



WWF FINLAND

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME 2019

RIGHTS, RESPONSIBILITIES AND RESOURCES

THRIVING ENVIRONMENT - WELLBEING OF PEOPLE



ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

AFC	Agro-Forest Consultant
APA	Annual Performance Agreement
CBO	Community Based Organization
CEO	Chief Executive Officer
CFUG	Community Forest User Group
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
DAC	Development Assistance Committee
DANIDA	Danish International Development Agency
DFDP	District Forestry Development Plan
EAC	East African Community
ESSF	Environmental and Social Safeguards Framework
EU	European Union
EUR	Euro
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation
FLR	Forest Landscape Restoration
FPIC	Free, Prior, Informed Consent
HH	Household
HoB	Heart of Borneo
HRBA	Human rights-based approach
ICCA	Indigenous and Community Conservation Area
ICT	Information and Communications Technology
IKI	International Climate Initiative
INGO	International Non-Governmental Organisation
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
KSK	District Strategic Areas (Indonesia)
LCCO	CSOs Coordination Office (Laos)
MCDI	Mpingo Conservation and Development Initiative (Tanzania)
MFA	Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland
MoEF	Ministry of Environment and Forestry
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding (agreement)
MTR	Mid-Term Review
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NORAD	Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation
NPA	Non-Profit Association
NRCS	Nepal Red Cross Society
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
PRA	Participatory Rural Appraisal
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SFM	Sustainable Forest Management
SWC	Social Welfare Council
SIDA	Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
SME	Small and Medium size Enterprise
SST	Safeguards Screening Tool
TAL	Terai Arc Landscape (Nepal)
TFCA	Tropical Forest Conservation Act
TRAFFIC	The Wildlife Trade Monitoring Network
UK	United Kingdom
UN	United Nations
UN HLPF	High-Level Political Forum
UNGA	United Nations General Assembly
USD	United States Dollar
VTT	Technical Research Centre of Finland
WCPA	World Commission on Protected Areas

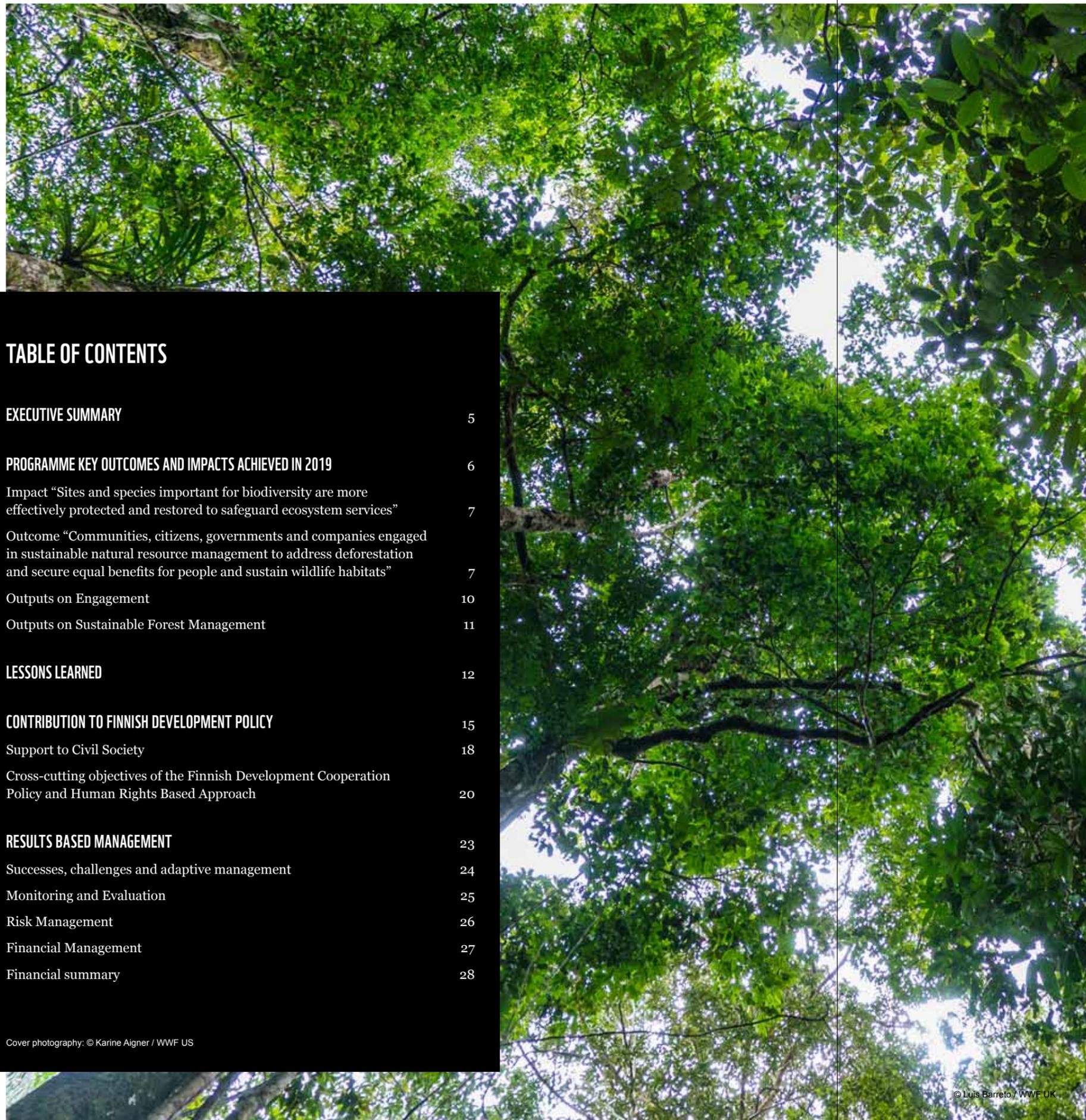


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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 2019 WWF Finland and its partners continued the implementation of the programme as indicated in the programme document and annual work plan. Based on the analysis of the programme indicators on this report and the Mid-Term Review of the programme it can be said that the programme is still in line to contribute towards the programme’s outcome and impact, which aims to safeguard the ecosystem services for the benefit of nature and people.

In 2019 the programme already achieved its target on the amount of forests under improved management which reached 1,3 million hectares (target 1,1 million hectares). The programme is progressing towards also achieving its target on the number of beneficiaries, there were a total 23,823 (11,246f and 12,577m) direct beneficiaries for the programme in 2019. WWF offices continued close cooperation with the national governments, regional entities and other stakeholders which led to several WWF approved and promoted approaches and systems were taken into account. The programme supported 186 local CSOs and CBOs empowering them to manage their forests, provide services to the communities and to engage the policy processes. Three years ago we were hesitant to put a target on zero poaching strategies in East Africa but in 2019 we have witnessed that the governments are preparing zero poaching strategies in several iconic conservation areas with the assistance of WWF. In 2019 WWF Finland continued its work on high level political engagement by participating the UN HLPF (High Level Political Meeting) meeting by CEO of WWF Finland

as part of the Finnish delegation and bringing Finnish President Niinistö’s statement to the 74th United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) WWF side event (Leaders for Nature and People).

In addition to these concrete achievements in 2019 it was clearly seen that the importance of biodiversity protection was raised in the global agenda which was reflecting also on the broader public. For example, in Finland awareness of impacts of food consumption to the climate and biodiversity has increased, leading to that consumption of meat did not increase anymore and availability of vegetarian and vegan options has increased. WWF Finland has attained a key role on the global WWF network on leading the Sustainable Diets work and we were also able to raise extensive support from the EU to significantly increase WWF offices involvement on promoting sustainable diets and active citizenship. The project encompasses 11 countries in Europe and Latin America.

There were no major challenges on the implementation of the programme but it was seen that in some countries the entitlement of civil societies to work has been changing which may influence also WWF’s capacity to address issues in some of WWF Finland’s partner countries in coming years. In 2019 it became evident that climate change is influencing the communities and pushing them to rely even more on the resources from the forests so the need to find more sustainable ways of benefiting from forest and creating alternative sustainable livelihoods has increased.

PROGRAMME KEY OUTCOMES AND IMPACTS ACHIEVED IN 2019



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IMPACT “SITES AND SPECIES IMPORTANT FOR BIODIVERSITY ARE MORE EFFECTIVELY PROTECTED AND RESTORED TO SAFEGUARD ECOSYSTEM SERVICES”

Programme’s contribution and progress towards programme impact level indicators is briefly described in this chapter and the annex 1 (Result framework). There were no substantial changes on assumptions or general working environment in 2019 which would have influenced the programme’s impact level. In 2019 there was no extensive update on the species monitoring data from WWF Finland partner countries. Surveys of the species are not conducted every year, since they are a big effort. Based on the preliminary information it seems that the rhino and elephant populations in Kenya are increasing. Next WWF network Living Planet report will be published in 2020, so there is no information available on the Living Planet Index for 2019. WWF monitor’s the state of nature biannually with our flagship report, The Living Planet Report. The Report examines both the world’s biodiversity and human ecological footprint. The next Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) Global Forest Resources Assessment will be published in 2020. This means that for WWF Finland Partnership Programme Impact level indicators there was limited data available in 2019, we have acknowledged already in the programme planning phase that the data is not available annually on impact level.

Based on the observations of similar global trends as the indicator values were not available the situation in 2019 remained the same as in the previous years and in the beginning of the programme (deforestation continues as well as biodiversity loss). But globally on advocacy level 2019 was an extraordinary year. Awareness of the human impact on nature reached a whole new level. We saw front page headlines about devastating extinction rates, wildlife decline, coral die off, melting ice caps and unprecedented forest fires, from the Arctic, Amazon, and most recently in Australia. And never before have so many people taken to the streets and social media to demand action. A resolution on environmental human rights defenders was adopted unanimously by the UN Human Rights Council 21st March 2019 (Session 40). The resolution recognises

the positive, important and legitimate role played by human rights defenders in the promotion and protection of human rights as they relate to the enjoyment of a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment.

A lot of work was done by WWF network and other conservation organizations to raise this global threat and build the global momentum for a new global biodiversity agreement to be done in 2020. WWF Finland has been part of the global campaign by participating the UN HLPF (High Level Political Meeting) meeting by CEO of WWF Finland and bringing Finnish President Niinistö’s statement to the 74th United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) WWF side event (Leaders for Nature and People) where ten Heads of State and Government and at least 15 Ministers were in attendance, in addition, other four Heads of State joined by video, including President of Finland Mr Niinistö.

The programme still contributes to its impact statement.

OUTCOME “COMMUNITIES, CITIZENS, GOVERNMENTS AND COMPANIES ENGAGED IN SUSTAINABLE NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT TO ADDRESS DEFORESTATION AND SECURE EQUAL BENEFITS FOR PEOPLE AND SUSTAIN WILDLIFE HABITATS”

Programme’s contribution and progress towards programme outcome level indicators is briefly described in this chapter and the annex 1 (Result framework). There were no unexpected results gained in 2019. If substantial changes on assumptions or general working environment have been realised in 2019 it is captured in the chapters 1.2.1 and 1.2.2.

Extent of application of WWF approved practices

WWF Finland’s partners have continued to support local and regional governments and entities to improve their policies, guidelines and management plans in 2019 and are in line to achieve the set target for the programme.

**“NEVER
before have so
many people taken
to the streets and
social media to
demand action.”**

“IN 2019 we exceeded the whole programme target of forest under improved management.”

Development of community level forest management plans have been supported in most partner countries which was a target for the programme. In addition, especially in East Africa WWF continues its success on the regional level advocacy work on both sectors, forests and combating illegal wildlife trade, with Finland’s support. In the forest sector WWF continued its support to both the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the East African Community (EAC) on their forest policies. In 2019 it became also evident that the establishment of the regional Illegal Wildlife Trade Hub was a right decision. The commitment and interest from local governments especially in Kenya to adopt zero poaching and SAFE system strategies has been strong and shows the importance and role of WWF in supporting and capacitating local governments and providing solutions to the conservation challenges. Three years ago when the Illegal Wildlife Trade Hub was established East Africa was facing extensive increase of poaching and establishing zero poaching strategies was felt too ambitious in East Africa, but the situation has drastically changed due to the positive solution oriented approach, practical tools and support for implementation and advocacy work. This success has also led to the extensive leveraged funding from other donors and governments own contribution.

In Nepal WWF has continued its cooperation with the new federal structure to ensure that the best forest management and community engagement practices are included and utilized in the new local government structure.

Amount of forests under protection or improved management

In total 2019 WWF Finland’s partnership programme contributed to the improved management of 1,322,144 ha of forest in the partner countries, which exceeds the programme level target of 1,1 million hectares. There was an extensive increase from 2018 because the majority of hectares are contributed by WWF Indonesia’s work in Borneo, where the results of long-term work, already started during the previous partnership period 2014-2017, materialized in 2019. WWF Indonesia started the process with the Sintang district government to develop regency strategic area spatial plan (KSK), by jointly developing the strategy for protection of crucial ecosystem services, biodiversity protection strategies, and strategies for sustainable use of natural resource potential. KSK received its official endorsement for implementation in 2019 and covers an area of 781 789 hectares. 80% of the total area is natural forest. It must be noted that the approach of improved forest management in Borneo is different than in the other programme countries. In Indonesia WWF works closely with the government, private industrial concessions, and communities, while in other countries the hectares are accumulated from community forest interventions. This leads to the situation that the majority of the hectare contribution of the programme comes from Borneo. In the other partner countries WWF continues working with already engaged communities and landscapes.

As mentioned in the previous chapter the global deforestation seems to continue despite there are very good examples and practises on promotion of community-based forestry. This emphasizes the need for organizations like WWF to engage also on the global consumption level and especially on the agriculture sector which remains the lead driver of deforestation in tropics. At the same time more models and approaches are needed to scale up and leverage these good approaches on community level. WWF Uganda has developed a bankable project concept of their community plantation work (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8Pvme1M5OrU>). The idea is to attract investments for scaling up the plantations managed by the communities.

Number of people engaged disaggregated by households, communities, people by gender, CSOs and companies

There were total 23,823 (11,246f and 12,577m) direct beneficiaries for the programme in 2019, from which 18,339 (9,073f and 9,266m) were right holders and 5,484 (2,173f and 3,311m) duty bearers. Total indirect beneficiaries of the programme were 264,568 (131,709f and 132,859m) from which 259,286 (130,825f and 128,461m) right holders and 5,282 (884f and 4,398m) duty bearers.

The results reveal that 77% of the direct beneficiaries were right holders and 23% duty bearers. The target for the programme is to engage at least 90 000 people annually to benefit from programme support on sustainable natural resource management. The 2019 result of direct beneficiaries lacks towards the target. This might be partly due to the lack of available accurate monitoring data and definition on directly and indirectly engaged people in

the programme. As when the indirectly engaged people are combined with the direct beneficiaries, the annual target is exceeded.

Furthermore 1,838 small holder farmers, 34 enterprises and 186 local community-based organisations or civil society organisations were supported. These include community forest committee/association members and user groups, farmers and farmer groups etc who were either personally or through community-based organizations benefiting from the programme gaining increased income, increased level of understanding or engagement. In Finland 1,7 million people were engaged through participation in the climate campaign Earth Hour in 2019.

Number of households benefiting

5,272 households in partner countries benefited directly from the programme support e.g. through provided training, skills and business development in aid to diversify income sources. From the households at least 271 were vulnerable and 1,580 indigenous.

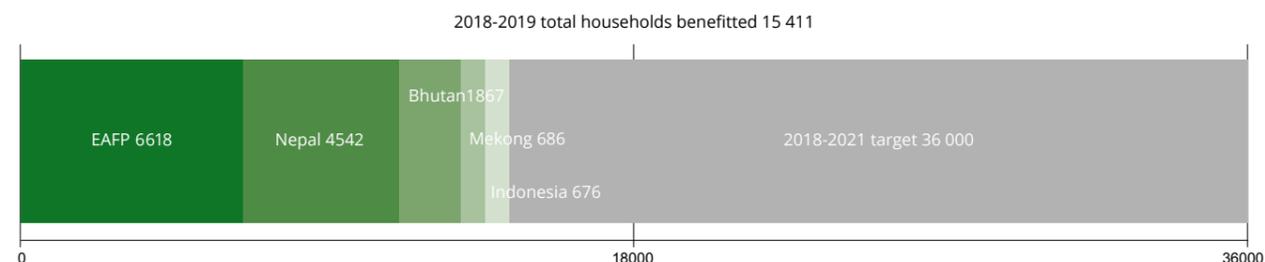
42% of the target beneficiary households against the whole programme’s end target has been achieved. The result of 2019 shows lower numbers of households being engaged in the programme compared to 2018. The result so far also indicates that the overall target of 36,000 households benefiting may be too high, considering that towards the end of the programme fewer additional households will be engaged to the programme implementation and the fact that the East Africa Illegal Wildlife Trade Hub’s work concentrated first two years less work on ground with right holders, and more to strengthen the regional capacity of duty bearers.

“THERE were almost 24 000 direct beneficiaries.”

FIGURE 1. Aggregated hectares under protection and improved management 2018-2019



FIGURE 2. Households benefited 2018-2019 against the whole programme’s end target



“SPECIFIC support was directed to indigenous youth and disadvantaged women.”

In 2019 WWF network focused on improving the social aspects of its work which is described later in this report.

Number of equity responsive measures implemented

The programme continues to contribute to its outcome on equity responsive measures. In all partner countries WWF Finland's partners were supporting and encouraging equity responsive measures in the programme interventions. This is in line with the WWF network's focus on strengthening the social aspects of conservation work and supported by the findings of the programme's Mid Term Review.

In 2019, work continued towards institutionalising equity responsive measures in the programme interventions. Equity measures were conducted in gender equality and reduction of inequalities.

Support to human wildlife conflict victims on livelihood diversification (e.g. medicinal plant farming) continued in Nepal. Specific support was also directed to indigenous youths and disadvantaged (Dalits) women in providing equal opportunities for income generation through provision of equipment to practice traditional skills and carpentry for which they had already received training for.

The programme has furthermore continued to promote tools that take inclusiveness into account. In Laos, Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) was used in planning the programme interventions, which enabled plans and budgets to be better targeted to promote equality. Gender equality and social inclusiveness of the programme was also strengthened by sensitization workshops and training of community forest groups, forest enterprises and government counterparts responsible for forests and wildlife management e.g. in Nepal, Bhutan, Tanzania, Kenya and Uganda. In Indonesia support continued to be provided to women's groups e.g. in developing seedling nursery businesses.

OUTPUTS ON ENGAGEMENT

As described in the previous chapter the engagement of the local stakeholders (duty bearers) has been successful and several approaches promoted by WWF have been adopted and implemented. The cooperation

with the governments and other stakeholders remained mostly stable, and the programme outcome level assumptions held. The paragraphs below will shortly analyse the output level achievements that contributed in 2019 to the programme outcome related to the Engagement component of the programme.

In Bhutan the target of the programme on engagement with Royal Bhutan Government on natural resources management was already achieved in 2018 so in the coming years the programme will focus on Sustainable forest management in Bhutan. WWF Bhutan will engage and cooperate with the local government as part of their everyday work.

In East Africa both SADC and EAC have shown high interest and commitment on cooperation with WWF on forest sector and EAC on illegal wildlife trade work (as the wildlife work under the programme covers only EAC countries not SADC). It has to be noted that although Uganda, Kenya and Tanzania have now been removed from the list of CITES primary concern countries, WWF raises concern that it was rather due to the countries' lobbying efforts for CITES 2018 meeting and thus more political decision than reflection of real situation on ground. Official data gathered from CITES' Monitoring of Illegal Killing of Elephants (MIKE) report and TRAFFIC operated Elephant Trade Information System (ETIS) is followed up to provide better indication on reduced illegal wildlife trade and poaching. These data still show pressure towards elephant populations in East Africa.

As mentioned already in the 2018 report the new federal structure in Nepal has created an opportunity for WWF Nepal to continue its close cooperation with the government and bring practical examples and knowledge.

In Finland WWF's reach, engagement and coverage in communication have exceeded the targets in 2019. One of the main reasons for successful communication has been a content strategy approach that has helped to achieve very good results. It has also helped in understanding and reaching our audiences better. It is in the core of the communication to produce content that trigger actions among the public.

The successful communication also results from the increased content creation. WWF Finland has had very good media coverage in Finland

and the communication team has wide know-how on media work and relations. The coverage in Finnish online media has increased radically in recent years. In 2019 our media coverage in programme related topics was more than 2700 published news and stories. This is more than 1000 media hits more than in 2018. Most covered topics were sustainable food production and overconsumption, biodiversity, forests including forest loss, fires and rainforests and Africa related stories.

The success is also due to the global forest fires and forest loss in Amazon, Indonesia and partly in Africa, that escalated in fall 2019 raising attention to the communication material produced by WWF Finland linking climate change to forest loss and the links of the fires and forest loss. This momentum opened a window for us about sustainable soy production. Reach in Facebook has also been increasing from 2018 and reached around 519,000 people in Facebook weekly in 2019. This means that we have been able to tackle the race against algorithm changes in Facebook. Further, the increase in subscribers to WWF Finland's newsletter indicates that the content strategy is working well, and the contents produced are of peoples' interest.

At the end of 2019 WWF Finland had 33 366 active regular donors, which is 8 % growth from 2018. The biggest increase in the amounts of regular donors was in climate regular donors (+42 %), rainforest regular donors (+21 %) and snow/Arctic regular donors (+19 %). This means that our communication (that was also used in donor recruitment) about climate change, forest fires and forest loss has reached people well and triggered them to become our regular donors.

WWF Finland has also been active in engaging people through food tours in schools and communicating regarding sustainable food consumption. The meat consumption data released in 2019 reveals that meat consumption continues a flat trend in Finland.

OUTPUTS ON SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT

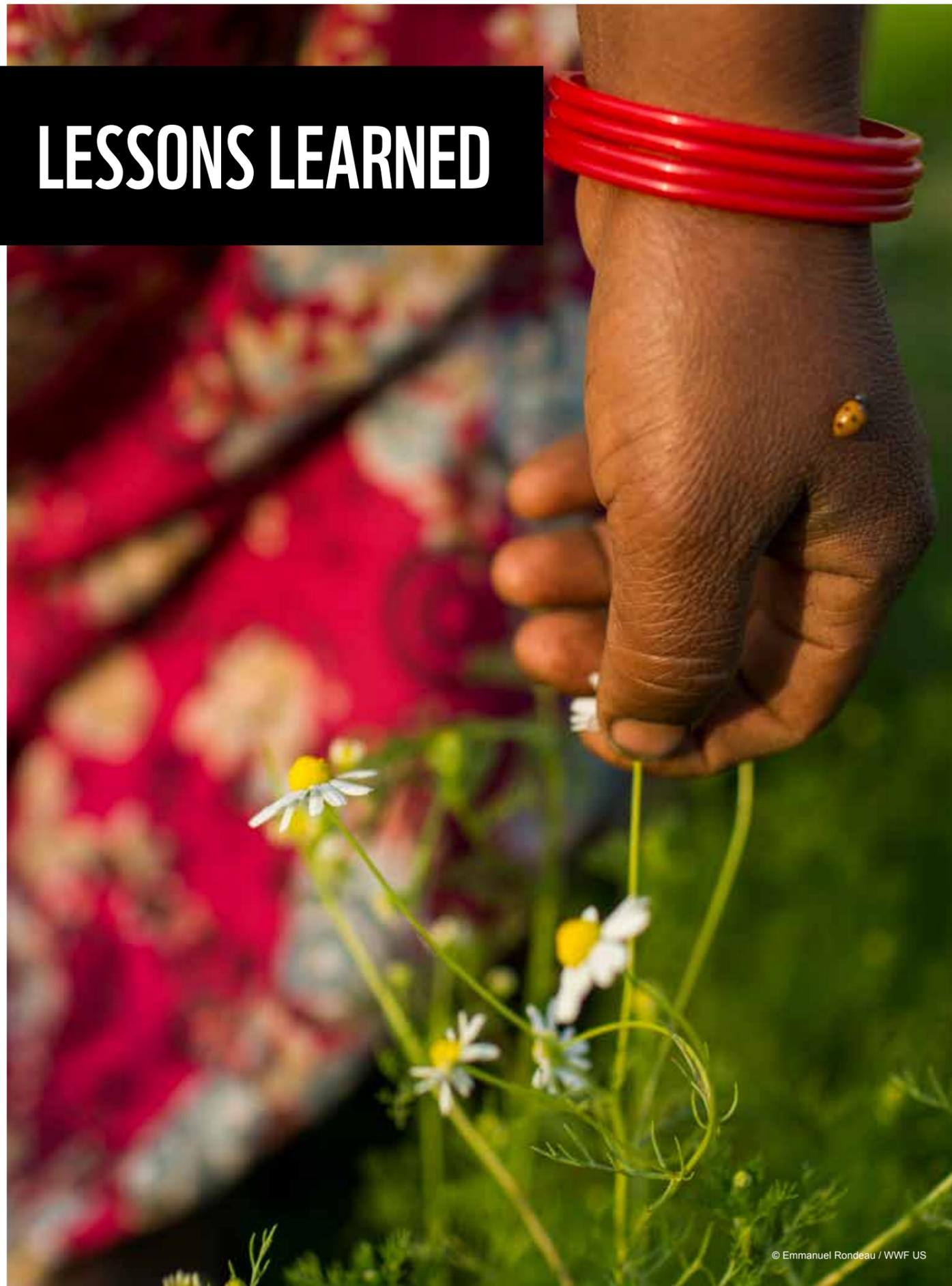
Programme achieved its target already in the second year of the programme implementation. This is partly the result of a selected strategy when planning

the programme. Working with forestry issues with governments includes always a strong assumption of political willingness, which also adds up into the uncertainty of ability to finalize long political processes, that might even expand over the elections. Therefore, in the planning process, precautionary principle was applied, to minimize the overall impact of the whole programme's deliverable, if assumption of political willingness fails. Especially given the significant contribution of one particular process to the whole programme's outcome. 2019 onwards the programme is also concentrating more in the quality of improved forest management besides the acreage.

There were no changes on the programme output level assumptions, there is still high interest and commitment from the communities to be part of community forestry as well as from other stakeholders (governments and companies). Climate change is influencing the communities and pushing them to rely even more on the resources from the forests so the need to find more sustainable ways of benefiting from forest and creating alternative sustainable livelihoods has increased. The additional funding applied from Ministry for Foreign Affairs (MFA) for East Africa will provide resources to demonstrate these in practise.

“CLIMATE crisis is pushing communities to rely more on forest resources.”

LESSONS LEARNED



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It's vital that local communities get income from the sustainable management of their natural resources. Community-based forest enterprises have been established, but the business skills are not often very good among communities. In Bhutan, the programme will focus in 2020-2021 especially on supporting and developing business skills of community members and the quality of production. Also in the East Africa Forest Programme it has been noticed that encouraging engagement between communities and private companies is important, since the knowledge and links that are needed to ensure growth and sustaining of enterprises are with the private sector. Mid-term review of the programme also recommended that WWF Finland should discuss and identify even more private sector collaboration strategy development needs among programme partners. It seems the programme has not been able to give our partners all the support they would have needed related to private sector engagement, but on the other hand, Finnish experience and expertise in that field may not be relevant in the partner countries' context. Programme partners should be advised and encouraged to access other sources of support for private sector collaboration strategy development e.g. within the WWF network and the possibilities will be further explored in the planning process of the new programme.

The 2019 results are showing the importance of consistent and long-term engagement in the development aid to overcome risks. The work with the Sintang district government to develop a regency strategic area spatial plan (KSK) materialized in 2019. The result of this single output contributes over 70% of the programme's total target for improved forest management and protected area, and is a good example and strong evidence of the need for long-term, over periods - programmatic and political - spanning work. WWF started to engage Sintang district government already during the previous programme period 2014-2017 and the preparations for the KSK activity started in 2017.

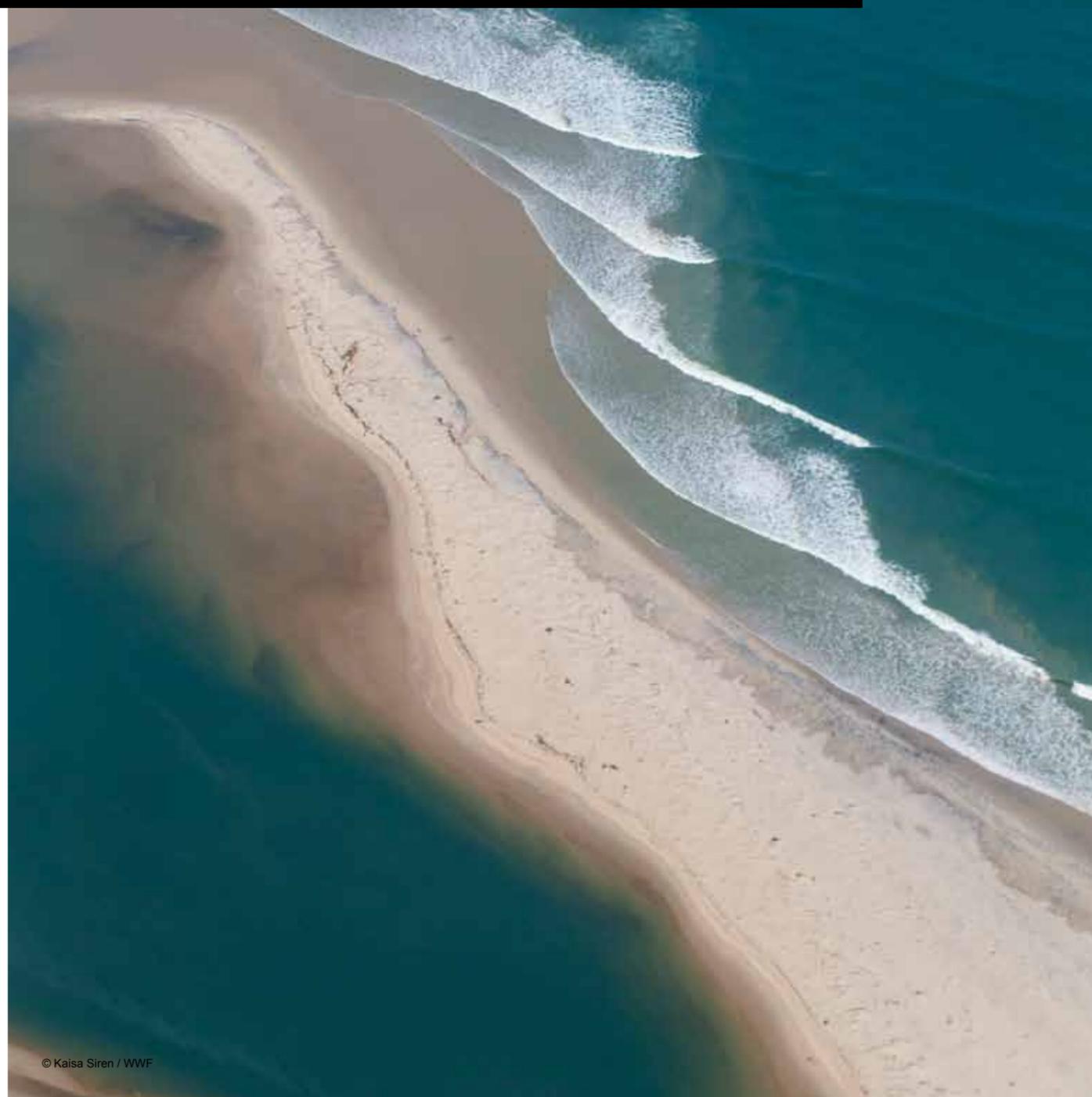
Regency strategic area plan is a document that is endorsed by the central government and is valid for 20 years. It is a master land use plan, allocating infrastructure, industrial activities and concessions and other land uses including protected and natural forest areas within its coverage. Sectoral sub plans are done according to the KSK plan. WWF supported the government by providing technical assistance, information and identifying critical areas based on its expertise which was lacking from the government. This kind of cooperation requires trust and good relationships built with time to be safe from other competing pressures and interference coming from other sources, e.g. changes in political landscape, or needs arising from private sector or foreign investors. Building a good relationship does not necessarily require big financial investments, but it requires a lot of other resources, time, capacity, consistency in strategies and long-term support from the donor.

It is important that the activities are aligned with both governments and communities' priorities and needs. This ensures the ownership of the interventions and has also increased leverage from the communities for example in Nepal. In Bhutan, planned activities need to be linked to the respective government agency's annual performance agreement (APA), since the government partner agencies give more priority to what is reflected in APA. Hence planning and discussion at the beginning of the year is important. In Borneo engaging village level authorities is pivotal to identify and seek support to the project initiatives. In Laos it was observed that there is a high interest from local communities as well as the local government partner in restoration activities.

Forest restoration has always been a priority for the local government, but they have depended on external financial support. Therefore, restoration activity supported through this programme is highly valued by the local government partners. Also in the work against illegal wildlife trade, it has been noticed that for example before building capacity within CBOs, one needs to ensure that government officials have been properly consulted to ensure this is seen as a positive contribution to support government's objectives rather than creating tensions between communities and wildlife authorities through creating unrealistic expectations. Mid-term review confirmed that having government bodies as implementing partners can be effective, if the programme succeeds in making critical conservation efforts part of government practices also beyond the programme period and targeted regions. On the other hand, if practicing critical conservation strategies among governments is directly dependent on the programme funding, their sustainability can be critically endangered.

There is a regular turnover of key staff in government and other partners. It is important to share data and organize training, workshops, and meetings on a regular basis to keep key partners and policy makers informed and engaged in conservation. Still, for example in Kenya, significant changes in leadership with many wildlife authorities in the past six months has delayed advocacy efforts and created a reluctance for officers in temporary roles making decisions beyond the norm. Even with the recent changes in the governance structure in Nepal, Community Forest users have implemented sustainable forest management (SFM) practice smoothly due to extensive consultation and awareness among local communities and stakeholders, transparent decision-making process, effective collaboration between local communities and forest authorities and regular technical backstopping and facilitation from WWF.

CONTRIBUTION TO FINNISH DEVELOPMENT POLICY



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The programme aligns its interventions and contributes to the MFA country strategy priorities where relevant and applicable. Table 1 describes the programme's contribution to the Finnish country priorities.

TABLE 1. Summary of the MFA country strategy priorities relevant to WWF Finland's Partnership Programme and an update of the contribution in 2018 and 2019 during the programme implementation especially in Finland's long term partner countries.

Finland's bilateral cooperation countries	MFA country strategy priorities relevant to WWF Finland's Partnership Programme	WWF Finland Partnership Programme focus on the countries where the MFA has country strategies	Summary of WWF programme contribution in 2018 and 2019 (detailed information in the results framework)
Tanzania	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved performance of the public sector and good governance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved capacities of civil society Enabling environment for business and livelihoods enhanced <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthened forest management Forest resource base widened, and inclusive products developed Control of illegal activities and corruption improves 	Regional programme covering Kenya, Madagascar, Mozambique, Tanzania and Uganda <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Address illegal timber and wildlife trade 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued support to the government authorities to address illegal timber trade (meetings, trainings etc) Community forest management - improved forest management practises <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hectares under SFM: Tanzania 32,375 ha and 3,000 Kenya ha Revenue from locally controlled forest enterprises under Tanzania: USD 168 850 and Kenya: USD 270,390 Unanimous endorsement of implementation of regional stockpiles management mechanism by all SADC Member States achieved at the SADC Technical Committee on Forestry. (2018) Revision of EAC forest policies In 2018 WWF Mekong office published the "Pulse of the Forest" report which showcases both the threats and the potential for the forests of the Greater Mekong region, which consists of Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand, and Vietnam. (not direct WWF Finland support) In December 2019, the Mekong Forest Landscape Restoration (FLR) Strategy meeting assessed and defined the FLR approach in Mekong.
Mozambique	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public debates and policy making regarding natural resource management and inclusive growth increasingly based on research results Improved accountability and transparency in the management of natural resources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote sustainable forest management & and improve community level livelihoods through community forests and value chains Engage with private and financial sector, CSOs, governments, and East African Community (EAC) and Southern African Development Community (SADC) 	
Kenya	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased productivity and economic opportunities in forestry and agriculture <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Forestry-related SMEs strengthened to efficiently manage / operate timber value chains 		
Myanmar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All people in Myanmar benefit from improved climate resiliency through sustainable forest management <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Forest resources are managed in a more sustainable, equitable and transparent manner based on up-to-date forest resource information Local communities progressively engage in sustainable forest management 	Regional programme covering Myanmar, Thailand, Laos and Vietnam <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Address deforestation by sustainable forest and land-use management including community level enterprises and agro-forestry 	
Vietnam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Charting an environmentally sustainable development path, with growing adaptation and resilience to changing climate patterns <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Forestry as a priority focus 		
Nepal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved health and living standards through safe and sustainable water and sanitation services and livelihoods development 	Partnership with WWF Nepal will focus on <ul style="list-style-type: none"> WWF Nepal's engagement on promoting sustainable natural resource management including water and infrastructure Promotion of community forests providing livelihoods and benefits 	

WWF's contribution to the Aggregate Indicators for Finland's Development Policy has been described in detail in the pdf reporting template in Finnish. The programme contributes mainly to three priority areas, namely Climate and natural resources, Sustainable economies, and decent work as well as Education and peaceful democratic societies. These contributions show strong alignment of WWF Finland's programme to the Finnish Development Policy together with direct connection to the Finnish country programmes in Tanzania, Kenya, Vietnam, and Nepal (table 1).

In general WWF Finland's partners are active organizations in their national context and in some countries like Tanzania the role and mandate of WWF office is very close to the work that Finland is supporting through bilateral programmes. WWF offices together with Finnish colleagues have been trying to establish connections and explore cooperation opportunities with these Finnish funded bilateral programmes to create added value of the cooperation and coordination. As in the previous years WWF Finland hopes

a stronger role from MFA and the embassies to enable this dialogue and coordination especially in 2020 when the new country strategies and programmes will be done for the Finnish priority countries.

WWF Finland has been actively engaging with other Finnish stakeholders on the broader development cooperation aspect. In 2019 WWF Finland was part of the national plastic road map initiative which led to the discussion about the potential role of Finnish technology companies to solve plastic problems in South East Asia. It was noted that available funding instruments to promote Finnish exports are not suitable and flexible enough to support Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) & company cooperation in this specific case where also technology development support and business model support would have been needed by the third Finnish organization, Technical Research Centre of Finland (VTT). The experiences and views were shared on several occasions and meetings with MFA, Business Finland and other relevant stakeholders.

The programme is linked to support Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), it contributes directly to the Goal 15: Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss, which is directly connected to the programmes impact statement which focuses on addressing deforestation and protection of habitats for wellbeing of nature and people. Especially on two SDG Goal 15 target areas

- Take urgent and significant action to reduce the degradation of natural habitats, halt the loss of biodiversity and, by 2020, protect and prevent the extinction of threatened species
- By 2020, promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests and substantially increase afforestation and reforestation globally

As indicated earlier in the report on chapter 1.1, in 2019 there was no new global research done on the programme impact level indicators.

The programme contributes also to the SDG Goal 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts, as the programme is linked to the target: Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries. Especially the extension funding which was provided by MFA to the Regional Forest Programme in East Africa will enable able to show and demonstrate by concrete examples our contribution to this SDG and Finnish development policy.

The approach of the programme to achieve the outcome and impact of the programme are linked to several other SDG goals such as: Goal 1 - no poverty; Goal 2 - zero hunger, Goal 3 - good health and wellbeing and Goal 5 - gender equality; which can be verified by looking at the programme contribution to the several Finnish development aggregate indicators.

“THE programme supports UN's Sustainable Development Goals with focus on goal 15.”

PICTURE 1. Illustration of WWF Finland Partnership programme and its contribution to the SDGs.



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SUPPORT TO CIVIL SOCIETY

Human rights-based approach is about empowering people (right holders) to know and claim their rights from the institutions that are supposed to respect, protect and fulfil their rights (duty bearers). Support to civil society seeks to create awareness to the communities on their rights and responsibilities and enable them to advocate for their rights to be upheld. For instance, right to clean and healthy environment, right to clean water and of adequate quantities, participation in decision making, benefit sharing etc. WWF works under MFA funding to ensure the rights are fulfilled.

According to the field visit conducted by MFA to Himalayas in November 2019 and based on the discussions between WWF Bhutan and MFA, it can be said that in Bhutan the civic space has been developing in the positive direction. WWF is the oldest international NGO operating in Bhutan which provides a good solid basis for advocacy and networking with different stakeholders. Most of the local CSOs still have quite close connections to the government. Most of the international NGOs are rather considered as a donor instead of being part of civic space. This underlines the general characteristics of civic space of Bhutan, projects are rather implemented in close cooperation with the government in implementing roles instead of individual CSO lead projects. This might hinder the objectivity and role of CSOs acting as watch dogs and observers of the state of civil society. The European Union (EU) has been supporting civil society work in Bhutan and the project has been concentrating on empowering women, active participation of civil society, vulnerable groups and socio-economic development. In the EU project Community Forest Management groups are also seen as part of civil society and their role in democracy development is recognized. However, the development of civil society has clearly positive contributions to the country's democracy development. In 2007 compiled CSO Act has increased the interest to develop more formal civil society groups without yet defined clear processes to establish them. Nevertheless, there is evidence that civil society is more vibrant than 10 years ago and especially grassroots level actors have been greatly contributing to this. The CSOs are now trying to align their mandates to the Government's priorities, especially to the 5-year plans, and are discussing with

the Government on this. Although WWF has not worked with registered CSOs in Bhutan in 2019, Community Based Forest Resource Management groups in Bhutan are considered as informal CSOs and the support from the project is grooming and gearing them to be more empowered towards becoming stronger and well managed organizations. In the German funded IKI project starting in 2020, WWF Bhutan will be a leading implementing partner, but also other CSOs will be engaged, for example the social component will be granted to Tarayana Foundation.

As an INGO, WWF Nepal does not implement programs on the ground directly. It works in partnership with government, academia and community-based organizations (CBOs). WWF Nepal's program largely supports the Government of Nepal and engages on national and regional policy issues. In 2019, WWF Nepal has partnered with 3 federal institutions (Ministry of Forests and Environment, Department of Forests and Soil conservation, Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation) and implemented the program through 9 government authorities (3 Protected Area Authorities and 6 Division Forest Offices) and 121 CBOs. During the program implementation, WWF mainly capacitates CBOs on natural resource management, interacts with them about conservation issues and helps them prepare their resource management plan such that they can advocate for their conservation issues.

WWF also acts as a facilitator bringing government and communities together. Further WWF Nepal also encourages to take forward the communities' voice in the project coordination committee, project executive committee and project steering committee of TAL (Terai Arc Landscape) program and also in other conservation forums. WWF Nepal has supported to enable forest workers and their rights, for the first time, to be identified in the forest policy as a result of our engagement with forest workers and the Ministry of Forest and Environment. In Nepal, the political process towards de-federalisation has caused some challenges for civil society. On the other hand, some positive changes are also noted in the process. Local government agencies have been empowered, as CSOs can engage with these local agencies in program planning and implementation processes. However, due to lack of proper mechanism in place, CSOs may find some challenges in coordination with three tiers of governments for registration/obtaining operational mandate, which might negatively

impact the working environment of CSOs in Nepal. Similarly, the Social Welfare Council (SWC), the apex body responsible for governing I/NGOs in Nepal has faced, some of its power now has been shifted to the office of prime minister, reducing some space for CSOs. However, such change has very limited impact on WWF's work because it works for an environment conservation sector which is a neutral area and is aligned with the government's priority and program. In Nepal general perception towards INGOs has been changing over the years. A great number of INGOs, around 200 plus, are currently operating in Nepal.

WWF Laos is engaging with diverse civil society actors from local communities and NGOs to research institutes as part of the MFA programme. The programme is providing a facilitation role by bringing CSOs and government communicating and discussing around the village and district level sustainable forest management, focus on security and climate change so the project is helping to maintain dialogue and respect of the different actors. Under Sida (the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency) funded Leading the Change programme, WWF Laos has been cooperating with CSO partners since 2018. Overall, in Laos there are 2 groups of CSOs recognized by the government, which are: i) Laos CSOs <https://www.laocivilsociety.org/> including 80 members, who are local NGOs (Lao NGOs) and INGOs. WWF Laos is also a member of this group. Another group, ii) LCCOs includes only local (Lao) civil society organizations, led by a committee. The LCCOs group is quite active. It has power to negotiate with the Government e.g. through the round table meetings. WWF Laos is not a member but has an observer status of being part LCCOs group. WWF Laos CSO partner, AFC is one of the active member and lead organization of the network. At the moment, there are over 100 CSOs and associations waiting for the license to operate from the government. The license lasts only one year and if the CSO does not have funding, have any project, the license will be terminated, which is the major contributing factor, why there are so many CSOs in the waiting list to have a license. Also, the UN Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights, Prof. Philip Alston raised in his 2019 report "The government has very effectively shut down space for robust discussion and accountability. All Lao groups are required to register as "non-profit associations" (NPs) and, along with INGOs, are highly regulated and comprehensively monitored."

In East Africa, shrinking civic space has a direct impact on the democratic procedures for decision making and citizen engagement on issues affecting conservation and their general welfare. Communication barriers especially in social media such as blogs, Twitter, Instagram, Facebook, WhatsApp is limiting chances for citizen engagement on issues concerning awareness campaigns in forest degradation, climate change and conservation issues in general. This is following the new policies and laws on communication with social media mostly in the East Africa region where you need to pay higher fees to access the social media (most people cannot afford) which previously was not the case.

The role of WWF as part of civil society in the East Africa region is to contribute to sustainable development and promote collective voices to support the poor and marginalized societies and further to monitor and balance the power of public and private sectors. Another role of WWF in the region is donor coordination for funding and support of technical expertise. Also, the programme always encourages bottom-up participatory approach and application of WWF social policies in project management and implementation to encourage citizen engagement and support the voice of the people particularly the marginalized groups. WWF is also supporting the dialogue between stakeholders to improve civil society. For example, the East African Forest programme in collaboration with TRAFFIC conducts annually – East Africa Timber Stakeholders Forum where dialogue between civil society, governments and other stakeholders (regional/global level) participate and engage with particular to implementation of Zanzibar declaration on illegal timber trade. Further Mpingo Conservation and Development Initiative (MCDI) supported by the programme conducts Annual Stakeholders Forum at the local level where all key stakeholders are engaged in decision making and forward key issues to the higher authorities when necessary. Another example, WWF's work for civil society can be demonstrated by the case of WWF Uganda in the process of developing the Rubirizi District Forestry Development Plan (DFDP) with a mission to ensure forests are making a significant contribution to income in Rubirizi District by 2030. The process for DFDP used a bottom-up participatory planning process through consultation and assessment of key stakeholders and partners.

“WWF has used its internationally recognized status to build up the dialogue between governments and civil societies.”

In Indonesia WWF has worked in collaboration with other CSO initiatives that operate in the same region as the programme. WWF has conducted a series of discussions and dialogues with CSOs/CBOs and other relevant actors. During the process, the parties agreed to follow strengthening CSOs and develop a new CSO platform to share learning and experience to ensure continuous learning between members of the CSO forum and strengthen the existing platforms. Based on this consensus, the programme has participated in a series of capacity building events hosted by partner CSOs. To ensure impact of strengthening of the civil society platform, parties also committed to measurement of the effectiveness annually, but this has not yet been implemented in this period. Also, several dialogues have been done in Sintang to formulate conservation district initiatives in Sintang led by the local government. Aim is to implement a development scenario by balancing economic, social and environmental aspects through multi-stakeholder collaboration with civil society and to connect the needs of national and global partners development and other stakeholders, like academics, and the private sector to achieve sustainable development at the district level. The provincial level CSO forum is still in progress to develop the platform. Two dialogues with the governor and provincial planning agency have been done. The dialogue with the governor is to formulate the role of the CSO forum to achieve improvement of village development index to take sustainability into account, also with government's development agency dialogue has been held and formulated the contribution of CSO forum into west Kalimantan SDG target to provide year 2019 baseline of SDGS target in provincial level. WWF is also a part of West Kalimantan CSO Forum, which works on topics such as good governance, social forestry, institutional strengthening, and community empowerment. WWF has taken a significant role by developing cooperation based on equal, integrity and accountability principles. At the technical level WWF has provided a large space for CSO in West Kalimantan through the Heart of Borneo (HoB) program and The Tropical Forest Conservation Act (TFCA). In 2019, WWF facilitated a number of CSOs to make concept notes to be submitted to the TFCA Secretariat. The number of CSOs that submitted from West Kalimantan was 35 organizations, but only 6 organizations passed the verification. In October 2019, WWF provided assistance to 6 organizations to make a final proposal.

WWF recognizes the roles played by the local CSOs as legitimate owners and stewards of natural resources and active members of civil society. As such, WWF aims to empower the communities to engage in shaping the decisions that affect them, and to advocate for their rights in the natural resources sector by holding the duty bearers accountable. As an internationally recognized organization WWF has used its status to facilitate, build up and maintain the dialogue between different actors, especially between the governments and civil societies during 2019. This is seen increasingly important in front of the global trend of shrinking civil space. WWF has its influence in building bridges between different stakeholders in terms of creating more open and vibrant civil space. Under the MFA funding the situation of civil space varies slightly from country to country and the activities are adjusted and adopted in the local context. Also as a member of civil society, WWF is dependent on an open and vibrant civil society to enable the best impact possible, by being able to operate and challenge duty bearers, but also through partnerships with other local and international civil society actors.

CROSS-CUTTING OBJECTIVES OF THE FINNISH DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION POLICY AND HUMAN RIGHTS BASED APPROACH

The programme continued supporting interventions for both duty bearers and right holders to implement socially inclusive and environmentally sustainable conservation as per the programme document and work plans. An assessment on the status against the programme's Human Rights Based analysis was conducted during 2019.

The assessment looked into the current human rights based approach status of the programme in implementation on sustainable natural resources management and conservation, community forest development, combating illegal timber and wildlife trade as well as policy and governance related to natural resources by identification of best practices and gaps especially supporting participation and accountability, as well as strengthening the capacities of rights holders and duty bearers. The assessment was done based on the gap analysis conducted together with the partners during partners' meeting in

Tanzania and the annual reports from the programme partners for 2019.

The status of the programme is still considered to be human rights progressive, although points of improvement were identified. The coming paragraphs summarises some of the main findings of the assessment.

In regards reduction of inequality, the programme has promoted equal benefit sharing mechanisms within the programme regions by supporting communities. However, in countries like Tanzania, where no specific allocation of the revenue accrued from community forestry is directed specifically to poor and vulnerable households and marginalised, ways to promote and institutionalise allocations (like in Nepal, Bhutan and Laos) should be identified and implemented e.g. by improvement of bylaws, management plans, as well as advocacy and awareness measures etc. Similarly, identified best practices from Nepal on human wildlife conflict compensation system could be further developed and replicated as feasible in other programme country contexts as applicable.

While WWF Nepal has initiated a collaboration with the Nepalese partner of Abilis foundation to improve the inclusiveness in the conservation measures under the programme, there is a clear need for improvement at the programme level at large to promote ways to ensure that disabled persons are engaged in the programme in a meaningful way. This was also observed during the monitoring visits to Tanzania and Himalayas in 2019. Therefore, identification of partners' needs in regards inclusion of disabled will be done and the use of Washington Group methods and tools will be studied and implemented as feasible in the coming year to improve the inclusion of disabled to the programme interventions. In addition, partnerships are sought to support the work in this regard.

In Laos and Nepal, measures to safeguard indigenous peoples rights like Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) in Laos and specific directed support in Nepal are in use and in Indonesia 3,500 ha Indigenous and Community Conservation Areas (ICCA) were established in 2019. Based on the experience so far under the programme, approaches in other programme countries should be further strengthened especially in the intervention processes related to customary and resource rights to the lands and resources, promotion of the collective rights of indigenous peoples to maintain cultural and intellectual heritage, improved role in

decision-making regarding governance systems, development strategies and priorities for their lands.

Gender equality has been taken into consideration in the programme best of all the cross-cutting objectives. Equal inclusion of women and promotion of equal rights are most systematised throughout the programme, which was demonstrated by the examples provided in the conducted assessment and available monitoring data. However, it was also identified that most of the time the implementation followed the minimum national regulations and laws, and thus identification of additional ways to engage and empower women and further efforts to encourage better inclusion should be done. And this will be done e.g. in East Africa Wildlife Crime Hub's work, where the role of youth and women have been identified as critical in preventing wildlife crime activities. Thus the programme will in coming years first improve the awareness of the role of working with youth (18-39) and women and how to effectively engage them to prevent wildlife crime and then plan new approaches to engage them meaningfully to conservation and tackling wildlife crime more effectively.

In regards engagement, communication and information sharing, it was identified during monitoring visit in Tanzania that meaningful ways still need to be identified for illiterates to participate in the community forest management work to ensure they are not excluded from decision making or participation due to illiteracy. Attention to this should be paid especially in the remote areas of Laos and Nepal where the programme works with communities that are largely illiterate. Currently, the information sharing in those areas is done verbally with local dialects to ensure equal participation. In Bhutan, where the management plans and guidelines of the community forests are currently officially written in English, translations to local language should be done to improve the rights of the local communities.

It is recognised that strengthening community engagement is an ongoing development issue and needs continuous improvement in any programme. Meaningful ways to engage communities for each process may vary from informing, consulting, involving, collaborating, and empowering. In East Africa Regional Forest Programme, in the SADC and EAC policy and regulations development processes, WWF facilitates consultations and informs the other CSOs on the processes, whereas in Nepal specific local resource persons are

“THE programme is considered to be human rights progressive, although points of improvement were identified.”

**“WWF
has strengthened
its capacity in
human rights.”**

capacitated to take part e.g. in forest guideline preparation in community forest together with the government. In general, ways to move from the least engaging forms of community engagement i.e. informing and consulting to more engaging collaborating and empowering in a meaningful way should be continued to be used and promoted in the programme during its lifecycle.

In addition to the programmes’ own analysis, the MTR also recognised that WWF’s social policies and MFA’s Human Rights Based Approach (HRBA) are acknowledged and considered across the programme. The MTR also backed up the finding that partners feel that sensitising the implementing partners and stakeholders at field level on human rights issues is considered most challenging and that practical tools for integration of HRBA are needed and still under development.

Strengthening WWF’s human rights-based approach has been a priority for the WWF international as well. In March 2019, WWF international commissioned an Independent Review to examine allegations raised about human rights abuses and other serious misconduct by government eco-guards in landscapes where WWF works, and to review the suitability and appropriateness of WWF’s broader policies, procedures, and assurances and risk management processes. Since then WWF has further strengthened the network’s capacity through training existing staff and employing specialists as well as launched a new Environmental and Social Safeguards Framework (ESSF), which will improve and systematise the implementation of human rights based approach across WWF network. The recommendations of the upcoming report, as well as ESSF processes and tools will be integrated also into the programme in coming years, as applicable. Refer chapter on Risk Management for more detailed information of ESSF and tools.

In 2019 the programme conducted a preliminary assessment of the programme’s activities related to climate resilience and conducted training for the programme partners. The training focussed on deepening the understanding of climate informed conservation in practical conservation work, how to take climate change into account in developing strategies, identification of climate risks and impacts as well as adaptation options incl. nature-based climate solution. The outcome of the preliminary assessment was that although

the programme promotes and implements various measures that improve local communities’ and environment’s adaptability to climate, these are not targeted in all areas based on climate risks identification or climate vulnerability assessments and the verification of the impacts is not structured. To improve the effectiveness of the programme in this regard, support should be further provided to the programme partners in adaptation and mitigation measures that are based on such assessments with better scientific base. Examples of planning and implementation under the programme can be found from Madagascar, Uganda, Tanzania, and Nepal where climate vulnerability assessments have been carried out.

Some example measures strengthening climate resilience in the programme are described in this chapter. Nepal supported bio-engineering structures to reduce flood impact to 526 households as well as in cooperation with Nepal Red Cross Society (NRCS) capacitated communities on disaster preparedness and first aid measures. In Indonesia vulnerability assessment has enabled WWF to support the district level officials to take the climate risks into consideration in the spatial planning processes. In Tanzania, the Regional Forest Programme has initiated collaboration with Uongozi Institute to bring leaders from EAC partner states together and engage citizens to raise awareness and encourage citizens to make pledges in forest governance and climate action. In Mekong restoration is conducted on areas with high ecological values such as water source heads, riparian vegetation and protected areas of communities.

At large, the programme continued to support mitigation measures through improving forest management in 1,3 million hectares of forests and through forest restoration activities. Nepal is furthermore improving their capacity to measure impacts of mitigation efforts, as they use the forest productivity analysis conducted in 2019 to measure the carbon stock of the forests.

RESULTS BASED MANAGEMENT



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SUCCESSSES, CHALLENGES AND ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT

There were no major changes or challenges in the implementation of the programme in 2019. There were no significant changes on ownership, accountability and transparency on programme level, these issues have been analysed throughout the report and part of the CSO and risk management chapters. Revision of the work plan was done once which included some reallocation of the programme funds from Finland to the partner countries.

The programme level mid-term review and WWF Finland's strategy process has created an opportunity to reflect the programme's role and position in WWF Finland but also its added value for the network. This has created an excellent basis for the creation of the new programme. As part of that has been for example discussion of the regional approaches versus national programmes, challenges of focusing too much on indicator values versus acknowledgement of the country/region specific situation and approach of the work what we do and need for global network level indicators and coordination how to measure the impacts of inclusive conservation, the human wellbeing.

It's been taken for granted that programme activities are climate resilient, and the programme has relied on National Adaptation plans (in the creation of which most of WWF partners have been engaged). However we've noticed, and also a mid-term review revealed that there is a need to support climate adaptation and resilience in the programme implementation. This was discussed together with partners in the partnership workshop in November. In 2019 WWF Finland applied additional support from MFA to support its partners in assessing climate relevance of programme activities and mainstreaming climate resilience across the programme and to support concrete adaptation work in the East Africa Regional Forest Programme especially in Uganda and Madagascar. As recommended also by the mid-term review, all main programme components will be screened through the climate lens to ensure the programme has only positive or neutral impact on climate change when planning for the next programme period (See also chapter 3.2).

Regional offices/hubs can be very valuable as supporting bodies for country offices, but they can sometimes also bring more bureaucracy, and cause delays, as for example contracting, fund transfers and reporting. So it should be considered if the

regional offices/hubs have real added value or if the contracts could be done directly with country offices. Mid-term evaluation of the programme noted that the short- and long-term efficiency of the regional approaches varies. Close collaboration with governments in Asian partner regions sometimes causes delays in the short term, yet in the long term it is critical to have governmental stakeholders as implementing partners in those countries. Regional approach in East Africa is efficient in international efforts, yet country specific contributions through regional hubs are sometimes considered less efficient. This issue will be addressed and discussed with the network partners when the new programme is developed.

In March 2019, BuzzFeed News published a series of articles making serious accusations about WWF's conservation work around the world, including Nepal which is WWF Finland's long-term partner. Immediately WWF network commissioned an independent review to investigate these allegations which focus primarily on human rights abuse by government eco-guards supported by WWF. The independent review panel is being led by chair Judge Navi Pillay, former UN High Commissioner for Human Rights together Professor John Knox, first United Nations Special Rapporteur on Human Rights and the Environment and Dr Kathy MacKinnon, Chair of the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA) and former Lead Biodiversity Specialist of the World Bank. The review panel's objective is to assess WWF's role in connection with the allegations, propose to WWF suitable measures, procedures and processes to prevent similar allegations and occurrences in the future, including a review and examination of the presence and effectiveness of WWF broader policies and procedures, project governance, and assurance and risk management processes in the context of the allegations, and advise on future approaches to spatial conservation, based on the Panel's recognised collective expertise in human rights, development and conservation

The allegations influenced WWF's work in 2019 on communication, risk management and it led to extensive improvements of the network's social safeguards and social aspects of our work. It has to be noted that WWF Finland's support to the network together with other Nordic offices has been very socially oriented and human right based already for decades, this is based on the donor priorities from SIDA, DANIDA, NORAD and MFA.

It has to be noted that WWF Finland's emphasis on HRBA is recognized and appreciated by

most of the programme partners according to the mid-term review. The topic is considered important, and especially gender issues are widely taken into account. Other aspects such as rights of vulnerable and marginalized groups are not always recognized as human right issues relevant to conservation efforts among programme partners. WWF Finland's support on HRBA related issues will be streamlined with the guidelines and safeguards provided by WWF Network and other WWF partners. However, all international practices and indicators are not applicable to all countries, so more practical tools for managing and mainstreaming HRBA would be needed. The programme does not efficiently measure direct well-being of people at impact level. Benefits for people from the conservation interventions are however measured at outcome level. The programme will look into improving the impact level monitoring during discussions with partners and development of the next programme phase.

In 2019 the planning of the WWF Finland support to the network's innovation work was done as indicated in the programme document. The decision to allocate the funding to support the PandaLab's initiative in Kenya was done based on the good cooperation potential with WWF Denmark's support to the programme and also position in East Africa where connections to the previous programme support on forest and wildlife sector can be seen.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Mid-Term Review (MTR) was conducted for the programme in 2019. The overall objective of the mid-term review was to provide WWF Finland and its partners an independent assessment of the Partnership Programme's strategic scope, intervention logic and functionality. The efficiency and progress towards Programme targets as per the Programme Document and set Results Framework was assessed in order to improve performance and provide recommendations on future strategic alignment. The review is used to improve the programme's implementation, inform the improvement of the programme design for future and it will feed into the development of WWF Finland's Strategy for years 2021-2025.

The main learnings from the MTR are that the programme was found to be in good progress in achieving its targets, with a well-founded approach. While the long term commitment and partnerships seems to have increased programme effectiveness and efficiency, also the strategy to provide seed

funding under the programme to establish new regional wildlife crime hub in East Africa has worked well, as it has been able to leverage and secure additional funding for the work for next five years from other funding sources. The WWF Finland/MFA programme support is also seen as flexible and valued support by the programme partners as it has enabled them to use the funds to aid their priorities.

Community forestry as an overarching theme works well within the country and regional contexts and adds value to the partner organisations' strategies and work on ground. The MTR noted that in order to improve the sustainability of the results of the community forestry efforts, further strengthening and capacity building of the partners on business skills and supporting development of private sector collaboration strategies would be recommended.

The MTR also highlighted the specific and close relationship WWF has with the governments in many countries the programme is implemented. Due to this WWF has a unique position to advocate and work with the duty bearers under the programme and the close working relation is recognised as one factor contributing to the achievement of the programme results and sustainability. However, on the other hand close working relations with government agencies may pose risk for the programme implementation if governance structures change making WWF working modality difficult and may also restrict the tone of voice WWF can use in addressing civil society concerns in the countries.

The review also recommended exploring ways to enhance the value addition of the WWF Finland expertise for the programme partners e.g. in environmental education, forestry and ecological footprint work, where WWF Finland is seen having strong expertise. The support in mainstreaming and integration of human rights-based approach and climate resilience was recommended to be continued. Similarly, the review recommends identifying new ways to exchange knowledge within the partner organisations to improve cross learning within the programme. The efficiency of the programme could be improved by looking into the structure of fund flows within the programme, and management by harmonising risk matrices.

Management response is going to be developed in the beginning of 2020, as per the MTR schedule. The Management response will identify main responses to the recommendations, actions to be taken, responsible person/s for

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the implementation and follow up for the actions and timeline. The management response will be communicated with the partner organisations and therewith implemented.

The MTR was conducted using a facilitated self-evaluation method. A consultant company was procured to facilitate the review. The review followed the OECD-DAC criterias and while answering all criterias, concentrated mostly on evaluating relevance, effectiveness and efficiency of the programme.

Facilitated self-evaluation was chosen as a method in order to have a more participatory process aiming at better ownership of and commitment to the recommendations and leverage the process for further organisational learning, improved programmatic and strategic thinking. As the aim was to learn at programme level and form strategic vision, and due to fund restrictions, the evaluation did not cover the rights holders' consultation programme wide in the villages. Verification was made at stakeholder and partner level in each country or region lead country (except Mekong, which was done remotely). The other methods used to conduct the review were desk study, face-to-face consultations, skype-interviews and email consultations, round table discussions and group interviews with relevant stakeholders and key informants as well as questionnaires and workshops.

As a learning from using facilitated self-evaluation method, it was found that it takes more of the organisations' time and in overall is more resource intensive for the organisation evaluated. And while the method has its challenges in sparking new ideas and innovative ways of improvement, the process was felt to be more participatory and it catalysed internal learning as a result.

RISK MANAGEMENT

The risks are discussed with partner countries on a regular basis in quarterly calls and the whole programme level risk matrix is discussed quarterly in partnership coordination meetings within WWF Finland. Also, in partnership coordination meetings it is ensured, the programme's and WWF Finland's risk matrices are aligned. During 2019 no major risk horizon scanning was made, because it was already foreseen to be part of a larger network wide safeguard framework update coming into force 2020 and it was seen more suitable to do revision synchronized with this process. In 2019 the main focus at WWF Finland risk management strengthening was on ICT and cyber security. For example, in case of

possible bank account changes credible third party verification is needed before wiring money to ensure the recipient does not have fraudulent intentions. Further thorough risk assessment is going to be done 2020 as a part of the network wide roll out of standardized Environmental and Social Safeguard Framework.

One major risk materialized during 2019 in Indonesia. Also unexpected changes in weather pattern caused some delays in Laos, but no major impact due to this was caused. In Indonesia unilateral termination of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) by the Ministry of Environment and Forestry (MoEF) between MoEF and WWF Indonesia hindered the programme implementation. Political risks are a crucial part of all country specific risk matrices. In the case of Indonesia, the political risk materialized in Autumn 2019 in the form of MoEF of Indonesia's unilateral termination of Memorandum of Understanding between MoEF and WWF Indonesia five years ahead of planned. WWF was informed of the termination in October 2019 and it took place in January 2020. In practice this means WWF is not able to operate in the national parks and conservation areas under MoEF's jurisdiction. The direct impact of termination was limited for the MFA funded programme and only one planned activity had to be reallocated. However, indirect impacts were more tangible. WWF Indonesia's staff was heavily engaged in analysing the situation, mitigating possible negative effects and preparing handing over of activities to authorities and third-party partners resulting in delays in implementation. In East Africa also the political landscape caused challenges. The political tensions between Uganda and Rwanda are affecting transboundary collaboration and the delivery of the transboundary zero poaching strategy.

Climate related risks are increasingly important from the implementation perspective as seen in the context of Laos during 2019 and for example in the wider context in the form of forest fires across the globe as witnessed from the news 2019. Changes in weather patterns in Laos have caused two negative results. First in the context of restoration, natural precipitation is key for success in terms of seedling survival. Active restoration (tree planting) activities need to be timed just before the expected start of the rainy season to maximize the survival rate of planted seedlings. However, changes in the weather patterns in 2019 delayed the rains which affected negatively on the survival rate. By the time of reporting the actual impacts are still under investigation, but after the data is compiled and analyzed, corresponding actions are taken into account while planning

activities 2020 onwards. In the case of Laos, the second climate related risk is prolonged rainy season, that might negatively affect the accessibility of project sites. Many of the programme's project sites are remote with poor connections vulnerable for changes in weather resulting in delays in the implementation due to no access to project sites. Also, this is considered more closely in planning in the future.

Following a review of existing safeguard policies and practices, WWF International developed and launched an enhanced Environmental and Social Safeguards Framework (ESSF) in June 2019. To ensure effective implementation, WWF has established a dedicated Global Safeguards Unit, who will oversee the ESSF implementation and maintain the safeguards framework. ESSF was launched as pilot in selected WWF offices during the latter half of 2019 and the process, in the form of full network wide roll-out, will continue until 2020. WWF Finland and MFA funded partnership specific risk matrices will be also updated accordingly, after the full roll-out of ESSF.

Core component of the ESSF is a Safeguards Screening Tool (SST) designed to guide project teams on risk identification and frame the subsequent impact analysis and mitigation at a specific landscape level. This will be done also for all MFA funded landscapes during 2020 with other network partners. Also a tiered network-wide grievance mechanism is developed, which strengthens existing arrangements to address complaints, the mechanism aims to address concerns raised about a particular project, identify the root causes of the issue, and find and pursue options (including but not limited to dialogue and mediation) to resolve the grievance. Also a new response protocol introduced to immediately escalate any complaints relating to human rights is now in place. Moreover, the ESSF will also include recruitment of a new ombudsperson (a first for an environmental NGO), which is an independent position that will oversee compliance with the safeguards framework and help mediate disputes when they cannot be settled locally. This office is independent from WWF International line management and will report directly to the WWF International Board. Also, as part of wider strengthening of safeguards and risk mitigation, WWF organized human rights training worldwide. By the end of 2019, more than 1300 WWF staff have already taken the 'Human Rights and Conservation' e-learning course and on-line discussion forum since its launch in June 2019. French, Spanish and Portuguese language versions are being launched in February 2020 to reach non-English-speaking staff. Also, as a part of

the process, mandatory training on ESSF will be rolled out to all 7000+ WWF staff in March 2020.

In the partner countries risk management was further adjusted during 2019 without any major changes. In Nepal, part of the overarching area of Talent and Team Management within WWF, MFA funding has supported the building capacities of nine staff members (4 from field office) in the areas of Risk-based audit, Fraud & Corruption and Risk Management strategies & techniques. In East Africa, a constantly changing political environment sets requirements from risks point of view. Political instability is evident in some countries within the region such as Kenya and Mozambique. Recent events in Kenya and in North Mozambique, demonstrate that this part of the world remains susceptible to, often politically motivated, civil unrest. However, events in this regard are relatively short-term particularly during the presidential election process and unlikely to have a long-term detrimental impact on the long-term programme implementation. Also, rising temperatures and shifting rainfall patterns are major drivers contributing to biodiversity loss combined with pressure from human activities leading to deforestation, land degradation, and loss of vegetation cover. To address this the programme applied for additional funding from MFA Finland to address the climate crisis in the region whereas communities are extensively utilizing forest resources due to climate change and variability. Risk matrix was also updated at the same time on the relevant parts to cover the whole programme but will be further developed during 2020 to be up to date on all parts.

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

2019 was the second year of the programme and there were no changes compared to 2018 in the financial management. The programme management was done in Finland by the International development team (4 full time persons, from which one was maternity leave substitute). Due to the resignation of the East Africa Forest Programme coordinator in Tanzania WWF Finland, together with WWF Sweden, hired a forest specialist to support the East Africa Forest Programme (contracted through WWF Cameroon) to ensure smooth transition to the new coordinator and to strengthen WWF Finland's expertise on African forest sector.

WWF Finland follows up use of funds through financial reports that partners send to WWF Finland quarterly. The reports are reviewed and approved by the project coordinator, administrator, and the head of the programme.

“CLIMATE related risks are increasingly important.”

If needed, additional information is requested from the partners. The expenditure levels as well as balances are monitored and reconciled quarterly with WWF Finland's accounts by the finance department together with the administrator and head of programme. The expenditure and other programme related issues are discussed with WWF Finland Senior Management quarterly in Finland. The funds are transferred to partners in two to four instalments per year depending on their expenditure rate.

MFA-funded programmes are annually audited in the respective countries. The costs of WWF Finland and the annual programme level report are audited in Finland by PricewaterhouseCoopers Oy. As the audits were conducted in spring 2020, due to covid-19 epidemic some of the audits, including audit of the whole programme in Finland, were conducted remotely. In Bhutan the audit was conducted in April and the audit team could not verify the field activity expenses due to travel restrictions imposed by the government due to the pandemic.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

The total available budget for the Partnership Programme for 2019 was EUR 2 399 972 (MFA support EUR 2 039 976), including new support for 2019 (EUR 1 730 000), carry forwarded support from 2018 (EUR 309 976) and co-financing (EUR 359 996). In addition, there was 688,23 € exchange gain in Bhutan. The latest 2019 budget revision was sent to MFA, and approved, in December 2019. It was submitted late during the year as the plan was to submit updated programme's Result Framework based on the Mid-term Review together with the budget. However, the Result Framework revision was submitted in the beginning of 2020.

EUR 32 300 of WWF Finland's carry forward from 2018 was reallocated to partner countries in 2019. EUR 22 000 was reallocated to hire a forest specialist contracted through WWF Cameroon to support East Africa Forest Programme. EUR 2 700 was reallocated to Mekong for the training workshop on social policies and principles mainstreamed in conservation projects. EUR 7 600 was reallocated to Bhutan to conduct two value chain analysis.

The total costs of the programme in 2019 were EUR 2 250 997 which was 94 % of the budget. MFA funding was 85% (EUR 1 912 763), co-financing was 15% (EUR 337 546) and exchange gain used in Bhutan was EUR 688. Co-financing included support from WWF Finland's private

supporters and Finnish companies, and WWF Network (UK). Spending in old partner countries was around 86 - 105 % of the budget. In Indonesia the annual budget was exceeded by EUR 11 133. Because the budget overrun was due to Finland's monitoring visit to Borneo, travel costs related to Mid Term Review in Indonesia and workshop in Tanzania, it was agreed that exceeding is covered from Finland's budget. Only about 40 % of the budget for East Africa Forest Expert was spent, since the agreement was signed in November, and the budget was made for WWF Financial year which runs from July to June instead of calendar year. In Finland, spending was about 95 % of the budget. Spending of the communications budget was low (70%) since we had budgeted 10 000 € to support capacity building of our partners by covering their travel costs to participate in the storytelling workshop of WWF Network, but the workshop was postponed from 2019 until it's safe to organize workshops after the covid-19 pandemic. Planning, monitoring and evaluation budget was exceeded by 9 %; main reasons for that were the Mid Term Review and partnership workshop that we organized in Tanzania.

In addition to the Partnership programme WWF Finland pays WWF network service fee to WWF network which was EUR 607 099 in 2019. This funding is used to support WWF Network, including offices in Africa and Asia. WWF Finland also supported development of WWF Kenya's financial management with EUR 20 000. EUR 56 800 was fundraised in autumn 2019 and donated to WWF Bolivia's forest fire emergency programme. Global WWF network Deforestation report was supported with EUR 13 000. Those were all additional to what has been included in this report. In addition, in several partner countries and regions other funding sources were secured to expand and scale up WWF Finland funded activities and approaches.

The activities in the East Africa Regional Forest Programme are basket funded by UK, Sweden and Finland, Finnish support being the biggest contributing 66 % of the total programme costs in 2019. For Illegal Wildlife Trade Hub this programme's contribution was 26 % of the core budget in 2019, other donors being UK and Sweden.

The amount of carry forwards from 2019 to 2020 is EUR 149 663 (EUR 127 213 MFA programme support).

The detailed financial report is presented separately annexed.

TABLE 2. Expenses in 2019 by countries/regions

Programmes	Actual costs, €
Bhutan	105 158
Nepal	511 266
Indonesia	252 296
East Africa Forest Programme	313 790
East Africa Forest Expert	9 061
East Africa Illegal Wildlife Trade Hub	131 999
Greater Mekong	139 976
Total costs of programmes	1 463 546
Finland	
Personnel	365 718
Communications	59 665
Learning for change	70 939
Planning, monitoring and evaluation	102 529
Admin	188 600
Total costs in Finland	787 451
Total costs	2 250 997
MFA support used	1 912 763
WWF Finland self-financing	337 546
Exchange gain used	688

ANNEXES

Annex 1. Results Framework, progress in 2019

Annex 2. Risk Matrix

Annex 3. Programme Mid-Term Review

Annex 4. Financial report

Annex 5. Audit Report



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“THE total costs of the programme in 2019 were over 2,2 million euros.”



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