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Biodiversity Analysis and Technical Support (BATS) for USAID/Africa

Annual Report

Africa Biodiversity Collaborative Group (ABCG)



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

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ACRONYMS

ABCG	Africa Biodiversity Collaborative Group
AWF.....	African Wildlife Foundation
BATS	Biodiversity Analysis and Technical Support Program of USAID/AFR/SD
CCTAA.....	Climate Change Technical Adviser for Africa (WCS)
CEPF.....	Critical Ecosystems Partnership Fund
CI	Conservation International
DRC.....	Democratic Republic of Congo
IBAT	Integrated Biodiversity Assessment Tool
ICMM.....	International Council on Minerals and Mining
IUCN	International Union for the Conservation of Nature
JGI.....	Jane Goodall Institute
MENTOR.....	Mentoring for ENvironmental Training in Outreach and Resource conservation fellowship program
TNC.....	The Nature Conservancy
WCS.....	Wildlife Conservation Society
WRI.....	World Resources Institute
WWF.....	World Wildlife Fund
USAID	US Agency for International Development

INTRODUCTION

The Biodiversity Analysis and Technical Support (BATS) for USAID/Africa program helps to build capacity within the Bureau for Africa, its field missions, and partners to more effectively incorporate biodiversity conservation into programming decisions. Through timely assessments, targeted analyses, generation of technical materials, and other program development support activities, BATS helps missions and partners integrate biodiversity best practices into operational plans, and serves as a platform for strategic planning of USAID's biodiversity conservation agenda in Africa.

The BATS program is a multi-partner USAID Bureau for Africa effort that included International Resources Group (IRG) under the Environmental Policy and Institutional Strengthening Indefinite Quantity Contract (EPIQ II), the USDA Forest Service International Programs under an interagency agreement and the Africa Biodiversity Collaborative Group (ABCG)¹ under a cooperative agreement. While all groups had separate funding and work plans, the three entities met regularly with USAID to coordinate their activities. This report details the activities of the BATS program over the third year of the ABCG grant from October 2009 through September 2010.

Organized by the five primary BATS task areas (A, B,C, D, and E), this report provides an overview of BATS program activities through the third year of the ABCG grant and next steps planned over the next few years through the extension of BATS.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Through BATS, ABCG received a two-year \$500,000 grant in 2008-2009 to provide technical support and share lessons learned to assist USAID/AFR/SD, Africa Missions and local and national organizations in Africa to increase their effectiveness to tackle major existing and emerging threats to Africa's biodiversity and contribute to sound development based on wise use of natural resources and maintenance of ecosystem services. ABCG proposed and was awarded a five-year, \$2,500,000 extension to the BATS agreement for the period 2009-2014. This report covers the first year of that extension.

The BATS program develops practical documentation of USAID's biodiversity conservation experience and resulting best practices and policy considerations, describes extractive industries partnerships with conservation initiatives, provides technical assistance for biodiversity conservation programs in conflict and crisis states and highlights governance issues, conducts biodiversity and tropical forestry country-

¹ ABCG is a collaboration by the major US-based international conservation non-governmental organizations (NGOs) with field activities in Africa (including African Wildlife Foundation, Conservation International, the Jane Goodall Institute, The Nature Conservancy, Wildlife Conservation Society, World Resources Institute and World Wildlife Fund). ABCG has extensive experience in sharing lessons learned on high priority conservation issues affecting Africa. See: www.abcg.org

level assessments, and identifies and conducts analysis and outreach on emerging African conservation issues.

This project serves as a support facility that provides services to meet mission and partner needs in:

- Reviewing USAID/Africa's conservation history, lessons learned, and way forward (Task A)
- Managing extractive industry alliances for environmental gain (Task B)
- Addressing biodiversity conservation in states vulnerable to crisis, in crisis, or recovering from crisis (Task C)
- Supporting country-level 118/119 biodiversity and tropical forestry assessments, including threats, analysis, and actions necessary for biodiversity conservation (Task D)
- Conducting analysis and outreach on future paths for biodiversity conservation in Africa to inform future strategies (Task E).

PROJECT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

ABCG's third year activities built upon the efforts of BATS carried out by the USDA Forest Service International Programs (FS/IP) and IRG, as well as ABCG members and activities during the first two years of BATS.

- **Five large thematic meetings** including: 1) Bushmeat Briefing 3: Alternatives, Enforcement and Capacity-Building: Examples of Key Solutions to Bushmeat Challenges; 2) Expert's Meeting on Conservation in Madagascar; 3) The Impact of Chinese Investment on African Biodiversity and Opportunities for Conservation; 4) Private Sector Partnerships for Conservation; and 5) Paradise Lost? Lessons from 25 Years of Environment Programs in Madagascar
- **Numerous brown bag talks** on various aspects of conservation, from conservation programs targeted at species (Cross River Gorilla) to those working in conflict areas (Albertine Rift) to capacity building (MENTOR/BEAN and Garoua Wildlife School) to approaches towards HIV/AIDS and conservation (Umzi Wethu and Andrew Muir, and Ben Piper) to strategies for developing conservation with local people (Southern Sudan). We continue to develop compelling discussions to engage ABCG members and partners in addressing emerging and high priority issues affecting biodiversity in Africa.
- **Six analytical reports and maps** on: 1) assessment of biodiversity and extractive industries in five countries in West Africa, 2) *Government Restrictions on the Use of Private Land in Kenya*, 3) *The Impact of The New Constitution of Kenya and the National Land Policy on Community Conservation Objectives in Kenya: A case Study of the Northern Rangelands Trust*, 4) *Securing Forested Land Through Carbon Offset Projects: Pilot Projects from the African Wildlife Foundation in East Africa*, 5) *Land Tenure, Reform and Conservation Tools in South Africa and their Potential Application in Kenya*, 6) Climate change vulnerability analysis in five countries in West Africa

- **Four workshops held or planned for training and capacity building:** 1) Preparation for REDD+ workshops in Central Africa: hiring a training specialist and development of training strategy and materials in preparation for workshops to be held in February 2011, 2) two Roots & Shoots peer education workshops held in Uganda for 44 girls and 22 female teachers on topics including HIV, sexual reproductive health and life planning skills, 3) preparation for sessions on the intersections between extractive industries and biodiversity in West Africa at the Elmina+ conference, 4) preparations for sessions on climate change vulnerability in West Africa at the upcoming Elmina+ conference
- **Outreach to the broader conservation community, including:** 1) Survey of ABCG listserv on priorities and needs, 2) Initiating more consolidated listserv and website linkages, 3) Consolidating themes on ABCG website to simplify navigation, 4) Increase in ABCG listserv membership, with less frequent but more substantial postings, 5) Creation of ABCG Facebook page and Twitter feed

PROJECT GOAL

The goal of ABCG's BATS component is to support USAID AFR/SD, Africa Missions and African organization partners to increase their effectiveness to tackle major existing and emerging threats to Africa's biodiversity and contribute to sound development and security based on wise use of natural resources and maintenance of ecosystem services.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

Undertake analysis, provide technical support, and conduct outreach in Biodiversity Analysis and Technical Support (BATS) over a five-year period by:

- Facilitating continued dialogue on the future of biodiversity in Africa
- Provide analysis, capacity building, and technical support on ways to reduce biodiversity impacts from extractive industries
- Analyzing biodiversity conservation and governance issues to prevent natural resource conflicts
- Forecasting future conservation needs and opportunities in Africa by identifying selected critical and/or emerging conservation issues and linkages in Africa as priorities for future USAID and donor support in order to better prepare the conservation sector and in some cases follow up directly or catalyze actions by others
- Equipping USAID missions and African partners with lessons learned
- Conducting continued outreach on BATS products.

Major themes for analysis and technical support proposed through the BATS extension include:

Task A: Facilitating Discussions on the Dar Vision on the “Future of Biodiversity in Africa”

Task B: Managing Extractive Industries to Protect Biodiversity

Task C: Analyzing Biodiversity Conservation and Governance to Prevent Conflict and Crisis

Task D: Supporting Country 118/ 119 Operational Plans Biodiversity and Tropical Forestry Assessments

Task E: Forecasting and Analyzing Conservation Needs and Building Capacity on Critical Issues

These themes were drawn out by the conservation NGOs as priorities for action. They have been highlighted through the Dar Vision process and series of BATS workshops that ABCG has organized in both the U.S. and Africa where African conservation experts, conservation NGOs and partners have discussed on “The Future of Biodiversity in Africa”. These themes build upon the first phase of BATS activities. The BATS extension continues to emphasize analysis, outreach, capacity building and communications efforts. Through BATS, ABCG helps USAID, Missions and African partners by conducting activities such as: 1) threat and footprint analyses, 2) legal, institutional, and policy analyses, 3) financial and socio-economic analyses; 4) training and capacity building; 5) operational research and technical support, and 6) outreach and networking.

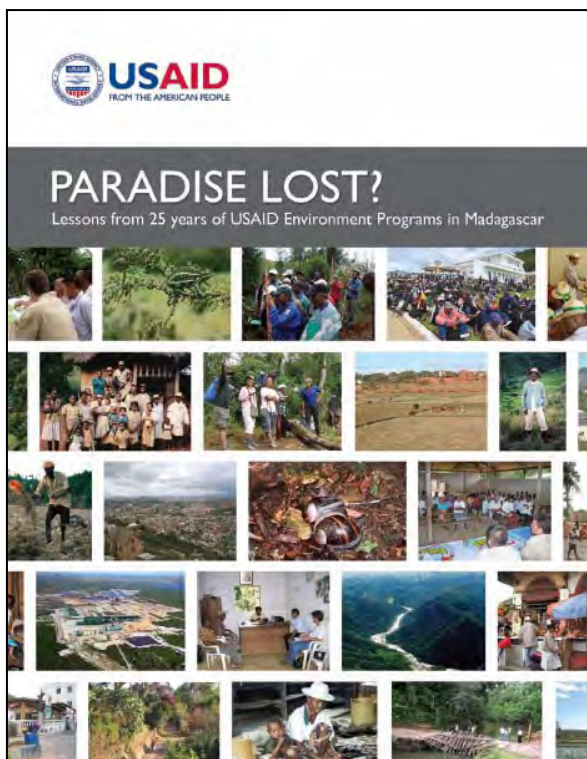
PROJECT ACTIVITIES

Biodiversity Assessment and Path Forward (BATS Task A)

In the first phase of BATS, ABCG members contributed significantly to the process of learning lessons from 30 years of USAID/Africa’s biodiversity conservation initiatives, including consultative workshops with biodiversity experts in Washington, DC; Dar es Salaam, Tanzania; and Accra, Ghana. From these discussions, a report on the Future of Biodiversity in Africa process was written, and fact sheets on the Dar Vision (in English, French and Portuguese) were produced and distributed to all ABCG members, USAID, US Fish and Wildlife Service, US Forest Service-International Programs, the Woodrow Wilson Center, and IUCN regional offices in the US and throughout Africa.

All ABCG events include an introduction of the Future of Biodiversity in Africa process and indicate how the meeting dovetails with one or more of the Dar Vision objectives. We are developing a cross-reference of commonalities between the Dar Vision and other visionary statements and continue to refer to these documents and the needs identified by African conservation leaders in ABCG events and meetings.

Madagascar 25-Year Review: Paradise Lost?



ABCG also played an important role in the production and outreach associated with the BATS-supported report *Paradise Lost? Lessons from 25 years of USAID Environment Programs in Madagascar*. ABCG assisted in identifying experts to help shape the review at an IRG-led meeting with consultant Karen Freudenberger, hosted a meeting at Conservation International to launch the report to the conservation community, and worked with ABCG members WCS and CI to host a briefing on Capitol Hill in collaboration with the International Conservation Caucus Foundation (ICCF).

The conservation community meeting was held jointly in Washington DC and Antananarivo, Madagascar, and connected by videoconference. The meeting was chaired by Olivier Langrand of CI and included presentations by Russell Mittermeier (CI), Karen Freudenberger (IRG), Nanie Ratsifandrihamanana (WWF-Madagascar & West Indian Ocean), James MacKinnon (CI-Madagascar), Lisa Gaylord (WCS), Tim

Resch (USAID/AFR/SD) and Ashley Marcus (USAID/AFR/EAA).

Brief summary of future work on Task A

The Dar Vision will be presented and discussed in international forums, including one major event in the region (potentially the Yaoundé +12 conference, now scheduled for the first half of 2011) and one major event in Washington, DC. In the near future, ABCG members and partners can revisit the Dar Vision in the U.S. and in the region, including original participants, to confirm its ongoing relevance and assess progress.

ABCG will continue to provide support to additional retrospective analyses of USAID efforts in other countries and regions through Africa, providing resources, experts and public sharing of lessons learned.

Managing Extractive Industries to Protect Biodiversity (BATS TASK B)

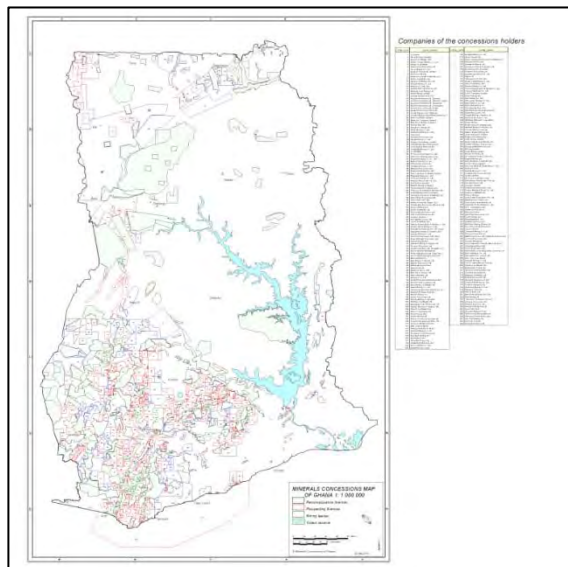


Figure 1 Minerals Concessions Map of Ghana, including Forest Reserves

The goal of this task is to provide analysis, outreach, and capacity building on ways to reduce biodiversity impacts from extractive industries in order to increase USAID and their partners' access to sound guidance and hence lessen the effects to biodiversity of future investments in the major extractive industries. In 2010, work on this task encompassed an assessment of biodiversity and extractive industries in West Africa, along with ABCG meetings on building successful private sector partnerships and investigating the impact of growing Chinese investment in Africa and its impacts on biodiversity.

Conservation International led efforts in West Africa on extractive industries and biodiversity conservation, linked with an existing initiative funded by the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF)², gathering data and creating maps for 5 countries in the region. The project is

developing a map of biodiversity importance and its overlap with extractive industries, and the mining component is one aspect of several layers.

To date, CI has developed maps of mining concessions in Liberia and Ghana, with other countries coming on line soon. CI is also carrying out a review of best practices by companies operating in the region, including a few case studies of mining companies that are contributing to development in those countries. Information is now being gathered, and the database is being developed, with information for Liberia, Ghana, Guinea, Côte d'Ivoire and Sierra Leone, but some refining and updating is still needed.

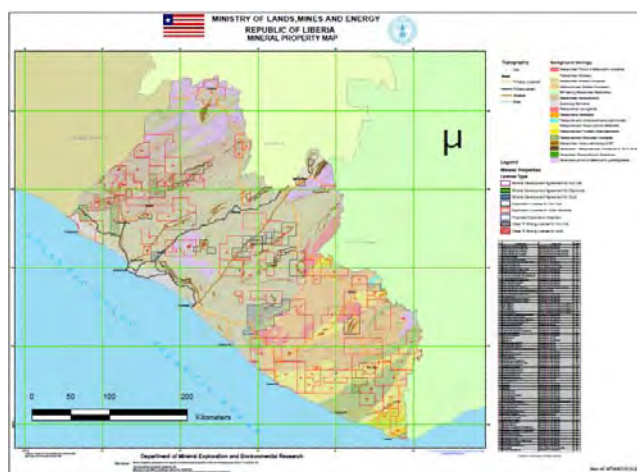


Figure 2: Map of Liberia's Mineral Properties

A regional meeting in Monrovia, Liberia is planned for November to bring partners together to share updates on relevant work and data. CI is planning for the Elmina+ meeting next summer, and expects the database to be complete by the end of Oct and the mapping to be complete by November. As CEPF funds were used in addition to BATS support, a carryover of funds into 2011 is planned.

² The Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund is a joint initiative of l'Agence Française de Développement, Conservation International, the Global Environment Facility, the Government of Japan, the MacArthur Foundation and the World Bank. A fundamental goal is to ensure civil society is engaged in biodiversity conservation

Biodiversity Impacts of Chinese Investment in Africa and Opportunities for Conservation

On 5 May 2010, the Africa Biodiversity Collaborative Group convened a meeting on **Biodiversity Impacts of Chinese Investment in Africa and Opportunities for Conservation**, hosted by [World Resources Institute](#) and chaired by [Peter Viet](#), WRI's Regional Director for Africa, Institutions and Governance Program. The meeting was held to investigate how best to engage with new actors affecting conservation and biodiversity in sub-Saharan Africa. Chinese engagement in Africa has grown rapidly over the past decade and Chinese companies are now investing heavily in natural resources extraction, infrastructure construction and daily life in African nations.

The objectives of the meeting were to investigate the following questions:

- What is the scope of Chinese investment in African countries, and what is the impact on biodiversity?
- Who are the key actors and stakeholders? How are Chinese companies and the Chinese government linked to extractive industries and impacts on biodiversity?
- What challenges (including transparency and non-interference) are faced by conservation groups working with new actors in the region?
- How can conservationists leverage opportunities for biodiversity conservation with non-traditional partners, including growing interest in corporate social responsibility?



Figure 3: Crawford Allan, James Deutsch and Peter Veit present at ABCG's meeting on Chinese investment in Africa

Presentations for the meeting included:

- [China Goes Global: New Actors and New Challenges in Africa](#) (click for presentation)
Deborah Brautigam, Ph.D., Associate Professor, School of International Service, American University, and author of [The Dragon's Gift: The Real Story of China in Africa](#)
- [China for a Global SHIFT](#) (click for presentation)
Andrew Murphy, Director, [Strategy and Research & Development, Markets Department](#), World Wildlife Fund-US
- [The Africa/China Connection: Ivory, CITES and More](#) (click for presentation)
Crawford Allan, [TRAFFIC-North America](#)
- [Pioneering Partnership with Chinese Extractive Industries: WCS, WWF, USFWS, the Government of Gabon, and Sinopec in Loango National Park](#) (click for presentation)
James Deutsch, [Wildlife Conservation Society](#)

Respondents included:

- [Athena Ronquillo-Ballesteros](#), International Financial Flows & Environment Project, [World Resources Institute](#)
- Rose Niu, Managing Director, US-China Program, [World Wildlife Fund-US](#)
- Rowena Smuts, Mining Engagement Advisor, [Conservation International](#)
- Ellen Shaw, Forest Policy Advisor, [OES Office of Ecology and Natural Resource Conservation, U.S. Department of State](#)

Meeting resources are available online at

<http://frameweb.org/CommunityBrowser.aspx?id=5313&lang=en-US>. As of 21 December 2010, 15 documents were uploaded to the site, and 9096 page views were recorded.

Major conclusions of meeting:

- Understand how various actors engage – we must speak the same language, literally and figuratively
- Support capacity building in Chinese and African nations' civil society institutions
- Growing interest in corporate social responsibility (CSR) within Chinese finance mechanisms but mostly voluntary and little capacity to monitor implementation on the ground
- Important to engage with key actors at multiple levels, from top decision makers to implementers on the ground
- China has principles of non-interference and mutual benefit, and looks to governmental actors for negotiation and regulations. NGOs are not generally seen as important actors to engage, but working to build capacity of governments and local actors is an important role that NGOs can play.
- Leverage points for conservation groups to engage with Chinese actors in Africa include: national government regulations and agreements, international and Chinese finance mechanisms' standards for CSR, press and public relations, civil society demands and engagement.

ABCG Meeting: Private Sector Partnerships for Conservation

On 6 May 2010, ABCG held a meeting on **Private Sector Partnerships for Conservation**, chaired by George Strunden, VP of Africa Programs, of the Jane Goodall Institute, and hosted by World Wildlife Fund-US. The objectives of the meeting were:

- To share lessons learned from partnerships with private sector companies
- To identify necessary elements for positive partnership with strong conservation outcomes
- To learn about the various roles that should be played by industry, community, government and conservation stakeholders

Presentations included:

- [Industry and the Biodiversity Analysis and Technical Support \(BATS\) project](#) (click for presentation)
Tim Resch, U.S. Agency for International Development
- [Are Partnerships the Key to Conserving Africa's Biodiversity?](#) (click for presentation)
Rowena Smuts, Conservation International
- [Conservation is Good Business: Tools to engage the Private Sector in conservation](#) (click for presentation)
Moses Kanene, African Wildlife Foundation
- [Private-sector partnerships for conservation: the example of logging concessions in Central Africa](#) (click for presentation)
John Poulsen, Woods Hole Research Center

MAJOR CONCLUSIONS OF THE MEETING

- Africa is a continent of incredible biodiversity and a wealth of natural resources. As private sector operators (particularly extractive industry operators) continue to spread throughout the continent, there will be more areas in need of conservation efforts.
- Impacts of mining, logging and other extractive industry operations can be very destructive to ecosystems and wildlife.
- Long-term partnerships are built on carefully established trust, clear communication and transparent documentation.
- Partnerships must be strong enough to weather hard times, but hard times can build trust.
- Benefits of private sector partnerships include: complying with legal standards, building a green image for corporations, expanding conservation influence in high biodiversity areas, improving resource management and influencing rapid change agents and amplifying good practices.



Figure 4: Slide from John Poulsen's presentation on successful private sector partnerships

- Risks of private sector partnerships include: bad press, greenwashing, pressure to compromise environmental and social standards and financial burdens.
- Incentives for corporations to engage in corporate social responsibility (CSR) are increasing through internal standards, financial lending institutions (IFC and Equator Principles) and association voluntary standards.
- Keys to success include establishment of clear conservation objectives, strong personal relationships, formal methods to resolve conflict and judicious use of data to support decisions and recommendations.
- The role of local people and land tenure must continue to be improved. The rights of local people, whether they be legal or de facto land/natural resource managers, must be considered, and they must be involved in the project from the beginning.
- The role of Chinese companies in Africa is growing, and presents new challenges for conservation.



Brief summary of future work on Task B

ABCG will develop and implement a model for engaging companies and governments on biodiversity conservation and stewardship in Central Africa, beginning a comprehensive approach in the DRC. The project will identify critical biodiversity areas as well as mining company explorations and operations (including small scale and artisanal mining hotspots) that need to be prioritized for conservation engagement.

Key activities for developing a model for engaging the mining sector in Central Africa include:

1. A desktop review of national and regional legislation and policies and best practices, including relevant input from other sectoral operations, regarding how biodiversity issues are addressed in the DRC (extract information from study being undertaken by WWF – no additional budget required).
2. A mapping exercise to identify areas of overlapping biodiversity importance and mineral wealth in the DRC, including mineral exploration and operations (both large-scale and artisanal), identifying potential areas of conflict regarding companies, artisanal and small scale mining projects, human populations and biodiversity.
3. Compile a list of and conduct due diligence on the mining companies with valid exploration licenses covering areas with high and/or important biodiversity in the DRC; determine if the companies (or parent companies) are listed on the US SEC and thus subject to new disclosure requirements under the US Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act.
4. Hold a workshop for mining companies and government representatives and national civil society to present the results of the above activities, emphasizing best practices, the importance of land use planning to minimize conflicts and protect biodiversity conservation and outline options available for companies and governments to achieve a goal of no net loss of biodiversity.

Biodiversity Conservation in States Vulnerable To/Recovering From Crisis (BATS Task C)

The three organizations working on this task (AWF, TNC and WRI) are conducting a comparative analysis of tools for land use for conservation.

AWF's work includes: 1) an analysis of carbon easements as a conservation tool provided under Kenyan law, but not generally exercised and 2) comparative lessons of private land management in South Africa vs. Kenya. The carbon easements paper demonstrates that Kenyan legislation vis-à-vis the Environmental Management and Coordination Act, provides a legal mechanism by which landowners can bind their land for carbon sequestration through an environmental easement. The paper explores Kenya's legislative framework, the Rukinga Wildlife Sanctuary, which hosts the country's first certified REDD project, and AWF's work and lessons to date in the Mbirikani Group Ranch as well as in Kondoa District in northern Tanzania. The second paper identifies co-management schemes between private and community land holders and South African National Parks as a potentially promising tool for replication in East Africa in community areas of high conservation value. Land can be leased out to federal wildlife management authorities for management, while the communities maintain full ownership and restricted access rights during the length of the contract.

"For Kenya to achieve its biodiversity objectives it needs to provide a variety of conservation tools for communities and private landowners that help incentivize conservation."

Excerpted from Fitzgerald 2010

TNC has reviewed the potential impact of Kenya's new constitution and land tenure policy to the communal conservancy movement in Kenya. They are developing recommendations for how their

"[Kenya's new Land] Policy also urges government to document and map existing forms of communal tenure and their incorporation into broad principles to govern the content of community land law. In addition it recommends that government invests in capacity building efforts for local communal land governance institutions in addition to developing mechanisms for communal land management and dispute resolution."

Excerpted from Odote 2010

partner, the Northern Rangelands Trust, can engage on policy front in ways they have not yet. TNC is working with a Ph.D. student in Kenya to carry out this work. The assessment found that both the Land Policy and the Constitution strongly emphasize the need for greater protection of communal land rights. The laws and regulations necessary to implement the principles outlined in the Land Policy and Constitution have yet to be written. Those laws will result in a fundamental change in the land tenure regime in the country. The assessment (i) summarizes the current strategies and objectives of communal conservancies in northern Kenya, (ii) explains the land tenure changes mandated by the Constitution and Land Policy and (iii) discusses how those changes will likely impact such strategies and objectives.

WRI conducted research on the law and practice of private land-use restrictions in Kenya to assess their usefulness for achieving biodiversity conservation outcomes. Questions explored include the legal bases for governmental powers to restrict private land use, justification for exercising governmental powers, legal procedures for exercising those powers and how restrictive authorities are exercised in practices, including the question of whether private property is free from or subject to government regulation. The study presents the constitutional basis for protection of the right to property in Kenya as well as the historical factors which influenced the land tenure systems in Kenya and the nature of private use permitted.

Deliverables

- Report by Kathleen Fitzgerald/AWF: *Securing Forested Land Through Carbon Offset Projects: Pilot Projects from the African Wildlife Foundation in East Africa*
- Report by Kathleen Fitzgerald/AWF: *Land Tenure, Reform and Conservation Tools in South Africa and their Potential Application in Kenya*
- Report by Jane Dwasi/WRI: *Government Restrictions on the Use of Private Land in Kenya*
- Report by Collins Odote/TNC: *The Impact of The New Constitution of Kenya and the National Land Policy on Community Conservation Objectives in Kenya: A case Study of the Northern Rangelands Trust*

"It is noted that land use restrictions are not always imposed for the purpose of environmental conservation in Kenya... Increasingly, private parties are seeking audience with courts in cases where government agencies fail to accommodate public views in their land use restriction processes but public awareness of available avenues for redress is still generally low."

Excerpted from Dwasi 2010

Brief summary of future work on Task C

In FY2011, AWF, TNC and WRI will be joined on this task by JGI, each expanding on their prior work, with a particular focus on land tenure issues. Anticipated results include:

- Review Zimbabwe's land tenure situation and policies and develop model for land management community partnerships, including strategic land targets.
- Analysis of communal conservancies in Kenya in the light of the FY2010 BATS work and Kenya's new constitution and land policy.
- Assessment of participatory land use planning process in Tanzania and its success as a forest and chimpanzee conservation tool, including the use of geospatial technology and analysis.
- Examination of the law and practice of private land-use restrictions and assess their usefulness for achieving biodiversity conservation outcomes on non-PA, privately-held lands in Uganda and Tanzania.

Support for Country 118/ 119 Operational Plans Biodiversity and Tropical Forestry Assessments (BATS Task D)

ABCG supports the 118/119 country-level assessments carried out by USGS Forest Service-International Programs by identifying relevant regional and national experts to assist with the assessments. For the recent work in Namibia, Natalie Bailey met with USGS Forest Service officer Joseph Krueger to identify key contacts in Namibia within the conservation NGO community including Lisa Steel, Chris Weaver, Monica Wrobel and others. ABCG looks forward to continuing to link relevant contacts in target countries to enable this important work to move forward.

Forecasting and Analyzing Conservation Needs and Building Capacity on Critical Issues (BATS Task E)

During BATS I, ABCG synthesized past experiences and new information to identify emerging priorities for conservation in Africa. ABCG worked to provide this intelligence to African field partners, USAID, and the environment and development community in the United States, with a view to supporting policy makers and donors in making informed decisions concerning biodiversity in Africa. ABCG's outreach was facilitated through expanded use of the ABCG email listserv and improving the ABCG website (www.abcg.org) hosted on USAID-supported FRAME 2.0. ABCG also participated in and organized meetings, international conferences, and publications and journal articles. Key themes included the MENTOR Fellowship Program on bushmeat in East Africa, linkages between emerging infectious diseases and biodiversity and linkages between human health and environment.

Issues addressed in FY2010 include adaptation to climate change, REDD readiness in Central Africa, HIV/AIDS and conservation, bushmeat, religion and conservation in Africa and improved use of technology for conservation communications. Please see each section below for further information.

Climate Change Adaptation (BATS Task E.1.1)

In FY2010, the objective of this activity was to undertake a broad, strategic climate change vulnerability assessment across five countries in West Africa (Guinea, Ghana, Liberia, Cote d'Ivoire and Sierra Leone) in order to assess priorities for ecosystem based adaptation. This assessment will assist in identifying priorities, both geographic and specific conservation and development interventions that will help governments in the region, as well as their donor and civil society partners, utilize ecosystem conservation to improve their resiliency to predicted effects of climate change.

Work on this task will feed into the Elmina+ conference in summer 2011. CI (lead ABCG member on this task for FY2010) is integrating basic work on climate impact into the overall design of the conference. They are also developing a vulnerability analysis, including maps of changes in precipitation and temperature. The initial analyses include: maps of annual temperature and precipitation anomalies under different climate scenarios, a climate change sensitivity index and a

review of climate change impacts on ecosystems vis-à-vis vegetation, land cover, etc. CI will also feed this adaptation-related information into a proposal for a UK-funded adaptation project in West Africa. In addition, CI has complementary funding to support related efforts, which has funded many of the adaptation elements that were in the FY2010 ABCG/BATS workplan. Therefore this work will carry over into FY2011 as the Elmina+ conference approaches.

Brief summary of future work on Task E.1.1 – Adaptation

In FY2011, our effort under this task is focused on an analysis of the different approaches used to facilitate adaptation at the species, community and ecosystem levels and of adaptation responses aimed at building the resilience of rural livelihoods to the impacts of climate change in rural landscapes. This assessment will also include an analysis of approaches that integrate human and ecosystem adaptation (for both biodiversity and people) piloted by ABCG member organizations.

The objectives of this activity are to review the state of knowledge, approaches and tools currently in use or under development by ABCG members and their partners to implement adaptation activities in sub-Saharan Africa, with an emphasis on sharing lessons and tools, and promoting synergies; and to promote collaborative learning on critical elements for principles and guidance in adaptation monitoring, including drawing from various locations within and outside the continent.

Climate Mitigation - REDD workshops (BATS Task E.1.2)



Figure 5: Training at CEDAMM, Gabon.
Photo © WCS

The goal of this task is to improve understanding of REDD mechanisms within Central Africa through contributions to the development of REDD strategies adapted to the unique conditions that prevail in the region; and to develop and implement REDD training modules aimed at enhancing the ability of Central African negotiators to engage in global climate change governance. In pursuit of these goals, WCS has carried out discussions with government and NGO partners across the region to identify the comparative advantage of their work and has found a current lack of training on mechanisms to address the drivers of deforestation, thus confirming the original aims set out for this task. WCS's technical team across the region is currently preparing materials for the first series of workshops. Unlike other recent REDD workshops, WCS and TNC are targeting lower-level staff and functionaries that are involved in demonstration projects rather than the policy-level people that TNC targeted in their process. Furthermore, the training differs as it will bring together these functionaries to share lessons learned and create dialogue on concrete steps for reducing deforestation. In addition a mentoring component may be added, to increase the overall impact of the workshops.

Currently WCS, in conjunction with TNC, is developing the modules for the workshops and conducting outreach to governments to identify the best candidates. The modules will be largely based on case studies from across the region and elsewhere. The module will focus on:

1. Bringing participants up to speed on current REDD processes and presenting case studies from their own countries (1 day)
2. Lessons learned from REDD projects and feasibility studies in Madagascar, Cameroon and DRC (1.5 days)
3. The potential benefits and risks of Reduced Impact Logging as an emissions reduction strategy (2.5 days, field-based practical)
4. Lessons learned from previous attempts to reduce deforestation, particularly from ICDPs, using Direct Payments and using improved cook stoves (1.5 days)
5. Sharing of lessons learned and reflection on implication for participants' countries (1 day).

WCS is seeking permission from CEB (Precious Woods), a pioneering FSC-certified logging concession for a site visit, which would include: 1) demonstration and comparison of reduced-impact vs conventional logging techniques, 2) a field practical on measuring forest carbon stocks using permanent plots already established by WCS, 3) a presentation and opportunity to discuss with forest managers the management strategies, safe-guards and governance processes required to ensure that logging continues to RIL specifications, and 4) a concession-owners perspective on the concrete steps in terms of training and governance reform required to see RIL adopted more widely as an environmental impact and emissions reduction strategy.

WCS Gabon has recruited a training specialist to manage the CEDAMM training centre where the course will take place. This individual will provide expert review of the training materials and strategy prior to the workshop launch.

Brief summary of future work on Task E.1.2 – Climate Mitigation/REDD workshops

The objective for FY11 will be to work with TNC to finalize course modules, conduct outreach to find participants, and organize and conduct a workshop targeting 8-10 participants from Cameroon, Republic of Congo, Gabon and DRC.

Participants will be technicians currently involved in developing concepts for REDD demonstration projects in their countries. They will be members of government institutions or local NGOs actively involved in planning for or implementing REDD demonstration projects. They will have degrees or equivalent diplomas from regional training institutions. They will have exposure to the UNFCCC process and some may have attended UNFCCC COP or SBSTA meetings. They will have a general knowledge of core REDD concepts like additionality, leakage, baselines and reference areas, but little exposure to technical debates about how to implement these concepts in practice. They may be aware of initiatives like VCS but are not familiar with details of how to apply these in practice or their relevance for a future international REDD regime. The training course will be structured to include significant time for discussion and brainstorming, permitting exchange of ideas and encouraging participants to relate what they have learned to their countries/sites.

HIV/AIDS and Conservation (BATS Task E.2)

The goal of this task is to organize outreach and technical support on the upcoming BATS-supported HIV/AIDS and Environment manual, “HIV/AIDS and Environment: A Manual for Conservation Organization on Impacts and Solutions” that shares lessons learned in addressing impacts to the conservation workforce and to natural resource use due to the disease. The manual aims to raise awareness of the linkages between HIV/AIDS and the environment, and provide guidance to conservation organizations on actions they can take to reduce the impacts on their organizations, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa. The manual is now in the final stages of editing in English, and distribution is now being planned for Anglophone Africa in collaboration with wildlife colleges and PHE (Population, Health and Environment) colleagues, as well as with practitioners and experts based in other areas of the world.



Figure 6: Peer Education on HIV/AIDS and Environment in Roots & Shoots Groups, Uganda. Photo © JGI

JGI Uganda’s BATS Peer Education Program is entering its second year. With support of BATS, JGI conducted two training workshops in Masindi and Buliisa districts in Uganda, communities in proximity to priority wildlife conservation areas, to equip girls and teachers with knowledge on reproductive health, skills of how to deal with problems associated with HIV/AIDS and how to communicate such knowledge to other youths, as part of ongoing efforts to improve quality of life standards in such communities. These workshops included 22 invited schools, including 44 school girls and 22 teachers. Two full days of training included sessions on effective peer education, introduction to HIV/AIDS, sexual reproductive health and life planning skills. Participants also learned about JGI’s conservation work and its link to human health. Follow up work with participants has shown that school attendance of girls that took part in the training has improved, becoming more consistent than in previous years, in particular due

to the provision of sanitary towels. The program has also increased the involvement of parents through the schools’ annual general meetings, showing an improvement in the attitude of parents towards girls’ education. Since 2008, the number of girls confiding in peer educators has increased from less than 5 per week to more than 10 in 2010.

Brief summary of future work on Task E.2 – HIV/AIDS and Conservation Linkages

In FY2011, deliverables will include:

- ABCG thematic meeting to launch the HIV/AIDS and Environment manual in Washington, DC
- Online and print dissemination of the manual in Anglophone Africa, in conjunction with Mweka Wildlife College and other appropriate stakeholders, such as Population, Health and Environment (PHE) projects
- At least 3 training workshops for girls on HIV/AIDS prevention will be conducted in Uganda
- Translation of the HIV/AIDS manual into French

Emerging Issues (BATS Task E.3)

ABCG has successfully held five large thematic meetings (Bushmeat Briefing 3: Alternatives, Enforcement and Capacity-Building: Examples of Key Solutions to Bushmeat Challenges; Expert's Meeting on Conservation in Madagascar; The Impact of Chinese Investment on African Biodiversity and Opportunities for Conservation; Private Sector Partnerships for Conservation; and Paradise Lost? Lessons from 25 Years of Environment Programs in Madagascar) and numerous brown bag talks on various aspects of conservation, from conservation programs targeted at species (Cross River Gorilla) to those working in conflict areas (Albertine Rift) to capacity building (MENTOR/BEAN and Garoua Wildlife School) to approaches towards HIV/AIDS and conservation (Umzi Wethu, and Andrew Muir, and Ben Piper) to strategies for developing conservation with local people (Southern Sudan). We continue to develop compelling discussions to engage ABCG members and partners in addressing emerging and high priority issues affecting biodiversity in Africa. Resources for each meeting and event are available online at www.abcg.org.

Meetings and Events

ABCG thematic meetings in FY2010 included:

Bushmeat Briefing 3: Alternatives, Enforcement and Capacity-Building: Examples of Key Solutions to Bushmeat Challenges, 29 January 2010, facilitated by Heather E. Eves of Virginia Tech. Presentations included:

[Alternatives to Bushmeat in Equatorial Guinea](#)

Ms. Heidi Ruffler, Project Manager, Equatorial Guinea, [Zoological Society of London](#)

Bushmeat in the United States: The Case in New York

Mr. Phil Alegranti, Special Agent, [US Fish and Wildlife Service](#)

[Capacity and Network Building in East Africa](#)

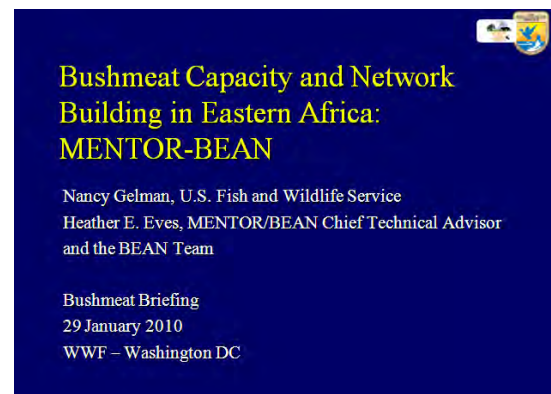
Ms. Nancy Gelman, Program Officer-[Africa Program, Wildlife Without Borders, US Fish and Wildlife Service](#)

Presentations and other meeting resources are available at

<http://frameweb.org/CommunityBrowser.aspx?id=4792&lang=en-US>. As of 21 December 2010, 6 documents were uploaded to the site, and 8949 page views have been recorded.

Experts' Meeting on Conservation in Madagascar, 4 March 2010

This meeting brought together experts on conservation and development in Madagascar to begin the process of a 25-year review of USAID-funded environment programs in the country. IRG hosted the



meeting, which was facilitated by Todd Johnson of IRG and Karen Freudenberger, IRG consultant. ABCG assisted in identifying and recruiting experts to help shape the review, including identification of particular eras in development work in Madagascar. This input was critical to the development of the report *Paradise Lost? Lessons from 25 Years of Environment Programs in Madagascar*. See summary of this meeting earlier in this report.

Biodiversity Impacts of Chinese Investment in Africa and Opportunities for Conservation, 5 May 2010, hosted by WRI and Chaired by Peter Veit of WRI. Additional details may be found in Section B of this report. Meeting resources are available online at <http://frameweb.org/CommunityBrowser.aspx?id=5313&lang=en-US>. As of 21 December 2010, 15 documents were uploaded to the site, and 9096 page views were recorded. See summary of this meeting earlier in this report.

Private Sector Partnerships for Conservation, 6 May 2010, hosted by WWF-US and Chaired by George Strunden of JGI. Additional details are available in Section B of this report. Meeting resources are available online at: <http://frameweb.org/CommunityBrowser.aspx?id=5384>). As of 21 December 2010, 10 documents were uploaded to the site, and 8842 page views were recorded. See summary of this meeting earlier in this report.

Paradise Lost? Lessons from 25 Years of Environment Programs in Madagascar, 21 July 2010, hosted by CI and Chaired by Olivier Langrand, and featuring the launch of IRG consultant Karen Freudenberger's report. Experts from ABCG members and the wider conservation community together examined the legacy of USAID investment in Madagascar. This meeting took place simultaneously in Washington, DC and Antananarivo, Madagascar. Additional details are available in Section A of this report. Presentations and additional meeting resources are available online at <http://frameweb.org/CommunityBrowser.aspx?id=5680&lang=en-US>. As of 21 December 2010, 10 documents and videos have been uploaded to the site, and 9903 page views were recorded. See summary of this meeting earlier in this report.

ABCG also organized and hosted numerous **Brown Bag talks**, including:

- Conservation of the Cross-River Gorilla: Taking a Landscape Perspective, with Andrew Dunn & Aaron Nicholas of WCS, with US Fish & Wildlife Service, at The Nature Conservancy, 15 December 2009
- Healing the Rift: Mitigating Conflict over Natural Resources in the Albertine Rift, featuring Andrew Plumtre of WCS, at WCS-DC, 19 February 2010
- Challenges and Opportunities for Training Wildlife Professionals, with Francis Tarla, Director of Garoua Wildlife School, Cameroon, co-hosted and held at US Fish & Wildlife Service, 30 March 2010



Figure 7: Cross River Gorilla
Photo (c) WCS

- HIV/AIDS, Conservation Capacity Building, the Game Reserves, and the Promise of Youth, featuring Andrew Muir, Executive Director, Wilderness Foundation South Africa, held at WWF-US, 22 June 2010
- Mitigating the impacts of the illegal bushmeat trade in the Tsavo Ecosystem, featuring Iregi Mwenja, Kenya Country Manager, Born Free Foundation, Former USFWS MENTOR Fellow, co-hosted and held at US Fish & Wildlife Service, 28 July 2010
- Interactions between HIV/AIDS and the Environment: A Review of the Evidence and Recommendations for Next Steps, featuring Ben Piper, Director of Research and Programs, University of Washington Department of Global Health at KEMRI in Nairobi, Kenya, held at WWF-US, 4 August 2010
- Developing conservation approaches with local communities in a post-conflict landscape: Integrating applied socio-economic research in Southern Sudan, featuring Michelle Wieland, Ph.D., Community Conservation & Livelihoods Coordinator, Southern Sudan Program, Wildlife Conservation Society, co-hosted and held at Wildlife Conservation Society, 19 August 2010.



Figure 8: Students at Umzi Wethu
Photo credit: Umzi Wethu



Figure 9: White-eared kob in Southern Sudan. Photo (c) WCS

Communications and Technology

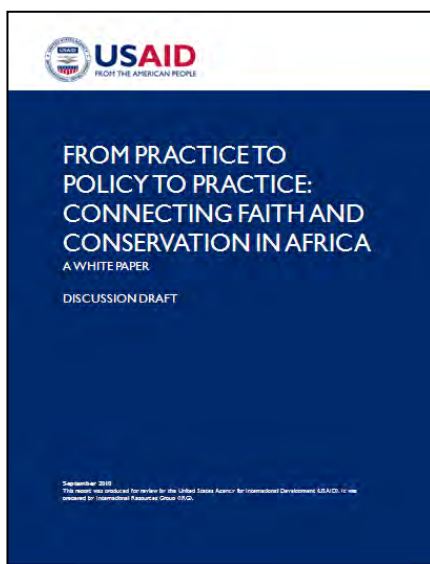
In early 2010, ABCG conducted a survey of the listserv membership to better understand members' needs and values, including access to events, publications, opportunities and resources on emerging issues in African conservation. To respond to the top recommendation to better integrate the listserv and website, I am investigating possibilities for upgrading our listserv (including possible links with the USAID RMportal.net).

ABCG has increased the listserv membership by approximately 20% from 270 in December 2009 to 351 as of 25 September 2010. New members include new staff at existing ABCG member organizations, as well as staff from like-minded organizations such as Flora and Fauna International and the Gorongosa Conservation project.

Themes on the ABCG website have been consolidated to reduce redundancy and make access to information more user-friendly. An RSS feed from the new @ABCGconserve Twitter feed has been added to the home page of www.abcg.org to feature relevant news and publications for website visitors. In addition, [ABCG now has a Facebook presence](#), which simplifies reaching out to members and colleagues around the world.

In collaboration with IRG, ABCG is exploring new ways to reach out to partners on the ground in Africa to better facilitate the flow of information and enhance communications.

Faith and Conservation



Through BATS, ABCG has supported an effort to connect faith and conservation in Africa. ABCG members recommended key topics as well as critical resources and individuals to provide context, strategies and vision for this effort. One area of interest for ABCG members is work on sacred spaces and species, particularly where sites have been added to existing network of protected areas. As faith groups often play a significant role in local communities, understanding how to work with faith groups can open up new avenues for communication and collaboration for conservation goals.

The white paper produced in this effort, *From Practice to Policy to Practice: Connecting Faith and Conservation in Africa*, was presented to conservation and faith leaders at a roundtable meeting in September 2010. Key issues addressed included:

- **Understanding the diversity of religions in sub-Saharan Africa** How can conservation practitioners best understand the different beliefs articulated by the religions? How can secular groups approach different religions to best understand each individual set of beliefs and ideas about the environment? What are the complexities for us all working together?
- **Indigenous religions:** What is their role? What is the best way to learn, incorporate, respect, and understand the belief systems that underlie the major religious beliefs?
- **Building Trust:** What are some ways to improve trust by both conservation and faith groups? How do we assure that secular groups understand the range religious beliefs?
- **Policy:** How can practitioners better understand the policy implications of working with faith groups? Are there country-specific policies that we can all better understand? Can USAID better explain its policies for engaging faith communities?
- **Messages:** What messages are agreed upon broadly? What approaches are best for communicating these?

ABCG members will continue to discuss these issues in FY2011, and will host a larger meeting with the broader conservation and faith community to identify ways forward. ABCG will also continue to work with IRG through BATS to support a meeting of faith groups in Africa regarding conservation, in collaboration with the Alliance for Religion and Conservation.

Upcoming work on BATS Task E.1.2 – Emerging Issues

In FY2011, ABCG will:

- Promote dialogue on emerging issues, with a view to directing the focus of the ABCG constituents and the conservation and development community at large towards proactive responses to an evolving conservation landscape.
- Organize at least 4 ABCG thematic meetings in Washington DC, on themes identified as high priority by ABCG members
- Organize at least one high-profile international event to highlight ABCG's findings on emerging and high-priority issues
- Further linkages between conservation practitioners in Washington DC and on the ground in Africa through increasing use of technology and new communications tools
- Publish and disseminate reports based upon products of BATS tasks B, C, and E
- Continue to undertake outreach through the ABCG list serv and website on key biodiversity issues in Africa
- Communicate current events through the list serv
- Respond to requests for information and contacts, making connections between people working in similar and complementary fields, and promoting collaboration for ABCG members, USAID and others

Several meetings and events are now in the planning stages including:

- Protected Area Degazettement, Denotification and Downlisting in Africa, featuring speakers from WRI and WWF-US presenting the results of their work funded under BATS and other donors, held 22 November 2010
- Land Use Management Tools for Conservation, featuring speakers from TNC, WRI and AWF, presenting the results of their work funded under BATS, scheduled for February 2011
- Human Rights, Law Enforcement and Conservation in Africa, which would take part in two stages. Stage 1 would be an internal meeting of ABCG members to discuss primary issues and challenges. Stage 2 would be a larger-scale meeting to include additional experts from non-ABCG member organizations, including human rights experts, law enforcement professionals and would feature case studies and lessons learned.
- Launch events in Washington DC and in Africa for HIV/AIDS and Conservation manual
- Population and conservation in Africa
- Impacts of agricultural intensification on land use and food security

List of Annexes

1. Smuts, R. 2010. Are partnerships the key to conserving Africa's biodiversity? Four partnership case studies between mining companies and conservation NGOs. Arlington, VA: Conservation International. 66 pages.
2. Fitzgerald, K. 2010. Securing Forested Land Through Carbon Offset Projects: Pilot Projects from the African Wildlife Foundation in East Africa. Nairobi: African Wildlife Foundation. 24 pages.
3. Fitzgerald, K. 2010. Land Tenure, Reform and Conservation Tools in South Africa and their Potential Application in Kenya. Nairobi: African Wildlife Foundation. 26 pages.
4. Dwasi, J. 2010. Government Restrictions on the Use of Private Land in Kenya. (NB: report is awaiting final formatting)
5. Odote, C. 2010. The Impact of The New Constitution of Kenya and the National Land Policy on Community Conservation Objectives in Kenya: A case Study of the Northern Rangelands Trust. Arlington, VA: The Nature Conservancy. 20 pages.
6. REDD training workshops terms of reference
7. HIV/AIDS Peer Education workshop schedule

