Assignment: TF098466

SPWA - Scaling up the impacts of good practices in linking poverty alleviation and biodiversity conservation.

GEFIA - GEF-IBRD AS IMPLEMENTING AGENCY

Task Team Leader: 00000095690 - Emmanuel Y. Nikiema
Approving Manager: 00000086169 - Benoit Bosquet

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This GRM report includes the following sections: Overview, Outcome, Components/Outputs, Execution, Processing, Attached Documents, Disbursements.
OVERVIEW

Overall Assessments and Ratings

Grant Objectives:
To enhance transfer of knowledge and information sharing for more effective protected area management in selected West African countries.

Overall progress from 07/01/2013 to 06/30/2014 with regard to Achieving Grant Objectives:
Rating: Satisfactory (Previously Rated Satisfactory on 06/30/2013 )
Comment:
The project met its development objectives with a strong focus on capacity building and building networks. The 3 components have been successfully implemented, except for the distance learning course, based on the recommendations of a quick feasibility study. This study indicated that exclusive distance learning courses would find greater participation and benefits after the traditional courses as planned in the project have been delivered, and feedback received. Therefore, it was decided to pursue that as a complementary course to the modular courses delivered traditionally at a later stage. The budget was readjusted to support the implementation of the training programme and modular courses which far exceeded its targets.

1-#A High level regional master#s degree program on PA management was initiated and completed
2-#10 training sessions held per year
3-#1 preparatory study was developed on a high level distance regional program on PA management (on web)
4-#1 regional meeting including all partners (to combine with the energy component of the WA program)
5-#Good practice guidelines, toolkits and information resources are prepared and made available based on review of past projects and emerging lessons
6-#Roster of experts on Biodiversity conservation and management identified and available on request to countries
7-#An e-platform (webpage host) created by IUCN as an information exchange and knowledge sharing platform.
8-#Publications and communication documents on the WA program developed and disseminated
9-#Dissemination workshops conducted for presentations and articles to targeted audience

Overall progress from 07/01/2013 to 06/30/2014 with regard to Implementation of Grant Financed Activities:
Rating: Satisfactory (Previously Rated Satisfactory on 06/30/2013 )
Comment:
Since the last implementation support mission a detailed 2013 work plan was developed and well executed. Overall progress was reviewed with the IUCN counterparts and the project has completed all activities on time. Below are the achievements of the project within each component.

Component 1: Reinforcement and extension of the regional network of protected areas managers, experts and key partners
The objective of this component is to:
-#Strengthen the capacity of protected area professionals and experts in West Africa through a training program
-#Expand the network of people in natural resources management in and around protected areas through a regional platform, to enable improvement of PA management capacity in the region.
Achievement 1: an operational training program has successfully trained PA managers and their partners in all aspects of effective PA management, including: Conservation policy and problems in protected area management, Evaluation and planning in protected area management, Participatory approach/management and promotion of protected areas, Notions of practical ecology for protected area management, Ecological monitoring, techniques for wildlife census taking and an introduction to GIS, Field trip and data processing, Environmental law and sustainable development, Environmental economy (8 modules in total). The GEF funding has consolidated and reinforced the existing two training courses, which include:

1.#A modular professional training course #University Diploma (UD)# aimed at young professionals with relevant experience. In total six editions of the UD where organized with the support of the World Bank. This activity also benefits from the co-financing from the MAVA Foundation.
116 (including the current edition) PA management professionals received training with the GEF support since 2011, including one person from Italian (self sponsored). They came from the following countries: Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Cote
The project conducted an important study in order to assess the effects of the training (Masters and University Diploma) on the students’ career paths and on the conservation even though longer term impacts are yet to be seen. The main changes observed are an improvement in knowledge in the protected area field, changes in professional attitudes and personal development (generally shown by greater self-confidence). In addition to these changes, the courses have helped to generate a regional network of French-speaking experts. The multitude of often laudatory comments received from the auditors confirms the conclusions of this study and, in particular, the need to continue these training courses.

Component 2: Knowledge Management and Information Dissemination
The objective of this component was to support the development of a knowledge network of various institutions that will facilitate the sharing of methods and approaches to combine global biodiversity conservation and poverty reduction efforts and also facilitate the dissemination of related information.

Achievement 4: the project developed tools, publications, and information articles in dissemination workshops
All these documents aimed at strengthening the knowledge on practical issues related to PA management so that stakeholders can use them on the ground.

The project conducted and/or contributed to the following studies:
A study to identify and document the different types of governance of protected areas in West Africa by analyzing the roles of the different stakeholders and characterizing the main governance modes. This study also published a Directory for Local and National NGOs involved in PA management in the sub-region. The report is available on www.papaco.org.

A study to assess the feasibility and relevance of a distance learning programme in West Africa for PA managers. The study concluded that exclusive distance learning courses should not be envisaged at the moment also given the issues related to equipment and internet access in the region. However we could envisage it as a complementary course to the courses delivered traditionally. The report is available on www.papaco.org.

A study to conduct an inventory and assessment of small grants in West Africa. The goals of this study are to develop comprehensive understanding for the scaling potential for small grants to NGOs, and improve the design and/or targeting of future investments in conservation. The study is being completed.

The project translated into French IUCN tools to make them available to the French speaking community: 400 copies in French were produced for the Sacred Natural sites publication.

The IUCN PAPACO (Program on African protected Areas and Conservation) publishes a monthly newsletter, which is distributed to more than 1,500 conservation stakeholders in Africa and the world. The newsletter regularly includes information on the project, especially on the training program. Eleven (11) issues of newsletters specifically report on one of the two (or both) training programmes.

IUCN Best practices tools are distributed to partners and students who attended the training programmes: the following Best practices guidelines (French versions) were distributed to 97 participants in total of the University Diploma. This makes a total of 485 publications distributed. The publications are:
- Guidelines for Management Planning of Protected Areas
- Evaluating Effectiveness: A Framework for Assessing the Management of Protected Areas
- Sacred Natural Sites: Guidelines for Protected Area Managers
- Guidelines for Applying Protected Area Management Categories
- Analysis and identification of key biodiversity areas

Achievement 5: Establishing a Roster of biodiversity experts

The network of biodiversity experts in the region was strengthened with new competencies, and profiles. Database of biodiversity experts has been enriched and now more than 500 experts names are available on an excel database. Registration can also be done online www.papaco.org. Registration can be made at the following address:

http://www.papaco.org/formulaire2.html

Achievement 6: Establishing an E-platform as an information and knowledge sharing tool

An e-platform has been created to provide an interface for knowledge sharing; it is available from the Papaco (Program on African PAs and conservation) web site www.papaco.org. This e-platform still needs to be made fully operational; but this requires to have a staff specifically recruited to facilitate the discussions on the forum (selects a subject, create debate, and review the posts before posting them, etc).

Achievement 7: Presentation of information articles in dissemination workshops

The project supported the participation of two IUCN staff members involved in the project to two important IUCN events:
- The IUCN World Conservation Congress held in 2012 in Jeju, South Korea: IUCN co-facilitated a side event on capacity building activities being held at IUCN, including the work done by the present project. A presentation was made on this capacity building programme, which includes the UD and Masters programme financed by this World Bank/GEF. Approximately 25 people attended the side event. The staff members also presented a poster on the activities of the Protected areas programme, including the World Bank/GEF project. This contributed to increase the visibility of the project and the sensitization of conservationists.
- The IUCN World parks Congress in 2014 in Sydney, Australia: IUCN presented the results of the study on the assessment of the effects of the training program (UD and Master) to a number of stakeholders. IUCN also discussed with some interested donors the possibility for them to finance such programmes. The African Development Bank seemed to be interested; however further discussions are needed.

Grant follow-up and structure

Description and context of Grant:
N/A.

**Expected follow up (if any):** Dissemination of new knowledge/technology/best practice

**Comment on follow up:**
- The success of the University Diploma (UD) generated interest towards other partners, especially in Central Africa as a similar training course was organised for Central Africa in partnership with IUCN, Senghor University and WCS in 2012 (first edition). IUCN and the World Conservation Society (WCS) proposed this course to the Complexe Éducatif Dr Alphonse Mackanga Missandzou (CEDAMM) in the Lopé National Park in Gabon. The first edition started in 2012 and subsequent editions took place in 2013, 2014 and the 4th one is under preparation, and will take place in April-May 2015. The course has been adapted to the challenges and needs of PA managers of the Congo Basin. The course has enabled to train other 58 people in this Central Africa with the financial support of the Agence française de développement (AFD) and the European Union. If we consider the UD in the two sub regions, 174 persons (more than the expected number of 75 at the end of the project).

It is also important to note that the 10th edition of the UD in West Africa is benefitting this year from a small grant from Lux-Development in Burkina Faso of 7,000 euros to especially contribute to supporting the participation of participants from Burkina Faso.

- Along project implementation, the Steering Committee members and project staffs have been thinking on how to continue running the UD. Several options have been envisaged including:
  - Sensitize countries (governments) and encourage them to include a specific budget for training in their projects. They would therefore be able to pay for the training of their staff in Ouagadougou (or any other city where the UD is held); this would include accommodation, registration fees, insurance, and daily subsistence allowance. IUCN and Senghor University would continue mobilizing funds for the other expenses i.e. training facilities, trainers.
  - Institutionalizing the course by creating an organization/body that would host the training. A concept note is under preparation.
- Thoughts are also directed towards the creation of a course dedicated to specific themes for example a UD for World heritage sites, or a Marine PA DU, etc.
- Following the study on the inventory and impacts of Small grants the MAVA Foundation is willing to finance a meeting on the conditions of the implementation of small grants and the way that the impacts should be measured since these are the two aspects that have been highlighted in the study. The MAVA foundation would invest 40,000 $ in this meeting.

**End Date of Last Site Visit:**

**Restructuring of Grant:**

N/A.

**Activity Risk**

**Rating:** Negligible or Low Risk (Original Risk Rating is Negligible or Low Risk)

**Comment:**
The team maintains that at this stage the risk linked to implementation of the project is negligible.

**Critical Issues and Pending Actions for Management Attention**

There are currently no issues and actions for Management attention.
OUTCOME

Comments on outcome achieved from 07/01/2013 to 06/30/2014

Grant Outcome Indicators
Grant outcome indicators are listed below.

**Number of national and regional practitioners successfully completing the Master#s degreeCourse and professional modules.**

Baseline Value: Masters: 0 and Modular courses:0

**Date:** 03/01/2011

**Progress to Date:** Masters: 69: 43 +13 enrolled in first year of Master + 13 enrolled in second year of Master (among the 13, 5 are supported by the WB project, 4 from cofinancing from the MAVA foundation and 4 from Université senghor through bilateral sponsors)

**Date:**

**Target Value:** Masters: 75 and Modular courses: 300

**Date:** 02/28/2015

**Percentage of material produced by the project disseminated in print and electronic form to targeted audience.**

Baseline Value: 0

**Date:** 03/01/2011

**Progress to Date:** 100 - Poster on IUCN#s capacity building programme presented during the IUCN world conservation congress in September 2012.

**Date:**

**Target Value:** 100

**Date:** 02/28/2015

COMPONENTS/OUTPUTS

Output and Implementation by Component
Reinforcement and extension of the regional network of PA managers & Experts

**Implementation Rating:** Highly Satisfactory

**Status:** Completed

**Planned Output:** Organization of a regional workshop, publication of a directory of virtual peer network of local and national NGOs, Delivery of diploma or certificates, set-up e-learning course

**Actual Output:** Regional workshop successfully held, Directory Disseminated, 40 diploma or certificates delivered; feasibility study completed for e-learning course
Knowledge Management and Information Dissemination
Implementation: Satisfactory
Rating:
Status: Completed
Planned Output: Creation of e-platform, production and dissemination of publications (good practice guidelines and toolkits), dissemination workshops to be conducted
Actual Output: E-platform ready online, database with 505 registered experts, 5 publications disseminated, 2 dissemination workshops held

Project management and Monitoring
Implementation: Satisfactory
Rating:
Status: Completed
Planned Output: 100% annual workplan implemented
Actual Output: 100% Implemented

Comment on planned and actual Output
The actual outputs are attached to the report.

Comment on component implementation progress
None

EXECUTION

Bank project related to the grant
Project ID / Name: P119952 - Scaling up impacts of good practice
Project Status: Lending
Global Focal Area: Biodiversity
Product Line: GM - GEF Medium Sized Program

Implementing agency and contact details
Agency: IUCN PACO, Aime Nianogo, regional director, Address: BP 1618 Ouagadougou 01 BUR.
Contact: Pr Aimé Nianogo
Address: 01 BP 1618 Ouagadougou 01
Phone: (226) 70 21 64 04 Email: aime.nianogo@iucn.org
Website:

Implementation performance ratings from 07/01/2013 to 06/30/2014 with regard to:

Project Management: Satisfactory (Previously Rated Satisfactory on 06/30/2013)
Brief Comment:
All activities have been implemented
Financial Management: Satisfactory (Previously Rated Satisfactory on 06/30/2013)
   Brief Comment:
   Improvement of the monitoring of the budget execution, internal controls, and recruitment of the external auditor completed

Counterpart Funding: Satisfactory (Previously Rated Satisfactory on 06/30/2013)
   Brief Comment:
   Activities through counterpart funding have been successfully completed

Procurement: Satisfactory (Previously Rated Moderately Satisfactory on 06/30/2013)
   Brief Comment:
   All contracts were awarded in full compliance.

Monitoring and Evaluation: Satisfactory (Previously Rated Satisfactory on 06/30/2013)
   Brief Comment:
   All projected indicators in results agreement have been achieved.

Additional Comments on Implementation Performance:
   See attached report on impacts of the project.

PROCESSING

Manager's comments on this GRM report:
   Date:06/26/2015 User ID:WB86169 Name:Mr Benoit Bosquet Operation performed:Approved by Manager
   Approved.

GRM report history - Requested on 06/19/2014, due on 09/30/2014

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## DOCUMENTS

**List of documents attached to this GRM**

1) GRM Report 20140630  
2) IUCN Report  
3) SPWA Project achievements

## DISBURSEMENTS
Disbursements Summary in USD

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