPBES report, growing pressures on species, fisheries, and land will cause widespread food insecurity. Climate change will result in 20 percent decrease in productivity in African lakes and plants. Projections for human migration are also significant with the impact of climate change in fragile contexts.

There are strong linkages between biodiversity conservation and human health, the health of domestic animals, wildlife health, and ecosystem health. This working group aims at providing methodological guidance to advance a vision that incorporates health outcomes into biodiversity conservation and sustainable development. During the November 2018 ABCG Threats Assessment meeting, ABCG member organization staff ranked human population growth as a priority threat to biodiversity conservation in sub-Saharan Africa. In response to that threat, this working group (including CI, JGI and WWF) will work to ensure donors and policy makers adopt the integration of gender-responsive PHE approaches into their future programming for improved conservation outcomes and promote PHE projects at national and regional scales.

### **GLOBAL HEALTH LINKAGES TO BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION- FRESHWATER CONSERVATION AND WASH**

Most of sub-Saharan Africa is under pressure from increasing population growth, urbanization, and consumption, as well as poorly-planned infrastructure development. All these factors are negatively impacting the quality and availability of freshwater resources. Major watersheds attract development and the resulting development leads to increased pollution due to inadequate waste water management infrastructure, as well as contributing to increasing and competing demands which can lead to scarcity. In addition, climate change is impacting water resources in sub-Saharan Africa and is expected to further aggravate water stress in river basins across Africa. Millions of people still lack access to clean water and sanitation, as well as other basic necessities. By linking freshwater conservation, access and Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), ABCG partners expect reduced watershed degradation and pollution will help increase the health of watershed ecosystems and species. This will help conserve freshwater ecosystems and improve efficient use of dwindling water resources due to climate change, which will lead to increased access to clear water and improved human health.

## **GENDER INTEGRATION**

Women play critical land and natural resource management roles. However, these roles are typically unrecognized or undervalued. Minorities and disadvantaged groups are also integral to local conservation constituencies. Therefore, the role of these groups is especially important to consider in the construction of sustainable conservation strategies. To achieve this, ABCG working groups will employ a participatory approach that seeks to provide improved access to opportunities (meetings, workshops, decision making on natural resource use, etc.) for women and vulnerable groups. This includes ensuring that gender considerations are included in project design and implementation. By integrating gender dimensions in all thematic and cross-cutting program components, ABCG aims to more explicitly address the issues that limit the ability of women and vulnerable populations to participate fully in conservation and natural resource management.

## **3. THEORY OF CHANGE**

### **3.A. Activity Strategic Approaches and Theory of Change Description**

ABCG creates innovative conservation solutions by fostering collaborative and adaptive learning opportunities that help practitioners improve, scale and replicate, while generating valuable user-driven knowledge that can be disseminated globally. Together, ABCG members share their experiences and generate knowledge in the form of practical tools to address conservation challenges, inform policy, and integrate biodiversity conservation into international development agendas.

ABCG accomplishes this by assembling thematic working groups and building CoPs to: 1) Analyze critical issues affecting sub-Saharan Africa's biodiversity conservation efforts; 2) Design and implement pilot studies to test innovative approaches for addressing those issues, and; 3) Synthesize collective lessons from field activities to share with multi-sector stakeholders for data-driven decision making and integration.

In addition to assessing the critical threats to biodiversity and determining thematic focus areas, ABCG continually evaluates the respective roles of the working groups and Secretariat to enable ABCG to address those threats most effectively and position the consortium to think creatively about issues that have been identified as requiring additional effort, and to then develop strategies to address them.

During the FY 2019-2020 extension period, ABCG will add two strategic approaches to its programmatic activities:

- Increasing adoption of ABCG approaches
- Positioning ABCG for the future

## **INCREASING ADOPTION OF ABCG APPROACHES**

Charged with generating and disseminating knowledge, ABCG seeks to spread information more broadly to potential users, especially in Africa, and to more strategically targeted audiences. An increased focus on both internal and external outreach will further increase adoption by: 1) Mainstreaming ABCG practices and tools within ABCG organizations themselves; and 2) Connecting

ABCG outputs with critical actors who have the capacity and skills to implement best practices. Additionally, ABCG will develop a strategy to monitor and document uptake of ABCG tools and strategies via its M&E plan, to become more effective in assuming responsibility for turning conceptual products into conservation action.

Building on ABCG's identity and experience as a convener, working groups will also encourage the adoption of new practices and approaches by hosting regular fora in Africa in order to gain exposure for members' work, create an opportunity for interface with USAID missions, and provide an additional platform for engagement with African institutional partners.

ABCG recognizes that local partners play a critical role in increasing on-continent institutional involvement in biodiversity conservation and, further, that these partnerships are vital to the dissemination and adoption of ABCG approaches. Strengthening African institutions will also provide an opportunity to advance achievement of regional development goals through implementation of ABCG approaches. Current barriers to adoption of ABCG-promoted conservation practices and tools include lack of awareness of ABCG and a lack of capacity, skills and resources to implement approaches among critical actors. ABCG will increase and deepen strategic partnerships with African institutions as per the activities funded under its themes to better: 1) Strengthen connectivity and collaboration of ABCG partners in Africa, including encouraging and formalizing CoP; 2) Expand ABCG's applied research to answer the question "Is our approach leading to solutions?", and; 3) Enable scaling of successful models, practices and tools through training support.

In making capacity development a core pillar of ABCG's model incorporated under each thematic area, it will ensure that relevant actors have the capacity to implement ABCG approaches. This would also involve the development of a clear outcome-based design for each activity, and the creation of a monitoring and reporting system that focuses on the achievement of project outcomes, particularly in regard to the adoption of improved practices, building of partnerships, and influence on policy and national programs in sub-Saharan Africa.

## ***POSITIONING ABCG FOR THE FUTURE***

Owing to USAID's long-term support, ABCG has become an established thought leader in identifying and constructing strategies to address emerging and high-priority threats to biodiversity, in Africa, by generating new knowledge, fostering CoPs, and sharing best practices with stakeholders that include local communities, conservation professionals, and policy and decision makers in the US and Africa.

Moving forward, we envision a partnership that incorporates lessons from its history to continuously adapt to new challenges and changing circumstances. Considering the current, and likely continuing, constraints on biodiversity funding, ABCG recognizes the importance of partnership in gaining efficiencies and achieving greater reach. In maintaining the strong cooperation of its core membership and inviting new partners to contribute their expertise, ABCG will build its own capacity to sustain the important roles it has assumed in support of biodiversity conservation in sub-Saharan Africa.

A crucial component of ABCG's strategic business planning will be to develop a sustainable funding model, which will allow us to build a reliable revenue base that will support ABCG's core programs and services, and increase its ability to respond to potential opportunities to further scale its approach from ideas to adoption. Options for this could include expanding membership, increasing member contributions, and seeking additional non-USAID funding.

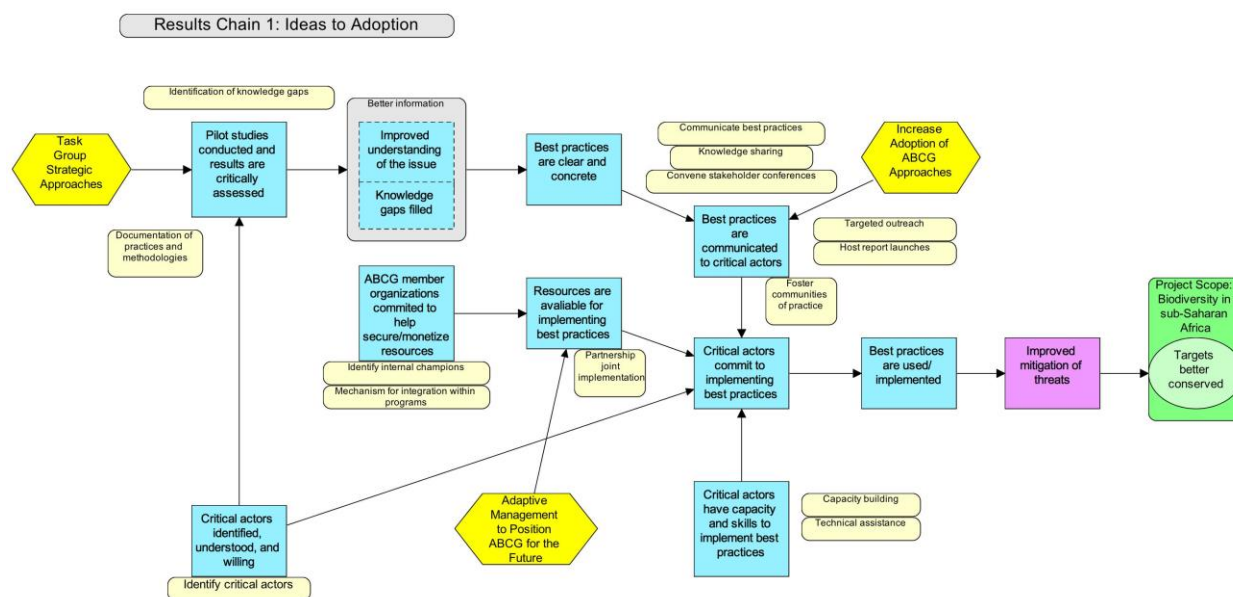
Through joint-fundraising efforts and by expanding the role of the Secretariat to include partnership development, ABCG will cultivate and secure additional donors, allowing for flexibility in addressing new issues outside the scope of USAID workplan activities, and the possibility of generating the funds necessary to strengthen its programs, expand its influence, and further enhance its impact.

For ABCG to continue to provide thought leadership, we must continually examine changing contexts in the region and implications for its ability to respond. The cumulative effect of identifying and prioritizing new threats, developing strategies to address the two priority issues outlined above, and adjusting the roles of the working groups and Secretariat to improve ABCG's effectiveness in following through on this suite of commitments will involve adapting to changing internal and external conditions. These adaptations are likely to include:

1. Changes in the relationships between the working groups and the Secretariat;
2. Changes in how collaboration among partners occurs, such as geographic focus and resource allocation;
3. Changes in ABCG governance to reflect a larger role for African partners; and
4. If efforts to develop new funding sources bear fruit, changes in the overall amount of funding that ABCG manages, as well as the administrative structure required to generate and manage a diversified portfolio of donors.

To facilitate fulsome consideration of the costs and benefits of changes in each of these areas, and ensure transparency in how their implementation affects ABCG administration and governance, the members agree that ABCG should develop and implement an operational charter that describes its mission, vision, organizational structure, and administrative procedures. Such a document will support internal planning and decision-making, and it may also prove useful as an external fundraising tool by providing prospective donors with greater clarity about what they are investing in through support for ABCG.

Please see Figure 2 below for ABCG's overall "ideas to adoption" approach.



**Figure 2.** Results chain for ABCG’s overall “ideas to adoption” approach.

### 3.B. Activity Purpose

ABCG has two major objectives for the FY 2019-2020 cost extension:

- I. **Maintain ABCG’s position as a thought leader on issues related to conservation and natural resource management.** ABCG occupies a unique space by building on the strengths of leading conservation organizations through collaboration, leading to the creation of new knowledge products and tools that make efforts to conserve biodiversity and manage natural resources sustainably more effective. ABCG also builds synergies by bringing together leading conservation practitioners who would not ordinarily have the opportunity to work together, and provides funding to build and test innovative approaches for addressing fundamental conservation issues that are unlikely to be addressed by conventional donor support. To support ABCG in continuing to play this role, we will use the resources provided under the FY 2019-2020 cost extension to:
  - a. Identify and address new areas where ABCG knowledge products and tools can influence practice related to conservation and natural resource management;
  - b. Diversify ABCG’s funding sources, to reduce dependence on USAID support, and help ensure that ABCG can continue to develop the kinds of knowledge products and tools that have proven difficult for partners to fund through their respective regional programs, and;
  - c. Draw on lessons learned from experience to date to assess and adjust thematic foci, as well as programmatic structures, practices, and procedures, in order to use limited resources more effectively.
2. **Expand citizen participation in natural resource use decision-making.** An important obstacle in addressing African conservation and natural resource management challenges is the lack of opportunities for local communities to participate in natural resource use decision-making and planning. The people whose quality of life is most dependent on the integrity of natural ecosystems are most often those whose voices are the least heard where planning and decision-making occurs. ABCG has been a pioneer in building understanding and influencing discussions about issues such as how: 1) Ownership rights and access shape the ways that land, water and other natural resources are used; 2) The health of human communities are an outcome of the healthy ecosystems on which they depend, and; 3) Planning must be multi-sectoral to arrive at an appropriate balance between conservation and economic development. These critical issues are all profoundly influenced by changing climate, market conditions and human population dynamics. To expand participation in addressing vital conservation and resource management issues we propose to:
  - a. Complete current initiatives to maximize adoption of ABCG knowledge products and tools;
  - b. Empower the participation of women and vulnerable groups to contribute to planning and decision-making related to conservation and natural resource management, and;

- c. Strengthen the role of African institutions to play leadership roles in generating knowledge, and shaping the terms of local, regional and global dialogue on conservation and natural resource management.

### **KEY FY 2019 MILESTONES**

Key FY 2019 milestones include the following:

1. Activities to disseminate knowledge products and promote mainstreaming of tools developed prior to the cost extension are completed
2. Activities to address new or evolving issues identified during the pause and reflect workshop are being implemented
3. Roles and responsibilities of the Secretariat have been defined, appropriately budgeted and are being implemented
4. Strategy to strengthen African partners and involve them more systematically in ABCG planning and implementation activities is complete and being implemented
5. Strategy to promote greater participation by women and vulnerable groups in planning and decision-making related to conservation and natural resource management is complete and being implemented
6. Strategy for diversifying funding sources has been completed
7. An ABCG charter has been completed and approved by members

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## 4. FY 2019-2020 WORK PLAN

### 4.A Management Approach

#### GOVERNANCE

The Secretariat oversees ABCG programming and operations, and comprises two core staff dedicated to ABCG's management and outreach. The ABCG Director provides vision, direction, leadership and management to the overall ABCG effort across thematic areas. The primary responsibilities for the ABCG Director, as key personnel, are to lead ABCG and deliver on the multiple work flows of the ABCG Secretariat, ranging from internal coordination to strategy development, donor engagement, program management, communications and external representation to key stakeholders in the US and Africa. The Director facilitates ABCG's efforts to identify and address emerging and high priority threats to biodiversity and encourages ABCG members to contribute the strengths that each brings to the collaborative effort of improving conservation practice in Africa.

The Nairobi-based Communications and Engagement Specialist fulfills a key role in building brand awareness, expanding ABCG's reach to target audiences, and driving the effort to grow CoPs and cultivate leadership by African institutions in addressing critical biodiversity conservation challenges facing the continent. The Communications and Engagement Specialist reports to and supports the Director in ensuring timely implementation of communications activities, grant reporting, and coordination with the ABCG member organizations to contribute to achieving the program's objectives.

As an integral part of ABCG's collaborative nature, the ABCG Secretariat rotates locations among its members. The African Wildlife Foundation assumed the role of hosting the Secretariat, from their offices in Washington DC, and Nairobi, in November 2018.

The ABCG Steering Committee is comprised of one representative from each member organization that together guide the ongoing development and direction of ABCG. The Steering Committee meets at least quarterly to review progress against objectives, and explore means to broaden the dissemination and adoption of ABCG knowledge products.

Working groups are led by and composed of technical experts from participating member organizations, including DC-based and field staff.

#### COMMUNICATIONS PLAN

ABCG's theory of change relies on accessing champions, change agents, influencers and decision-makers in order to effectively link ABCG outputs with potential users. The goal of ABCG's outreach and communications is to target critical actors for promoting new conservation approaches and form CoPs to catalyze action. To support achievement of this goal, A Global Communications Strategy has been developed based on the analysis of successful strategies, activities and tactics

employed by other organizations with a similar focus on community building, including not-for-profit actors (e.g. large international agencies, development organizations, and charities) as well as for-profit companies (e.g. small start-ups and large, established firms).

Furthermore, the goal of ABCG's African engagement component is to support USAID/AFR, Africa Missions and African organization partners to improve the understanding and implementation of biodiversity conservation through the integration of biodiversity as an essential component of human development. ABCG aims to contribute to USAID's Biodiversity Strategy by mainstreaming biodiversity conservation goals into decision-making for development programming. In particular, USAID/AFR has expressed interest that the following key points on coordination and outreach are pursued:

- ABCG should aim to increase coordination with bilateral missions through information sharing and generally keeping missions apprised of progress and events in-country
- ABCG's African outreach strategy should target USAID missions in addition to African institutions on activities and output that is of particular interest to select missions.

To this end, ABCG will increase stakeholder capacity and thought leadership, facilitate innovation, and foster CoPs that provide effective support to the US Government generally, and to USAID country and regional missions, in particular, as well as to African governments and African civil society organizations.

These goals are at the heart of ABCG's Global Communications Strategy, which includes a number of cascading workstreams, activities, resources and targets that together contribute to achieving these goals.

## **4.B Thematic Foci and Working Groups**

The November 2018 pause and reflect workshop reviewed the outcomes achieved by the former five working groups and considered how ABCG can best build on these to maximize its impact on conservation practice during the coming two years. The results of the assessment supported decisions to transition working groups, continue working groups (perhaps with an adjusted focus), and established new activity areas to address issues that have been identified since the working groups were defined at the outset of ABCG II.

The following five working groups are situated within the broader contexts of conservation planning and global health linkages to biodiversity conservation:

1. Land Use Management
2. Global Change Impacts
3. Community-based Forest Managemet
4. Population, Health and Environment
5. Freshwater Conservation and WASH (Water Sanitation and Hygiene)

An additional activity area in integrating gender and vulnerable populations in activity design and implementation will support the thematic working groups to ensure that this core pillar in ABCG's approach is comprehensively represented.

## 4.B.i Strategic Approach A: Land Use Management

The primary aim of the Land Use Management (LUM) Working group will be 1) to ensure past technical work completed to date bridges the science and implementation gap and that we learn how impact of this occurs, and 2) the development and testing of a modular training course on how to incorporate biodiversity effectively into land use planning. This will incorporate previous work undertaken by the Working group in five countries (Gabon, Republic of Congo (ROC), DRC, Tanzania, and Madagascar) as case studies, focus on the theory and practice, as well as training on the technical tools that can help support planning.

### ***Strategic Approach A.1 – Bridge the science and implementation gap***

The activity will be tailored differently within each continuing case study, but all will share a common monitoring and evaluation framework created by the LUM team. Within the current landscapes of ROC, Tanzania, Gabon and Madagascar, the group will undertake further engagement with stakeholders and decision makers on the final results of the previous FY 2015-2018 ABCG II period, and better integrate these results into decision-making processes. This will lead to better mainstreaming and integration of methods and results within government planning departments, and development of strategies for these departments to use LUM tools in the future (e.g. collaborations with local university, secondment of technicians from NGOs).

The activity will feature several components. First, the scenario modelling results generated in the last phase need to be repackaged into stakeholder-friendly materials to ensure the model inputs, assumptions, and implications are readily understood. Field staff of the organizations partnering to plan and implement this task will then use these materials to engage decision-makers and stakeholders to help them incorporate findings into their planning processes (emphasis will be made on influencing existing planning processes). The common monitoring and evaluation framework will help track both progress in terms of planning uptake and subsequent implementation impact. Throughout this process, task members will note lessons learned and that will be explicitly documented to help inform the development of the land use planning course in LUM Strategic Approach A.2. A sketch of this capacity building process is profiled in the updated LUM results chain as 'Activity 1' (Figure 3, below).

### ***Strategic Approach A.2 – Develop and introduce a modular course on land use planning in Africa***

To undertake this activity, we will generate a land use management/conservation planning training course, which will provide an introduction to the theory and practical starting points of integrating biodiversity into land-use planning. This will involve a modular curriculum of theory, case studies, group work and decision support tool training. The course is intended for professionals responsible for land-use and natural resource management (including a wide range of sectors, e.g. environment, tourism, transportation etc.), or from cross-sectional management bodies. The modular nature will allow the course to be tailored to the skills/interests of participants (e.g. training for GIS analysts will use different modules compared to training for policy makers). This will be led through a collaboration of core scientists from each partner organization. We plan to have one face to face meeting during the development phase. This will likely take around 9 months and will draw on:

- Reports/experience from last LUM phase
- Survey of participants from last phase regarding lessons learned, areas to improve
- CGI task findings
- Other land use planning processes

- Activity one experience/findings.
- Internal and external decision support tool trainings

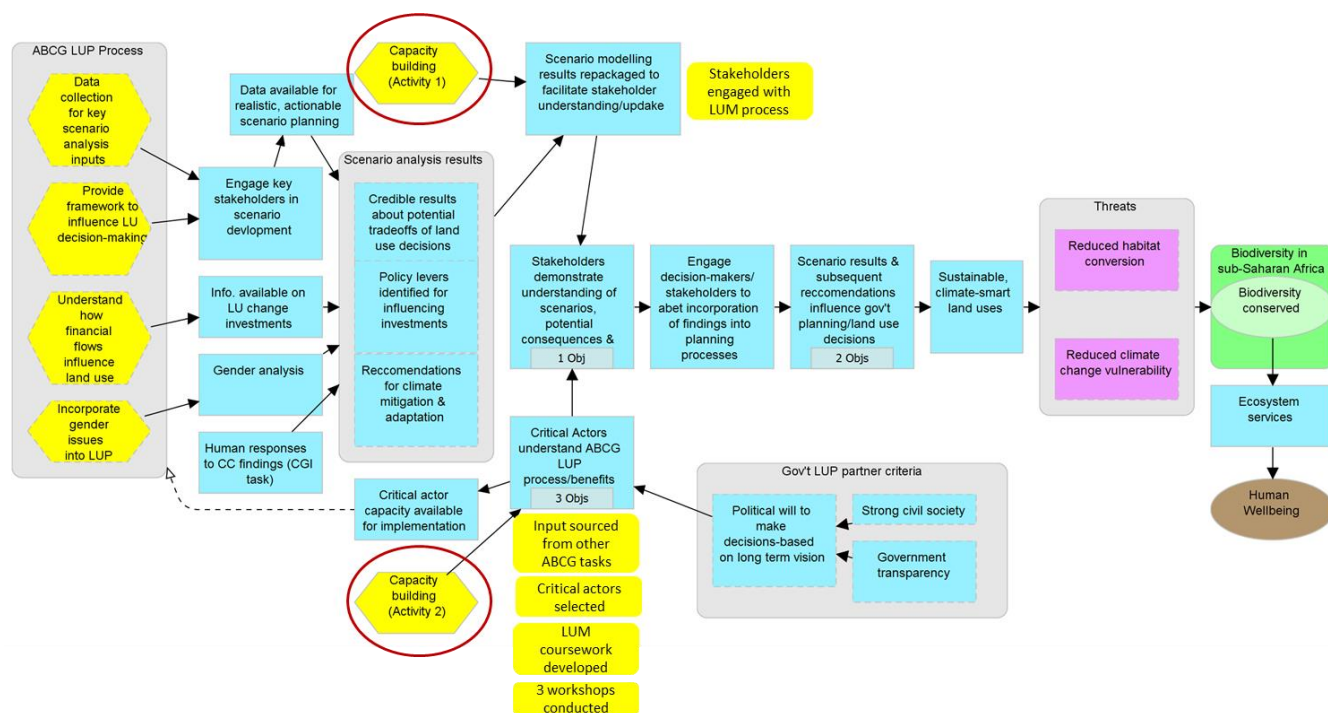
The course will also incorporate guidance developed by other ABCG working groups. The course will incorporate elements of the ABCG CBFM working groups best practice guidance for development of community forest management plans and related research identifying the key challenges to making community forestry work for people and conservation. LUM will also draw on work from the GCI working group will also (see Integration of Cross-Cutting Issues below).

To roll out the course, we are planning 3 workshops as 3-4 day meetings. The workshop will target critical actors— governments, local NGOs, and technical institutes/universities—to receive training in systematic application of the pilot curriculum and involve representatives from successful initial pilot studies to demonstrate land use planning. The location of training will likely be in 1) central west Africa (French), 2) east Africa (English) and 3) Madagascar (French). We will meet with East Africa Regional Directors Forum (group of conservation NGOs leaders) to seek recommendations on specific critical actors to engage.

The expected outcomes from the training workshops include:

- Secure high-level governments buy-in to LUP process/vision (1 day).
- Review of technical components of curriculum, process, tools (2-3 days).
  - Mainstream and integrate ABCG LUM planning framework within government planning departments and local conservation and potentially development NGOs.
  - Develop strategies, capacity for these actors to use the tools in the future. Promote wide adoption across Africa. Recognize that a range of more/less technical ABCG land use planning road maps are available.
  - Demonstrate the feasibility of land use planning to local NGOs and governments.
  - Identify new champions for land use planning and bring them into the process.

A sketch of this capacity building process is profiled in the updated LUM results chain as Strategic Approach A.2 (Figure 3).



**Figure 3.** Results chain for LUM Working group. This phase of work would involve the circled strategies building on the ‘Scenario analysis results’ developed during the prior LUM phase.

The LUM approach is rooted in systematic conservation planning (SCP), based on the premise that that evidence-based guidance promotes transparency and accountability when managing difficult and value-laden decisions. While examples of SCP abound, impact evaluations of their effectiveness are few. Assessments that exist found that most SCP efforts focused on prioritization and they did not deliver conservation action, mostly because researchers did not plan for implementation<sup>1</sup>. With activity 1, that is precisely the outcome LUM seeks to avoid. Common factors associated with planning projects reported as successes include multistakeholder collaborations, integration of local and scientific knowledge, capacity building, the use of multiple-use zoning, and participation and governance networks<sup>2,3,4</sup>. The LUM process shares each of these traits. Further, plans with strong public, institutional and political support for implementation and an implementation strategy that connects broad-scale plans to local-level decision-making are more likely to influence land use

<sup>1</sup> McIntosh, E. J., Pressey, R. L., Lloyd, S., Smith, R. J., & Grenyer, R. (2017). The impact of systematic conservation planning. *Annual Review of Environment and Resources*, 42.

<sup>2</sup> Knight AT, Driver A, Cowling RM, Maze K, Desmet PG, et al. 2006. Designing systematic conservation assessments that promote effective implementation: best practice from South Africa. *Conserv. Biol.* 20(3):739–50

<sup>3</sup> Groves, C., & Game, E. T. (2016). *Conservation planning: informed decisions for a healthier planet*. Roberts Publishers.

<sup>4</sup> Weeks, R., Aliño, P. M., Atkinson, S., Beldia, P., Binson, A., Campos, W. L., ... & Jumin, R. (2014). Developing marine protected area networks in the Coral Triangle: good practices for expanding the Coral Triangle Marine Protected Area System. *Coastal Management*, 42(2), 183-205.

decisions on the ground<sup>5</sup>. The LUM approach emphasizes building support for implementation and macro-planning with local level implementation potential.

### **ASSUMPTIONS AND LEARNING QUESTIONS RELATED TO THE STRATEGIC APPROACH**

A learning question for Strategic Approach A.1 is: after LUM guidance/engagement with country stakeholders, what challenges or barriers remain to have plans influenced by LUM products and process? Applying a common M&E framework across the sites will facilitate cross-site comparisons and identification of contributing performance factors and enabling conditions. Similarly, for Strategic Approach A.2, after the workshops targeting critical actors, what capacity gaps will exist among critical actors to execute the LUM planning process? We simply cannot know the nature and scope of outstanding impediments in these two cases until undergoing the related activities for the two work streams.

### **FY 2019-2020 IMPLEMENTATION PLAN FOR THIS STRATEGIC APPROACH**

Please see Figure 4 below for LUM FY 2019-2020 workplan.

RESULT	ACTION	OUTPUT	OUTCOME	TIMELINE
Strategic Approach A.1: Bridge the science and implementation gap				
Government and stakeholders demonstrate uptake of LUM scenarios by using findings to influence planning processes (Objective 1)	Translate scenario results into stakeholder friendly materials	(1.1.1) Repackaged scenario modelling results into stakeholder friendly materials	(1.1) Government stakeholders demonstrate understanding of potential consequences and trade-offs between land use options and use that to influence land use planning	Mar 2019 – June 2019
	Engagement processes with decision-makers and stakeholders	(1.1.2) Scenario planning meetings with decision-makers and stakeholders for mainstreaming and integration of methods and results		Mar 2019 – June 2019
Planning processes influenced by LUM	Monitoring and evaluation of results.	(1.2.1) Common M&E Framework	(1.2) Through implementation of LUM-influenced	Mar 2019 – Aug 2020

<sup>5</sup> Carter, S. K., Keuler, N. S., Pidgeon, A. M., & Radeloff, V. C. (2014). Evaluating the influence of conservation plans on land protection actions in Wisconsin, USA. *Biological Conservation*, 178, 37-49

engagement (Objective 2)		developed and applied	plans, sites demonstrate adoption through planning processes influenced by LUM engagement	
	Lessons learned identified and documented	(1.2.2) Lessons learned documented to help inform the development of the land use planning course		
Strategic Approach A.2: Develop and introduce a modular course on land use planning in Africa				
Critical actors have capacity to execute LUM planning process (Objective 3)	Development of course material	(2.1.1) Course material developed and tested to support land use planning in Africa	(2.1) Critical actors organizations have capacity to execute LUM scenario-based planning process	Mar 2019 – Aug 2020
	Meeting of course developers	(2.1.2) Representatives of critical actors trained in LUM scenario-based planning process; (2.1.3) Business plan for rolling out training beyond USAID funding		June 2019
	First training workshop			Oct/Nov 2019
	Second training			Feb/Mar 2020
	Third training			Aug 2020

**Figure 4.** LUM FY 2019-2020 workplan.

## INTEGRATION OF CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES

- *Gender Equality and Female Empowerment*

Gender issues can be addressed in land use planning. We will treat gender issues in the coursework especially in sections related to the situational analysis that provides the context for formulation of planning objectives.

- *Sustainability Mechanisms*

Sustainable development is central to the ABCG land use planning approach aiming to inform the development of sustainability mechanisms through spatially explicit scenario modeling. These scenarios could also inform land use plans that facilitate national environmental compliance needs.

- *Global Climate Change*

The LUM task will collaborate with the ABCG GCI Working group, who are developing a tool to guide local stakeholders (e.g. farmers, pastoralists, local govts. & NGOs) through the process of facilitating biodiversity friendly climate adaptation. This tool (or a modified version) will be featured in a climate-smart planning module within the LUM curriculum. Specifically, GCI Surveys and knowledge about what human livelihoods/responses are most affected by climate, what responses to climate are most deleterious/beneficial to and where/how the climate may change in the future can contribute to LUM planning process by: 1) informing the situational analysis (what are the salient issues in planning area?), 2) the setting of objectives to guide scenario development (based partly on the situational analysis), and 3) formulation of strategies/interventions.

- *Policy and Governance Support*

The participatory, stakeholder-driven LUM approach promotes a structured policy dialog informed by spatially-explicit scenario planning at multiple scales. This task will emphasize policy and governance support via engagement and capacity development in order to mainstream existing LUM planning and develop the capacity for critical actors to lead new scenario-based planning efforts with a modicum of support.

## **4.B.ii Strategic Approach B: Managing Global Change Impacts (GCI)**

### **DESCRIPTION OF THE STRATEGIC APPROACH**

To understand how changes in climate are affecting livelihoods and how community responses to those changes are affecting biodiversity, we need to understand how community members process and learn about climate threats and impacts that are affecting their livelihoods, make decisions to adopt new practice that reduce the impact to biodiversity, implement activities toward that new practice, and make sure those new practices are effective to build resilience to climate changes while maintaining livelihoods.

The aim of the GCI working group is to answer the following questions: a) what changes in weather and climate are communities facing in sub-Saharan Africa?; b) How are those communities responding to changes in weather and climate in this region?; c) How are those responses negatively impacting biodiversity?; d) What locations may experience such impacts in the future?; and e) What alternative responses should be promoted and implemented to benefit both people and biodiversity in this region?

This Working group will build a knowledge base and a decision support tool that will advance communities' capacity to learn about climate threats and impacts and approaches to address these challenges, and/or design and implement strategies to address climate-driven issues on livestock, agriculture productivity, and fishing resources. The Working group will distribute reports and conduct webinars to disseminate lessons learned.

Please see Figure 5 below for GCI revised results chain.

## Global Change Impacts Group

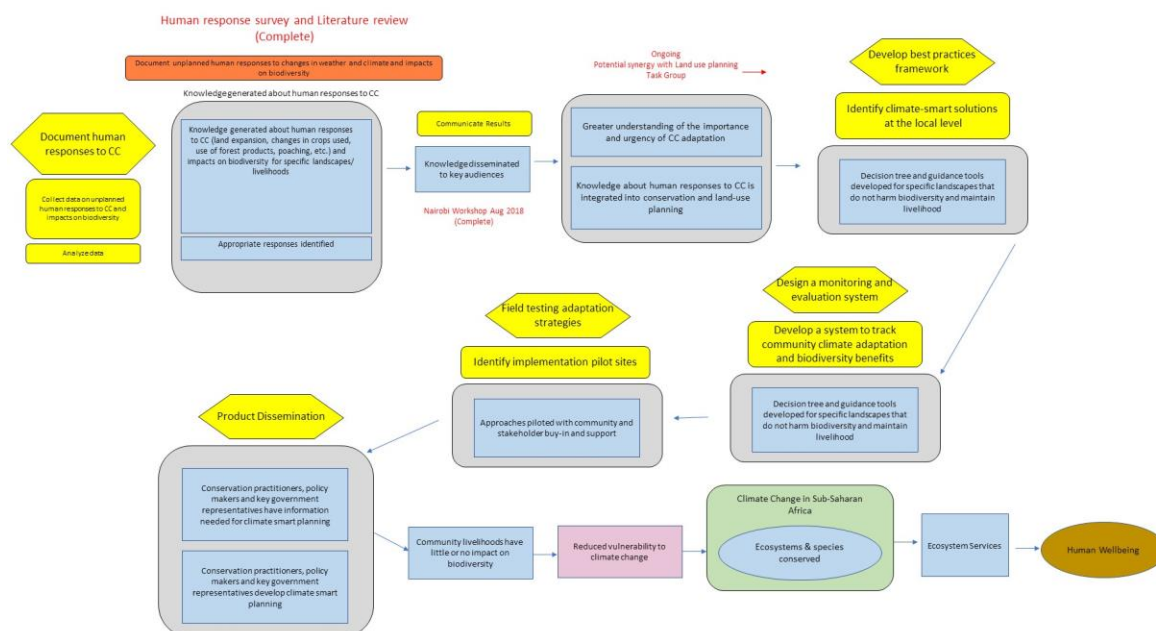


Figure 5. GCI FY 2019-2020 revised results chain.

## ASSUMPTIONS AND LEARNING QUESTIONS RELATED TO THE STRATEGIC APPROACH

There are variables that limit the ability of local people to implement alternative adaptation implementation, such as:

- Lack of continuity when initial resources end;
- Cultural values and taboos that can prevent the implementation of those alternative adaptation strategies;
- Lack of information sharing regarding results achieved as strategies are often implemented as short-term, pilot projects;

Alternative adaptation strategies to the responses that farmers and fishermen are having should be sustainable in the long-term. Development of a robust MEL plan and additional funding is needed for the implementation of those alternative adaptation strategies. Long-term investments should allow communities to understand the importance of those strategies and give them the opportunity to sustain those strategies in the long-term.

## **FY 2019-2020 IMPLEMENTATION PLAN FOR THIS STRATEGIC APPROACH**

1. Analyze community survey data, climate impacts, and response typology from previous phase of work to identify potential sites. (April-May 2019)
  - a. Each organization will consult with their respective in-country field staff to identify and geolocate potential activity sites.
  - b. Assess enabling conditions necessary for meaningful community engagement and capacity for project implementation and maintenance.
2. Conduct community level stakeholder workshops following the approaches and products introduced in the FY 2018 Nairobi workshop (link to workshop report) to identify project pilot sites, identify solutions, project plans, timelines, M&E indicators, cost, etc. (April-July 2019)
  - a. We envision a series of 2-day workshops lead by member organizations in their area of interest. Day 1 – exploration of climate impacts, effects on livelihoods, and identification of resilient coping strategies. Day 2 – develop field project plans, develop budgets and ensure community adoption and buy-in of the new activity.
3. Design a monitoring and evaluation system to identify indicators to track the adaptation and biodiversity benefits provided by the actions implemented. (July-Sept 2019)
  - a. It will be important and necessary to develop an M&E protocol that can continue after the 18-month project conclusion to identify if actions to be implemented did reduce vulnerability and/or identify ways to adapt the actions implemented if required.
4. Direct and implement on-the-ground projects designed to implement livelihood climate adaptation strategies and action plans to address climate-driven issues on livestock, agriculture productivity, and fishing resources. Oct 2019-July 2020
5. Develop a decision informing system to be delivered to farmers and pastoralists, highlighting alternative responses undertaken in various locations throughout Sub-Saharan Africa. (July-Sept 2020)
  - a. Develop a tool that guide farmers and pastoralists and relevant stakeholders through the process 1-3 above, including developing a robust M&E plan
  - b. Identify enabling institutions (local NGOs, government agencies, universities?) that could assist farmers in applying the decision support tools from planning through implementation and monitoring. Where appropriate it will be necessary to involve these partner institutions in the development process to ensure buy-in and help facilitate broad distribution.
6. Where appropriate, support the Land use planning Working group in designing the training module on how to incorporate climate change into land use planning.
7. Develop reports and conduct webinars showing the results of phase I (July-Sept 2020)

Please see Figure 6 below for GCI workplan.

RESULT	ACTION	OUTPUT	OUTCOME	TIMELINE
STRATEGIC APPROACH B.1: Develop best practices framework that can be adapted and applied across community contexts				
Identify climate-smart solutions at the local level	<p>Community level stakeholder workshops following the approaches and products introduced in 2018 Nairobi workshop are conducted</p> <p>Analyze community survey data, climate impacts, and response typology. Identify solutions, project plans, timelines, M&amp;E indicators, cost, etc.</p>	<p>4 to 6 community workshops conducted</p> <p>4-6 action plans (recommendations ) for adapting livelihoods to climate changes</p>	Communities increase their knowledge on how to adapt their livelihood activities/practices to minimize negative impacts on biodiversity and increase their resilience	April-May 2019
Improved ability to track community climate adaptation and biodiversity benefits	Design a monitoring and evaluation system to track the adaptation and biodiversity benefits provided by the actions implemented	4-6 sets of indicators to track the adaptation and biodiversity benefits	Communities can measure livelihood adaptation strategies' impact on biodiversity over time	July-Sept 2019
STRATEGIC APPROACH B.2: Field test climate adaptation strategies within pilot communities for proof of concept				
Communities implement livelihood climate adaptation strategies	Pilot communities implement adaptation action plans	1-3 pilot community adaptation action plans are implemented	Adapted or alternate community livelihoods are established and supported by	Oct 2019- July 2020

			community members	
STRATEGIC APPROACH B.3: Disseminate methodology for creating community livelihood adaptation action plans to key stakeholders through-out Sub-Saharan Africa				
Conservation practitioners, policy makers and key government representatives have information needed for climate smart planning	Document process for developing livelihood adaptation action plans	Decision tree and guidance tools consisting of outreach documents, training materials, and posters is developed	Stakeholders engaged in community development have increased knowledge on creating community livelihood adaptation action plans	July-Sept 2020
	Disseminate decision tree and guidance tools to key stakeholders via webinars	2 webinars		Aug-Sept 2020

**Figure 6.** Global Change Impacts FY 2019-2020 workplan

### **INTEGRATION OF CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES**

A number of adaptation strategies proposed in the October 2018 pilot workshop did include livelihood activities that are typically in the domain of female community members such as water collection, and farming. Going forward and where possible the GCI Working group will work to elevate those livelihood adaptation strategies that predominantly involve women for funding and implementation. Additionally the learning products developed under this activity will serve as guidance materials that are intended to be shared between the members of the community through self-directed training forums.

### **4.B.iii. Strategic Approach C: Community Based Forest Management Group**

#### **DESCRIPTION OF THE STRATEGIC APPROACH**

The CBFM thematic area is a new priority that emerged from LRTR Working group of the previous three years. It was decided by the member organizations of the LRTR Working group that only the 2018 community forestry work of the group would continue into the extension period.

The CBFM activities in the next 18 months are organized under two Strategic Approaches, these are:

**STRATEGIC APPROACH C.1:** Promote and understand best practices in the implementation of Community Based Forestry Management projects in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) for improved conservation outcomes.

**STRATEGIC APPROACH C.2:** Better understand the impacts of CBFM on forest cover.

These two approaches build on the previous work on community forest of the LRTR Working group in 2018. Specifically, the work follows the Maliasili research and report, *Making Community Forest Enterprises Deliver for Livelihoods and Conservation in Tanzania* authored by Trupin, R., T. Morgan-Brown, H. Doulton and F. Nelson (September 2018).

Strategic Approach C.1 activities build on recent developments in DRC. DRC's Forest Code of 2002 grants communities the right to community forestry concessions (CFCL), although it lacked the necessary implementing regulations, including rules to govern allocation and management of these concessions. In February 2016, however, Ministerial Decree No. 025 was signed into law, providing rules governing forest concession management by communities. Under this Decree, a community forest concession grants the community significant rights in perpetuity to both trees/forests and land. The community may use the concession land for timber (with restrictions on level of mechanization), non-timber forest products, ecotourism, wood energy, and/or for other purposes subject to a (simple) management plan approved by the local administration. As of June 2018, 34 community forest concessions had been allocated in three provinces, covering 253,211 hectares.

Strategic Approach C.2. Formal government-recognized community forestry approaches, such as in DRC (above) have been established in several African countries. Some of these initiatives are several decades old (e.g., Cameroon and Tanzania) while others are relatively recent developments (e.g., DRC). Community and country-level research has been conducted on the social and environmental outcomes of these formal community forestry programs. The findings are mixed with some communities benefiting significantly from their community forests. Other communities have not benefited much with many having to absorb considerable costs in terms of forest loss and environmental degradation, leading to lost livelihoods and poverty. No systematic assessment, however, has been conducted of forest cover change outcome of community forests across multiple African countries with formal community forest programs. This Strategic Approach addresses this knowledge gap.

To achieve a better understanding of the environmental (forest cover change) outcomes of formal community forests in Africa, the CBFM Working group will conduct four linked activities. These are:

1. Conduct research on the environmental (principally the forest cover change) outcomes of CBFM in several African countries. The research will be principally a GIS analysis and, as such, the research countries will be based largely on the existence of a formal (government) community forestry program and the availability of spatial data for the analysis. Possible countries include DRC, Namibia, Malawi, Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea, Liberia, and Tanzania. WRI and other ABCG organizations hold the shapefiles of community forests in several countries. The forest cover change data will come from the University of Maryland. The list of research countries will be finalized in the next two to three months.
2. Prepare a written document that captures the principal findings and recommendations of the GIS analysis on the forest cover change outcome of community forests. This document,

approximately 20 to 25 pages in length, will be prepared after the GIS analysis is complete and completed in the second quarter of 2020. WRI will be the lead author of the report. The draft report will be shared with the participating ABCG members with the expectation that some within the organizations will review and provide comments.

3. When the report is finalized, it will be submitted to the ABCG Secretariate. Evelyn Namvua, ABCG Communications and Engagement Specialist, will format the report in the ABCG style, prepare a PDF file, and post it on the ABCG website for wider distribution. ABCG member organizations will also be encouraged to share the report with their networks.
4. WRI will prepare a 800-1000 word blog on the findings of the GIS analysis for posting on WRI Insights.

Strategic Approach C.1 activities of the CBFM Working group will be undertaken in DRC in support of the recent community forest opportunities. The assessment of the forest cover impacts of community forests under Strategic Approach C.2 will involve research on community forests in several African countries, including possibly DRC, Namibia, Malawi, Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea, Liberia, and Tanzania. The list of research countries will be finalized in the next two to three months.

### **ASSUMPTIONS AND LEARNING QUESTIONS RELATED TO THE STRATEGIC APPROACH**

A number of learning questions have been posed for the CBFM work in the Eastern DRC. These are:

<b>Learning Question</b>	<b>How information will be gathered</b>	<b>How information will be organized and shared</b>
What are common characteristics of successful CBFM projects in the DRC?	Via Partner Experience, case studies and presentations	Case Study Documents and Meeting Reports
What role does the political economy of the DRC have on the viability of CBFM projects?	Through a dedicated political economy analysis	Through the publication of Research Paper based on a political economy analysis
What criteria can be developed to assess the criteria for evaluation of social, economic, political and conservation impact of CBFM activities?	Through analysis of existing programs and piloting of CBFM activities in JGI area of operations	Report on pilot studies

## FY 2019-2020 IMPLEMENTATION PLAN FOR THIS STRATEGIC APPROACH

Please see Figure 7 below for CBFM workplan.

RESULT	ACTION	OUTPUT	OUTCOME	TIMELINE
STRATEGIC APPROACH C.I: Promote and understand best practices in the implementation of Community Based Forestry Management projects in the DRC for improved conservation outcomes.				
ABCG member organizations and their partners adopt improved and harmonized approaches to CBFM programming in DRC by sharing of experiences and best practices in Land Use Management	Provide financial and logistical support for 3 rounds of Local Community Forest Concessions (CFCL in French) CoP Round Table Meetings to present and share best practices based on experiences to date	1.1.1 Lessons and best practices are recorded and shared through 2 Case Studies, 3 Meeting Reports and 3 Partner Presentations	1.1 ABCG partners and partner organizations implementing CBFM in the DRC will have access to documentation and knowledge to improve and harmonize current and future CBFM activities	Two CoP Meetings will take place in fiscal year 2019 (Q3 and Q4) and one in 2020 Q2)
	Analyze the political economy of community managed forests in order to promote positive sustainable development and conservation outcomes	1.1.2 Research paper identifying the key challenges to making community forestry work for people and conservation inc. Private Sector engagement and 2 x Provincial Land Use Maps		Documentation to follow each meeting
	Map Land Use allocations in Lubutu and Punia Territories of Maniema province (based on activity conducted with ABCG funding and implemented by JGI for Walikale Territory, Noth Kivu province in 2018)			Q4 FY 2020
		Develop and pilot management approaches, through participatory community process, for 3 CFCLs under JGI and local partner support, Walikale Territory, North Kivu; and	1.1.3 Evaluation Report of management systems impacts	1.2 Official guidance on community forestry management plans is finalized and used by stakeholders implementing

RESULT	ACTION	OUTPUT	OUTCOME	TIMELINE
	undertake evaluation of management systems impacts		community forestry in DRC	
	Provide two provincial level trainings in DRC on the Ministry’s official guidance document for simple management plans for community forests	1.1.4 Two training reports and at least 40 people trained on the guidance document for community forest management plans.		Q4 FY 2020
STRATEGIC APPROACH C.2: Better understand the impacts of CBFM on forest cover.				
2. ABCG Organizations involved in Community Based Forest Management have improved understanding of the effectiveness of CBFM in maintaining and expanding forest cover across Africa	Assessment (GIS analysis) of the environmental outcomes of CBFM with a focus on forest cover changes over time	1.1.4 GIS analysis of the forest cover change in community forests in 3-4 countries in Africa. Possible focal countries include DRC, Namibia, Malawi, Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea, and Liberia. JGI, TNC and AWF are potential partners in this analysis	1.3 Better understanding of the environmental (forest cover) outcomes of formal community forests	Q2 FY 2020
	Prepare a written document that captures the principal findings of the GIS analysis	1.1.5 Written document that captures the findings of the GIS analysis of community forests		

	Post the report on the ABCG website			
	Prepare a blog on the report	I.1.6 Blog on the report posted on WRI's webpage ( <i>WRI Insights</i> )		

**Figure 7.** CBFM FY 2019-2020 Workplan

### ***INTEGRATION OF CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES***

- *Gender Equality and Female Empowerment*

The CBFM Working group will be participants in the activities of the Gender Mainstreaming Working group that will inform how activities can best integrate Gender Equality and Female Empowerment.

- *Global Climate Change*

Given the percentage of global forests that are covered by differing types of community base management, understanding what drives successful projects in this area is critical to approaches that seek to mitigate global climate change through the maintainence and growth of forest inventory.

- *Local Capacity Development*

The majority of organizations implementing CBFM in the Eastern DRC (and more broadly in Sub Saharan Africa) are small, locally based community groups. It is envisaged that rhough working wth these organization in the porposed CoP and trthough the development ond sharing of knowledge projects, this Working group will support the development of improved planning and implementation of CBFM projects by local actors.

#### **4.B.iv. Strategic Approach D: Freshwater Conservation and Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (FW-WASH)**

##### ***DESCRIPTION OF THE STRATEGIC APPROACH***

###### ***Goal***

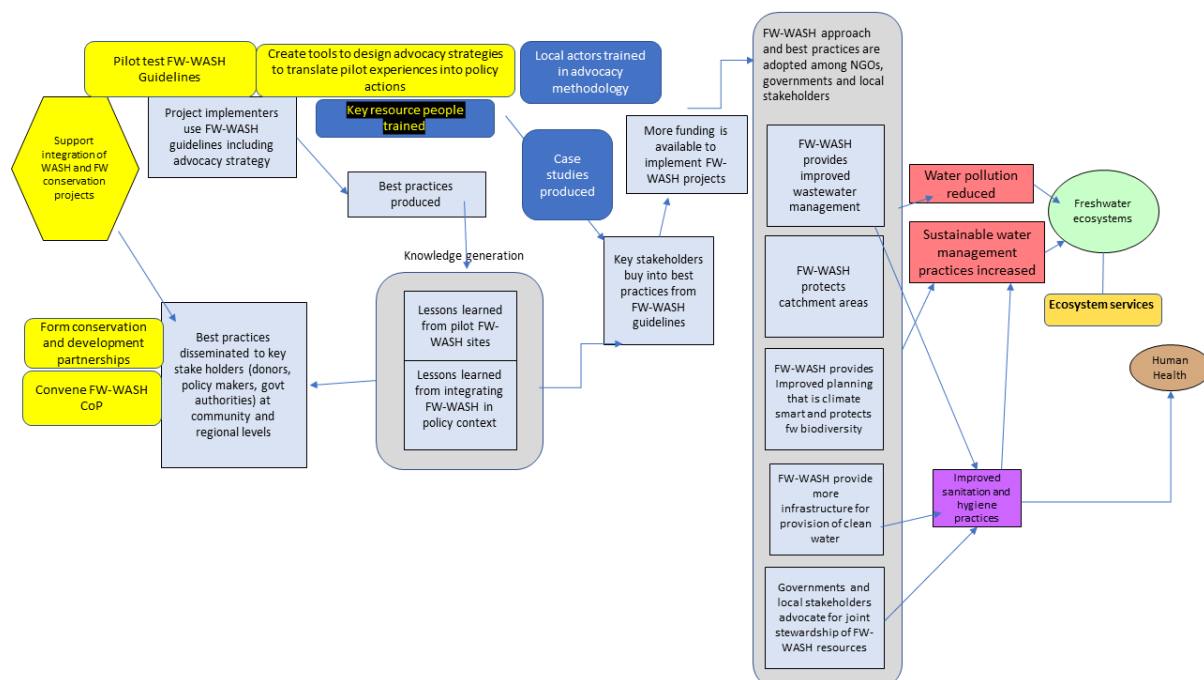
The Freshwater Conservation and WASH (FW-WASH) task's primary goal is adoption of this integrated approach to water management among NGOs, governments and local stakeholders. Under the previous phase of ABCG, CI and JGI made great strides in moving in the direction of adoption, but there are still existing gaps and challenges related to influencing local governance with successful pilots to advance adoption among ABCG members and partners. During this new phase of ABCG, CI, Conservation South Africa, JGI and WWF will promote integration of WASH projects through partnerships and outreach to local governments. In South Africa and Uganda, ABCG member organizations have been implementing conservation programs for many years in collaboration with local government authorities, civil society organizations, community members and other stakeholders. The local institutions for the pilots have already been identified and are close collaborators.

The FW-WASH group will use one strategic approach to achieve its goal:

- Promote integration of FW-WASH projects through partnerships and outreach to local governments.

The main learning question for this task are: Are there unanticipated barriers to governmental level adoption of FW-WASH integration? What type of messages and storytelling media motivate and convince policymakers to adopt integrated programs and policies? Building on previous ABCG accomplishments in South Africa and Uganda, this Working group will focus on building the capacity of local stakeholders in these countries (and potentially other geographies through other ABCG members) to promote the benefits of the integrated approaches to convince policymakers to adopt integrated programs and policies.

Please see Figure 8 below for FW-WASH FY 2019-2020 results chain.



**Figure 8.** FW-WASH FY 2019-2020 revised results chain.

## IMPLEMENTATION PLAN FOR THIS STRATEGIC APPROACH

### Background

Understanding ABCG's proof of concept is critical to biodiversity conservation and creating champions within local government and identifying barriers those champions face in moving local government actors to adopt an integrated FW-WASH approach requires additional knowledge, planning and capacity for designing local-level advocacy plans. Through this task CoP's (CoP) webinar series, the Watershed Program shared their experiences advocating for integrated approaches in Kenya, including a Training of Trainers (ToT) methodology developed by IRC on advocacy strategy planning and target setting. The results of this program were impressive and exciting for ABCG pilot sites to consider how they might create or adapt such a training to transform good practice into political action with measurable targets for these goals, beyond the creation of new policies which may or may not result in conservation action.

CSA, with technical assistance from CI, piloted the ABCG FW-WASH guidelines and M&E Framework in four sites, located in the Alfred Nzo District of South Africa's Eastern Cape Province. In the new phase, key partners in this project will include the Alfred Nzo District Municipality (ANDM), which has the governmental mandate to provide WASH services, local water operators – individuals employed by ANDM to monitor WASH infrastructure and water sources - traditional courts in each of the villages, and local community members. This area is especially important for biodiversity. It is part of the Maputaland-Pondoland-Albany Hotspot and is the headwaters of the Mzimvubu River, South Africa's last free-flowing river that supplies water to over one million people.

JGI piloted FW-WASH activities in 10 villages in the Albertine rift region of Hoima and Masindi Districts. This area is known as the Budongo-Bugoma Corridor, which represents critical habitat for the chimpanzees JGI seeks to conserve. JGI will build on established relationships with the Hoima and Masindi district councils, as well as the local sub-counties and parishes as part of this activity. Additionally, local institutions such as Kidoma-Kabaale Community Development Association (KACODA) will be engaged in outreach activities.

WWF works on integrated conservation, health and development projects in Africa and will participate in this task to garner learning from the advocacy training to be applied in its field project in Cameroon. While the project primarily focuses on family planning and conservation now, there are many links to WASH and expanding the focus of the existing project. WWF will hold the Washington, DC-based advocacy training for key resource people at all ABCG member organizations, including CI, JGI and WWF.

Given the success of the CoP and benefits offered to ABCG pilots through learning from other examples, the working group will continue the CoP, led by an ABCG member, and/or in collaboration with the Kenya Water and Sanitation Civil Society Network (KEWASNET). The task will keep the CoP active through webinars to share both partner and ABCG member experiences and explore opportunities to continue the collaboration with the KEWASNET and other partners.

Although not as explicit as in the last phase, this task will also further efforts to mainstream gender into the projects, shifting the focus to how gender needs to be considered and applied in the policy context in each country. Using the recommendations from the gender analyses in the previous phase of ABCG, task members will ensure the piloting of the ToT messages in the advocacy strategy will be gender-sensitive and sex-disaggregated related indicators will be developed.

### **Activities**

- **Third quarter FY2019 to Fourth quarter FY 2020:** Create ToT guide for designing advocacy strategies and targets to influence local policy development with successful FW-WASH on the ground success – with IRC, CI, JGI staff.
- **Third quarter FY 2019:** Conduct DC workshop to train HQ staff to deliver landscape trainings – IRC facilitating with CI, JGI and WWF
- **Fourth quarter FY2019:** Collaborate with IRC and co-facilitator to deliver workshops to train key staff in South Africa and Uganda on the methodology.
- **Third quarter FY2019 to Fourth quarter FY 2020:** Refine draft strategy produced in workshop and pilot use of methodology in South Africa and Uganda;
- **Fourth quarter FY 2019 – Fourth quarter FY 2020:** Document lessons learned and experiences for the creation of a lessons learned report
- **Third quarter FY2019 to Fourth quarter FY 2020:** Convene FW-WASH CoP

### **Outcomes**

- ABCG member organizations increase institutional capacity to address policy gaps and challenges

- FW-WASH best practices inform local-government decision making in South Africa and Uganda
- Stakeholders in Africa increase awareness of lessons learned from two case studies that applied the advocacy strategy in South Africa and Uganda
- Lessons and best practices from pilot implementation and policy integration from ABCG members and others working on FW-WASH integrated approaches are shared with stakeholders from conservation and development sectors in Africa

### **Deliverables**

- Training-of-Trainers Advocacy methodology manual adapted to integrated FW-WASH project context
- Key resource people trained at ABCG member organizations, CI, JGI and WWF
- Site-specific strategies for influencing policy gaps in SA and Uganda
- Report on lessons learned from application of ToT methodology and pilot period
- Case studies to stakeholders at community and national levels in South Africa and Uganda, and regionally in Africa
- The CoP shares lessons and best practices for FW-WASH integration via webinars and two in-person Nairobi meetings

Please see Figure 9 below for FW-WASH FY 2019-2020 workplan.

STRATEGIC APPROACH D.1: Promote integration of Fresh Water Conservation and Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) projects through partnerships and outreach to local governments				
RESULT	ACTION	OUTPUT	OUTCOME	TIMELINE
(I) FW-WASH integration advocacy methodology developed	Create tool to design advocacy strategies to translate pilot experience into policy actions	(I.1.1) Training-of-Trainers Advocacy methodology manual adapted to integrated FW-WASH project context	(I.1) ABCG member organizations increase institutional capacity to address policy gaps and challenges	April 2019 - September 2020
	Train key resource people in DC to facilitate	(I.1.2) Key resource		TOT – April - May 2019  Training – May 2019

	advocacy strategy workshop	people trained at ABCG member organizations, CI, JGI and WWF		
(2) Site-specific advocacy strategies implemented in SA and Uganda	Build capacity of stakeholders in SA and Uganda to apply the site-specific advocacy strategy in the field  CSA, JGI and key stakeholders implement advocacy strategies	(2.1.1) Site-specific strategies for influencing policy gaps in SA and Uganda	(2.1) FW-WASH best practices inform local-government decision making in South Africa and Uganda	June 2019 - July 2020
(3) Case Studies from integrating freshwater and WASH in policy context produced	Document lessons learned from testing policy advocacy strategy and disseminate in South Africa and Uganda	(3.1.1) Report on lessons learned from application of ToT methodology and pilot period  (3.1.2) Dissemination of case studies to stakeholders at community and national levels in South Africa and Uganda, and regionally in Africa	(3.1) Stakeholders in Africa increase awareness of lessons learned from two case studies that applied the advocacy strategy in South Africa and Uganda	August 2019 - September 2020

(4) Best practices disseminated to key stakeholders (donors, policy makers, government authorities) at community and regional levels	Convene FW-WASH CoP	(4.1.1) The CoP shares lessons and best practices for FW-WASH integration via webinars and two in-person Nairobi meetings	(4.1) Lessons and best practices from pilot implementation and policy integration from ABCG members and others working on FW-WASH integrated approaches are shared with stakeholders from conservation and development sectors in Africa	April 2019-September 2020
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**Figure 9.** FW-WASH FY 2019-2020 Workplan

## **INTEGRATION OF CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES**

The FW-WASH Working group will address the following high priority cross-cutting issues:

- *Gender Equality and Female Empowerment*

As mentioned above, the lessons learned report from the previous phase of ABCG highlighted how WASH activities create incentives and co-benefits for conservation and the importance of gender analyses to provide insights about roles and responsibilities relating to WASH and conservation that help with integration, resulting in more effective programming. In this new phase, task members will continue to use a gender-sensitive lens to ensure the piloting of the ToT messages reaches and engages men and women in the community in culturally appropriate ways. At the same time, sex-disaggregated related indicators will be refined.

- *Sustainability Mechanisms*

This task's expected outcome is, within 18 months of advocacy strategy implementation, two to four policy or funding changes are made at the local level. For example, this includes allocations for FW-WASH resource protection, local policy mandates for ecosystem restoration, or the creation of new water resource group. These outcomes are underpinned by commitments by local and regional institutions that will be implementing activities in communicates well beyond the life of this project. In collaboration with these local actors FW-WASH task members will build local ownership

and capacity to embed policy actions in local structures and ensure lasting commitments. Both CI and JGI have been working in the pilot regions for a long time and are fully invested in ensuring that results from these interventions are sustained in the future.

- *Environmental Compliance*

N/A

- *Global Climate Change*

Given the focus on water resources in key biodiversity areas, there are many potential links to climate change adaptation and mitigation. However, there are no specific activities planned for climate change under this task. CSA, JGI and WWF have all worked with key stakeholders and NGOs on climate change activities and strategy and have the potential to identify opportunities to link that strategy with FW-WASH efforts.

- *Policy and Governance Support*

The focus of this task in new phase of ABCG is on policy and funding changes, underpinned by a reliance on local governance structures and commitment to integration of biodiversity conservation and human health. Drawing on the past project accomplishments, the FW WASH task members will adapt key policy messages to share with new audiences (donors and policy makers) as part of the dissemination of the benefits of the integrated approach.

- *Local Capacity Development*

The working group will continue to raise awareness and build capacity in SSA for advancing integrated freshwater conservation and WASH projects through the implementation of the Africa-based CoP (co-led by AWF and CI), anchored in Nairobi. A key thread in the continued work in both South Africa and Uganda is the importance of community education campaigns to foster sustainability and ownership of conservation and WASH approaches. We will continue to bolster this local work as we see that community-led project decision making and local policies support sustainability of these efforts.

At the regional level, the CoP includes many Africa-based organizations which are interested in strengthening their capacity to reach mutual conservation and human well-being goals through webinars and targeted meetings. As mentioned above in the Sustainability section, strengthening African institutions will also provide an opportunity to advance achievement of regional development goals through promotion of successful ABCG approaches.

#### **4.B.v. Strategic Approach E: Population, Health and Environment (PHE)**

##### **DESCRIPTION OF THE STRATEGIC APPROACH**

###### **Goal**

Human population growth in Africa remains a significant driver of threats to biodiversity, as the population is expected to double from 1.2 billion in 2018 to 2.5 billion in 2050. According to the 2018 IPBES report, growing pressures on species, fisheries, and land will cause widespread food

insecurity. Climate change will result in 20 percent decrease in productivity in African lakes and plants. Projections for human migration are also significant with the impact of climate change in fragile contexts.

There are strong linkages between biodiversity conservation and human health, the health of domestic animals, wildlife health, and ecosystem health. This working group aims at providing methodological guidance to advance a vision that incorporates health outcomes into biodiversity conservation and sustainable development. During the November 2018 ABCG Threats Assessment meeting, ABCG member organization staff ranked human population growth as a priority threat to biodiversity conservation in sub-Saharan Africa. In response to that threat, this working group (including CI, JGI and WWF) will work to ensure donors and policy makers adopt the integration of gender-responsive PHE approaches into their future programming for improved conservation outcomes and promote PHE projects at national and regional scales.

Please see Figure 10 for PHE FY 2019-2020 revised results chain.

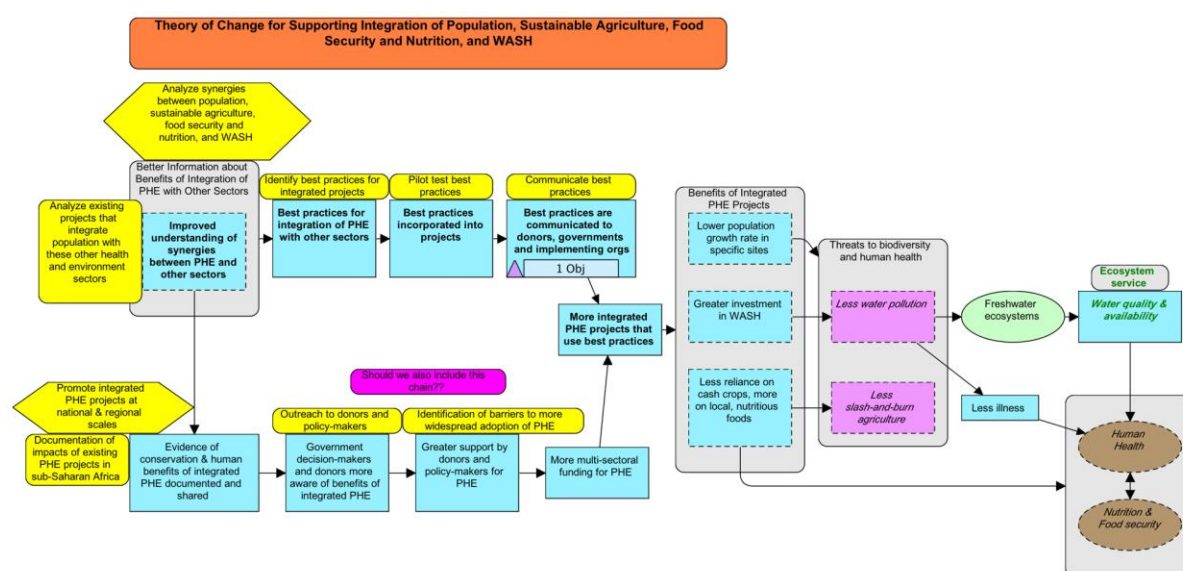


Figure 10. PHE FY 2019-2020 revised results chain.

## ASSUMPTIONS AND LEARNING QUESTIONS RELATED TO THE STRATEGIC APPROACH

During the previous ABCG phase, the Population, Health and Environment (PHE) task activity was based on an integrated vision of health that links the health of wildlife populations, humans, domestic animals, and ecosystems. The main goal of PHE approaches is to improve ecosystem health and conservation outcomes in tandem with improved human health for communities living in and around areas of key biodiversity.

Building on the key lessons learned with PHE and food security in the previous ABCG phase, this task will promote the evidence-based best practices for addressing needs relating to demographic threats to biodiversity throughout sub-Saharan Africa. This would expand the reach of ABCG to areas of West and Central Africa, Madagascar, and new countries in East and Southern Africa. The goal is to create a critical mass of donors to recommit to PHE as a biodiversity conservation approach which helps reach vulnerable populations such as women, youth, indigenous peoples and other marginalized groups. Cameroon, Ethiopia, Liberia and Tanzania are of particular interest for holding discussions.

The PHE group will use two strategic approaches to achieve its goals:

- Ensure understanding and engagement of donors and policy makers to integrate gender-responsive PHE approaches into their future programming for improved conservation outcomes.
- Promote PHE best practices and projects at national and regional scales.

The main learning question for this task is: Will donors and policy makers adopt PHE approaches once their awareness is raised of the benefits of this approach to biodiversity conservation and human health? The group will focus on development of PHE integration and implementation best practices and work with select group of donors to recommit to PHE as a biodiversity conservation approach to reach vulnerable populations such as women, youth, indigenous peoples and other marginalized groups. Cameroon, Ethiopia, Liberia and Tanzania are of particular interest for holding discussions.

## **IMPLEMENTATION PLAN FOR THIS STRATEGIC APPROACH**

### **Background**

CI, JGI and WWF all have proven track records of implementing successful USAID-supported PHE projects in Africa, including in Tanzania, Cameroon and other priority biodiversity and family planning countries. Building on outcomes from the previous phase of ABCG, this working group will continue to ensure understanding and engagement of donors and policy makers to integrate gender-responsive PHE approaches into their future programming for improved conservation outcomes.

WWF works with community members and many local NGOs in Lobeke, Cameroon for community related PHE work. The NGO partner for this activity is the Centre for Information and Training for Environment and Development or CIFED (Centre d'information et de formation pour l'environnement et le développement in French). In January 2016, WWF started working with four more local NGOs to help have a wider reach geographically in the area and tackle more diverse set of sectors (conservation and development).

Through the Landscape Conservation in Western Tanzania activity, JGI is working in rural Tanzania, where up to 80 percent of Tanzania's population relies on use of natural resources to sustain a livelihood (USAID Tanzania 2018.) Population growth, environmental mismanagement, commercial agricultural expansion, and climate change all threaten biodiversity and rural livelihoods. JGI is working with USAID and local partners to improve environmental governance and management at a landscape scale, including building the nation's capacity to reduce wildlife trafficking. This strategy involves developing and implementing key national environmental policies while supporting community-based conservation initiatives

Leveraging these on-the-ground PHE experiences, this working group will document best practices for PHE with outreach to Indigenous Peoples and vulnerable populations, and also promote PHE best practices to donors and policymakers in Africa. Leveraging the upcoming July 2019 Population and Environment statement by the Margaret Pike Trust, this group will build on the momentum of that movement and reach out to new target audiences to garner additional support for family planning and reproductive health among conservation organizations. Critical actors include:

- USAID Africa missions, including DRC
- West Africa Biodiversity project (USAID funded)
- Internal USAID Washington PHE working group (Natalie Bailey)
- PHE Networks in Ethiopia, Tanzania, PHE Madagascar network (Blue Ventures)
- East Africa conservation NGO directors' meeting

### **Activities**

- **Third/fourth quarter FY 2019:** Identify best practices on PHE/gender integration through assessments, with emphasis on outreach to minority groups (IPs and others) on FP/RH concepts, in various geographies by PHE Working group partners.
- **Third/fourth quarter FY 2019:** Conduct a one-day PHE/Conservation expert workshop to: a) agree on the key assumptions the CoP has regarding the impacts of integrated PHE/Conservation initiatives; and b) agree on a limited set of indicators that would be considered a basic data set to be used to measure the impact/ ROI of integrated PHE/Conservation Projects. Indicators to be tested will be included in the integration reference sheet.
- **First/Second quarter FY20:** Produce a reference sheet on PHE and gender integration.
- **Third/fourth quarter of FY20:** Outreach to the target audience through the reference sheet – Donors, policy makers, PHE actors, Africa-based PHE Networks (Ethiopia, Madagascar, Tanzania) and other Africa-based organizations.
- **Third quarter of FY20:** Conduct a series of 4-6 donor outreach events to increase awareness of identified target group to promote PHE approaches.
- **Third quarter of FY20:** Develop a report to summarize events outcomes.

### **Outcomes**

- Donors, policy makers and PHE actors have increased knowledge on the positive outcomes and best practices of PHE approaches – They pledge to integration of PHE approaches in their projects
- Target donors and policy makers have increased awareness of the PHE integration benefits and positive conservation outcomes, to make informed decisions on integrating PHE in future programming

### **Deliverables**

- a. Lessons and best practices are recorded from assessments on outreach to minority groups in various geographies, plus compilation of lessons from previous ABCG phase Literature review including mapping of projects that integrate PHE
- b. PHE and gender integration reference sheet based on lessons and best practices developed
- c. 4-6 outreach events conducted with donors and policy makers
- d. Report on outreach events is produced and shared with ABCG partners and stakeholders

Please see Figure 11 below for PHE FY 2019-2020 workplan.

RESULT	ACTION	OUTPUT	OUTCOME	TIMELINE
STRATEGIC APPROACH E.1: Ensure understanding and engagement of donors and policy makers to integrate gender-responsive PHE approaches into their future programming for improved conservation outcomes.				
(1.) Donors and Policy makers are aware of the benefits of PHE integration and positive conservation outcomes	<p>-Identify best practices on PHE/gender integration through assessments, with emphasis on outreach to minority groups (IPs and others) on FP/RH concepts, in various geographies by PHE Working group partners.</p> <p>-Conduct a one-day PHE/Conservation expert workshop to: a) agree on the key assumptions the CoP has regarding the impacts of</p>	<p>(1.1.1) Lessons and best practices are recorded from assessments on outreach to minority groups in various geographies, plus compilation of lessons from previous ABCG phase</p> <p>(1.1.2) PHE and gender integration reference sheet based on lessons and best practices developed</p>	(1.1) Donors, policy makers, and PHE actors have access to PHE and gender integration lessons and best practices	<p>Assessments – Third and fourth quarter of FY 2019</p> <p>Reference sheet production and outreach - First and second quarter of FY 2020</p>

	<p>integrated PHE/Conservation initiatives; and b) agree on a limited set of indicators that would be considered a basic data set to be used to measure the impact/ ROI of integrated PHE/Cons Projects. Indicators to be tested and included in the integration reference sheet</p> <p>-Produce a reference sheet on PHE and gender integration</p> <p>-Outreach to the target audience through the reference sheet – Donors, policy makers, PHE actors, Africa-based PHE Networks (Ethiopia, Madagascar, Tanzania) and other Africa-based organizations.</p>			
STRATEGIC APPROACH E.2: Promote PHE projects at national and regional scales				
(2.) Donors and policy makers commit to the integration of	-Conduct a series of 4-6 donor outreach events to increase	(2.1.1) 4-6 outreach events conducted with	(2.1) Target donors and policy makers have increased	Third and fourth quarter of FY 2020

gender-responsive PHE approaches into their future programming	awareness of identified target group to promote PHE approaches  -Develop a report to summarize events outcomes	donors and policy makers  (2.1.2) Report on outreach events is produced and shared with ABCG partners and stakeholders	awareness of the PHE integration benefits and positive conservation outcomes, to make informed decisions on integrating PHE in future programming	
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**Figure 11.** PHE FY 2019-2020 workplan

## **INTEGRATION OF CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES**

The PHE Working group will address the following high priority cross-cutting issues:

- *Gender Equality and Female Empowerment*

A central part of the PHE approach is gender equity and women's empowerment as very important stakeholders of this approach. Throughout the task activities, ABCG member staff will highlight the role of gender as being central to conservation and biodiversity projects. The expectation is that PHE projects that disregard gender and women's empowerment will be less impactful and could potentially lead to detrimental effects.

- *Sustainability Mechanisms*

The sustainability of PHE approaches, ideally over time and across various geographical areas, relies on local and regional institutions that will be implementing activities in communicates well beyond the life of this project. By working with government (district, regional and national), local CBO's, and other local structures, PHE task members build local capacity and ensure that results from these interventions are sustained well beyond the project period.

- *Global Climate Change*

The very basis of a PHE integrated approach is to help communities and individual households become more resilient to climate change as their food security, nutrition, health and wellbeing in general and the management and protection of their natural resources are considered, making them more apt to respond and be self-sufficient in the face of natural disasters and climate change. This aspect is an integral part of the literature review and pilot projects. The Working group member organizations are part of the PHE Policy and Practice community and several Africa national PHE networks including Tanzania, Ethiopia and Uganda, which regularly share PHE experiences and lessons. The Working group will have access to information from a large pool of experts from

organizations such as Population Reference Bureau (PRB) and Pathfinder International, which have projects in African countries studying the linkages between family planning and resilience to climate change. These Africa-based projects which assist the task members to share tools/resources to better address climate change as implementation of the activity begins.

- *Policy and Governance Support*

Drawing on the PHE and Food Security lessons learned report, PHE task members will adapt key policy messages to share with new audiences (donors and policy makers) as part of the dissemination of benefits, impacts, results, lessons learned and best practices of the PHE approach.

- *Local Capacity Development*

PHE task members work with local partners as the key to increasing Africa-based institutional involvement in biodiversity conservation and, further, that these partnerships are vital to the dissemination and adoption of ABCG best practices and lessons learned. Throughout all PHE task activities, ABCG members will engage Africa-based organizations to build capacity for promoting their successes as part of the outreach webinars and meetings. As mentioned above in the Sustainability section, strengthening African institutions will also provide an opportunity to advance achievement of regional development goals through promotion of successful ABCG approaches.

#### **4.B.vi. Strategic Approach F: Integrating Gender and Vulnerable Populations in Activity Design and Implementation**

##### **DESCRIPTION OF THE STRATEGIC APPROACH**

###### **Goal**

Women play critical land and natural resource management roles. However, these roles are typically unrecognized or undervalued. Minorities and disadvantaged groups are also integral to local conservation constituencies. Therefore, the role of these groups is especially important to consider in the construction of sustainable conservation strategies. To achieve this, ABCG working groups will employ a participatory approach that seeks to provide improved access to opportunities (meetings, workshops, decision making on natural resource use, etc.) for women and vulnerable groups. This includes ensuring that gender considerations are included in project design and implementation. By integrating gender dimensions in all thematic and cross-cutting program components, ABCG aims to more explicitly address the issues that limit the ability of women and vulnerable populations to participate fully in conservation and natural resource management.

Additionally, thematic activities will include objectives to: 1) Promote a favorable institutional and policy environment for mainstreaming gender equality and social inclusion in biodiversity conservation, and 2) Enhance capacity of partners and stakeholders to enable women and socially excluded groups to claim their rights in natural resource management. To support the attainment of these objectives, ABCG will design a robust data collection methodology, aimed at a representative gender balance.

During the November 2018 ABCG Pause and Reflect workshop, ABCG member organization staff recognized the need to implement a more systematic approach to responding to USAID

requirements for gender integration into all programming in order to bolster sustainability of conservation actions. Under the previous phase of ABCG, the climate change task and the FW WASH task did make efforts to address gender integration. In response to the November 2018 discussion, the PHE task working group members (including CI, JGI and WWF) agreed to work with all task teams to employ a strategic approach to:

- Increase gender integration of critical actors and stakeholders in project activities and ensure ABCG's fourth pillar is efficiently addressed throughout all Working groups.

## **IMPLEMENTATION PLAN FOR THIS STRATEGIC APPROACH**

### **Background**

Women play critical land and natural resource management roles. However, these roles are typically unrecognized or undervalued. Minorities and disadvantaged groups are also integral to local conservation constituencies. Therefore, the role of these groups is especially important to consider in the construction of sustainable conservation strategies. To achieve this, ABCG working groups will employ a participatory approach that seeks to provide improved access to opportunities (meetings, workshops, decision making on natural resource use, etc.) for women and vulnerable groups. This includes ensuring that gender considerations are included in project design and implementation.

By integrating gender dimensions in all thematic and cross-cutting program components, ABCG aims to more explicitly address the issues that limit the ability of women and vulnerable populations to participate fully in conservation and natural resource management.

In line with USAID guidelines on gender equality, ABCG task members will integrate gender into task working group activities in the new phase of programming. Our strategic approach will be to increase gender integration of critical actors and stakeholders in project activities and ensure ABCG's fourth pillar is efficiently addressed throughout all Working groups.

Specific activities include:

- **Third quarter/Fourth quarter FY 2019:** Hold a training workshop and provide technical support for ABCG Working groups to increase knowledge on how to mainstream gender into their project.
- **Fourth quarter FY 2019:** Assist ABCG tasks group to incorporate gender into appropriate activities and indicators.
- **Fourth quarter FY 2020:** Support ABCG Working groups to report results through at least one sex-disaggregated indicator.
- **Third quarter FY2019 to Fourth quarter FY 2020:** Provide Working groups with additional technical assistance as needed.

### **Outcomes**

- All ABCG Working groups have integrated gender dimensions into their project activities and project life cycle

- Existence of best practices on approaches to integrate gender into conservation

### **Deliverables**

- a. Training workshop report produced
- b. One task level indicator on gender included in each task MEL plan and Indicator Tracking Table
- c. Report demonstrating impacts on men and women

Please see Figure 12 for Gender Integration FY 2019 workplan.

STRATEGIC APPROACH F.I: Increase gender integration of critical actors and stakeholders in project activities and ensure ABCG's fourth pillar is efficiently addressed throughout all working groups.				
RESULT	ACTION	OUTPUT	OUTCOME	TIMELINE
All ABCG Working groups increase gender integration of critical actors/stakeholders in project activities	Hold a training workshop and provide technical support for ABCG working groups to increase knowledge on how to mainstream gender into their project  ABCG tasks group incorporate gender into appropriate activities and indicators	Training workshop report is produced  One task level indicator on gender per task	All ABCG Working groups have integrated gender dimensions into their project activities and project life cycle	Training – April/May 2019  Indicators – June/July 2019
All ABCG Working groups demonstrate impacts of activities on men and women by the end of project	ABCG Working groups report results through at least one sex-disaggregated indicator	Report demonstrating impacts on men and women	Existence of best practices on approaches to integrate gender into conservation	Report – September 2020

	Working groups receive additional technical assistance as needed			
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**Figure 12.** Gender Integration FY 2019 workplan

## **INTEGRATION OF CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES**

While not a formal Working group, the Gender working group will address the following high priority cross-cutting issues:

- *Gender Equality and Female Empowerment*

This cross-cutting issue is the main focus of this Strategic Approach. Please see detail above.

- *Sustainability Mechanisms*

The sustainability of biodiversity conservation and human well-being approaches are grounded in functioning, healthy societies with a common vision for success. Ideally over time and across various geographical areas, ABCG models and best practices can be adopted by a wide range of African partners and institutions well beyond the life of this project. By working with government (district, regional and national), local CBO's, and other local structures with a gender-sensitive approach, all ABCG task members can build local capacity and ensure that results from these interventions are sustained well beyond the project period.

- *Global Climate Change*

Climate change has direct impacts on ecosystems and biodiversity but may also indirectly impact nature through human responses to climate change. A major oversight of most assessments of climate change impacts to date has been the inadequate consideration of the indirect impacts due to human responses to climate change (e.g. changes in human use of natural resources). Through ABCG's work in the previous phase, the consortium has a better understanding of how communities respond to climate change across countries, with many surveys from Madagascar, Gabon, Cameroon, Uganda and Tanzania indicating a high percentage of responses with a potential negative impact on biodiversity. None of the countries where the surveys were conducted have a high percentage of responses with positive impact on biodiversity. This finding will guide the next phase of ABCG activities and lends well to implementing a gender-sensitive approach to climate change response, with intentional analysis and testing of men's and women's roles in climate change responses. These lessons can be shared with the other ABCG task teams for shared learning.

- *Local Capacity Development*

The target audience for this activity is the ABCG task team members who work with local partners as the key to increasing Africa-based institutional involvement in biodiversity conservation and, further, that these partnerships are vital to the dissemination and adoption of ABCG best practices and lessons learned. While local capacity building is not explicitly part of this activity, task team members may choose to engage Africa-based organizations to build capacity for integrating gender

as part of their work. These activities and results will be reported under the respective task team workplans, MEL plans and PIT tables.

## 5. COLLABORATING LEARNING AND ADAPTING (CLA)

During the extension period, ABCG will aggregate its successes from current activities to mainstream them into conservation and development practice. By bringing together best practices and lessons learned from across thematic areas, ABCG will ensure that its suite of activities leads to broad, cross-context applications, and not individual concepts employed at regional scales. Identifying synergies and systematically translating experiences into program design or global knowledge, allows ABCG to have an impact that is greater than the sum of its activities.

We envision a partnership that incorporates lessons to continuously adapt to new challenges and changing circumstances. Drawing on the adaptive management model, ABCG aspires to a cyclical, integrated approach where we:

1. Work with critical actor networks to identify common challenges, which includes explicit actions to involve women and vulnerable groups
2. Develop new knowledge and practical tools to address challenges within ABCG networks
3. Synthesize and disseminate new knowledge
4. Apply lessons and tools to produce tangible results through pilot studies
5. Validate knowledge and tools to improve the global evidence base

Each ABCG task team will take a slightly different approach to CLA, depending on the nature of the respective learning questions, results chains and expected outcomes for biodiversity conservation and human well-being. Using the CoP and other learning mechanisms, the task leads will highlight learning questions throughout or activities and document successes through the stages of progress towards results. In general, task leads will share lessons and best practices with CoPs and beyond to garner improved understanding and refine the results chains and MEL plan. Each task team will regularly revisit and update the theory of change describing how strategic approaches are expected to achieve results, in collaboration with other activities and actors in consultation with a wide range of experts, either in person or online.

### GCI

Understanding peoples' responses to climate change in Sub-Saharan Africa and how those impact biodiversity, raise awareness on adaptation strategies that can benefit both people and biodiversity, and contribute to long term sustainability of landscapes. Results and discussions will provide guidance to governments, NGO's and the communities themselves to develop adaptation strategies in future conservation and land-use planning efforts. The members of the GCI Working group will conduct a series of workshops (3-5) in communities bringing together community members, and various government and development organization staff. These workshops will advance their capacity to learn what's happening and how to adopt a new approach to a needed livelihood activity, and who specifically are the stakeholders necessary to ensure adaptation and implementation at the community level. We need to do this to ensure longevity of the new activity.

A detailed monitoring and evaluation framework will be developed for these projects, allowing us to demonstrate the success of these pilot initiatives in helping reduce the vulnerability of communities to climate change and increase biodiversity conservation.

### **CBFM**

Activities will be coordinated internally through in person and remote meetings of the Working group and via the Steering Committee and standard ABCG reporting functions to USAID.

The main forum for interaction with external stakeholders will be through structured events (e.g. CoP Meetings) at which full participation will be encouraged through the sharing of information, presentations and stories.

### **FW-WASH**

The FW-WASH working group will take a slightly different approach to CLA than some of the other ABCG task teams, in light of the relative challenges with a new integrated approach and ongoing development of MEL tools. Using the CoP and other learning mechanisms, the task will highlight learning questions throughout or activities and document successes through the stages of advocacy messages and testing. The group will solicit multisectoral input into its activities and share lessons and best practices with CoP and beyond to garner improved understanding and refine the advocacy messaging.

The team will regularly revisit and update the theory of change describing how strategic approaches are expected to achieve results, in collaboration with other activities and actors in consultation with a wide range of experts in the two pilot sites and through the CoP, either in person or online.

### **PHE**

The PHE task team will approach CLA with a robust set of MEL tools to use adaptive management throughout the life of project. We will challenge what we think we know and revisit its assumptions about the benefits of PHE approaches on a regular basis. With PHE having been practiced for over 20 years now, a fair amount has been written about the approach and its successes and challenges, and what works and what does not. However, as with any field or discipline, it is important to challenge assumptions periodically and retest the waters. Over the years, the contexts, issues, stakeholder attitudes or awareness and donor attitudes or awareness likely have changed, pointing to the need for changes in the practice and adaptive methods.

Therefore, the task team will periodically (semi-annually) revisit the PHE Results Chain and how, when, where and why it works best to inform and benefit the global CoP. This is regardless of whether what is “found” in the revisiting confirms past findings and thinking or whether it advances new theories or best practices. A clear theory of change describing how strategic approaches are expected to achieve results, in collaboration with other activities and actors;

## ***Gender Integration***

Based on the respective ABCG task team workplans, the gender working group will share responsibility for documenting and sharing learning on gender integration into existing workplans and activities. These activities are covered in the CLA sections of the respective task activity.

## **5.A. Stakeholder Participation and Involvement**

ABCG is comprised of staff from seven NGOs working in Sub-Saharan Africa. Each of these organizations have networks of partners and established relationships with communities and development organizations working in place. Success will hinge on proper engagement of respective partner organizations and networks on the ground. All working groups with the support of the ABCG Secretariat will generate and disseminate guidance and lessons learned with the aim of increasing adoption of ABCG approaches. This will most effectively be achieved by utilizing the depth and breadth of partners.

## 6. ANNEXES

### 6.A Supporting Documentation

6.A.i Nairobi Workshop (September 25 2018) final report

[HTTPS://WWW.DROPBOX.COM/S/LAH6QPOL5IV49D7/20180925\\_ABCGGCI\\_WORKSHOP%20REPORT\\_FINAL.DOCX?DL=0](https://www.dropbox.com/s/LAH6QPOL5IV49D7/20180925_ABCGGCI_WORKSHOP%20REPORT_FINAL.DOCX?DL=0)

### 6.B. Geographic Coverage

6.B.i LUM Engagement Countries



### 6.B.ii CBFM Geographic Scope

CBFM Activities will take place in the Eastern DRC and focus on activities in Kindu and North Kivu Provinces but will expect to draw on project experiences from other parts of the country too.

The GIS analysis of the forest cover change in community forests will target 3-4 countries in Africa. Possible focal countries include DRC, Namibia, Malawi, Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea, and Liberia.

## 6.C. Technical Assistance (TA) Needs

### 6.C.i CBFM Technical Assistance Needs

Organization and/or person(s) who will provide TA, if known	Type of TA	Purpose of TA	Dates of TA
To be Confirmed	Consultancy	Research paper identifying the key challenges to making community forestry work for people and conservation inc. Private Sector engagement and 2 x Provincial Land Use Maps	By end FY 2020

## 6.D. International Travel Plan

### 6.D.i LUM International Travel Plan

Name of traveler(s)	Purpose of international travel	Destination	Travel dates
H. Grantham, WCS; B. Rajaspera, CI; A. Trainor, TNC; D. Williams, AWF; L. Williams, WRI	Meeting of course developers	Nairobi, Kenya	Jun 2019
H. Grantham, WCS	Madagascar workshop	Antananarivo	Oct/Nov 2019

H. Grantham, WCS; A. Trainor, TNC; L. Williams, WRI	Central Africa workshop	ROC or Gabon	Oct/Nov 2019
H. Grantham, WCS; A. Trainor, TNC; D. Williams, AWF	East Africa workshop	Tanzania	Aug 2020