



ANNUAL REPORT

TA MNRT

TAN 0501911

2009

Table of contents

1	Project sheet	1
2	Brief factual overview	2
	<i>Current status of the three projects</i>	3
2.1.1	Eastern Selous:	3
2.1.2	Kilombero Valley Ramsar Site	4
2.1.3	Beekeeping Project:	5
2.1.4	National Level Activities	6
2.1.5	Policy issues	7
3	Overview of activity planning	9
3.1	<i>Activity overview</i>	9
3.2	<i>Analysis of activity planning (1 page)</i>	11
4	Financial overview	12
4.1	<i>Overview of expenditure versus financial planning</i>	12
4.2	<i>Analysis of financial planning (1 page)</i>	13
5	Monitoring of the indicators	14
6	Assessment of monitoring criteria	14
6.1	<i>Efficiency</i>	14
6.2	<i>Effectiveness</i>	14
6.3	<i>Sustainability</i>	14
7	Measures and recommendations	15
7.1	<i>Overview of the assessment criteria</i>	15
7.2	<i>Recommendations</i>	15
8	Planning for the upcoming year (Year N+1)	16
8.1	<i>Activity planning year N+1</i>	16
8.2	<i>Financial planning year N+1</i>	17
9	Conclusions	18
9.1	<i>Activities and Finance</i>	18
9.2	<i>Monitoring criteria</i>	18
9.2.1	Efficiency	18
9.2.2	Effectiveness	18
9.2.3	Sustainability	18
9.3	<i>Advice of the JLMC on the recommendations</i>	18
9.3.1	Recommendations on activity planning	18
9.3.2	Recommendations on financial planning	18

9.3.3	Recommendations on Logical Framework	19
9.3.4	Other recommendations	19
10	Annexes	20
	<i>10.1 Tracking Gantt view / Activities.....</i>	<i>20</i>
	<i>10.2 Baseline report / Activities (AdeptTracker).....</i>	<i>20</i>
	<i>10.3 Measuring indicators.....</i>	<i>20</i>
	<i>10.4 Checklist efficiency</i>	<i>20</i>
	<i>10.5 Checklist effectiveness</i>	<i>20</i>
	<i>10.6 Checklist sustainability.....</i>	<i>20</i>
	<i>10.7 Input in PIT.....</i>	<i>20</i>
	<i>10.8 Logical framework year.....</i>	<i>20</i>
	<i>10.9 Overview public contracts</i>	<i>20</i>

1 PROJECT SHEET

Country:		TANZANIA
DGD Intervention Number	:	3002483
BTC Navision Number	:	TAN0501911
DAC Sector and subsector:	:	400 / 410 Environment
National institution in charge of the execution:		Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism
BTC international cooperation experts	:	1
Duration of the project (according to SA)	:	48 months
Start date of the project:		
according to SA/SC	:	25 August 2006
effective	:	5 November 2006
End date of the project:		
according to SA/SC	:	24 August 2010
estimate	:	04 January 2010
Project management methods	:	Own-Management
Project total budget	:	Euro 589,500
Report covering the period	:	January – December 2009

2 BRIEF FACTUAL OVERVIEW

This report relates to the activities of the TA carried out during the period of January to December 2009. The efficiency and effectiveness of the TA during this period was significantly hampered by the uncertainty regarding her contract.

Upon a request by the JLMC the contract of the TA MNRT was extended at no extra cost from November 2008 – March 2009. In March 2009 Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism (MNRT) through Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs (MoFEA) had then requested an extension with additional budget for the TA MNRT as all three NRM projects still had about 2 years to run. From April to June 2009 the contract of TA MNRT had been extended on a month by month basis with remaining funds from the original budget, waiting for approval of an extension and additional budget from DGDC. The Exchange of Letters to extend the validity of the Specific Agreement to August 2010 and the services of the TA MNRT until December 2009 was signed on 13 July and 11 August by the Embassy of Belgium (EOB) and MoFEA, respectively. A budget increase of Euro 139,500 had been approved, increasing the total budget to Euro 585,900. Funds reached the project account only in September 2009. Because of the delay of funds a planned visit with two representatives from MNRT to Apimondia, the World Beekeeping Congress held in Montpellier, France from 15-20 September, had to be cancelled.

The limited operational budget for the TA MNRT during the reporting period is also reflected in a reduced time spent in the field. Only 40% of the time, compared with 60% during 2008.

The main activities of TA MNRT during the period were:

- technical backstopping to the three projects, including participation in evaluation committees for consultancies, participating in JLPCs, preparation and participation in mid-term Reviews for Eastern Selous and Kilombero and accompanying visiting delegations to project sites.
- participating at relevant sector meetings at national level, and
- giving input to related activities at BTC, especially the development of the new IDCP.

Events/developments during the reporting period

- In July 2009, there was a change of Resident Representative (ResRep) at the BTC office. During the handing over from 13 – 17 July, the incoming ResRep was briefed by representatives from different projects, including TA MNRT.
- At the Wildlife Division, MNRT Mr Hermann Keraryo was assigned as new head of the Wetland Unit in July, a position that had been vacant since the death of three officers from the unit in a plane crash on July 3 2008.
- TA MNRT was one of two projects chosen by the Belgian Ministry for Development Cooperation (DGCD) to be evaluated in Tanzania as part of the evaluation of the service delivery of BTC, the second one being Kilombero. The evaluation took place from 14 - 25 September 2009.

The comments from this review on the TA MNRT project was that it was very difficult to monitor or evaluate the project due to the of structure and absence of indicators as the only reference point is the TOR of the TA.

- The third JLMC was held in November 2009

Current status of the three projects

2.1.1 Eastern Selous:

The project is progressing to complete the various steps necessary to develop Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs). However, there is an urgent need to develop an exit strategy with an appropriate budget as the funds will be exhausted before June 2010.

The mid-term review of the project took place in February 2009 and the final report was available at the end of April. Unfortunately, it took until September until the Joint Local Partner Committee (JLPC) convened to deliberate the recommendations of the report. (This was due to unavailability of key members for various reasons, including the change of ResRep at BTC.)

An external audit was carried out in April 2009, covering the period November 1 2006 - December 31 2008. The audit did not raise major queries.

TA MNRT visited the project seven times during the reporting period to provide technical backstopping on issues such as:

- Meeting with District Team and LTA to follow-up on land use planning reports
- Technical backstopping on natural resources assessment in the WMAs of Rufiji and Kilwa Districts
- Participation in JLPC meeting
- Working with Eastern Selous Team on a matrix for the recommendations of the MTR to be presented at an extraordinary JLPC meeting
- Participation in extraordinary JLPC to discuss recommendations of MTR
- Preparing objectives and activities for exit strategy with the Selous Team

Observations

There is a distinct gap between the capacities of the district personnel from Kilwa and Rufiji districts, with Kilwa lagging behind. Through the project, the DGO Rufiji is at times providing assistance and training to his counterparts in Kilwa district. However, it is unlikely that this will happen in the future without the facilitation of the project. In order for the Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) to be sustainable they will need support from the district councils. Thus the capacity at the district is a concern that will need to be addressed well during the exit strategy of the project. In addition, extra technical support from the Community Based Conservation section in the Wildlife Division will need to be planned in order to ensure sustainability.

There is need to improve the synchronization between the different reporting formats required by GoT and GoB. It is commendable that the project's annual plan and budget for the Tanzanian financial year of 2009/10 features as an integral part of the plan of MNRT. However, the AFO and NTA should have assisted the PM in making sure that the JLPC is also presented with the appropriate FIT budget for decision making purposes.

2.1.2 Kilombero Valley Ramsar Site

The project is progressing well. Unfortunately, the National Technical Advisor (NTA) for the Project, Mr Abdalla Shah, resigned effective end of February 2009 to take up a position as head of the IUCN office in Dar es Salaam. His replacement, Mr Marcel Madubi took up his position in early March.

An external audit was carried out in April 2009, covering the period November 1 2006 - December 31 2008. The audit did not raise major queries.

The 3rd JLPC meeting was held on April 30 at Mikumi National Park

The mid-term review of the project took place in August and the final report was available in November.

Technical backstopping to the project involved :

- Induction of new TA
- participating in development of TOR and technical and financial evaluation of consultant proposals (Communication, Education, Participation and Awareness [CEPA] Strategy, Strategic Environmental Assessment)
- commenting on technical reports (Baseline, Aerial Survey, CEPA, SEA)
- participating in a training session for the ward focal points for the project with lectures on results based management and a strategic approach to natural resource based income generating activities
- Assisting in the preparation of and participating in Mid-Term Review
- Assisting with the planning and field work for a film on Kilombero Wetlands done by RTBF (July 2009)
- Accompanying DGCD evaluation team during their field visit
- Supervisory visit to training on PlanRep, a software packaged used by Local Government Authorities for planning and reporting. This training had been facilitated by TA LG to assist in the integration of project activities in the routine district planning and reporting procedures and system.

Observations:

Serious delays have been experienced with some of the consultancies, such as baseline study, land use planning, CEPA strategy, and the database on district natural resources management. These are hampering the progress of other activities. The project has now taken mitigation measures, for example by introducing a penalty clause in contracts. It is noteworthy that the consultancies which have caused delays are all done by institutions, such as University of Dar es Salaam (Baseline study; 7 months to incorporate comments on the draft report!), Sokoine University (CEPA, final report still outstanding), National Land Use Planning Commission (NLUPC, Land use planning), and Tanzania Wildlife Research Institute (NMR database). A notable exception to this is the undertaking of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) undertaken by a private consulting firm, which delivered on time.

Ulanga district should be commended for their high level of commitment to the project and a dynamic and capable project implementation team. This was also noted by the mid-term review. In Kilombero district, while the district leadership and individual team members are committed, the project support team is less well integrated and at times the focus is still within each respective sector.

2.1.3 Beekeeping Project:

The Beekeeping project is progressing very well, especially in Kigoma Region. Rufiji District is lagging somewhat behind. The latter is partly due to the fact that beekeeping is not a traditional activity in this region, but it has also to do with a generally lower level of development and the resultant reluctance to change. In addition, while significant efforts have been made by both the district and the ministry to boost the manpower level in the beekeeping sector, the district beekeeping officer (DBO) does not make efficient use of this personnel.

It was decided that due to the short nature of the project, a mid-term review would not be of much value as there would be very little time left to implement the recommendations. Instead it would be more valuable to have an early final review. Claude Croizer, environmental expert from BTC HQ visited the project in November and gave valuable recommendations for the current project, but also for the continuation in Kigoma Region.

DTA Kigoma resigned effective mid-October to take up another position. For the remaining period of the project the DTA Rufiji will now be responsible overall, but will be assisted in Kigoma and Kibondo by the TA for the Income Generating Project (IGA). The IGA project started in May 2009, covering three districts in Coast Region (Mafia, Mkuranga and Rufiji) and three in Kigoma Region (Kigoma rural, Kigoma Municipality and Kibondo). As envisaged in the project document (TFF), the BIP TAs will also assist in their respective districts (Rufiji and Kigoma Rural) to follow-up on IGA activities. A two-day orientation meeting was held for the new TAs in which the BIP TAs also participated in order to explore mechanisms of collaboration between the projects.

The 3rd and 4th JLPC meetings were held in April and November, respectively.

The Director of a Belgian NGO, Miel Maya Honing, visited Tanzania and met with the NPC and TA MNRT, discussing opportunities to access the European/Fair trade market. Samples of freshly harvested honey from Kibondo and Kigoma, where there are functioning honey cooperatives, were subsequently sent to Belgium for analysis and the results were excellent.

TA MNRT conducted backstopping visits together with the National Project Coordinator (NPC), and also separately monitored training activities, eg in the Rufiji Delta when the NPC was not available. The cooperation and communication with the NPC is very good. Specific technical backstopping activities included:

- Planning and financial planning
- Supervision/monitoring of training and other activities in all three districts including: beehive management, harvesting, quality control, VICOBA (Village Bank) formation, training to Savings and Credit Cooperatives and construction of collection centres, management of cooperatives
- Co-leading introduction meeting for IGA TAs with BIP TA and National Coordinators of both projects
- Finalise TOR for external audit – TOR were approved by BTC HQ and audit is to be carried out in early 2010.
- Develop TOR for final evaluation in collaboration with Claude Croizer, NPC and DTA
- Advise to districts and TAs on synergy between BIP and IGA projects
- Accompany BTC environment expert to Kigoma and Kibondo districts.

Observations

There are excellent opportunities for synergy between the BIP and IGA projects, which should be exploited to the fullest. The projects complement each other in scope and the broad width of skills now available through the four (now three) advisors to the two projects represent a very good opportunity for active exchange between the projects, but also between Coast and Kigoma Regions. It is important that the advisors and district coordinators of both projects are present for planning meetings in their regions.

The establishment of VICOBA in Rufiji District seems a successful way to start micro credit schemes. This success is in my opinion largely due to the sustained training effort over a period of nearly three months, backed up by a ToT for support persons in each village. The training method, while not cheap, should also be considered for other business related training on all three projects.

The consultancy to develop a marketing strategy for the project proved a very difficult undertaking as it was almost impossible to convince the consultant (SAFE Tanzania) of the practical nature of the assignment. Starting with the inception report there were several meetings with the project team (including National Project Coordinator and TA MNRT) and the consultant discussing and agreeing on the nature of the assignment. Nevertheless, it took again the intensive participation of the project team to finally get a useable product. There seems to be a tendency towards academic as opposed to practical work among consultants as this problem surfaces also in other consultancies.

2.1.4 National Level Activities

At the national level, the TA is represented in the relevant technical fora such as the National Wetland Working Group, the Tanzania Honey Council (formerly National Honey Forum) and the Informal Discussion Group on Environment (IDGE). There are also linkages with the Participatory Forest Management Component.

WWF and Africare are two international NGOs with activities relating to both WMAs and beekeeping. Thus contact is maintained with these NGOs and others active in the natural resources management sector (eg IUCN, Tanzania Natural Resources Forum (TNRF)). There is no regular forum to discuss WMA issues. WWF is coordinating the development of a national strategy for the development of WMAs, however, meetings are very infrequently held.

The TA MNRT participated in the development for a manual for decentralized wetland management, which was initiated under the Sustainable Wetlands Management Programme. Together with NPC of the beekeeping project the TA MNRT participated in the development of the Tanzania Honey Council (THC), a public private partnership. The THC has now been officially registered and has successfully staged the 1st Tanzania Honey Expo in October 2009. This was a 5-day event, including a 2-day conference at which TA MNRT presented a paper titled "From subsistence beekeeping to beekeeping business".

Close contact is also maintained with the BTC representation. The TA was involved in the preparation of the assessment note for the new IDCP and participated in several workshops and meetings for the preparation of the new IDCP. Natural resources management is one of the two sectors that Belgium will be involved in Tanzania.

Together with the TA LG the TA MNRT was involved in the recruitment of a new programme officer for BTC in early 2009.

Other activities at national level included the following:

- Participation in Launch of National Forest Assessment Programme, a five year programme strengthening forest inventory and monitoring capacity
- Presenting current activities in natural resources management to a workshop on Belgian Cooperation and Indirect Actors at the Belgian Embassy
- Participation at a number of meeting between Embassy of Belgium and GoT representatives regarding the new IDCP
- working closely with the Advisor on Local Government, especially on integration of project procedures into the district ones
- Input to various missions from Brussels, such as the visit by DGCD, which included the head of department for cooperation in East Africa, the desk officer for Tanzania and the officer responsible for the coordination of support to higher learning institutions.
- Participation in JLPC of IGA

2.1.5 Policy issues

Policy coordination

During the field visits to Kilombero, the issue of possibly conflicting policies with regards to sustainable wetland management, accelerated agricultural development and livestock development surfaced repeatedly. With regards to sustainable wetland management, it is very important to create more awareness that this is not necessarily in conflict with development in wetland. The reason for the management plan of the KVRS is that all the potential of the site should be utilized sustainably. If unchecked development takes place then the very characteristics that make this a fertile area may be lost. Therefore sustainable wetland management and agriculture and livestock development actually have some common goals. One of the major stumbling blocks for informed decision making about what is sustainable use is the lack of scientific data about the wetland system, especially the hydrology. Hydrology is the main driver of a wetland system and it would be the effects developments of any nature on the hydrological system which would largely determine whether the activity is detrimental or not to the ecological character of the wetland – or in other words whether the wetland system would still be able to function and deliver its services as an ecosystem. Through hydrological monitoring of surface and ground water flows more informed decision making will be possible about the possible impacts of activities or developments on the system.

The policy issue here is that there is a need to improve linkages between the different policies (Wetlands, which are taken care of in the Wildlife Policy, Agriculture, Livestock and Water), to take adequate care of the cross-sectoral nature of wetland management.

The institutional set-up exists with the National Wetlands Working Group (NWWG) at the technical level and the National Wetland Steering Committee (NAWESCO) at the policy making level. NAWESCO comprises of permanent secretaries from a wide range of ministries with mandates that are related to wetlands.

A strategy paper or policy guideline on linkages between the different policies, including criteria that would assist in decision making when faced with conflicting demands would also greatly assist the staff at local government level to improve linkages between the sectors.

Institutional back-up for Village Scouts

One issue that is often raised in both Eastern Selous and Kilombero projects (and in other projects that have facilitated VGS training) is how to enable Village Game Scouts to do their work effectively.

More than 250 Village Game Scouts or Wetland Scouts have been trained under the Eastern Selous and Kilombero projects. After their training they are faced with the difficulties of implementing what they have learnt (law enforcement and sustainable natural resources management).

Issue: there is as yet no sustainable mechanism developed to ensure that the game scouts are able to do their work as expected. They would need:

- Working gear (uniforms, tents, transport, etc)
- Some kind of formal identification (I understand that this will be provided under the new Wildlife Management Act for VGS in WMAs)
- Institutional support and back up

The first two items are of a practical nature that can be worked out more easily and the supply of some of the working equipment is foreseen in both projects. In addition, in a number of villages allowances for patrols of the scouts are paid from income derived from confiscated items, such as charcoal or timber.

Institutional support and back-up is the most serious issue and has a multiple aspects:

1. At the village level, the VGS are reporting to the Village Natural Resources Committee (VNRC) (in the case of a WMA it is expected that VGS will be employed by the CBO)
2. Already there are requests from VNRCs that they also be provided with uniforms – a uniform confers status. In addition to that if a uniform means that one can carry out patrols then this could also be a potential source of income. Normally village government members do not get paid. In a setting like this VGS being supplied with uniforms, transport, etc are likely to feel superior to the committee to which they report.
3. The work of the VGS is not only dangerous in terms of them possibly facing heavily armed poachers, but it is even more likely that it pits them against their relatives, neighbors or possibly superiors that are engaged in illegal activities. The latter has led to the village governments trying to replace VGS that were ‘too active’, but also to VGS or their families being threatened. This is very common not only in the Kilombero or Eastern Selous projects, but also other similar projects.
4. VGS report frustration that despite their efforts the perpetrators are often let off by the police or the courts.

Considering the above there is a great need to strengthen the institutional framework for VGS and to ensure that their work can be sustained. In order to do this the issue should be looked at from a number of angles:

- a. Regulations covering VGS in WMAs will be covered under the new Wildlife Act
- b. In areas outside WMAs there are no legal provisions for those who are ensuring that natural resources management and land use planning by-laws at the village level are followed. The term VGS is used very widely and not always referring to game scouts only.

It would be very useful to carry out a study on the effectiveness of VNRCs and VGS in different settings and ways to improve village income from natural resources in order to facilitate the working of the village government.

3 OVERVIEW OF ACTIVITY PLANNING

3.1 Activity overview

Objective	Achievements	Comments
1. Support to the MNRT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Close collaboration with the WD and FBD HQ staff overseeing the interventions • Regular reporting from backstopping visits 	Closer collaboration was also achieved with the division of Policy and Planning, especially during the development of the new IDCC.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular attendance at quarterly National Wetland Working Group (NWWG) meetings; • Attendance at national meeting with government and facilitators to discuss progress and issues in the development of Wildlife Management Areas (WMA). • Member of the National Honey Council, a public private partnership - and member of organising committee for Tanzania Honey Expo • Member of the Informal Discussion Group on Environment • Discussion on strategy for WMA implementation with other partners • Participation in meeting to develop strategy for the implementation of WMAs. • Participating in dialogue regarding the development and implementation of guidelines for decentralised wetland management 	
2. Provide technical assistance to the project implementation teams	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advised projects on planning and budgeting, including the integration into district procedures 	

Objective	Achievements	Comments
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visited all project areas and advised on approaches to community participation, participatory research and monitoring. • Commented on consultancy reports (Baseline and Aerial Survey, Kilombero; Marketing Strategy, Beekeeping) • Assisted Eastern Selous and Kilombero Teams to prepare for mid-term review • Participated in mid-term reviews of Eastern Selous and Kilombero projects • Assisted Eastern Selous Team to plan for implementation of recommendations from the mid-term review and develop exit strategy 	<p>There is a need to critically assess the services provided by some institutions, especially with regards to timeliness of reports.</p>
<p>3. Provide overall coordination / synergy of / between the different environment projects</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conducted orientation for new advisor (Kilombero) and AFO (Kibondo) recruited by BTC • Working together with TA LG on developing uniform reporting procedures that can serve both the districts (GoT) and BTC • Assist project management teams in the preparation for the JLPCs and ensure that experiences and lessons are shared between the interventions. 	
<p>4. Provide an effective synergy between the three interventions and other related interventions and also provide a link between the projects at the local level and the MNRT</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participated in the activities related to the development of a new IDCP, ie the assessment note and the preparatory workshops and meetings • Close collaboration and exchange with TA LG • Active involvement in synergy building between IGA and BIP 	

3.2 Analysis of activity planning (1 page)

Activity planning remained somewhat unpredictable as the majority of activities are demand driven. In addition, since November 2008, two extensions for TA MNRT have been sought by MNRT, one five month extension at no extra cost until March 2009 and subsequently an extension with additional budget to the end of December 2009. Due to administrative procedures this translated into 5 short contracts for the advisor (November 08 - March 09, April 09, May 09, June 09 and July – December 09), with the budget for extension arriving in September 09. The original request sent to the Embassy of Belgium by MNRT in 2008 had sought a longer term extension of the advisor on the basis that the services should be synchronised with the other projects. This would have been much more productive in terms of the work not only of the advisor, but also in terms of the administrative workload for all concerned.

4 FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

4.1 Overview of expenditure versus financial planning

Budget Code	Budget Headings description	Last Approved budget	Cumulated expenses until 31 Dec 2008	Expenses Jan – Dec 2009	Total Expenditure to date	Balance 30 Sep 2009	% Expended
PART Z: General Means							
1	Long term technical assistance	468,948	313,612	122,215	435,827	33,121	93%
Z_01_01	Long term technical Assistance	391,500	251,415	117,101	368,516	22,984	94%
Z_01_02	Purchase of vehicle and computers	32,548	32,548	0	32,548	0	100%
Z_01_03	Vehicle operating costs	27,900	18,889	3,642	22,531	5,369	81%
Z_01_04	Office operations	17,000	10,761	1,471	12,232	4,768	72%
2	Administrative Assistance	38,000	23,716	12,904	36,619	1,381	96%
Z_02_01	Admin. Assistance	24,000	16,004	7,033	23,037	963	96%
Z_02_02	Driver /Messenger	14,000	7,712	5,870	13,582	418	97%
3	Operational funds	82,552	40,649	14,476	55,125	27,427	67%
Z_03_01	Organisation of workshops, local travel, etc	80,500	39,398	13,896	53,294	27,206	66%
Z_03_02	Bank Charges	2,052	1,251	580	1,831	221	89%
GRAND TOTAL		589,500	377,977	149,594	527,571	61,929	89%

4.2 Analysis of financial planning (1 page)

The entire budget of the TA is a General Means Budget, with no budget allocations for specific activities or result areas.

Eighty nine percent of the budget has been spent, with budget lines for Technical Assistance and Administrative assistance exhausted to 93% and 96%, respectively.

The budget line for operational costs is comparatively under spent: only 67%, compared with the average expenditure rate of 89% budget. This is due to the fact that the budget, which had originally be estimated on a basis of March - December, only became available in September. It is for the same reason that after December 2009 there remains an overall balance of Euro 61,929.

5 MONITORING OF THE INDICATORS

As mentioned above, there are no indicators for the specific objective in the Specific Agreement and no result areas have been formulated for the TA.

6 ASSESSMENT OF MONITORING CRITERIA

6.1 Efficiency

The efficiency of the advisor was severely hampered during the reporting period due to the uncertainty of the position and a number of short term contracts instead of an extension for a longer period of time

6.2 Effectiveness

All projects are now running smoothly and the financial planning is much more realistic than it was at the beginning of the projects with achievement of planned activities in the 80% and above. Less field visits due to budget restraints over 9 months of the year curbed the effectiveness of technical backstopping.

6.3 Sustainability

The advisor is working with the project management teams and only in the case of the beekeeping project there is a counterpart at the national level. Having a designated counterpart at the national level is a good set-up for sustainability as this person is coached during the time of the project. In addition, it is a good vehicle for the ministry to internalize the advice given and reinforce it at the project level.

Changes of personnel have occurred at all levels: at the ministry (the third Permanent Secretary since TA MNRT started, the minister also changed and the Assistant Director responsible for both Kilombero and Eastern Selous Projects tragically died in a plane crash in July 2008); at BTC (change of ResRep and the third project officer since start of TA MNRT), at the Embassy (the programme officer for environment died of cancer in October 2009) and on the projects. TA MNRT has been an important link from the projects to the ministry, to BTC and to the embassy, providing technical advice and ensuring consistency (institutional memory). The TA also plays a mentoring role for the national technical advisors on the different project. One of the most important roles in this regard is to encourage and support creativity and 'thinking out of the box'. However, it has also become clear that the capacities of the advisors noticeably vary with some having better managerial skills and some being better at generating ideas, while the contribution of others is not immediately apparent

7 MEASURES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 Overview of the assessment criteria

The following recommendations are related to observations made during the implementation of the three projects. Some of these recommendations have been made before, but are retained here as they are still valid.

7.2 Recommendations

1. Training for communities in financial management: the example of VICOBA in the BIP project in Rufiji District demonstrated that the key to success is a mix of formal training and training by doing over a longer period of time, backed up by TOT for local backstopping. This type of training should be considered for other areas of entrepreneurship training in all of the projects. Close follow-up of training activities and if necessary reminder/refresher sessions should be specified in the work plans.
2. There are now several related projects operating in both the Coast and Kigoma Regions. (BIP, Eastern Selous, IGA in Coast Region and BIP, IGA, Food Security, Banana in Kigoma Region) the Income Generating Activities Project (IGA) started in August 2009 and is in the process of carrying out a baseline survey and a survey of economic opportunities. Once these surveys are finalized. It would be a good opportunity to have a joint regional workshop in each of the two regions with not only the Belgian supported projects, but also related projects to come up with a joint plan on how to maximize synergy from the different interventions, eg coordination of training plans, sharing of experts and expertise, possible 'zoning' of activities, etc.
3. Land use planning and district natural resources database: These two activities are common to the Eastern Selous and Kilombero projects and are carried out by the National Land Use Planning Commission (NLUPC) and TAWIRI (Tanzania Wildlife Research Institute), respectively. Both of these activities are experiencing significant delays due to other commitments at these two institutions. With NLUPC it was also noted that due to the heavy work load in many parts of the reporting suffers not only delays, but also a number of errors that can easily be avoided. It is recommended that for future assignments this time factor is also taken into consideration and alternatives are considered as severe delays may have significant implications on other activities.
4. Use TA MNRT budget to commission strategy papers or studies on policy issues, such as strategy paper or policy guideline on linkages between the different policies related to wetland management, including criteria that would assist in decision making when faced with conflicting demands from different policies; and a study on the effectiveness of VNRCs and VGS in different settings focusing on how they are supported institutionally and also ways to improve village income from natural resources in order to facilitate the working of the village government.

8 PLANNING FOR THE UPCOMING YEAR (YEAR N+1)

8.1 Activity planning year N+1

The contract of the TA MNRT has been extended for 2 years, however no new budget has been approved yet and it is stipulated that unless the extension of the Specific Agreement is in place before March 31 2010, the contract will end on 31 March 2010. The planning has thus been done with the current budget and for three months only.

	Jan 10	Feb 10	Mar 10
Support to the MNRT			
Assist MNRT in developing the identification for the new projects			
Support the MNRT in coordinating the 3 interventions in line with the Tanzanian policies on wildlife and natural resources and according to the TFF and Specific Agreement of the interventions;			
Support the MNRT in effectively strengthening collaboration and coordination among all wildlife, wetlands and beekeeping stakeholders in the area of the three interventions and within the MNRT;			
Support the MNRT in capacity-building on natural resources management in the directions related to the 3 interventions (through every day coaching, field missions, training sessions, drafting of internal documents and reporting)			
Provide accurate reporting to MNRT on the state of progress of the 3 projects and help identify bottlenecks and suggest solutions			
Support to the 3 projects			
Assist (methodologically and technically) the projects in ensuring that the results are being attained according to the logical framework and principles defined in the TFF of the 3 interventions and ensure that activities are implemented in an efficient and sustainable manner			
Assist in the preparation of JLPC meetings			
Support the project's implementation teams in all reporting activities as stipulated in the Specific Agreement and the TFF and facilitate the preparation of inception reports, annual work plans and budgets and completion reports			

8.2 Financial planning year N+1

Budget Code	Budget Headings Description	TOTAL COST BELGIAN CONTRIBUTION Y+1	Jan 10	Feb 10	Mar 10
PART Z:	<i>General Means</i>				
01	Long term technical assistance	33,121	8,851	8,851	8,851
Z_01_01	Long term technical Assistance	22,984	8500	8500	8500
Z_01_02	Purchase of vehicle and computers	-			
Z_01_03	Vehicle operating costs	5,369	228.5	228.5	228.5
Z_01_04	Office operations	4,768	122.6	122.6	122.6
02	Administrative Assistance	1,381	700	700	700
Z_02_01	Admin. Assistance	963	200	200	200
Z_02_02	Driver/Messenger	418	500	500	500
03	Operational funds	27,427	3,580	3,580	3,580
Z_01_03	Organisation of workshops, local travel, etc	27,206	3500	3500	3500
Z_03_02	Bank charges	221	80	80	80
	GRAND TOTAL	61,929	13,131	13,131	13,131

9 CONCLUSIONS

9.1 Activities and Finance

There are adequate financial resources to cover planned activities for the first quarter of 2010.

9.2 Monitoring criteria

9.2.1 Efficiency

During the reporting period the availability of funds was a problem as the new budget had only been approved in July and was available at the project level only in September. Thus some of the planned activities could not be carried out.

9.2.2 Effectiveness

Frequent travel to the project site for on site supervision and on-the job training is an effective way of technical backstopping to projects and for gauging the effectiveness of the local technical advisors. Therefore the original design of the project to spend a larger proportion of the time in the field was good in terms of effectiveness.

Also in terms of feedback into the policy dialogue it is crucial to have first hand information about the situation and problems on the ground.

9.2.3 Sustainability

For sustainability purposes it is better to work with a designated counterpart as is the case with the beekeeping project. With the appointment of a Head of the Wetland Unit during this year, the communication in this sector has significantly improved. During the last JLMC meeting it was also decided that a representative from the Policy and Planning Division should attend the project JLPCs in order to have better linkages at the national level.

9.3 Advice of the JLMC on the recommendations

9.3.1 Recommendations on activity planning

The JLMC met on 19 November and approved the activity reports up to the 3rd quarter. JLMC requested a two year extension for the TA in accordance with the decision of the Joint Commission Meeting on 26 October 2009. The next JLMC meeting is planned for April, when it was assumed that new budget would have been approved to facilitate accurate activity and financial planning.

9.3.2 Recommendations on financial planning

See above

9.3.3 Recommendations on Logical Framework

Not applicable

9.3.4 Other recommendations

None

10 ANNEXES

10.1 Tracking Gantt view / Activities

Not applicable

10.2 Baseline report / Activities (AdeptTracker)

Not applicable

10.3 Measuring indicators

Not applicable

10.4 Checklist efficiency

10.5 Checklist effectiveness

10.6 Checklist sustainability

10.7 Input in PIT

Not applicable

10.8 Logical framework year

Not applicable

10.9 Overview public contracts

No contracts during reporting period