

First Progress report

Reporting period November 2010 – January 2011

1. PROJECT GENERAL INFORMATION

implementing Agency:	Vétérinaires Sans Frontieres – Belgium (VSF B)
Project partners:	MADEFO (Matheniko Development Forum) - Uganda DADO (Dodoth Agro-Pastoralist Development Organisation) - Uganda TUPADO (Turkana Pastoralist Development Organisation) - Kenya VETWORKS and DIOCESE of TORIT in Sudan
Geographical Scope:	Karamoja Cluster
Participating Countries:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Uganda - Kenya - Sudan
Total Budget	US\$ 801,255
Co-financing:	0
Total Cost:	US\$ 801,255
Disbursement as of 30 March 2011	US\$ 319,038.30
Actual expenditures reported as of:	US\$ 15,537.30 (up to December 2010).
Total co-financing realized as:	Cash: 00.00
	Kind: 00.00

2. Project status as per the last reporting period

NA for the first report

3. Achievements during the reporting period

The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between AU-IBAR and VSF Belgium was signed end of September (30th September) 2010. This was followed by the transfer of funds to ease effective project activities in the field.

VSF Belgium anticipated in re-negotiating the contract of key staffs to be involved in the project implementation as its major projects in Karamoja were ending.

Though VSF Belgium operates in the Kenya Karamoja known as *Turkana* and *Pokot*, in Sudan with the *Jie* and *Toposa*, its actions with the *Karamojong* in Ugandan was focused on Moroto district.

Initial field missions were conducted for a better identification of project focus. This includes:

- The geographical location of the “hot spot” on focus in the project proposal and known as interface Livestock – Wild life – environment/agriculture area: Kidepo Valley National Park.
- The identification of communities leaving in the targeted areas, their inter-relations, livelihood, challenges, their relationship and interaction with the wildlife and the management department (Uganda Wildlife Authority: UWA),
- Contact with the local administration mainly at the District level in Kaabong including RDC (Resident District Council), CAO (Chief Administrative officer), and the District technical departments (Production, Veterinary, Cooperative and Water Departments),
- Identification and initial contact of CSOs (Civil Society organisations) operating at district level and/or field level. This focused on the 3 countries covered by the project and specifically in the Ugandan side of the “hot spot” in Kaabong District.
- At targeted countries level, the general/regional and national coordination concept has been highly considered. Any steps engaged so far in the project implementation has been done in consultation and involvement with the national focal persons in Uganda and Kenya.

The project actions concretely started end of November 2010, with the joint field visit in the project area involving, the AU-IBAR project coordinator, the national focal persons from Uganda and Kenya, VSF B project implementation staff. It culminated with the official launch in the project area on December 1st, 2010 by an inception workshop in Moroto. The inception workshop registered the full participation of:

- District officials for Moroto (official opening by the RDC of Moroto) and Kaabong (closure by the CAO of Kaabong),
- National focal persons from Uganda and Kenya and an official from the Sudanese Ministry of Livestock,
- Civil society organisations (CSOs) from Kenya, Uganda and Sudan,
- VSF B, project staff both from Kenya and Uganda implementation area,
- District technical departments of Moroto.

The project was presented both by AU-IBAR represented by the project Coordinator and VSF Belgium as the main field implementing partner.

The major outcomes of the meeting were:

- the official introduction of the project to stakeholders, partners and the assurance of strong support expressed by the local authorities,
- the update of the project workplan per region to be covered.

4. Project status

The project is at its very early stage and it will be over anticipating in pointing any tangibles progress towards the objectives.

Despite the formal and informal contacts towards implementation of project activities, December 2010, can be considered as a quick off, of project activities through the inception workshop.

Unfortunately December has been a month of low activity due to season break. The slow down in the activities has been also affected by the pending elections in Uganda. The focus of the communities and the targeted district officials were some how committed to the preparation of the said elections. The Ugandan, the Presidential and parliamentary elections are characterized by a lengthy electoral campaign. The elections were planned for February 2011, while the campaign was officially launched since December, leading to a complete diversion of population attention.

On another hand, no clear activities could be carried out in Sudan as the Referendum planned for South Sudan was also about to be carried in the same time frame. Though the VSF B project team managed to seek the participation of 2 CSOs from Sudan and a technician from the Ministry of Livestock, the latter, due to Referendum could not benefit an official mandate as Project focal point in Sudan,

Kenya had its referendum late August 2010 and was left as the only operational area where project activities could have been actively carried out. Unfortunately attention of most NGOs and implementing partners was focus on addressing the impact/ effect of the "la Nina" on the pastoral communities in the dry lands, which happened to be Livestock for Livelihood project intervention zone.

However, advantage has been taken by the project team to strengthen linkages with the field implementing partners by working on the partnership and agreements. This timeframe has been also considered in the identification of consultants for specific up coming interventions.

5. Project implementation progress

Outputs	Expected completion date ¹	Implementation status as of (%)	Comments if variance ² . Describe any problems in delivering outputs
Output 1: Sustainable natural resource management systems established at the livestock-wildlife-agriculture interface			
Activity 1: <i>Identification of policy entry points for supporting the implementation of priority adaptation options in pastoral and agro pastoral systems</i>	February 2011	3%	In process, but delayed by Local and Presidential elections in Uganda. South Sudan being part of the focus on this project, no proper actions could start as the referendum was scheduled during this same quarter. Major focus in the coming quarter.
Activity 2: <i>Development of Natural resources management plans (CBNRM) and M&E frameworks</i>	July 2013	2%	Though a delay is registered in the Pre-monitoring baseline, others actions (<i>capacity building on NRM, development of NRM plan and monitoring</i>) are still up-to-date.
Activity 3: <i>Establishment of functional Peace building and conflict resolution committees</i>	December 2011	2%	Still up-to-date as planned to effectively start in March and run throughout project time frame.
Output 2: Degraded lands restored and rehabilitated through participatory community-based actions			
Activity 4: <i>Development of Zonation including grazing plans and Establishment of grazing committees</i>	December 2011	5%	Same as above.
Activity 5: <i>Community-led rehabilitation of degraded land</i>	July 2013	1%	Same as above.
Output 3: 'Climate-Proof' livestock production systems and alternative means of livelihood provided to pastoral and agro-pastoral production systems in ASALs			
Activity 6: <i>Training and support to alternative and climate-proof livelihoods and livestock production interventions</i>	August 2011	2%	Same as above.
Activity 7: <i>Strengthening Community based disease surveillance and Provision of animal healthcare services involving appropriate treatments against other endemic and production diseases and based on a cost recovery basis</i>	December 2013	1%	Same as above.
Activity 8: <i>Strengthening local/grassroots livestock market associations (Training, institutional support and</i>	April 2011	2%	Same as above.

¹ As per latest workplan (latest project revision)

² Variance refers to the difference between the expected and actual progress at the time of reporting.

Outputs	Expected completion date ¹	Implementation status as of (%)	Comments if variance ² . Describe any problems in delivering outputs
<i>infrastructure)</i>			
Activity 9 : <i>Strengthening women groups to develop basic entrepreneurial capacities</i>	July 2013	2%	Planned to start by April 2011 and run through out project timeframe.
Output 4: Enhanced awareness and information sharing of best practices on sustainable natural resources management practices in response to increasing risks and vulnerability from Climate Change at the livestock-wildlife interface			
Activity 10: <i>Identification of the target groups and facilitation of exchange visits for the dissemination of success stories and lessons learnt</i>	April 2011	7%	Planned to start as for May 2011 when visits opportunities will be identified.
Activity 11: <i>Documentation of the success stories and lessons learnt and sharing of information</i>	January 2013	3%	Planned for 2012 and further.
Activity 12: <i>Dissemination and progress assessment workshops</i>	January 2013	3%	Planned for 2012 and further.

Relating direct actions initiated in the field to the budget consumption, we can assume that an average level of 3% of project activities are to date implemented. The foundation is laid down for a smooth implementation of all the project activities.

6. Action plan to address problems identified

Action(s) to be taken	By whom?	By when?
Finalise agreement with local implementing partners	VSF B to take the lead and to have the full adherence of partners.	Latest early April 2011
Have complementary equipment for field operations (vehicle and motors).	VSF B, with the support of project unit at AU-IBAR	Latest early April 2011

7. Progress towards achieving the project objective (s)

Project objective and Outcomes	Description of indicator	Baseline level	Mid-term target	End-of-project target	Level at	Comments
Objective	Too early for visible outcome.					Project at early stage
Outcome 1:	Too early for visible outcome.					Project at early stage
Outcome 2:	Too early for visible outcome.					Project at early stage
Outcome 3:	Too early for visible outcome.					Project at early stage
Outcome 3:	Too early for visible outcome.					Project at early stage
Outcome 4	Too early for visible outcome.					Project at early stage