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Mission report to the Lake Chad

Reporting Officers	Dr N'Guetta Austin Bosso
Country visited	Douala, Cameroon and N'Djamena, Chad
Dates of visit	17 th March to 24 th March 2011
Date of report	28 th March 2011
Purpose of visit	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hold meetings in Maroua (Cameroon) with Project National Focal Points, implementing partners;• Participate to the regional validation workshop, in Maroua, on identification of policy entry points for supporting the implementation of priority adaptation options in pastoral and agro pastoral systems• Visit the project site (around the Lake Chad) with partners.

Background

The execution of the Livestock for Livelihood initiative in the area around the Lake Chad is undertaken by NGO's partners that include IUCN, APSS, CEBEVIRHA and Espace Veto. A mission was carried out to Maroua, Cameroon and N'Djamena, Chad from 19 to 24 March 2011. The objective of the mission was to meet with representatives of the above mentioned partners as well as with country Focal Points (Cameroon, Nigeria and Chad). To participate to the validation of the study on identification of policy entry points for supporting the implementation of priority adaptation options in pastoral and agro pastoral systems. Within the framework of the initiative, together with of IUCN, CEBEVIRHA, Espace Veto and the focal point of Chad, to take part of the joint field mission in the Northern part of Cameroon (Parc National de Waza, Canton de Mandiago and Logon Birni) and the North Western part of Chad (Dougia).

Mission outputs

Time	Activity
17 March 2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Travel by air to Douala• Arrival in Douala and start of mission
18 March 2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Travel by air from Douala to Maroua
19 March 2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Participate with partners to the meeting organized by the CEBEVIRHA• Participate to the validation study on policy entry points
20 March 2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Travel by road to Koussery• Field visit to the Waza Park• Arrival to Koussery
21 March 2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Visit and discussions with the Communities in the Logon Birni• Visit the Canton of Mandiago, discussions with the Communities around the strategies for the rehabilitation of the area• Courtesy call to the Sultan
22 March 2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Travel by road to N'Djamena• Meeting and discussions at la direction Générale de l'Élevage• Courtesy call to the Secretary General of the ministry• Travel by road to Dougia Meeting and discussions
23 March 2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Travel by air from N'Djamena to Douala
24 March 2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Travel by air to Nairobi• Back to Nairobi and end of mission

Main findings

Meeting organized by CEBEVIRHA

The meeting was chaired by the Director General of CEBEVIRHA, Dr Benjamin Dira. The meeting aimed at discussing partner's progress-to-date on the L4LP activities, synergize in choosing project sites and beneficiary communities and discuss sustainability actions.

Issues that rose during the discussions

- It seemed that we had to deal with a concurrent issue regarding the implementation of the animal health aspect of the project in the Lake Chad zone supposed to be implemented by Espace Vétô. There was a protest against this scheme expressed by the Focal Point of Chad. What we had there was a breeding ground for project conflict and Dr Dira proposed to solve it as quick as possible.
- It was advised to the participants to always refer to the logical framework of the project document and to stay within the budget allocated to them, to carefully read the terms of the contracts signed with IBAR and refer to the allocated activities in the contracts.
- For the identification of the project sites all stakeholders needed to be involved so that everyone would be at ease to implement the activities.
- It was advised to circulate key information among focal points, partner and between focal points and focal points and coordination.
- The participants were informed that the next Steering Committee meeting will be held in Guinea, and therefore only one country will be selected in each of the four project areas to represent the others. The representing country should, for that purpose, be well prepared by organizing preliminary meetings to harmonize the regional concerns and present them during the meeting.

- The project partners thereafter discussed several administrative issues as well as partnership dynamics and interactions between the local project partners.
- The meeting concluded by a session of discussion on issues related to the vision of the project advancements and the coordination mechanism.
- The final copy of the minutes of the meeting will be send by the CEBEVIRHA (rapporteur).

Recommendations

- Effective communication among all stakeholders on the project site is vital for meeting the project objectives. The core of this communication is the exchange of information between Focal Points and other stakeholders
- Much attention needs to be paid to the problem between the Focal Point of Chad and Espace Vétó
- Engagement of Focal points of Nigeria is needed it must be translated in actions if any results are to be achieved from the Nigeria side.
- A meeting should be organized to carefully identify the project sites.

Validation of the study

The study on identification of policy entry points for supporting the implementation of priority adaptation options in pastoral and agro pastoral systems was presented by Mrs Aicha Moussa from IUCN. She presented some documents existing institutional policies and national/regional strategies on livestock, the limits of the implementation of initiatives, threats to the development of wildlife indicating conflicts and resolution mechanisms. She did an analysis of key players and presented the institutional and organizational entry points; she also identified best practices, priority areas of intervention of the Project and concluded with some suggestions for some actions.

Issues that rose during the discussions

- The report will be finalized taking into account the criticisms and suggestion and send to AU-IBAR.

Field visit

The field mission aim was to meet with local actors and authorities to discuss their potential contributions to the project. At arrival in the Canton of Mandiago, the mission paid a courtesy call to the Sultan to provide him with some information about the mission and promote the project initiative. The community included forest management, livestock keepers, beekeepers, women association. It was a good opportunity to share experiences in conflict resolution mechanisms that they have put in place, the relations with the local Administration and transhumant herd keepers.

Issues that rose during the discussions

- Participants expressed interest in the project activities and explained some of the work they had already undertaken in the different field activities into their respective associations.
- Some concrete ideas and actions emerged during the discussions.
- The mission explained that it hoped the local authorities in and around the project site would support and help make the projects a success. The Sultan welcomed the idea, the objective and purpose of the project and mentioned that the project will play a major role in contributing to solve conflict in this part of the country where conflicts are current.

Recommendations

- The Waza Park and the Mandiago Canton in the Logon Birni (Cameroun) and Diouga (Chad) are the sites recommended for implementation of project.
- The project community from the Nigeria needs to be identified.