



Conservation & Ecosystem Health Alliance

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PROGRESS TECHNICAL REPORT (October, 2011 to March, 2012): Foundation and Establishment of CEHA Program Activities and Projects in the Albertine Ecosystem.

Specific Report on Project Title: Development of EcoHealth Research and Training Capacity in Uganda

Under

Grant Support: Ecosystem Health Initiative, University of Mennisota

March, 2012



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Introduction:

CEHA is a Non Governmental Organisation incorporated in USA (Ref: 6773-205-7; EIN number 611648348) in March, 2011 and locally registered in Uganda under Uganda NGO Registration Board (Reg No: 8940) in Nov, 2011. CEHA was purposely registered to operate as charitable organization to initiate and implement conservation and research program at wildlife-human-livestock interface to promote co-existence, health and conservation of ecosystems throughout Africa with One Health Concept Approach.

CEHA's mission is **"To achieve sustainable conservation through multidisciplinary research while promoting nature conservation, ecosystem and human health "**with a vision for *better world and healthy environment for all.*

To achieve the above mission, CEHA is glad to have received an initial grant for the first year from University of Minnesota (UMN) under the project title: **Development of EcoHealth Research and Training Capacity in Uganda** . The project is being implemented in the Albertine Ecosystem between Budongo and Bugoma Forest Reserve within Hoima, Masindi and Kibale Districts.

Project implementations started in October, 2011 and therefore wish to report on the implementation process since inception.

1. Completion of Legal requirements for registration and operation. CEHA is proud upon achievement of completing the entire process of NGO registration both in USA and Uganda as per references: USA (Ref: 6773-205-7; EIN number 611648348) in March, 2011 and locally registered in Uganda under Uganda NGO Registration Board (Reg No: 8940) in Nov, 2011. CEHA also submitted application forms for the Tax exemption (503c) under USA Laws in January, 2011 and except feedback by end of March, 2012. This has been important landmark for CEHA as it facilitates all processes of working with other partners and glad to inform the partners that activities are on-going-
2. CEHA undertook the process of introducing her activity plan to various stakeholders through meetings and initiation of MOU process with relevant organizations and institutions both in Kampala_Entebbe and Districts in the project area.



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The process has been on-going since October 2011 and several stakeholders have been meet purposely introducing CEHA plans and discussing potentials areas of collaboration. CEHA profile was compiled and every stakeholder was given the document for reference. For stakeholders requiring MOU, the Master MOU document was developed and reviewed differently to meet the needs of different stakeholders. The following Partners were as summarized below:

No	Organisation	Contact Person	Level of collaboration	MOU/NO MOU	Comments
1	Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA)	Director Conservation: Charles Tumwesigye	Supportive	Drafted MOU submitted and discussed	No need for MOU at this point but pledged all support required
2	Chimpanzee Sanctuary & Wildlife Conservation Trust (CSWCT)	Executive Director: Lilly Ajarova	On-going collaboration and discussion	MOU to be worked on	
3	Jane Goodall Institute, Uganda	ED, Panta Kansoma	Supportive	MOU not required at this stage	Update
5	Poverty & Conservation Learning Group (PCLG)	Chairperson: Panta Kansoma	Member	MOU not required	Attend PCLG meetings and develop shared projects
6	Nature Harness Initiatives (NAHI)	ED: Byamukama	On-going discussion	MOU to be worked on	Identify areas of collaboration esp research
7	Hoima District Local Government	Chief Administrative Officer Through Dr. Kajura Henry	Identify areas of collaboration, Meetings with other	MoU in final stages of signing	Attended and presented during 2 District Technical Planning



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			relevant departments		Committee in Dec and Feb, 2012
8	Budongo Field Research Project	Project Director: Geoffrey Muhanguzi	Discussing modalities of collaboration	MOU not required	Meetings and Station visits
9	TradeLinks, Hoima	Kalule John Bosco	Meetings	MOU not required	Information sharing
10	Trias, Hoima	Barigye Julius	meetings	MOU not required	Information sharing
	Other meetings				
11	National Forestry Authority (NFA), Hoima	Owiny Robert, Bugoma Sector Manager	Meetings and CEHA Introduction	MOU not required	Information sharing
12	Hoima Regional Referral Hospital	Dr: Mulwany Francis Wambuzi, Hospital Director	Identify areas of collaboration and resource sharing	MOU not required	
13	Hoima Municipal Council	Town Clerk	Official authorization for our office operations	MOU not required	Signpost positioning
14	Central Government Representative	Resident District Commissioner	Reporting and official security registration	MOU not required	Updating the office of our activities

3. Acquisition of Office Space in Hoima

As part of partnership and collaboration with Hoima District Local Government under the MOU, CEHA was allocated an operation office space in the former old administration block, police road, opposite Post Office, Hoima Municipal Council.

The office was officially handed over to CEHA on 15th Feb, 2012 by the Deputy Chief Administrative in the presence of the District Production Coordinator, District Veterinary Officer and the District Planner. The office is next to the Vet laboratory that has not been in use for some years and also assigned to CEHA for use and equipping as may be necessary. The office space and the lab were in poor condition which required extensive cleaning and re-painting which was done during this trip from 14th to 24rd Feb, 2012 (photos included for reference)



Two signposts of different sizes were also processed; one located in front of the office and another one to be strategically positioned along the Hoima Main Road. This will help improve corporate image for the organization and provide direction.



4. Recruitment of Field Assistants

CEHA recruited two field Assistants engaged on temporary basis and assigned specific milestones. The field assistants underwent induction for two 14th to 24th February, 2012 by meeting various stakeholders and field visit sites in Masindi and Hoima Districts.

- a) Joseph Mukasa Ngubwagye, Bachelor of Wildlife Health and Management (BWHM)
- b) Irumba Henry, Certificate and National Diploma in Forestry

5. Field visits

- a) The first field visit was undertaken from 9th to 14th October, 2011 to Hoima, Kibale and Masindi Districts which included meeting different stakeholders as earlier reported and visits to fragmented forests for environmental scan and talking to key informants and local leaders. A field assistant (NABAMBEJJA SHARIFAH, B.WHM) was among the team during the trip as part of capacity building. The following forest fragments were visited and meet with chimp monitors working in those fragments:

Itohya forest located in Kinzirafubi Sub-county, Muteme Parish owned by the Hoima catholic diocese with an approximate size of 518ha and with about 50-70 chimpanzees. It surrounded by the following several villages namely; Kinywambeho, Kihaguzi, Kichompwo, Itohya, Kigozi, Rwobuhuka, Kasoga, Kiryatete and Kisambya. These chimpanzees are monitored by two chimp monitors.

Rwebikondo forest in Bugambe Sub-county surrounded by tea estates owned by Bugambe tea estate. The chimps in the forest are monitored by one person Steven Byenkya

Mparangasi forest fragment in Kyabingabire Sub-county where CSWCT constructed an Education Centre (Kyamalera Wildlife Education centre).

Kisenyi Fragmented forests along a swamp in Busanga Sub-County, Kibale District. The forest has almost disappeared and few chimps still use the patch spending most of the time in cultivated fields.

Budogo Forest Reserve, Masindi District specifically visiting Sonso Research Centre under the management of Budongo Field Research Project briefing their resident vet of CEHA's planned activities. Sonso sector has about 70 habituated chimps

Kasokwa Forest Patch with about 13 chimps surrounded by sugar cane plantations along Hoima-Masindi road.

b) 2nd Field visit 14th to 24th Feb, 2012

This field visit was undertaken together with two field assists (Joseph and Henry) hired for the project. Several fragments of forest in Hoima, Kibale and Masindi Districts were visited introducing the field assistants to project interests. Prior to field visits, the team meet briefly chimpanzee monitors from most of the fragments in Hoima attending training on community engagement and monitoring by CSWCT. I briefed the monitors about our activities as they will be engaged in the implementation phase.



The field visit extended to forest reserves under the management of National Forestry Authority mainly Budongo, Bugoma and others reserves like Siba Reserve mainly to see the interconnections and the gaps. A quick scan into the forest fragments is quite devastating as most of the have been/being cut and burnt down especially during the dry season stretching from Dec, 2011 to Feb, 2012 including commercial forests as photos below. As results chimpanzees are frequently seen moving in open grounds.





Muteme, Kizirafumbi, Feb, 2012

Man found cutting the besides forest





Chimp stranded in the degraded forest

6. Improving Animal-Human Health in Hoima

CEHA allocated office in Hoima was turned into a theatre and clinic from 20th to 22nd Feb, 2012 following mobilization of residents from Hoima Municipal Council to bring their dogs for rabies vaccination and elective surgeries to control rabies and dog population in conjunction with District Veterinary Department and two vets from Andorra, Spain. The purpose was to launch CEHA activities within Hoima and capacity buildings of vets with handson surgeries. This was very successful with 200 dogs vaccinated, 12 dogs spayed and more than 20 castrated. All dogs presented for vaccination were dewormed using albendazole and injected with ivermectin for ectoparasite control.



7. Media Coverage

On 17th Feb, 2011, CEHA held a talk show on Radio Hoima in conjunction with District Production coordinator for 1 hour from 9:30pm to 10:30pm for mobilization and campaign against rabies in Hoima Town and introducing CEHA to the general public. We had good responses from public with various questions during call-in time. On 20th Feb, 2012, the activities were part of the English and local news on two radio stations in Hoima. On 21st Feb, 2012, CEHA team was interviewed by journalists from Spice Radio, Liberty Radio, Weekly Observer and Red Pepper media prints on the purpose and role of CEHA in the district and rabies control exercise. I secured some of the records from the radio stations.

8. MOU presentation

The reviewed MOU with Hoima District Local Government was presented to the District Technical Planning Steering Committee on 24th Feb, 2012 for final input before presentation for signing scheduled for 1st March, 2012. This was preceded with PowerPoint presentation on the profile of the organization and its background. We received very good inputs and the MOU was finalized and signed on 1st March, 2012



9. Research

CEHA has got a strong pillar in research organized under Ecosystem Research Group and has been interesting different stakeholders and individuals to undertake collaborative research at wildlife-human and livestock interface. We are also looking at different calls for proposals to start the process of grant writing. In this bid, I received a concept proposal from Hoima District Production Coordinator to undertake a **Survey on the existence and prevalence of brucellosis in Hoima District** as a PhD proposal with preliminary samples under storage at MAAIF. This is part of CEHA's capacity building approach to local personnel to improve their skills. In line with this, we are now prepared to host international interns, volunteers and students to strengthen the capacity in ecohealth initiatives.



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10. Conclusions

- Organisation is now well established to operate in the Albertine ecosystem with operation office located in Hoima and Administrative office at Makerere University.
- The EcoHealth Initiative Grant support has provided the landmark for the operationalisation of CEHA activities in the region and is facilitating the process of baseline data collection.
- Last but not least very grateful for the support, guidance and mentoring from various stakeholders.

For more information and details, please contact

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