

Darwin Initiative: Half Year Report

(due 31 October 2014)

Project Ref No	20-010
Project Title:	Social Assessment of Protected Areas (SAPA)
Country(ies)	Gabon, Kenya, Gambia, Senegal, Uganda
Lead Organisation	International Institute for Environment and Development
Collaborator(s)	Global: International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Global: United Nations Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) Global and Gabon: Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) Global, Kenya and Uganda: Fauna & Flora International (FFI) Gabon: Agence National des Parc Nationaux (ANPN) Kenya: Laikipia Wildlife Forum (LWF) Gambia and Senegal: TBD
Project Leader	Dilys Roe, IIED
Report date and number (eg HYR3)	1/4/14 – 30/9/14 HYR2
Project website	http://www.iied.org/assessing-social-impacts-protected-areas

1. Outline progress over the last 6 months (April – Sept) against the agreed baseline timetable for the project (if your project has started less than 6 months ago, please report on the period since start up to end September).

Introduction

The focus of this project is to develop guidance and tools for assessing the social impacts of protected areas (PAs). More specifically the SAPA project aims to develop a low cost methodology for social assessment that can be used by protected area managers and their national and local-level NGO partners to enhance the positive impacts (benefits) of PA's and avoid or mitigate any negative social impacts (costs). Having focused on developing the conceptual framework, the assessment process and basic guidance in year 1, the focus of this six month period (months 13-18 of the project) has been field testing the methodology at one site in Kenya and one site in Gabon, and further development of guidance and tools.

Activity 1.3: development of additional guidance and tools

The draft SAPA guidance document that was attached to the year 1 report has been further elaborated into an IIED working paper which is the format that IIED uses to report on work in progress. This is currently undergoing final editing prior to launching at the World Parks Congress (from Nov 15th it will be available on the SAPA page of the IIED website). The working paper includes three tools attached in an annex which have been developed over the last six months::

- Focus group discussion for initial Identification and prioritisation of social impacts
- Users matrix to analyse and summarise information needs of key stakeholders
- Household survey basic template

Activity 1.4: field testing

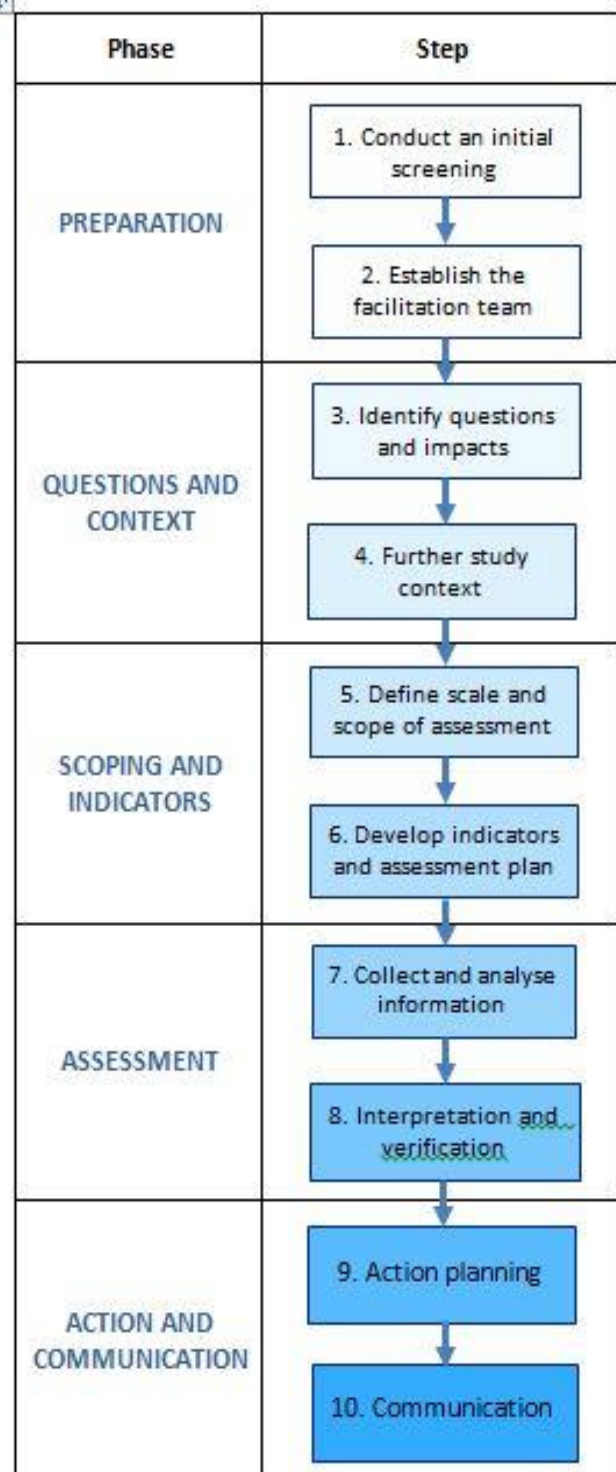
The SAPA methodology for assessing the social impacts of PAs is based on a 10 step process. The actual assessment part of the process is completed by step 8 leaving action planning (step 9) and communication of results and plans (step 8) to be conducted in the following 6 months.

Following the completion of step 4 in March, the SAPA facilitation team at the Kenya site (OI Pejeta Conservancy) met in May to finalise the assessment questions, priority impacts to assess and develop indicators (steps 5-6). The team decided to use a simple household survey as the primary information collection tool and this was developed based on the household survey template tool, and pretested. Following a process of community mapping to develop the sampling frame, the survey was then conducted over a ten day period in early-mid July by staff of the PA and local enumerators with support from FFI. Data analysis was conducted by FFI and IIED staff during August and early September. Step 8 comprises two key activities:

- Facilitate Focus Group Discussions to verify results and further explore key issues
- Organise 2nd stakeholder workshop to review results & generate recommendations

These were completed in September. The second and final stakeholder workshop was well attended by over 40 representatives of PA management, local communities and local government.

In Gabon steps 1 and 2 were completed in March /April. The fieldwork then started in early May with the initial focus group discussions that are the platform for identify key social impacts for further in-depth assessment followed by the first stakeholder workshop that introduces stakeholders to the process and generates the assessment questions (elements of step 3). Steps 5 and 6 were completed in July and a similar household survey to the one used in Kenya was conducted in August by WCS staff with local enumerators. Data analysis is currently underway. The assessment stage of the process will be concluded in December.



Activity 1.5: Revision of draft framework and guidance

Over the last six months substantial revisions to the SAPA conceptual framework, process, guidance and tools have been made based on the experience emerging from field testing. Discussions with peer researchers have also been key, notably with researchers from University of Southampton working on equity in the context of conservation and payments for ecosystem services, researchers from CIFOR working on equity and REDD+ and researchers from Imperial College working on assessing the impacts of conservation on human well-being. Revision of the SAPA framework, guidance and tools will continue over the next year informed further field testing, reaction to the SAPA working paper, discussions at the World Parks Congress in November 2014 (see next section), and discussions at the International Congress for Conservation Biology in August 2015.

Activity 1.6: Present and consult on draft guidance at World Parks Congress

The World Parks Congress is a crucial event for this project. The contribution of PA's to poverty reduction and sustainable development and the commitment in CBD Aichi target 11 to equitable management of PAs are issues that will no doubt get significant attention and this will raise the question, once again, of how PA managers and other key stakeholders can assess/measure the social impacts of PAs without having to resort to very expensive, long term research projects. This is exactly the need that SAPA is designed to address. Over the last six months IIED has planned 3 side events at WPC that will feature SAPA:

- PA governance and equity (co-organised with GIZ and Forest Peoples' Programme)
- Social assessment of PAs (with presentations from WCMC, FFI and WCS)
- Discussion forum on PAs, equity and poverty

Activity 2.1: Implementation of SAPA framework in one site in each host country

As noted earlier SAPA has already been implemented in Kenya and Gabon. The third country was supposed to be Liberia but this plan has been abandoned because of the Ebola epidemic and FFI has instead proposed Uganda where the focus will be Ruwenzori National Park. This will start in January 2015 as part of the second cycle of field testing. Building on a project of WCMC, work in the Gambia and Senegal, will start in April 2015, and a suitable local partner has already been identified (Energie, Environnement et Developpement – ENDA). It is expected that at least two other sites in two other countries will also participate in the second cycle – to be identified through discussions at World Parks Congress.

Linkages between social assessment, governance assessment and PA management effectiveness evaluation

Not surprisingly, when people hear about SAPA they ask how social assessment relates to the other two types of assessment of PAs - PA management effectiveness (PAME) evaluation which in its various forms has now been conducted at 13000 sites world-wide, and PA governance assessment which, like SAPA, is at an early stage of piloting. IIED is actively involved in work on PA governance, notably in Africa, and WCMC is very actively engaged in PAME. IIED presented some initial thinking of the inter-relationship of the three forms of assessment at a High Level Dialogue on Improving PA governance in Southern Africa in May 2014. In preparation for this IIED contracted WCMC to do a piece of research on how PAME currently addresses social and governance issues with a particular focus on the inter-relationship of the three approaches in the context of effective and equitable PA management (CBD Aichi target 11). Although this has not been funded by Darwin Initiative or co-funding already committed to this project we mention this work as it will make an important contribution to this project as it moves forward.

2a. Give details of any notable problems or unexpected developments that the project has encountered over the last 6 months. Explain what impact these could have on the project and whether the changes will affect the budget and timetable of project activities.

The Ebola epidemic in Liberia will prevent the project from working in that country. FFI has already identified a site in Uganda as an alternative. This will affect the budget and an appropriate change request is being submitted with this report. No other significant problems.

2b. Have any of these issues been discussed with LTS International and if so, have changes been made to the original agreement?

Discussed with LTS: Yes

Formal change request submitted: Yes (at the same time as this report)

Received confirmation of change acceptance No

3a. Do you currently expect to have any significant (eg more than £5,000) underspend in your budget for this year?

Yes No Estimated underspend: £

3b. If yes, then you need to consider your project budget needs carefully as it is unlikely that any requests to carry forward funds will be approved this year. Please remember that any funds agreed for this financial year are only available to the project in this financial year.

If you anticipate a significant underspend because of justifiable changes within the project and would like to talk to someone about the options available this year, please indicate below when you think you might be in a position to do this and what the reasons might be:

4. Are there any other issues you wish to raise relating to the project or to Darwin's management, monitoring, or financial procedures?

If you were asked to provide a response to this year's annual report review with your next half year report, please attach your response to this document.

Please note: Any planned modifications to your project schedule/workplan can be discussed in this report but **should also be raised with LTS International through a Change Request.**

Please send your **completed report by email** to Eilidh Young at Darwin-Projects@ltsi.co.uk . The report should be between 2-3 pages maximum. **Please state your project reference number in the header of your email message eg Subject: 20-035 Darwin Half Year Report**