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Mission report to the WAP Complex

Reporting Officers	Dr N'Guetta Austin Bosso
Country visited	Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso
Dates of visit	12 th February to 19 th February 2011
Date of report	6 th March 2011
Purpose of visit	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Visit the project site (Diapaga, Partiaga and Kondjo)• Discuss with communities (around the W Park Burkina Faso side)• Meet with National Focal point of Niger and Burkina Faso and hold meetings with local NGOs involved in the project and project beneficiaries.

Background

The Livestock for Livelihoods Project (L4LP) is executed by AU-IBAR and is active in several African countries with the overall aim of strengthening livelihoods based on livestock and improving food security and environment in arid and semi-arid zones. In Niger, Burkina Faso and Benin, the activities of the Project will be conducted in the area shared by the three countries namely the WAP complex including the W-Arly-Pendjari Parks.

The inception phase of the Project has now ended and field activities have start. A mission was conducted from the 12th February to the 19th February 2011 in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso. During this mission a concertation meeting was organized between the Project Coordinator, the Focal Points (Niger, Burkina Faso) and implementing NGOs (IUCN and AWF). Benin did not have its representative since Dr Atchadé acting until then as Focal Point was replaced and the new one was not yet officially designated. The aim was to discuss practical implementation of the Project and clarify roles and responsibilities of the Focal Points. It has also been used to meet the actors and project beneficiaries and organize a field visit in some part of the intervention area. Niger has been represented at this meeting by Dr. Abouba Saidou Focal Point of the project. Burkina Faso has been represented by Mr Kaboré Yamba, Dr Edith Voukoma, Mr Somé. IUCN was represented by Mrs Honadia Clarisse, Dr Moumini Savadogo. AWF was represented by Dr Moumouni Ouédraogo. This report provides an update on the progress of this mission.

Mission outputs

Time	Activity
13 February 2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Travel by air to Ouagadougou • Arrival in Ouagadougou and start of mission
14 February 2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting with IUCN • Meeting at la direction Générale de l'Élevage et des Aménagements Pastoraux • Introduction to the new appointed Burkina Faso focal point Yamba Kaboré • Courtesy visit to the Ministry Secretary General • Travel to Diapaga (W Park) • Meeting with local administrative authorities • Meeting with the decentralized services for the environnement
15 February 2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting with local administrative authorities in Diapaga • Meeting with the decentralized services for Livestock and for agriculture in Diapaga • Meeting with AWF
16 February 2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Field visit and discussion with local stakeholders in Kondio • Visit the Kalbouli grazing area in Partiaga, discussions with the grazing Committee around the strategies for the rehabilitation of the area
17 February 2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting AGED
18 February 2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting and discussions with la direction Générale de l'Élevage et des aménagements pastoraux and IUCN
19 February 2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Travel by air to Nairobi • Back to Nairobi and end of mission

Main findings

Meetings with Focal points

The coordination mechanism, the roles and responsibilities of the national Focal Points were discussed, explained and agreed upon to better serve the needs of the beneficiaries of the project and contribute to an effective and concrete implementation of the project. The organization of regular meetings with the implementing partner to discuss concerns related to the overall operations was strongly encouraged.

Meeting with implementing partners

The main focus of the discussion was as well on the coordination mechanism. Furthermore, we discussed the draft TORs of the workshops to launch the activities in the 3 countries and how to ensure that project results are achieved. National Focal Points were asked to give indicative dates for holding the workshops. The project partners thereafter discussed several administrative issues as well as partnership dynamics and interactions between the local project partners, before the mission took off for a field visit to the project site.

Meeting with the team of the Direction Générale de l'Élevage et des Aménagements Pastoraux

The new team was introduced since Dr Kissou Dominique was officially replaced by Mr Kabore Yamba. The new team expressed the will to be involved in the implementation of the activities (animal health, conflict resolution) on the field beside the coordination aspect. The mission was informed that the country contract was received and already signed, and was waiting for the

financial department to open an account for the project before sending back the contract signed to AU-IBAR.

The mission took the opportunity to pay a courtesy call on Mr Josué Tamini Secretary General of the ministry of animal resources. The Secretary General welcomed the mission and mentioned that the project was playing a role in paving the way to regional integration and reiterated the support of the Government of Burkina Faso and expressed his confidence.

Meeting with local administrative authorities and decentralized services (livestock, environment and agriculture)

At arrival in Diapaga the mission paid a courtesy call to the administrative authorities and the decentralized services (livestock, environment and agriculture) to provide information on and promote the project initiative. The mission explained that it hoped the local authorities in and around the project site would support and help make the projects a success. They welcomed the idea, the objective and purpose of the project.

Field visit and meeting with local communities

Local communities flocked to the meetings organized to learn more about the initiative, it was a good opportunity to share experiences in beekeeping activities in Kondjo and grazing activities in Partiaga. 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 communities. From the discussions, it appears that cotton culture has a tremendous impact on pollination thus on honey production. The community in Partiaga expressed the need to be helped in obtaining official administrative papers for the grazing zone. The combination of the setting with the enthusiasm created an environment of frank and open dialogue where various viewpoints were presented and valuable information was shared between the mission and the communities.

Recommendations

- Networks: IUCN has a significant experience and expertise, including good networks with the local communities, all of which should benefit the operation in a systematic way.
- Build on the momentum: There is a desire and a need of the communities to participate in the project, at the same time, there is significant capacity to do so, both among national and NGO partners.
- Engagement: Focal points must be engaged and translate their actions into practice if any results are to be achieved. One solution for this is to ensure that the project is fully up and running and that the agendas are presented during the inception meetings planned.
- Strengthen the cohesion of project consortium: With the new appointments of Focal points (Burkina Faso and Benin) there is a need to strengthen the cohesion of the project consortium through introduction and communication of all partners active on the project site.
- The impact of cotton culture on the quality and quantity of honey should be further investigated