

RIGHTS, RESPONSIBILITIES AND RESOURCES

THRIVING ENVIRONMENT - WELLBEING OF PEOPLE

PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMME REPORT 2018-2021 TO MINISTRY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF FINLAND





ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

BZUC Buffer zone user committee CBD Convention on Biological Diversity CBFM Community based forest management

Community based forest resource management group CBFRMG

CBO Community based organisation

CFCC Community forest coordination committee

CFUG Community forest user group

Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora CITES

Covid-19 Coronavirus disease 2019 CSO Civil society organisation

DEAR EU's Development Education and Awareness Raising Programme

Disability inclusion East African Community EAC East Africa Wildlife Crime Hub EAWCH

ENRCA Environment and Natural Resources Conservation Act (Nepal)

EHRD Environmental human rights defender

Environmental and Social Safeguards Framework ESSF

EU European Union

FAO Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

FMU Forest Management Unit FSC Forest Stewardship Council GBF Global Biodiversity Framework Gender equality and social inclusion

Household HIH

HRBA Human rights-based approach

ICCA Indigenous and community conservation area INGO International non-governmental organisation IUCN International Union for Conservation of Nature

Illegal Wildlife Trade TWT LPI Living Planet Index

Mpingo Conservation and Development Initiative (Tanzania)

Member of the European Parliament MEP Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland MFA MoU Memorandum of understanding (agreement)

NGO Non-governmental organisation NTFP Non-timber forest products ODA Official development aid

Protected area

Personal protective equipment PPE

PWD Person with disabilities (PWDs, persons with disabilities)

SADC Southern African Development Community

Sustainable Development Goals SDGs

Social Forestry and Extension Division, under the Ministry of Agriculture and Forests (Bhutan) SFED

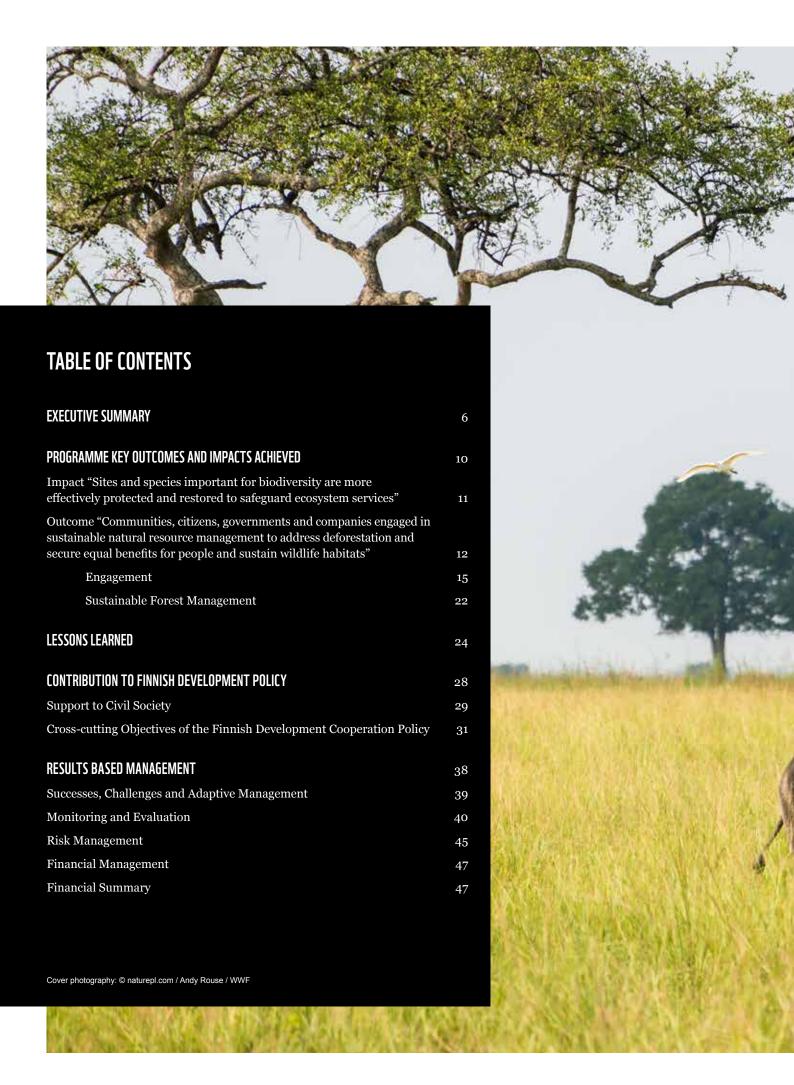
Sustainable forest management Tanzania Forest Working Group TFWG CSO coalition in Madagascar TMTI TRAFFIC Wildlife Trade Monitoring Network

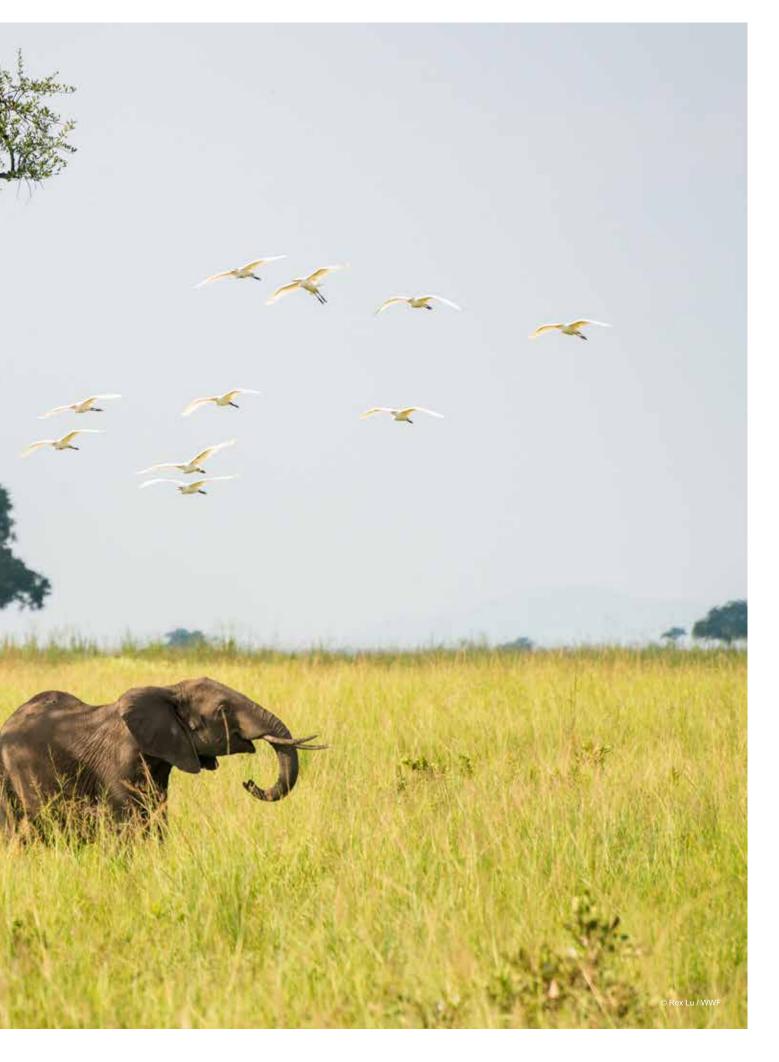
United Kingdom United Nations UN

UNODC United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

US, USA United States of America





EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

During the programme period we have seen climate and nature rise to the top of the global agenda like never before. At the same time understanding that the addressing of climate and nature crises is not only an ecological issue but in turn also an economic and health issue. In addition, it's an equity and justice issue for today's most vulnerable communities as well as future generations. The Covid-19 pandemic has impacted all of us and it's clear that after it we cannot return to business as usual. WWF sees this as an opportunity for a transition towards a more sustainable future.

In 2021 WWF's report revealed a dramatic rise in the numbers of people concerned about nature loss, particularly in emerging and developing economies. On Twitter alone, the number of posts related to nature loss and biodiversity has increased by 65% since 2016. The popularity of Google searches for terms related to biodiversity and nature loss, relative to all searches, has grown by 16% globally since 2016. 50% of survey respondents worldwide said they switched products or services because a company violated their values (conducted 2019). The number one reason cited for the switch was to support products or services that 'protect the environment.'

A similar trend has been observed in Finland. Finland's biggest newspaper, Helsingin Sanomat, has appointed a journalist focusing on biodiversity and Finnish Innovation Fund Sitra conducted a survey mapping Finns' nature relationship, which highlighted that almost 90% of Finnish people consider nature important in their lives. According to the survey, as many as 79% of respondents said that they are somewhat concerned about the state of nature in the world, while 58% were concerned about the state of nature in Finland. At the same time, 62% of Finns reported that they would be prepared to change their consumption habits and lifestyle to stop biodiversity loss, while 12% said they would be unwilling to make any changes.

Also a growing global <u>alliance</u> of organisations and governments, including more that 90 heads of state, now support a global goal to reverse nature loss by 2030. On the network level, WWF has established cooperation with the development aid sector, Save the Children and Red Cross to join the forces to tackle the climate crisis and the biodiversity loss. WWF Finland had established cooperation with several organisations already earlier which were continued under this programme.

As stated in the programme's evaluation report, the programme has been implemented according to plan – notwithstanding the considerable adaptations that were necessary due to the Covid-19 pandemic - and has for the most part been effective in delivering towards the expected outcomes. During the programme implementation it has become increasingly evident that climate change impacted also the programme implementation itself. Nevertheless, the evaluation concludes that the programme has made significant positive contributions towards the planned impacts within its areas of influence. Additional resources from the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland (MFA) during the programme period increased significantly the programme's contribution on climate adaptation.

$\boldsymbol{4}$ -year achievements in the programme implementation countries

BHUTAN	Over 7000 hectares of forests under improved community forest management and governance	Welfare of forest dependent households improved	Aquatic Biodiversity Portal established and in use by National Biodiversity Centre	Awareness of youth and children increased on conservation through improved online engagement and social media communications
BORNEO	Over 2,443,000 hectares of forests under improved management or protection by governments, private forest concessions and Indigenous peoples	Sustainable livelihood models e.g. coffee, honey and rubber production developed and expanded	Improved and maintained biodiversity values and orangutan conservation in private and government forest areas	Ecologically important areas and customary rights included in government land use and development plans advocated by CSO coalitions
EAST AFRICA REGIONAL FOREST PROGRAMME	Around 46,000 hectares of community forests under improved sustainable management	Community forests provide livelihoods to communities through improved value chains, however Covid-19 hampered the annual revenue gained from forests	East African Community and South Africa Development Community member states agreed and signed on regional forest policies and strategies to curb illegal timber trade and enhance good governance of legal timber trade in accordance with Zanzibar declaration	Ownership and sustainability of East Africa Timber Trade Stakeholder Forum improved indicated by plans to establish East Africa Timber Trade Stakeholder's Forum Secretariat with rotating hosting from East Africa member states
EAST AFRICA WILDLIFE CRIME HUB	Populations of African elephant and rhinos were increased in East Africa and poaching levels reduced	Regional agreement signed to address poaching and illegal wildlife trade	Governments in East Africa applying zero poaching strategies	Women's and youth's role as active environmental citizens strengthened to curb illegal wildlife trade and poaching
LAOS	168 hectares of key community forest areas restored, ownership and land tenure rights strengthened	Change achieved partly through community-based enterprises capacitated to start their businesses	Agroforestry restoration model in use by local communities	Customary land rights integrated into the National Forest law
NEPAL	Increased species numbers and movement (rhino, tiger, elephant) as a result of successful community forest management and restoration	Communities' knowledge, attitudes and practices improved regarding conservation and sustainable natural resources management	Increased numbers of youth engagement in and awareness raising on conservation	Meaningful participation of community members with disabilities improved in programme interventions strengthening human rights-based approach
FINLAND	The impacts of Finnish consumption on tropical deforestation analyzed and awareness of consumers, decision makers and private sector increased	Meat consumption has been flattened out and even decreased in Finland	Increased number of youths committed to change their diets more sustainable and awareness on sustainable diets improved in target schools	Biodiversity integrated in Finnish development policy, environment as a human right acknowledged

 $Most\ of\ the\ original\ targets\ that\ were\ set\ for\ country\ level\ were\ achieved.\ Due\ to\ the\ global\ pandemic,\ some\ of\ the\ original\ targets\ were\ not\ fully\ met.$

Impacts and outcomes achieved in the programme

IMPACT

- Rhino population in Nepal increased from 645 to 752
- Tiger population in Nepal increased against the baseline when population was estimated to be around 200. New estimation is released in 2022
- Orangutan population remained stable in programme area in Kalimantan, Borneo (around 6700) and new habitat was found in programme area
- In East Africa, rhino population increased by over 250 individuals to 1700 and number of elephants by 10,000 individuals (elephant population now 99, 000)
- Global decline in terrestrial biodiversity continued according to the Living Planet Index
- In all programme countries and areas, the rate of tree cover loss was reduced or remained somewhat the same despite being global deforestation hotspots.
 Globally deforestation continued but the rate of loss has slightly decreased.

OUTCOME

- 149 692 people benefitted directly from the programme as right holders, (50 % women, 35 % indigenous people or ethnic minorities, 15 % people with disabilities)
- Total of 31 943 households benefited directly of the programme, out of these 8 534 were Indigenous and 925 disadvantaged
- 5 982 small holder farmers were supported to improve income, food security and climate resilience
- 16 different interventions were implemented to improve sustainable forest management, enhance biodiversity values in forests and reduce poaching, wildlife crime and illegal timber trade and human wildlife conflicts together with various stakeholders
- 15 interventions to increase equality, human rights, gender and disability inclusion were implemented to strengthen human rights-based approach and reduce inequalities

ENGAGEMENT • Total of 599 civil society organisations and community groups were capacitated and supported to influence decision making and strengthen indigenous and community rights and tenure • 16152 government and private sector presensatives directly engaged as duly bearers to improve environmental governance • 3 300 174 people in-directly benefitted from the program as right-holders 49 % were women SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT • Total of 2 516 575 hectares of forests were protected, restored or put under sustainable management including community and midgenous community and midgenous returner. • 3 300 174 people in-directly benefitted from the program as right-holders 49 % were women.

Most of the impact- and outcome -level targets were achieved during the 4-year programme period.

The vast majority of global indicators show a drastic decline of biodiversity over recent decades. Considering this trend, the programme has been successful in contributing to the increase of the numbers on priority species in the programme areas (e.g. rhinos, tigers, elephants, orangutans), which shows that the conservation work can make a difference, but much more actions need to be taken. Many of the programme areas are located in deforestation hotspots, such as in East Africa and Madagascar, Laos and Borneo. Despite the huge pressure on natural forest clearing, the programme has been able to provide valuable support for the protection and restoration of vast areas of forests.

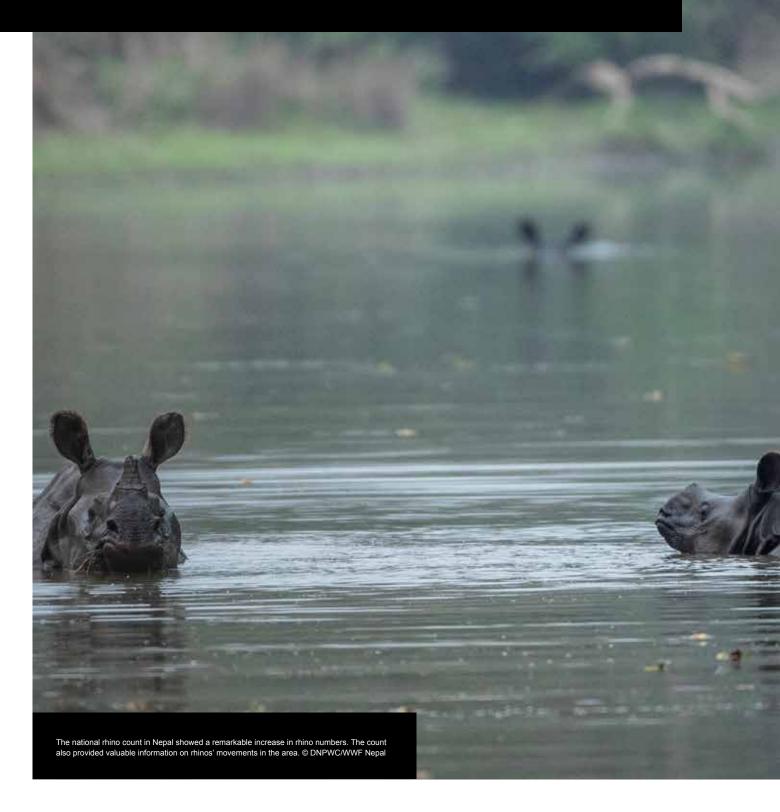
Based on the achievements of the programme, WWF believes that these contributions play a crucial role in their respective countries and regions. In addition to these concrete contributions, WWF offices have taken part in civic space dialogue in their countries and regions. WWF has worked closely with the governments and other NGOs, civil society and different kinds of organisations including UN agencies.

The programme funding from the MFA enables WWF Finland also to participate in and contribute to the national dialogue on development cooperation, foreign and security policy and sustainable development. The support has encouraged WWF to engage on and contribute to for example the preparation of the Finnish Report on Human Rights Policy. WWF's participation and contribution to the Finnish international biodiversity discussion has increased during this programme period, where WWF's contribution and long term experience bringing also concrete views from the developing countries has been appreciated.

WWF Finland will celebrate its 50 years anniversary in 2022. During these decades WWF has made significant achievements in Finland but also internationally. The funding from the Ministry for Foreing Affairs of Finland has enabled WWF Finland to have an international programme which supports WWF network's global conservation work.

The programme has been successful in contributing to the increase of the numbers on priority species.

PROGRAMME KEY OUTCOMES AND IMPACTS ACHIEVED



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

The impact level indicators of the programme were 1) Population size for flagship species, 2) Living Planet Index and 3) Trends in net annual natural forest cover. The final review of the programme (Annex 3A) concluded that the programme has made significant positive contributions towards the planned impacts within its areas of influence. Progress is also summarised in the Result Framework (Annex 1).

Population of flagship species

It must be noted that the surveys of the species included as an impact level indicator of the programme are not carried out annually and the surveys are conducted by national authorities. In 2021 Nepal conducted a national rhino count, which shows that the rhino population in Nepal (in the Terai Arc Landscape) has increased to 752 in 2021 from 645 in 2015. In Suklaphanta National Park, the programme implementation site, the rhino population has increased to 17 in 2021 from 8 in 2015. Nepal also started a national tiger survey in December 2021 and the results will be published in July 2022. The previous tiger census in Nepal was in 2018, when the population had almost doubled in 9 years, to 235 tigers in 2018 from 121 in 2009. In 2010, WWF and 13 tiger range governments together set the goal to double the number of wild tigers by 2022. Nepal is most likely the first country that manages to double its tiger population in the intended time. The new estimation of the global population of wild tigers will be published in autumn 2022.

In Borneo, orangutan populations have been monitored and calculated specifically in two private forest concession sites in the programme landscape. Based on the annual orangutan population and distribution monitoring activities, the population density has been stable during the four years. By 2021, the recorded density range is 1,38–1,5 individuals per km². These findings indicate that orangutan populations in the programme area in Borneo have remained stable. In 2021, a new orangutan metapopulation was discovered in the southern part of the programme landscape in central Kalimantan province. The area is not under a management

regime at the moment and WWF is working hard to secure funding for preparing a management plan for this newly discovered orangutan habitat. Further, according to analysis, there has been no evidence of violence against orangutans in the programme landscape in the last three years (2019–2021).

In East Africa, the rhino population has increased by over 250 individuals during the four years of the programme. The number of elephants has also increased by 10,000 individuals. At the same time poaching levels of target species have decreased across the region compared to the situation in 2017 before the programme started.

In 2021, Kenya reached its national target with a rhino count of 972 (total population in the regions is over 1,700), and only 6 rhinos poached in Kenya during 2021 (o rhinos poached in 2020). The rhino population in Tanzania is 150 and only 3 rhinos were illegally killed in 2021. The elephant population in Kenya is 36,000, in Tanzania 60,000 and in Uganda 3,600 and is considered stable in all three countries.

Living Planet Index

The latest Living Planet Report, which is WWF network's biannual flagship report, was published in 2020. Next time it will be published in autumn 2022. The Living Planet Index (LPI) still shows a decline of biodiversity on the planet. The latest index shows an average 68% decrease in population sizes of mammals, birds, amphibians, reptiles and fish between 1970 and 2016 and the 94% decline in the LPI for the tropical subregions of the Americas is the largest fall observed in any part of the world. Freshwater Living Planet index has also declined dramatically, with the Freshwater Index showing an average 84% decrease in population sizes between 1970 and 2016. Humanity's influence on the decline of nature is so great that scientists believe we are entering a new geological epoch, the Anthropocene. Yet, measuring biodiversity, the variety of all living things, is complex, and there is no single measure that can capture all of the changes in this web of life.

Nevertheless, the vast majority of indicators show net declines over recent decades. Considering this trend, the programme has been successful in contributing to the increase of the numbers of the priority species in the programme areas (e.g. rhino, tiger, elephant, orangutan).

Forest cover change

The impact level indicator for trends and changes in forest cover for this programme was "halt net annual natural forest change and reverse net annual "Orangutan populations in the programme area remain stable."

"The rate of tree cover loss was reduced in Madagascar and Indonesia." forest change in key regions". To analyse the trends and status of deforestation and tree cover loss in the programme countries and areas, the data from Global Forest Watch was used. The trend from the previous four years (2014-2018) was compared to the programme period (2018-2021). The results show that in many of the programme countries and areas the rate of tree cover loss was reduced or it remained somewhat the same. The highest tree cover loss rates occurred in Laos, Madagascar and Indonesia (and the Mtwara area in Tanzania). However, there are some noticeable changes as well. For instance, in Indonesia, in the West and Central Kalimantan where the programme is operating, the rate of tree cover loss was remarkably smaller than in the previous years, dropping from over 7 % to an average of 3%. Also, in Madagascar the rate of tree cover loss was reduced although deforestation still remains high in the northern part of the country as well as around the coasts. In Laos, in the Saravan and Xekong provinces, the rate of tree cover loss increased.

In Nepal, Bhutan, Uganda and Kenya as well as in Tanzania, the tree cover loss trends had remained relatively the same while the rate was not very high (less than 1,5% in all places except the Mtwara area in Tanzania, where the rate was 5%). The plausible reason for this tree cover trend in Tanzania may be normalised forest loss and gain and also the fact that there is increased establishment of cashew plantations in recent years.

According to the Global Forest Resources Assessment published by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) in 2020, the world's forest areas are decreasing, but the rate of loss has slowed down. Globally, deforestation continues but at a lower rate than before. The deforestation rate in the tropics averaged 9.28 million ha per year and 0.5 million hectares in the sub-tropics in 2015-2020. The highest annual deforestation rate in 2015-2020 was in Africa (4.41 million ha), followed by South America (2.96 million ha) and Asia (2.24 million ha). During 2020 WWF published a report analysing deforestation in the tropics and sub-tropics. The results showed that deforestation and degradation in the 24 deforestation fronts analysed has been significant, reaching up to 43 million hectares between 2004-2017.

According to the annual statistics from the Global Forest Watch, the tropics lost 11.1 million hectares of tree cover in 2021, out of which 3.75 million hectares occurred within tropical primary rainforests — areas of critical importance for carbon storage and biodiversity. In 2020, primary rainforest destruction increased 12% from 2019 levels,

resulting in a 12.2 million hectares loss of tree cover in 2020. Forest destruction has been especially high in Brazil due to loosening of environmental laws by the current president's regime. However, there are also positive signs, one being a slight positive progress in Indonesia with a reduced deforestation rate and a moratorium on peat forest clearing as well as restoration and regeneration of natural forests around the world.

Furthermore, in early 2021, WWF published an analysis showing that nearly 59 million hectares of forests – an area larger than mainland France – have regrown since 2000, most of these, however, outside the tropics. That being said, many of the programme areas are located in the deforestation hotspots, where the pressure on natural forest clearing is still huge. The programme has been able to provide valuable support for the protection and restoration of these areas and vast areas of forests have been secured. The programme and its theory of change remain relevant, and the programme continues to contribute towards its original 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"

The project's objectives in this area have largely been met. The programme has been successful in strengthening communities and citizens to promote sustainable natural resources management. The programme has worked with governments and duty-bearers to address deforestation and to drive sustainable practices and policies. Programme partners have contributed to this outcome. Yet, development has been uneven and the world has faced shocks, such as the Covid-19 outbreak, that have also had an impact on the programme's capability to deliver. Strong local presence and local ownership over the initiatives have proven resilient amidst these situations and highlighted the value of WWF's approach to work with communities and maintain strong relationships with local authorities.

The global pandemic has continued to have an impact, but the impact in the last year of the programme

has been less significant than it was in 2020. The programme's two themes, engagement and sustainable forest management, have been relevant and provided avenues for impact and change as well as capacity to adapt to external events beyond the programme's control. Active engagement with and support to civil society has ensured a sustained impact by local communities in regional governance processes. The creation of livelihood opportunities has been an integral part through the programme and it has increased communities' resilience as it was presented in the programme's approach.

Extent of application of WWF practices

Target for this outcome indicator was that at least one WWF approved tool or approach to enhance sustainable natural resources management would be implemented in each partner country during the programme period. This was achieved already in 2020.

The programme has supported local and regional governments as well as communities to improve their policies and land use and forest management plans. Development and operationalization of forest management plans and land use plans has been central for the achievement of the programme's outcome. Civil society has been supported to influence policy and natural resources decision-making to be more sustainable. The engagement and commitment of duty bearers as well as the capacity of partner CSOs has been measured and monitored to witness the impact of the interventions. All details of these achievements are not listed in this report.

WWF supported the adoption and successful implementation of zero poaching strategies together with government partners and local communities resulting in reduced poaching levels and illegal wildlife trafficking in the East Africa region. The work to address poaching and trade of illegal wildlife products remains challenging and extremely important. As the impact indicators of the programme reflect, poaching levels have been reducing in East Africa and one reason for this is the adoption of the zero poaching strategy. Efforts to address illegal trade in timber and other forest products in East Africa have yielded results on a regional level and participating countries' level of commitment has increased. Nepal has achieved 365 days of zero poaching of rhinos several times since 2011. Poaching trend in the programme area is getting down due to the coordinated approach of forest/protected area authorities, local communities and other stakeholders.

In Finland, the programme also implemented sustainability tools to measure the actions by companies on their commitments to sustainable sourcing. In 2019 and 2021, WWF released the "Palm Oil Buyers Scorecard" with the aim to observe how well palm oil buyer companies are developing their sustainability regarding palm oil purchases and policies and how well they are achieving their targets to eliminate deforestation from their supply chains. The Finnish Soy Commitment was established in 2016 in cooperation with WWF and four companies, later three more companies signed the commitment. The seven signatories had committed to promoting sustainable soy sourcing in their supply chains by 2020. In 2021 WWF sent a follow-up questionnaire to these seven companies as well as to five more companies that were assessed to be in key roles in the soy consumption in Finland. Based on the results of the questionnaire, the WWF Finland Soy Report 2022 was published in February 2022. More analysis on the results of the palm oil scorecard and soy commitment report is covered later in this report under chapter "Engagement".

Amount of forests under protection or improved management

The original target of 1,100,000 hectares of forests under improved management or protection was achieved in 2019. At the end of 2021, the programme had been able to support the improved management of or protection of over 2,5 million hectares of forests. The main reason for significantly exceeding the original targets is that the results are a culmination of several years of technical support to district government partners as well as the private sector, in this case in Indonesia, and when the efforts are initiated the exact timing of when the forests may be officially brought under sustainable management practices is difficult to predict. 2021 also saw achievements in the additional forest hectares recognised as Indigenous and community conservation areas. Whereas Indonesia contributed the majority of total forest area, significant contributions were also made in other countries and regions of the programme.

A detailed analysis of work and achievements on sustainable forest management are provided in section 1.2.2. Sustainable forest management.

Number of people engaged (disaggregated by gender and CSOs and companies)

There were a total of 149,692 direct rights holders (50% of which were women) and 16,152 direct duty bearers (44% women) engaged during the whole four-year programme period. This indicator

"The creation of livelihood opportunities has increased communities' resilience."

"After the initial shock of Covid-19 outbreak in 2020 the programme found new ways for engagement, some of which are likely to be continued beyond

the pandemic."

measures the cover and reach of the programme while qualitatively the programme's rights holders and duty bearers were engaged in many different ways. Some of the engagements were long-term and others short. Indirectly the programme reached more than 3,936,832 people.

Target was set at 15,000 people per country (direct) and in terms of achieving the target there was variation between the countries and regions of the programme. The programme had the biggest direct reach in Nepal and the East Africa Forest Programme. The pandemic had a significant impact from 2020 onwards. Meeting restrictions were on and off in some countries, with more impacts on programme implementation in Asia during 2021 while Africa has been faster to ease up restrictions. After the initial shock in 2020 the programme found new ways for engagement, some of which are likely to be continued beyond the pandemic. At the same time, close engagement with communities remains essential and it is often difficult to replace with alternative means.

The number of CSOs engaged throughout the programme reached 509. The total number of enterprises supported was 77 and the number of smallholder farmers engaged was 5,982. Support to and working with local CSOs has been an important aspect of WWF's work in all regions. It has helped in engaging with governments and bringing about policy level changes but also in engaging with communities and providing local level support. Most of the enterprises supported are local level community enterprises or equivalents. The support provided has been through development of income models as well as support to establishing small enterprises. Through the innovation work in Kenya more established companies have also been engaged over business models relating to conservation or finding ways towards more sustainable production.

Earth hour has remained as a well attended global WWF event to which approximately 1.5 million people in Finland took part in 2021 according to a survey by Kantar TNS, which is a slight increase from 2020. Overall the level of participation in Finland has been strong and WWF Finland has continued to increase the number of supporters during the programme period.

Number of households benefiting

Altogether 31,943 households were reached during the programme. This indicator includes the number of households in which the programme improved the livelihoods of its members, their socioeconomic status or enabled them to benefit more

sustainably from natural resources. The target was set to 10,500 households for the programme at 1,500 households in each country or region. The majority of the households reached was in Nepal where WWF was able to reach 12,343 households through natural resource management and livelihood related interventions. While the overall target number of households was reached and most countries/regions of the programme reached the target, there was significant variation between areas. The pandemic had a significant impact on 2020 when movement restrictions affected WWF's ability to interact with local communities in most countries.

Local community members and households in the programme areas have benefitted from the programme activities and interventions in multiple ways. In general, the programme has supported communities in securing their rights to their forests and natural resources through supporting village land use planning and getting community forests and Indigenous conservation areas officially recognized and approved by governments. Promotion for secured customary and village land rights has also been done through policy influencing. Further, through supporting various livelihood development and income generating activities, the programme has been able to support local people in diversifying and increasing their income sources and self-dependency.

The programme has supported community-based organisations, cooperatives and associations to develop sustainable and profitable nature based enterprises and to improve their access to formal markets. The programme has supported sustainable community commodity production, e.g. timber, coffee, spices such as vanilla, rubber, broom grass, honey, oils, rattan, handicrafts, etc. The programme has also helped communities in improved agro-ecological and climate resilient farming models to improve food security and climate change adaptation especially in East Africa, with additional support from the MFA which was granted during the programme period. Some of the programme communities have invested income that they receive from timber or other commodity sales further to social services, such as education, health services and infrastructure development in their communities.

Through conservation of the forests and other ecosystems, and restoration of degraded lands and freshwater sources, the ecosystem services that the local communities depend on have been secured. Local communities have been the main

implementers in forest restoration and managing tree nurseries and operating agroforestry farming. During Covid-19, the programme also supported households in needs related to accessing protective gear and other health services.

More information about the climate change adaptation support and benefits to communities is also presented in the climate resilience chapter.

Number of equity responsive measures

The programme's target of at least one measure addressing equity in natural resources management in each country was reached in 2020. In the final year the work continued to improve gender equity and to reduce general inequalities.

In all partner countries WWF Finland's partners were supporting and encouraging equity responsive measures in the programme interventions. This was in line with WWF network's focus on strengthening the social aspects of conservation work and supported by the findings of the programme's Mid Term Review. Equity measures were conducted including promotion of gender equality and reduction of inequalities in nearly all countries and regions.

Equity responsive measures have included, for instance, specific activities targeted to women, youth, children, Indigenous groups and people with disabilities, such as women's livelihood enterprises and agricultural production groups, livelihood development for people with disabilities, strengthening the land rights and tenure of Indigenous People, engaging youth in prevention of poaching and wildlife crime, capacity building and job creation for youth and environmental education programs for children and students.

A capacity development process based on a specific analysis on disability inclusion and conservation started in 2020 and a workshop series regarding disability inclusion was carried out in 2021 for WWF Finland's team and continued with a training series for all programme partners in 2022. Internal capacity development will continue in the next programme and is expected to contribute to improved delivery of results in the future. More information about equity responsive measures is presented later on this report.

ENGAGEMENT

During the four years, the programme has engaged both right-holders and duty-bearers to improve forest management, reduce deforestation, increase governments' commitment to international and regional agreements and policies concerning the environment, address illegal trade and poaching, and raise awareness on biodiversity, climate resilience and sustainable consumption. Throughout the programme, WWF and its CSO partners have been actively participating in policy processes in all partner countries and in Finland. Various significant achievements to improve natural resources governance and management have been made.

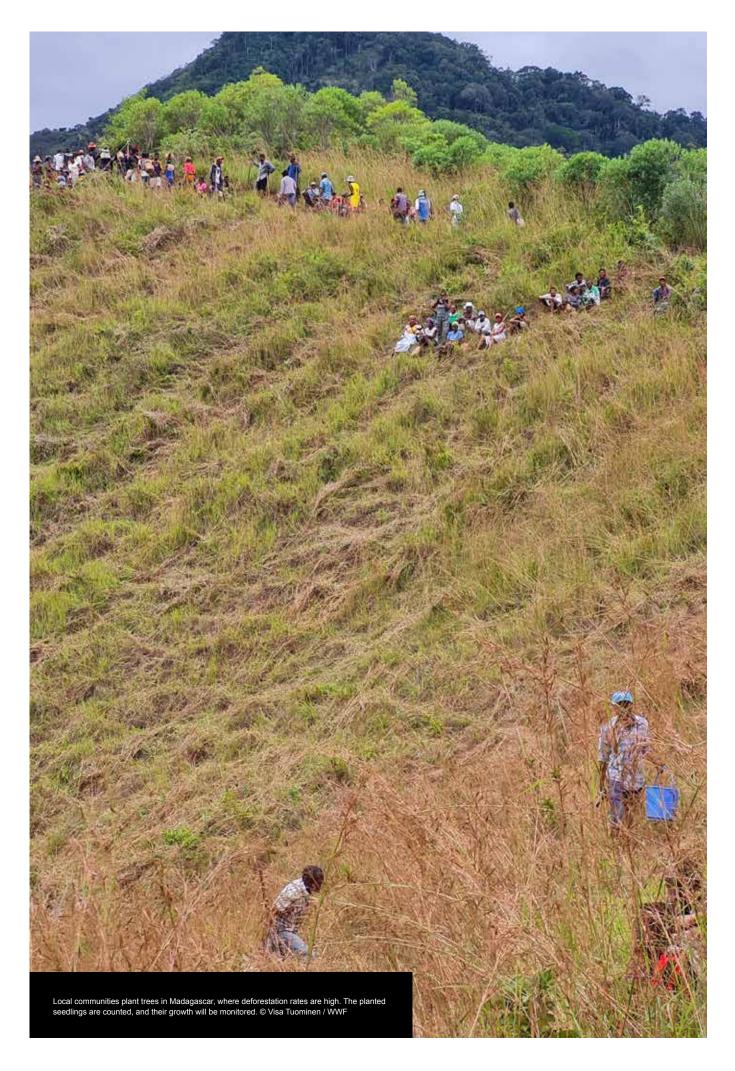
In Borneo, the programme has supported the collaboration with seven district governments in West and Central Kalimantanas well as two provincial governments. The support and cooperation with the district and provincial governments has resulted in improved land use plans and forest management plans in the local government forest management areas and securing the high conservation values in these forests. This work has resulted in securing the most ecologically important areas in the future land use processes of the provinces. Another target for the programme was to engage with at least two new forest concession companies to secure the conservation values in their forest operations, which was achieved.

Further, WWF facilitated the Arabela landscape management plan, which was one of the main targets for the programme period. The consultation process aimed to integrate protection of high conservation value areas, protected areas and the community conservation areas into the district spatial planning in Sintang and Melawi districts, while in Lamandau district, the integration into the district spatial planning is still in process. The final landscape management plan will be submitted by West and Central Kalimantan provinces during 2022. Consultations indicated that the landscape approach¹ is considered an important tool under the new Job Creation Law (Omnibus Law) to achieve National Determined Contribution -targets both by the government partners as well as the private sector partners. This is a victory for WWF Indonesia, since WWF is considered one of the main organisations with strong and long-term experience on landscape approach and enables WWF to be part of many important land use planning and policy processes in Kalimantan. WWF also influenced the development of district level green growth development strategies in collaboration with other stakeholders.

Another important achievement in Borneo has been the continuing support and capacity building to local CSOs and their coalitions. In four years, the programme supported altogether 32 local CSOs. Through improved capacity as well as cooperation,

"A workshop series regarding disability inclusion was carried out both in Finland and partner countries."

¹⁾ Landscape Approach is a conceptual framework whereby stakeholders in a landscape aim to reconcile competing social, economic, and environmental objectives. It seeks to move away from the often unsustainable sectoral approach to land management. A landscape approach aims to ensure the realisation of local level needs and action (i.e. the interests of different stakeholders within the landscape), while also considering goals and outcomes important to stakeholders outside the landscape, such as national governments or the international community.



"The programme supported altogether 32 local CSOs in Borneo."

the CSOs have been able to engage in governmental processes concerning forests and natural resources. For instance, CSOs have been invited by the district government to be part of the Sintang's Green Strategy planning process and its integration into the Sintang's Medium Term Development Plan and Spatial Plan. Also, CSOs have been able to negotiate and plan together with governments on the establishment of village forests and Indigenous Conservation Areas as well as Social Forestry Schemes inside the government forest areas. The support to CSOs has been crucial in enabling the villages to have access to the government funding for village and business development. WWF also considers the continuation of its operations together with local governments, private sector and local CSOs a success since the operational environment in Indonesia went through various changes during the past four years that could have threatened this cooperation.

In Laos, WWF participated in the revision and development of the new national Land Law and Forest Law which was approved in June 2019. The revised forest law provides clearer provisions related to the participation of local communities in forest management, the official recognition of village forests in state-managed forests and recognition and protection of customary land use rights. WWF Laos engaged together with other CSOs in the advocacy work. Through a networking group "Laos Land Information Working Group", an informal advisory group was formed to collectively advocate for improved legislation in relation to customary land and forest use rights.

In Nepal, the main focus during the four years has been in improving engagement within the new national governance structure at all levels, namely at federal, provincial, and local levels particularly for updating forest policies, developing the Environment and Natural Resources Conservation Act (ENRCA) framework for local governments, and promoting environment friendly sustainable infrastructure. The Government of Nepal recently endorsed in 2022 a first of its kind wildlife friendly infrastructure guideline, creating a milestone for environment friendly sustainable infrastructure. Out of 753 local governments in Nepal, over 50% have adopted the ENCRA framework while developing their legal instruments.

WWF monitored the level of knowledge of the stakeholders with a KAP-survey ("knowledge, attitudes and practices") in the beginning and end of the programme in Nepal. In the baseline analysis in 2018 when the programme started, the overall level of knowledge among the respondents

regarding conservation and sustainable natural resources management (right-holders and dutybearers of Laljhadi-Mohana) was 65.44%, while 70% had an overall positive attitude and 44% indicated that the practices adopted by them were catered towards natural resource management and governance. When this KAP survey was repeated in the last year of the program, the results had improved: the overall level of knowledge was 70.7 %, 82.8 % had an overall positive attitude and 45.6% indicated that the practices adopted by them were catered towards natural resource management and governance. (Annex 3D, Post-project performance assessment, Nepal). Regarding the duty-bearers capacity to implement their responsibilities, the baseline assessment indicated that around 33% of the duty-bearers in Laljhadi-Mohana corridor (the programme site) had capacity to implement responsibilities whereas in the end-assessment the result had risen to 52%.

WWF continued engaging with youth and school students as well as with the Eco-Club coalition of Nepal, SENSE, to raise awareness and empower future generations for conservation as well as to implement green school guidelines endorsed by the government. The guideline was developed with the support from the partnership program. WWF Nepal has facilitated the Wild Wisdom Quiz (WWQ) and Wild Wisdom Global Challenge and was able to reach 554 schools and 7 746 students (52 % girls). A WWQ book was developed incorporating global and national context to supply offline learning materials. WWF continued its partnership with the National Youth Council, a government entity under the federal Ministry of Youth and Sports and United Nations Volunteers (UNV) of Nepal for engaging young people.

The East Africa Forest Programme's main goal was to support governments to follow international, regional, bilateral agreements and national laws to reduce illegal trade in timber and other forest products. WWF mostly implemented this work through supporting two regional entities: the East Africa Commission (EAC) and the Southern African Development Community (SADC).

The main achievements in the four years of the programme were the first ever EAC forestry policy and its implementation strategy which was approved in 2020, and the formation of the SADC forestry strategy which was approved in 2021, as well as the regional mechanism to manage and dispose of seized timber stockpiles, which was approved by SADC council of ministers in June 2021. This is an important commitment towards curbing illegal timber trade in the region. WWF also initiated the

"WWF continued engaging with youth and school students in Nepal." harmonisation of timber customs documents in the EAC region and inclusion of gender aspects and women's role in the forest value chains in the EAC implementation plan.

During the four years, WWF also supported the development of an agreement between SADC and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations plus three (ASEAN+3) countries aimed at developing a mechanism for a regional stockpile inventory, management, repatriation and/or disposal for seized timber and other forest products for SADC Member States. The endorsement and commitment by SADC to pursue the agreement with Asian importing countries and to control timber stockpiles regionally is a milestone towards curbing the illegal trade of timber and other forest products in the region and promotion of legal timber trade.

Another important process supported facilitated by WWF under the programme has been the East Africa Timber Trade Stakeholders Forum. Altogether three forums were supported in the four vears and the latest 8th forum was held in Arusha in June 2021 in collaboration with TRAFFIC, bringing various stakeholders from the private sector and CSOs from Eastern and Southern Africa to echo issues on forest governance and deliberate on illegal timber trading and implementation of the Zanzibar declaration. As confirmed by the final evaluation of the programme, the timber trade forum has been a good platform to share experiences, timely information on timber trade, and has resulted in the development and sharing of tools including the updated Timber Identification Guide, the IUCN red listing, the CITES non-detriment findings for timber, and the 'Summary of Main Export and Import Procedures for East Africa's Timber Trade'.

Under the East Africa Forest Programme, WWF measured the engagement and commitment of government representatives in the beginning and in the last year of the programme by using WWF's Engagement and Commitment Tool. After four years the level of commitment had risen to an average of 3.1 from the average of 2 (on a scale o-5). The primary factor for this increase was the presence of the East Africa Annual Timber Trade Forum that brings together forest-related agencies from the Zanzibar Declaration signatory countries to share experiences and to provide feedback on the agreed commitment actions.

Recognising the importance of regional level work in curbing illegal timber trade, WWF conducted an internal analysis and integrated regional and transboundary landscape approaches into the WWF's Africa Conservation Framework.

In Bhutan, WWF engaged with government forest authorities to further support community forest groups around the country in improved forest governance and management through various skills training e.g. in bookkeeping, carpentry and scientific forest management techniques. As a result over 7,000 hectares of community forest areas are now under improved management, while over 3,440 households benefited from the interventions. At the same time, this allowed the programme to support one component of Bhutan's forest policy, as community forestry is one of the main priorities of the forest policy implementation. Further, in the beginning of the programme period, WWF Bhutan also facilitated and established a partnership with the National Biodiversity Centre and supported the development of an Aquatic Biodiversity Portal, which is still running.

The programme started to support Panda Labs Innovation work in Kenya in 2020. The work has enhanced the development of innovative approaches in Kenya on delivering conservation impact, mainstreaming innovation in conservation programs, and establishing strategic alliances for capacity building of CSOs. Through the subprojects such as the Greenhouse Session, Wildlife Credit, and Moonshot Challenge activities, the programme has helped to build an ecosystem of conservation champions and identify areas that need innovation. As good experience was attained, the innovation approach is now included in the WWF Kenya Strategic Plan as a driver of conservation work. As a result of the two-year piloting of the innovation hub, WWF Kenya has identified green and blue economy principles as an opportunity to rally the engagement of the private sector to support nature conservation. The innovation programme has attracted new partners who are willing to work with WWF Kenya. For example, Absa Bank will be supporting WWF Kenya's initiative for tree planting and this collaboration followed from participation in the Greenhouse sessions innovation program.

Since its start, the Panda Labs initiative has averaged around eight new projects each year. In 2021, ten community-created nature-based solutions in the Amboseli-SOKNOT landscape were initiated as part of the Moonshot Challenge. Also thirteen CSOs which were part of the Greenhouse Session acceleration implemented their own initiatives. Finally, Panda Labs continued to work on solutions co-designed with communities and co-created by partners, such as the Wild Impact Studio Project and the Wildlife Credit Project, one of which has now been adopted as part of the Illegal

"The timber forum has been a good platform to share experiences, tools and timely information on timber trade."

Wildlife Trade program-project, which is part of the Wildlife Practice Beyond Tourism conservation solutions.

In the four years, the East African Wildlife Crime Hub has carried out very strong advocacy work and influenced various regional and national policies related to wildlife crime prevention. One of the main interventions has been supporting the regional authorities in implementing the zero-poaching strategy to reduce wildlife crime and poaching, which was seen as a way too ambitious target six years ago when the initial workshop of the hub was organised. Zero-poaching strategies already resulted in good results and poaching has been reduced in the area and the target protected areas.

The hub has also conducted several studies and analyses to increase knowledge and awareness on the situation regarding wildlife crime in the region, which need to be addressed. With the support from the hub, five countries have signed off the regional wildlife strategy hosted by the East African Community (EAC). In addition, a regional prosecution forum has been established for state prosecution officers to improve data sharing and collaboration. Interactions with government officials have e.g. revealed an increase in seizures of elephant tusks, and a worry that the previous illegal ivory trade circuit in the southern part of Tanzania and parts of Uganda may have resumed.

The IWT hub also supported the development of three policy documents targeted at increasing awareness of the value of wildlife and promoting the need to support the development of blue and green economic pathways. Ultimately, the aim is to ensure that governments see wildlife as a key strategic asset and, therefore, create an enabling environment for the wildlife economy and the conservation of related wildlife resources.

Engagement work and advocacy in Finland

During the four years of the programme WWF Finland has been able to solidify its position as a trustworthy and professional organisation. This laid the foundation for effective and impactful advocacy work at all levels. The increase in media coverage and improved results in brand surveys prove that WWF Finland is an organisation that people rely on: trustworthy and professional are the words that respondents connect WWF to. In the 2021 brand survey, WWF Finland was the most recognizable environmental organisation in Finland. As for the media coverage, media hits increased from 1,550 to 2,997, with some variance between years. WWF Finland has also been able to

increase the number of both supporters and social media followers yearly.

Impacting national and global policies

In 2021 WWF Finland actively participated in the Development Policy Committee and also participated in the development and publication of three reports: 1) 'Biodiversity as an Enabler of Sustainable Development' 2) 'Finland should distinguish itself in food security diplomacy', and 3) 'Finland's climate financing needs a clear direction'. These publications and dialogue in the Committee provided an opportunity to participate and contribute to the Finnish development dialogue. WWF Finland has received positive and encouraging feedback on its role in the Committee, since its membership started in 2020.

In May 2021 the new long-term development policy of Finland was made public. WWF celebrates it for its recognition of biodiversity's role in the development sector by placing it as one of the main objectives of the Finnish development cooperation. In addition, the new policy emphasises the role of climate change. WWF Finland contributed to the preparation process through different approaches including an active role in the Development Policy Committee, direct contacts, advocacy, and provision of information for the decision makers throughout the programme period.

The negotiations on the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) were postponed in 2020 due to the pandemic. WWF Finland participated in the negotiations in 2021 as part of both the Finnish and WWF delegations in preparatory meetings and the COP15.1, as well as negotiations held in Geneva in March 2022. The process continues in 2022 towards the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) in which WWF Finland will continue participation. WWF Finland participated also in the Finnish delegation in UNEP/UNEA meetings in 2021 and 2022 virtually.

WWF Finland's role in the GBF negotiations has been focused on resource mobilisation, especially the role of ODA (official development aid), which has been raised in the negotiations by representatives from developing countries. In addition, WWF Finland has raised the topics regarding the role of human rights, gender and the rights of the Indigenous Peoples, which also the Finnish government has been actively promoting. WWF has as well encouraged Finland to take an active role and show leadership on the inclusion of the target of halving the ecological footprint by 2030, which is also connected to the global equity

"Poaching has been reduced in the area and the target protected areas in East Africa."

"WWF Finland participated in the negotiations concerning the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework."

and the outcome statement of this programme ("more sustainable consumption choices made by individuals and companies").

Showing global interconnectedness and promoting sustainable choices

One of the greatest outcomes of the programme is the considerable role of WWF Finland in promoting sustainable diets in Finland. The programme provided resources for WWF Finland to start promoting sustainable diets and advocate that in the food sector in Finland. When the programme was planned, WWF did not dare to set a target on reduction of meat consumption in Finland, which however was realized in 2019, when annual meat consumption in Finland declined to just under 80 kg per capita. Meanwhile it must be noted that it is too early to draw long term conclusions from this result. The increase in awareness and actual dietary change in Finland have been huge during the programme period, and WWF Finland has played a crucial role in that. In addition to the national work, WWF Finland had a significant role in the build-up of the global WWF Food Practice, and especially the sustainable diets workstream within the Practice. Increased capacity and strategic focus on sustainable diets during the programme period allowed implementation of innovative national activities. This work further solidified when the 11 million four-year EU DEAR funding for the Eat4Change project (including 12 countries or

This was one of WWF's main goals. During the programme period, the EU deforestation law was the most important opportunity to contribute and advocate the programme's main messages to the Finnish and EU level policy processes.

regions) was approved in 2019. In Finland, during 2021 WWF Finland implemented a campaign focusing on deforestation. The aim of the campaign was to raise awareness of the historical EU deforestation law process as well as to inform politicians and decision makers, companies and citizens about the law and ensure that the Finnish opinion regarding the EU law would be in line with WWF's asks. In addition, the aim was to raise awareness about the impacts of deforestation on biodiversity loss and climate change by including WWF's deforestation messages and asks in the advocacy regarding the CBD and UNFCCC negotiations. Several advocacy approaches were applied and WWF's Youth team members met with four Finnish members of the EU parliament to discuss the deforestation law. After these meetings with the youth, MEP Nils Torvalds informed that he supports the inclusion of other ecosystems in addition to forests to be included in the law. In addition, WWF worked and engaged actively with private sector companies to encourage them to join the coalition of other European companies to demand a strong EU deforestation law. As a result, two Finnish private sector companies, Jalotofu and S Group, signed the company letter that demands strong EU deforestation law, showing strong signals to the decision makers and politicians. The shared asks of WWF and S Group were further promoted in the Helsingin Sanomat op-ed (Vieraskynä) a few days before the government's ministers decided the government position on the EU deforestation law. WWF also encouraged Finnish citizens to send messages to decision makers and to demand for a strong deforestation law.

In 2021, as part of the deforestation campaign, WWF also ordered an analysis on the impacts of Finnish consumption on tropical deforestation. This kind of information and data was lacking so it was highly needed, though at the same time quite challenging to prepare. This analysis was made by Gaia Consulting and based on the results, WWF prepared a report called "Valinnoillamme on väliä suomalaisen kulutuksen vaikutukset tropiikin metsäkatoon". The results showed that out of the Finnish consumed commodities, coffee, soy (feed), paper and wood products, cocoa, rubber, and raw sugar are so called deforestation-risk products which means that their production might cause deforestation or destruction of other ecosystems in the tropics. The analysis also revealed that there are still a lot of challenges in the transparency of value chains and origin of these products. The results of the analysis were also communicated via WWF Finland's communications channels. Advice for sustainable consumption habits were introduced and widely noticed.

During the programme period, WWF published "Palm Oil Buyers Scorecard" two times. The aim of the scorecard is to follow how well palm oil buyers are achieving their targets to eliminate deforestation from their supply chains. In 2021, three Finnish companies participated in the scoring and were listed in the category of "middle" - meaning they were not very ambitious and had not improved their score since the last scoring 1,5 years before. The best companies in the analysis scored 24 points whereas the Finnish companies scored from 10 to 14 points.

The Finnish Soy Commitment group was established in 2016 in cooperation with WWF and four companies with three more companies joining later. The aim was to commit to promoting sustainable soy sourcing in their supply chains by 2020. In 2021, an analysis was conducted on how well the companies had performed. The WWF Finland Soy Report 2022

"WWF's Youth team members met with four Finnish members of the EU parliament to discuss the deforestation law."

based on the questionnaire results was published in February 2022. Nearly all the companies that replied stated that their soy sourcing is 100% certified, which was a clear shift to higher coverage of certification compared to the baseline in 2012 when 25% of soy was certified. Although the progress was good, the challenge was that the majority of the companies had used certification credits and that they still don't have traceability to where the soy is actually produced. In this case the risk for deforestation or other ecosystem conversion still remains. Traceability of the Finnish soy consumption must be substantially improved if deforestation and conversion free supply chains are to be achieved.

Involving young generations

During the four years of the programme, environmental education measures supported the achievement of the conservation goals of the programme period by raising awareness and supporting active citizenship. Activities targeted at schools raised awareness, WWF Youth's activities strengthened the environmental agency of the team members, promoted reaching a wide range of youth in Finland, and supported WWF's sustainable food work. The measures of environmental education were supportive of the changes in consumption habits. WWF Youth promoted the achievement of the program's goals, e.g., through their own communication, by writing statements on current themes, helping WWF influence politically, and working with companies. Youth also encouraged their peers to make sustainable food choices, organised events and disembarked to student restaurants to talk about the environmental impact of food. The WWF Youth also produced recipes and online articles that WWF used in its own communication.

In 2021, environmental education measures aimed at raising awareness within the limits set by the Covid-19 pandemic. In terms of school lessons, the project fell short of its goals because the state of emergency obliged schools to switch to remote learning and remote lessons were not widely ordered for schools. The lessons materials for the tour were provided for teachers to use on their own, so that they could continue to raise awareness and talk about opportunities for action after the end of the tour. WWF Youth activities, which aim towards active participation, moved under the WWF Eat4Change programme in 2021 but continued to fulfil the goals set for the MFA programme period.

To measure the impact of the environmental education work of WWF Finland, three different master's thesis were conducted by master's students.

Also three feedback surveys were conducted. According to the feedback from the school tour, 15% of the participants planned to make their eating more responsible and 45% considered it.

Based on feedback from the youth, the activities carried out through the programme period strengthened their active citizenship skills. The youth's knowledge of environmental issues and their ability and motivation to act for the environment had increased during the program. The youth named as the most significant changes in themselves the transformation of environmental anxiety into hope and desire to act, as they had gained courage and confidence, learned concrete skills such as leadership and communication skills, substance competence, and time management. In addition, the significance of their role in environmental issues had become clearer.

The school tour motivated to influence the sustainability of food. Due to Covid-19 restrictions the ambassadors were unable to run separate workshops to support the advocacy projects as planned, thus the number of active actors could not be significantly increased, and the target, 500 students having organised food projects in their own school/university, was not reached. However, based on the feedback from the teachers, various advocacy projects related to school food were started as a result of the tour. 15% of teachers who responded to the survey said they were going to start a project with students, 18% considered starting a project. In addition, active citizenship was supported by marketing the WWF Youth food advocacy guide for schools to create advocacy projects in the students' free time when it was not possible during school activities. Through scout cooperation, WWF promoted active citizenship as scout groups took measures to increase the sustainability of food as a part of the Sustainable Scouting Criteria, and WWF Finland with the Scouts of Finland created an environmental know-how badge, as part of which scouts carry out environmental projects.

New angles arising

In early 2022 there has been growing interest in the relationship between environmental issues and security policy. WWF network has been preparing a report on the topic and it has been hoped that high level representatives from Finland could participate in the launch. WWF Finland was invited to speak about this topic to several events organised by the Finnish Institute of International Affairs, Crisis Management Centre Finland and the University of Helsinki. WWF Finland applied for additional funding from the MFA (POL-60) to contribute to

"Traceability of the Finnish soy consumption must still be substantially improved if deforestation and conversion free supply chains are to be achieved." this sectoral dialogue in Finland as there had been increasing requests for it by stakeholders, however, no additional support was provided.

SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT

The programme achieved its original target for sustainable forest management and protection already in the second year of the programme implementation, 2019. As a result, from four years of supporting conservation, restoration and sustainable forest management, the programme contributed to the 2,516,575 hectares of forests under improved management and protection.

In Borneo, the target of getting over 1 million hectares under protection, sustainable management or community conservation was also achieved. This was a result of over 10 years of support to WWF and partners and stakeholders in Borneo. During the four years 2018-2021, WWF has been supporting or involved in the improved management or establishment of altogether: 1,136,564 hectares of government forest management units (three government Forest Management Units): 202,762 hectares of private forest concessions (two companies); 880,535 hectares of strategic environmental and forestry regions and no-go areas in the Sintang district and 20,533 hectares of Indigenous community conserved areas (ICCAs), (altogether seven community forest areas). The main goal for WWF has been to ensure that the high conservation value areas (e.g. orangutan habitats) are mapped and included in the management plans of government and private sector forest areas. For the village and Indigenous community forests, it's also always the goal to prepare a management plan and receive official registration and endorsement for the village forests by the local governments.

Further, to support the community livelihood development together with the social forest scheme, WWF has supported different interventions; (1) agroforestry development based on coffee, ginger, horticulture, and rubber; (2) development of non-timber forest products (NTFPs) based on cultivation of forest trees such as local fruits; and (3) development of environmental services such as ecotourism.

In the four years, WWF engaged with three companies which secured Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certification for their operations. Unfortunately, one company violated the principles and criteria of FSC and their certification was withdrawn. On the other hand, it shows that the monitoring process functions and mismanagement was observed. WWF engaged

the company specifically on high-conservation value assessment and ground check on orangutan monitoring. A new habitat for orangutans of over 32,000 hectares was found inside the company concession. Through cooperation the company agreed to secure and set-aside the orangutan habitats and commit to protection.

In Nepal, most focus was on forest restoration on community forest areas. Through natural regeneration of forests and addressing the drivers of forest degradation and loss, the forest cover and connectivity was enhanced in critical tiger habitat landscape. Local communities were supported in tree planting, developing and revision of forest management plans, reducing the impacts of cattle grazing on forests, forest fire management and various livelihood activities. In addition, WWF published a guidebook on sustainable forest management to be used with government partners as well as with communities on community forest management. In four years, altogether 19,581 hectares of forests were restored or better managed. A forest productivity survey was done in 2021 to see how the forests had grown. The results showed an increase both in stock, seedling diversity as well as carbon.

As a result, wildlife population and movement has increased in the programme areas. The presence and movement of wildlife demonstrates that the programme's integrated working approach leads to improving the forest and habitat connectivity and corridor functionality.

In Laos, the programme succeeded in supporting six local communities in forest restoration on degraded forest lands around the Xe Sap national park. This programme was first of its kind in these communities. Altogether 168 hectares of forests were planted. Interestingly, local communities emphasised the importance of forest restoration as a tool for securing rights to land; in their view, restored areas with information boards are less likely to be grabbed and allocated to other land-uses such as private sector concessions for agricultural production by the government.

WWF Laos also participated in the development of the new national Forestry and land law process advocating important views such as customary land rights. Now the new law is proved, and it emphasises strongly the customary land rights which is very good progress. Also community based agroforestry groups and non-timber forest product groups were established. By supporting diversified livelihoods and food security, communities will have increased income and pressure from logging

"A new habitat for orangutans of over 32,000 hectares was found and secured to protection." will reduce. The programme organised skillstraining as well as study tours to municipalities and supermarkets to improve awareness on the whole value chain and introduce the community producers to potential buyers for the non-timber forest products.

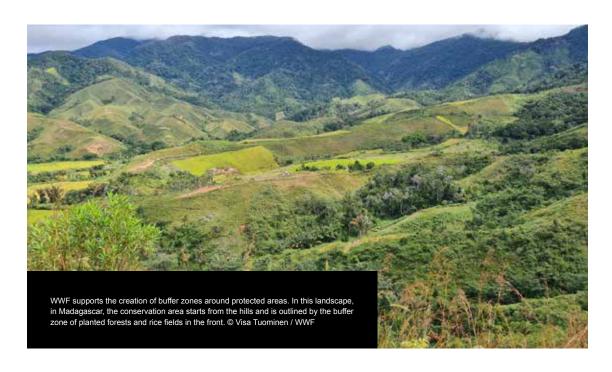
In Bhutan, the focus during the four years was on improving the community forest governance and management in five districts and 100 community forests. Interventions included e.g. reviewing community forest management plans, developing new methods of forest resource assessment and incorporating financial management, gender and governance aspects into the community forest management plans.

During four years, altogether over 7,000 hectares of community forest areas were supported with improved management and governance. Further, livelihood and community enterprise and skills development were supported for community members to gain benefits from the community forests. Two community-based enterprises were established and livelihood interventions, such as carpenter training was supported. However, the final evaluation showed that more analysis is needed to understand the market linkages and demand for community products since in the remote areas, it's quite difficult to have access to markets which makes livelihood interventions challenging.

The East Africa Forest Programme supported community forest establishment and management as well as forest governance with the aim to create financial and social benefits from the community forests. During four years, the total area of community forests under improved management was 46,473 hectares which is 46.47% of the final target of 100,000 hectares by the end of 2021. It was previously noted that the target of 100,000 hectares in four years was too ambitious and the programme focused on making the already restored areas more sustainable. In the final year of 2021, Tanzania added 5,781 hectares, Kenya 358 hectares, Uganda 260 hectares and Madagascar 39 hectares under improved forest management. In addition, it must be noted that the regional forest programme had a significant impact on regional forest policies as descripted in previous chapters.

Through the community forest wood production and NTFP production, different communities were able to create income to the community groups and enterprises. For Kenya and Tanzania, income raised from the wood production and NTFPs remained approximately at the same level as at the baseline, however for the years 2020 and 2021 the incomes went below the baseline due to reduced local purchasing power and reduced foreign timber trade due to Covid-19. During the Covid-19 affected years, Uganda and Madagascar were able to increase the annual revenue from the products mainly due to improved wood processing technology in Uganda and improved farming methods in Madagascar. With the income received from selling of sustainable timber, communities were able for instance to build class-rooms, support expectant mothers with maternity and medical support at the district hospital and paid health insurance.

"In Bhutan livelihood and community enterprise and skills development were supported for community members to gain benefits from the community forests."







WWF has a good reputation, trust and good cooperation with the government, private sector, communities and CSOs which has been instrumental in facilitating activities and agenda with different stakeholders and partners. As WWF is seen as a trusted partner for many governments, it has allowed WWF to influence on improving good natural resources governance in the programme countries. Policy advocacy in all levels from local, national, regional and even global level has proven to be a good approach for the programme. Working with various different stakeholders and partners has also enabled WWF to adapt to changes in the operational environment and build new approaches for implementing its objectives.

"Inclusive conservation is the priority for the WWF network."

WWF Finland with other Nordic WWF offices have supported a human rights-based approach in its interventions for several years. Inclusive conservation approach, that promotes human rights, is important in order to be able to achieve sustainable conservation results and benefits for local communities. Inclusive conservation is now also a priority of the WWF network. Building the capacity of local communities and CSOs in sustainable natural resources management and governance is crucial to ensure ownership and sustainability of WWF's interventions in the long run. Local governments also have an important role in active implementation of the conservation interventions.

In order to have long term sustainability and impacts, conservation efforts need to be supported and implemented for several years. WWF Finland has supported conservation work in Borneo and Nepal for over 10 years and now some truly impactful successes can be witnessed. For instance, wildlife numbers as well as forest cover is increasing and local communities and CSOs are integrated in the natural resources decision making processes. On the other hand, in Laos for instance, which is a new partner country and where interventions have just started, it can be noticed that the challenges are similar to those WWF faced in Nepal 10 years ago.

Identification of the major drivers of deforestation at programme countries and landscapes has been crucial in order to achieve and exceed the targeted hectares of forests under improved forest management and conservation. The programme has used a community forest management approach in areas where the drivers are related to the local dependency or pressure on the forest resources. Community forestry together with livelihood development has reduced pressure from forest encroachment, brought employment,

diversified income sources and improved climate resilience of the communities. Community forest management has furthermore been crucial in creating habitats and green corridors for wildlife around and between protected areas. However, influencing land use planning, advancing sustainable management of larger government or privately managed forest areas and engaging governments has been especially effective in areas where the areas are bigger and pressures for deforestation are deriving from e.g. corporate/ commercial and government priorities, such as large scale land use investments. This approach was crucial especially in Borneo, where working through government forest management units and private sector concessions are important ways to secure high conservation value areas and for instance orangutan habitats that are mostly located outside protected areas.

In Nepal, the programme has been implemented through a joint implementation modality which promotes government leadership and a bottom-up planning process with active participation of local communities. This approach helped in building trust between government agencies, community-based organisations, and local communities. The programme was smoothly implemented without delays despite limited movement (or travel restriction) resulting from the Covid-19 pandemic. The active participation of local communities and community-based organisations, and the cooperation of government agencies played an important role in the successful implementation despite difficult situations.

In East Africa, involvement of the high-level government officials such as the ministers and mayors has shown the way to resolve issues such as timber markets for communities in Tanzania and increased commitment towards fighting deforestation in Madagascar. For example, the Minister in Tanzania ordered the district's construction projects to source timber from community forestry.

For East Africa Wildlife Crime Hub, greater integrated planning with partners such as the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and TRAFFIC is resulting in greater partnerships and more integrated activities. Recognition of local communities to the CBOs and patroller structure through sensitization during the World Environment Day (rangers' day, lemurs' day) celebration in Madagascar motivates and energises the members in their function, more than allowances. An increase in community patrols

carried out occurred with more realisation than scheduled.

Dedicated field staff is an important success factor in organising local communities and keeping stakeholders in touch. However, tackling project sites in remote areas, for example in Indonesia and Laos, implies increased efforts due to limited accessibility and results in high logistic costs. In future projects, it is recommended to provide adequate human and financial resources for better assistance in remote project areas. Also selecting and working with communities close to one another could be considered as an operational cost-effective solution for future programmes.

WWF Nepal initiated on ground implementation of sustainable forest management (SFM) alongside support for development of forest management plans for community forests adopting the SFM approach. However, communities and stakeholders have limited technical knowledge on SFM, thus, continuous support is required. WWF Nepal has produced a SFM manual both in English and Nepali language targeting forest users, local resource persons, and forest technicians working on the ground.

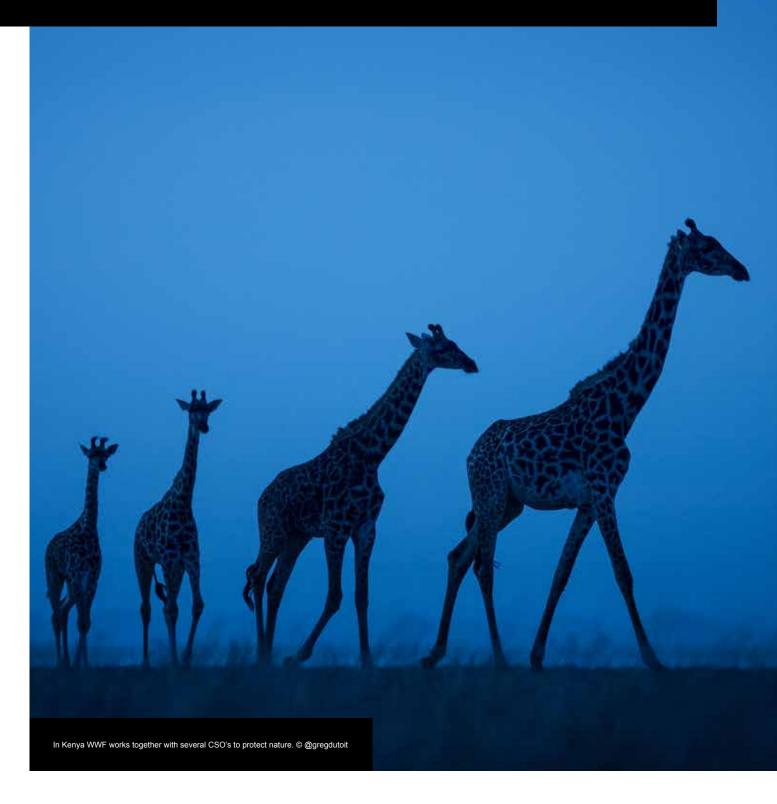
In Bhutan as well as in Laos there's still a need to develop business skills of community forest groups in order to establish viable enterprises. It was also noticed, that without a proper market chain facilitated by the government and key actors, community forest groups will not see growth in the market, neither for raw materials nor for finished products.

Throughout the innovation programme, it was learnt that innovation is a critical driver for co-creating local solutions for key conservation challenges. A good example is the Wildlife Credit project, where local communities in Amboseli and Maasai Mara are using incentives to prevent deforestation and human-wildlife conflict respectively. Also, key is allocating funds and resources to support experimentation, since this allows people to learn and fail fast, and lessons will help enhance future programme design. To foster innovation, partnerships and collaboration must be enhanced and encouraged.

During the programme period WWF Finland expanded its advocacy work. Participation in the international Environmental Human Rights Defenders (EHRDs) negotiations has provided WWF Finland a better position to discuss with the Ministry of Environment and other Finnish environmental officials about global biodiversity by bringing expertise and views from development contexts. The representatives of the Finnish delegation have appreciated WWF's role and contribution. It must be acknowledged that Finland is among the few countries which enable full participation of NGO and youth representatives in such international meeting delegations. WWF Finland also shared this success story and best practices of this advocacy work with the WWF's global policy and advocacy team. Especially other Nordic and European WWF offices were inspired by it to advocate for it to their foreign ministries and development agencies. Hopefully in the coming years WWF Finland will be able to support and share best practices of international advocacy work with its partners.

"Dedicated field staff is an important success factor in organising local communities and keeping stakeholders in touch."

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE FINNISH DEVELOPMENT POLICY



Contributions to the MFA aggregate indicators and development policy objectives are described in the reporting template (PDF) in Finnish based on the achievements described in previous chapters. Here the programme contribution to the strengthening of civil society and the MFA's cross-cutting objectives is described in detail.

Close cooperation with the MFA was continued throughout the programme period in Finland even during the restrictions, for example by participating in the Africa strategy process and MFA's country strategy process and Development Policy Committee. In partner countries WWF engaged with the Embassy representatives when the local restrictions allowed during the Covid-19. WWF provided its views and expertise also in the national discussion on Green Climate Fund and Global Environmental Facility as well as update discussions with MFA's climate team and Climate Ambassador. The CEO of WWF Finland was invited to the MFA's Development Policy Day panel discussion on the role of biodiversity in the development cooperation in November 2021. WWF also continued cooperation with other Finnish NGOs receiving Programme Funding from MFA.

SUPPORT TO CIVIL SOCIETY

Nine out of ten people in the world live in countries where civic freedoms are severely restricted. Shrinking civic space reduces WWF's ability to influence decision-makers and severely affects many of our partners and defenders of the environment. Global Witness (2021) reported that 227 land and environmental activists were murdered in 2020 – the worst figure on record. More attention to the status of the civic space has been paid in WWF in 2021 and especially early 2022.

Through the WWF Working Group on Civic Space and Environmental Human Rights Defenders (EHRDs) the WWF network developed a guidance document on Civic Space and EHRDs. The preparation process allowed deeper exploration of some of the emerging questions on how WWF can effectively address issues of shrinking civic space and EHRDs in particular across very diverse governance contexts. WWF network is doing close cooperation with other organisations like IUCN on this issue. WWF called attention to the role of EHRDs also in the international meetings like the CDB negotiations and WWF Finland in particular has encouraged the Finnish state to provide support to the EHRDs and raise attention on their role through the UN Human Rights Council during Finland's membership. WWF Finland continues its dialogue with the MFA about the civic space in its partner countries.

In the past four years the civic space in WWF Finland's partner countries has changed, especially in Tanzania where programme implementation started in a situation where the civic space was shrinking rapidly, but in 2021 the civic space in Tanzania has improved. Likewise, the civic space in Kenya has improved also in 2021, but the elections in 2022 might change the situation again. In Mozambique, although there has been no notable change in politics and civic space, the presence of insecurity and armed conflicts still undermines civic rights in the country. In Madagascar, while the last ten years have seen the emergence of an increasingly active civil society, policy dialogues are still much dominated by duty bearers. The Covid-19 crisis has been used by most of the governments of these countries to limit gatherings and it is reported that some governments in the region may have taken advantage of the pandemic to restrict civil liberties and democracy; corruption and elite capture have also been reported to have increased during the health crisis.

The programme has engaged forest civil societies from the five partnering countries in East Africa, under the East Africa Forest Programme, on various regional platforms such as the annual timber trade stakeholders' fora that were held in 2018, 2019 and 2021, and in the development of the EAC forest policy and implementation strategy of 2020–2030 with deep involvement of CSOs from the five partnering countries (Tanzania, Uganda, Kenya, Mozambique and Madagascar).

Through these regional dialogue meetings, the CSOs get to engage with national government forest agencies that are key partners in pushing the conservation agenda forward and actively engaging with policy makers. WWF offered technical support to the forest CSOs through the forest experts in all the five partnering countries for example by providing training on human rights, climate adapted production technology and value addition technology. These CSOs are now more aware of their rights and have taken part in various negotiations at the country level to improve the management of their forests. Find below a couple of examples of their engagement in the region:

The Tanzania Forest Working Group (TFWG)
was engaged in the development of the national
forest strategy and prepared a community based
forest management (CBFM) action plan to be
incorporated in the strategy. The national forest
strategy has been approved and the action plan
is under review.

- The TFWG and the Mpingo Conservation and Development Initiative (MCDI) have continued lobbying with the Tanzanian government not to change the ownership of Village Community Forest from villages to the central government during the review of the National Forest Policy.
- Kenyan CSOs were involved in contributing to input at conservancy level on two policy documents: Guidelines on benefits and incentives from the forestry sector and Natural resources benefit sharing bill 2018.
- In Uganda CSO partners participated in development standards for soft woods approved by Uganda National Bureau of Standards (UNBS).
- WWF Mozambique provided financial and technical support to ensure the participation of four community members and eight Zambeziabased CSOs on forest governance assessment.
- In Madagascar, participation of a local CSO on joint patrol activities with the forestry administration to combat deforestation and at the court level in the processing of offences was supported.

In Bhutan the role of civil society has remained the same over the years. WWF Finland has supported WWF Bhutan's work, WWF Bhutan retains its status as an international organisation similar to the UN agencies. In the past four years, the support was focused more clearly to the civic space as the support was provided to the community level forest user groups.

The general situation of civil society in Laos also has not noticeably changed, despite an ongoing light pressure from human rights advocate groups to achieve some improvements. WWF Laos has been engaging in the collective effort of development partners and civil society organisations in advocating for statutory recognition and protection of customary tenure for local communities. Through the networking group Lao Land Information Working Group, an informal advisory group was formed to collectively advocate for improved legislation in relation to customary land and forest use rights in the new approved Land Law and Forest Law. The group also continues to advocate for creating sub-legislations under the Land Law and Forest Law to ensure a clear operational process, effective and consistent implementation of customary tenure rights recognition and protection.

Especially in Indonesia, WWF has strengthened the cooperation with the local CSOs during the

programme, due to the limitations of the WWF Indonesia mandate and local CSOs have a crucial role on the field level implementation. The role of the Indonesia CSO partners is to support more effective cooperation between local governments, FMUs and communities. In addition, another important role of CSOs is in providing intensive assistance to the community in filling the gaps between the government's and companies' role due to the many limitations that those two entail. In the late 2021 WWF organised monitoring, evaluation and learning sessions with these CSOs in an event where the increased capacity of these CSOs was observed as well as their increased success to access government funds.

During the four years of the Programme, the government of Indonesia recognized the civil society alliance/platform in the project area and was willing to give more space for civil society participation in the development processes. One example of the improvement is the increased participation of civil society in several strategic or mandatory task forces. In addition, in 2021, the programme gained experience in which several programme achievements were materialised into the government development targets, for example programmes carried out by civil society were reported and administered into the achievement of sustainable development goals (SDGs) report at the district and provincial levels.

WWF also supported the establishment of two CSO platforms (Sustainable Development Forum(s)) in Indonesia which are meant to build and strengthen cooperation between the governments, companies and local Indigenous communities to maintain forest cover and biodiversity. The focus of the platforms is to create synergies and have an impact on the effectiveness of achieving common interest of development goals in the regional level. This has provided an opportunity to influence Sintang's Green Strategy which is integrated into Sintang's Medium Term Development Plan and Spatial Plan. In Indonesia the role of Indigenous Peoples in the CSO engagement is significant.

The civic space in Nepal is rated as obstructed by CIVICUS as civil society organisations are sometimes vulnerable to force by law enforcement agencies. However, it has also played a critical role in popular movements at various points in the country's history. Civic space in conservation has played an important role in involving the local and Indigenous communities in decision making and protecting their rights to the use of natural resources.

WWF continued its efforts to engage with the Government of Nepal to mainstream biodiversity conservation and environmental issues into development policies and legal frameworks of federal, provincial, and local governments. WWF is working in Nepal under a project agreement with the Social Welfare Council (SWC) and Scope of Cooperation with the Ministry of Forests and Environment (MoFE), which has been effective for the project implementation through a bottom-up planning approach.

In 2021 WWF Nepal engaged with the Ministry of Federal Affairs and General Administration, the focal ministry of local government, for formulation and implementation of Environment and Natural Resources Conservation Act (ENRCA) Framework. This framework considers various environmental aspects such as forests, climate change, biodiversity, watershed, and waste management that need to be undertaken by the local government. Out of 753 local governments in Nepal, over 50% have adopted the ENRCA framework while developing their legal instruments. During the programme WWF Nepal also contributed to formulating Nepal's Forest Policy 2019 and Wildlife Friendly Infrastructure Guideline.

WWF was also able to develop partnerships with 242 civil society organisations in Nepal who implement natural resource management interventions on the ground. Moreover, partnerships have been developed with SENSE Nepal (a civil society organisation working with eco-clubs and school students), the National Youth Council (a government entity under the federal ministry of youth and sports), UNV Nepal, and Save the Children. Engagement with all the stakeholders in conservation has generated stewardship towards conservation programs and ensured their long-term sustainability.

CROSS-CUTTING OBJECTIVES OF THE FINNISH DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION POLICY

Enhancing gender equality

The programme has promoted the equal integration of women and men in its interventions throughout its four years of duration. Also specific interventions have been targeted to women to improve their participation. During the four years altogether 81,279 women (direct right-holders and direct duty-bearers) were engaged in the programme which is around 49 % of the total direct beneficiaries of the programme.

Examples of specific activities targeted to reduce gender inequality:

- In Laos, community consultation is separated into men and women groups and the consultation with women groups is led by a woman. Also two project field officers in charge of field activity implementation are women. In 2021, WWF engaged with a government organisation, Lao Women Union, which has a specific mandate on women empowerment in support of establishing and developing Community-based NTFPs Production Groups to help in mobilising and encouraging women participation in this income generation activity. Women were involved in NTFP groups, agroforestry groups as well as tree nursery groups.
- In Borneo, women's views and needs were integrated in the implementation regarding agroforestry groups criteria; firstly, the location of the agroforestry plots should not be more than 2 km away from settlements and secondly the selection of agroforestry locations must consider saving the community's food source area. These two principles are important because if they are not implemented, they will increase the workload on women. The distance of 2 km is a measure based on local wisdom regarding the very large role of women in the non-landbased sector. In addition, the consideration of saving community food source areas is decided based on women's knowledge regarding the distribution of local food sources in forest areas and other areas. Women's local knowledge was also utilised to improve good practices in community-based forest management plans. Women were engaged also in all NTFPs, livelihood and community enterprise activities.
- In the East Africa forest programme, a proposal on women empowerment in forest value chains was developed and approved by the East Africa Commission in 2020. As a continuation, a consultant was commissioned to assess the status of women empowerment and involvement in forest value chains across the region. Also eight women benefited from the SADC forest documents training in Tanzania and seven women participated in the national consultations to the EAC forest policy and strategy in Tanzania in 2021. Ten girls out of 40 youths were trained in sawmill doctoring in Uganda, 27 women out of 50 are members of ACADEMUZO who benefit from sawmill technology in Mozambique and will also benefit from electricity; 22% of the 201 villagers from four villages in Madagascar were trained on improved cultivation techniques

"Altogether around 81,000 women were engaged in the programme."

adapted to climate change for vanilla and coffee and hence benefited from the reported revenue.

- In the East Africa Wildlife Crime Hub, WWF supported the development of the gender and wildlife crime tool kit. The kit has so far been used in Kenya and Tanzania to identify the role of women and how to increase their engagement in wildlife crime and poaching prevention work in the SOKNOT landscape. Promotion of the roles of women and youth in preventing wildlife crime has also been supported across Rwanda, Uganda and Tanzania strengthening dutybearers' understanding of the need to apply a gender lense in IWT.
- In Nepal, WWF promoted gender equality and rights of women by ensuring equal participation, capaciting women and designing and supporting women specific interventions. In total 1,082 women were capacitated and sensitised in various sectors in 2021. There was 37% female participation while capacitating communities in natural resource management, good governance, gender and social inclusion, 46% female participation to receive sustainable forest management training, and 56% disabled women participation while sensitising the collective of PWDs in conservation awareness.

Reducing inequalities and promoting a human rights-based approach

The programme is human rights progressive. The rights-holders and duty bearers are identified, and their respective rights and responsibilities are promoted through the programme interventions. During four years, the programme supported several processes through which a human rightsbased approach was implemented, and inequalities addressed. The WWF network wide Environmental and Social Safeguards Framework was adopted and started to be implemented during the programme period. Disability inclusion was given specific focus especially in the last year of the programme. The human rights-based approach was also adopted as a specific topic in the East Africa wildlife crime prevention work. Also, conservation work inclusive specifically towards Indigenous peoples' and local communities' rights was promoted in the programme. The aspects of human rights, rights of Indigenous groups and the role of women in global advocacy work were noted, and representatives of Finland have actively promoted these values at international environmental meetings in which WWF Finland attended. However, many partners are still lacking capacity and information about a human rights-based approach and the next

programme will continue to focus on improving that in the future.

Disability inclusion

In 2020, WWF Finland ordered an analysis on the disability inclusion aspects in conservation work. The analysis was done by Abilis Consulting and was finished in early 2021 (Abilis Consulting 2021; Disability inclusion in environmental conservation; an analysis on general aspects and a review on the status of disability inclusion in WWF Finland's partnership programme). All partners of the programme were involved in the review process, either through online interviews or providing views via email. Also, most of the partners joined the final workshop early 2021, where WWF Nepal presented their experiences on working to enhance disability inclusion in the field projects.

Later in 2021, WWF Finland prepared a management plan to the recommendations of the analysis. In the new programme development, disability inclusion was mainstreamed in the result framework in the outcomes, outputs and indicators. Also specific disability inclusion budgeting was prepared. As a result of the recommendations, a training and learning session was developed together with Abilis and is being implemented during 2022 with all partners of the new programme. A coordinator from WWF Finland has also provided various presentations to the wider WWF network on disability inclusion.

Other marginalised groups

Many of the beneficiaries in the programme areas belonging to Indigenous communities are marginalised in their own social hierarchy due to ethnic origin, caste or religion, or face other difficulties such as vulnerability to climate change, human wildlife conflicts or environmental degradation. These people are often highly dependent on natural resources. The poorest and most excluded members of communities depend on free access to forests and rivers since they do not have any farming land or other assets. WWF encourages the equal participation of all community members (also the poorest and most excluded) in programme activities, community natural resources groups and decision-making bodies and ensures that their needs, views and opinions are heard and taken into account in the programme implementation.

In all programme countries, specific attention was given to improve Indigenous Peoples and ethnic minorities inclusion in the program. Most of the programme partners use a pro-vulnerable group

"WWF encourages the equal participation of all community members in programme activities."

criteria when planning livelihood activities together with the local communities. The criteria are developed by the programme team together with local partners and communities. Communities then select the families which should get support from the program.

Examples of activities enhancing equality and disability inclusion:

- In Nepal, in 2021, 124 people with disabilities (69 women) were sensitised about income generating activities, skill-based training, forest operational plan implementation, and decision-making processes. A total of 22 people with disabilities (9 women) were supported with training and toolkits to start their own livelihood options and become financially independent. Also, 216 HHs, among which 39% belonged to Indigenous communities (Janajati-73 and Dalit-12), benefited from green enterprise in the year 2021.
- In Nepal, a total of 821 community forest group members (300 women) were capacitated in a human rights-based approach in 2021.
- · Furthermore, in Nepal the human rights-based approach (HRBA) has been incorporated in the grant agreement and sub-grant documents, including the practice of a project complaint mechanism. Also child safeguard policy is given due consideration. For students below 18 years old, parents' consent is taken, and teachers are made accountable for their participation. Whereas HRBA experts are consulted to strategize the engagement of youth, especially women, disadvantaged people, and people with disabilities, for youth above 18 years. Moreover, the HRBA training manual has been developed in partnership with the National Human Rights Commission of Nepal (NHRC) and Protection of Consumer Rights Nepal.
- · In Laos, WWF influenced the development of the new forest and land law. The revised forest law provides clearer provisions related to the participation of local communities in forest management, the official recognition of village forests in state-managed forests and recognition and protection of customary land use rights is mentioned under the Land Law. WWF also conducted FPIC (free, prior and informed consent) training to project managers to ensure that people's rights are respected. Training on rights on access to natural resources was also organised to communities. Participatory Rural Appraisal was conducted from the beginning to assess priority livelihood development needs and communities' voices reflected in the design of project activities.

- Through the East Africa Wildlife Crime Hub and cooperation with Kenya Wildlife Conservancies Association, WWF has developed a human rights-based approach for the management of community rangers. This umbrella organisation represents 160 conservancies consisting of 700,000 households representing a member of all Indigenous Peoples in Kenya as defined in the Kenyan constitution. In 2021, training was conducted for 160 conservancy committee representatives on the need for an HRBA approach in conservation and conservancy approaches.
- In Indonesia, the programme team has begun implementing the identification of persons with disabilities (PWDs) based on a workshop organised by WWF Finland. The first steps in improving disability inclusion included discussions with the district government on existing organisations promoting disability inclusion (DI) in the same working areas with WWF. Also, WWF was informed about data on people with disabilities in their working area. Being more aware enables the WWF team to further improve disability inclusion when working with villages and government partners. In 2021, WWF staff contacted local disability organisations to meet and get acquainted as well as organised sign language training for the staff. In the programme area of Borneo 100% of the households involved belong to the indigenous people Dayak group.
- In Tanzania, women, poor, disabled and elderly people benefited when 50% of the income from timber sales were re-invested to social and health services at community level such as health insurance to the elderly and pregnant women. Also, 40 youth (10 girls) were trained in operating sawmills in Uganda and were equipped with PPE for safety. Children's rights were protected throughout the programme implementation.
- In Uganda, strategies for mainstreaming gender and human rights-based approaches by CSOs' members were also developed which led to a partnership with Reproductive Health Uganda (RHU) to deliver on other interventions that are outside of programme mandate such as reproductive health issues that are also relevant to sustainability of programme interventions. This partnership improved access to health services, reduced dependence on forest resources and improved the quality of life and the general well-being of the communities.

Improving the human rights-based approach in the global WWF Network

In 2021 the programme continued to implement the Environmental and Social Safeguards Framework in its interventions. An Independent Panel review provided recommendations to the WWF network on how to strengthen the human rights-based approach in its conservation work and communications at the end of 2020, based on which the WWF network developed a management response and action plan to implement the recommended actions. The action plan concentrates on three larger objectives, which are building capacity of the ground interventions, building stronger global systems and third-party compliance as well as strengthening governance and management. As part of the actions in 2021 WWF has appointed distinguished human rights lawyer and international mediator Gina Barbieri as Ombudsperson for the global conservation network, the first role of such a kind for the nature conservation sector.

WWF has also developed a Human Rights Statement and launched public consultation on this together with revised social policies and environmental and social safeguards, to seek feedback on their scope and effectiveness. Feedback was also collected via several global and regional stakeholder dialogues. The updated new social policies and Environmental and Social Safeguards Framework will be published in 2022.

During the programme period, and as part of the safeguarding processes, WWF staff has received several trainings regarding human rights in conservation and environmental and social safeguarding. Also, country or national office specific training has been provided by the different network offices. Environmental and social safeguards screenings in landscapes have continued during this year. From the programme's 10 landscapes all have either started or completed their environmental and social safeguards screening, which informs mitigation planning. In one landscape the mitigation planning has also been established.

Safeguarding is an ongoing process, therefore once initial screenings and mitigation plannings have been done, implementation and monitoring will follow and category, as well as safeguard methods in the landscape may change due to changes in context and/or interventions.

The final evaluation of the programme stated that the application of human rights-based approaches in the WWF network has been strengthened during the programme period and that implementation of the ESSF provides strong support for the mainstreaming of rights-based approaches in line with safeguard standards and WWF network policies. The evaluation consolidated furthermore, that the programme is "HRBA progressive" in parts, but still faces challenges in terms of understanding as well as in practice. The evaluation recommended that in the future WWF Finland should especially continue and enhance the support for enabling rights-holders to claim their rights to land and resources, to be represented and have their say in policy processes and decision-making, and to hold governments, state entities and corporations accountable for their (non)actions. Similarly, the evaluation recommended development of grievance mechanisms in the programme intervention areas.

Climate resilience and low carbon development

Climate resilience

Over the programme period it has become evident that climate change is having local impacts, which has an effect on the landscapes WWF operates in as well as to the people, who live in the programme areas. In Laos, unpredictable weather has e.g. made it more difficult to choose the timing for planting trees for the programme's restoration intervention. Similarly, rising temperatures and shifting rainfall patterns have been reported to be some of the major drivers contributing to biodiversity loss combined with pressure from human activities leading to deforestation, land degradation, and loss of vegetation cover in East Africa.

Utilisation of additional funds to improve climate resilience in Africa

In 2020 and 2021 intentional additional efforts were made to address climate adaptation in the programme areas in Madagascar and Uganda, with the additional resources from the MFA. The programme aimed to identify climate risks in Madagascar and Uganda and adopt appropriate adaptation responses accordingly. The targets set were met both in Uganda and Madagascar.

An assessment of climate vulnerability and adaptation capacity of communities around the Rwenzori Mountains National Park in Uganda was completed in 2021. The assessment revealed that the communities experience several climatic hazards, e.g. floods, landslides, heavy rains, hailstones and strong winds. The consequences of the climatic hazards experienced included e.g. soil erosion due to heavy rains and floods, crop pests and diseases due to floods, water scarcity due to drought, low crop harvests leading to food

"WWF staff has received several training sessions regarding human rights in conservation and environmental and social safeguarding."

insecurity, amongst others. Natural resource use needs were also identified, and it showed e.g. that land was identified as the most important resource for all the social categories of adult males, adult females and male youth except the female youths in all the six districts. The local communities showed interest in interventions aimed at strengthening their resilience and adaptive capacity towards the impact of climatic hazards like forest restoration and forestry, as well as beekeeping, which should integrate value addition to economically benefit the households within the region.

In addition, forests were restored in the buffer zones of two protected areas of Rwenzori and the Imaramagambo in the Greater Virunga Landscape to improve resilience of these areas to climate shocks. Four districts furthermore adopted value addition technologies to reduce wasteful consumption of wood and accelerated deforestation, and to catalyse restoration. In addition, five timber growers and traders' associations have been strengthened to scale up restoration and adopt c limate smart plantation establishment and utilisation.

Whereas in Madagascar crops, vanilla and coffee, were promoted as a result of climate risk assessment conducted in 2020, which made projections on impact of the climate change to the crops cultivated in the areas and recommended to diversify peoples' livelihoods in a climate resilient and sustainable manner. The climate resilience of the farmers was improved by diversifying income through these short-cycled crops and increasing community awareness on crop resilience to climate change e.g. through demonstration sites. 201 producers (22% women) from four villages were trained on improved cultivation techniques adapted to climate change for vanilla and coffee, soil fertility and erosion management, and biological plant protection. One private sector company has committed to develop further the adapted value chains and has already established a draft agreement for the sustainable production of vanilla without forest clearing in two communes. A sustainable financing scheme for community forest management has been established for the vanilla producers to maintain sustainability of the initiative.

Other adaptation interventions in the programme

In addition to the above-mentioned specific efforts, other adaptation interventions were adopted by the partners during the programme period. In Tanzania, WWF together with MCDI has been supporting the communities in Kilwa with managed early burning techniques around village forests to reduce the loss

of carbon from more intense fires at the peak of dry seasons. The farmers in Kenya have been supported to plant drought resistant crops and early mature crops like cowpeas, green grams and sesame as opposed to maize, which is more vulnerable to the unpredictable weather conditions, introduced farm planning and crop diversification and have been supported of water harvesting tanks to help farmers to cope during dry seasons.

During the programme period, WWF Nepal has implemented mitigating and adaptive measures to tackle climate change impacts such as forest management and restoration, bioengineering, disaster risk reduction, and income generating activities for vulnerable communities. WWF, in collaboration with Nepal Red Cross Society, capacitated local authorities and stakeholders as well as communities (BZUCs, CFCCs, CFUGs) in climate change adaptation, disaster preparedness, first aid as well as health and safety. WWF Nepal has supported bio-engineering structures to reduce flood impact to 526 households. Also 59 flood victim households were supported to improve their livelihoods through agroforestry in 14,5 hectares of flooded agricultural land. Technical capacity of communities has been strengthened with forest fire prevention and management within their community forests. Furthermore in 2021, vulnerability assessment was conducted, and local adaptation plans developed leveraging financing from concerned sectors as well as seven wetlands were restored contributing to building resilience of ecosystems.

In 2021, WWF Indonesia promoted agroforestry as means to adapt to local climate change impacts on agricultural livelihoods. Agroforestry guidance was developed and discussed with wider stakeholders of the forestry sector, receiving also inputs from forestry authorities. As a result 50 ha of land in three villages has been put aside for agroforestry in the local climate adaptation plans, as a pilot. Several other pilots have also been now set up in other locations managed by other CSO partners. The lessons learnt have also been shared to provincial level in West Kalimantan which has raised interest and further plans to include agroforestry as a means in climate adaptation plans.

The new identified risk, natural flood disasters, in the programme areas in Indonesia has furthermore prompted WWF work together with the local authorities and CSOs/CBOs to carry out a rapid study on impacts to develop rapid response methods to mitigate the climate induced risk.

With the support of the programme, forest corridors have been established and restored in Nepal. Forest "The farmers in Kenya have been supported to plant drought resistant crops and early mature crops like cowpeas, green grams and sesame." "In 2021, the first tiger sightings were made at altitudes of more than 3 000 metres." corridors are important for climate change adaptation of species. Many species must migrate to new areas, for example due to floods or prolonged droughts. In 2021, the first tiger sightings were made at altitudes of more than 3 000 metres, which contributes to the functioning and importance of forest corridors for the survival of the species. Establishment of functioning forest corridors is a result of long-term commitment and efforts of Nepalese government, local communities together with organisations such as WWF in establishing these vital links between suitable species habitats.

Similarly, the programme has contributed to climate sustainability by reducing climate risks through protecting and increasing essential provisional services of forest landscapes e.g. in Laos, Uganda and Kenya through forest protection and restoration. Forest cover and forest connectivity eventually improves ecological function and enhances ecological systems particularly regulating services such as flood prevention, micro-climate regulation, erosion control and conserving biodiversity, nutrient cycling and primary production.

Climate risk screening

To take a more systematic approach at programme level in enhancing the climate resilience, a climate risk screening was conducted with partners in 2021. To support the assessment a joint session with the partners was held on how to conduct climate informed conservation. The programme level analysis concluded that there are a myriad of climate related impacts affecting the ecosystems, people, and businesses in the landscapes and a similarly wide range of community responses applied as coping mechanisms. As the climate risks are very context and landscape specific there is not just one solution in addressing them. Instead, the solutions will be co-created together with the communities, public officials, and companies in each location during the new programme period of 2022-2025.

Final evaluation recommendations on climate resilience

The programme's final evaluation confirmed that emphasis on climate adaptation interventions that will benefit communities and the local environment should be continued. Enhancing climate resilience through interventions that support local adaptation options and e.g. nature-based solutions for climate is one of the main outcomes of the new programme that started to be implemented in 2022 with the MFA funding.

Low carbon development

The programme aims to protect the carbon stored in the forests as well as avoid carbon emissions being released to the atmosphere through deforestation and degradation by protecting forests and forest restoration as well as tackling the drivers of deforestation. During the whole programme period a total 2,516,575 hectares of forest has been put under improved management and/or protection, and 6,913 hectares have been restored.

A study (Annex 3I) was conducted in 2021 to analyse the impact that the programme has had on forest resources through multiple interventions during 2018–2020. The study focused on analysing the change in the forest cover and the trends in deforestation rates as well as estimating the avoided emissions from deforestation in project areas.

The study concluded that in five out of eight programme areas deforestation and carbon emissions were avoided (smaller project areas) whilst in three deforestation continued resulting in carbon emissions (larger landscapes). The study results confirmed the necessity to work and tackle drivers on a landscape scale to have impact, as well as to be able to get a realistic picture of the deforestation in the programme areas including leakage effect. The study also revealed that the offices would benefit from strengthening the data management and capacity building related to forest cover and carbon monitoring. Furthermore in Nepal, forest productivity analysis (Annex 3J) was conducted in 2021 against the baseline of 2019, which showed that forest carbon of Laljhadi-Mohana Protected Forest increased from 3.39 Tg (127.33 tons/ha) in 2019 to 4.4 Tg (154.66 tons/ ha) in 2021 (excluding deadwood, shrubs, climbers, fine roots, grasses, and herbs) due to the forest management and restoration interventions.

While the programme has concentrated on forest management, protection and restoration, other interventions to support climate mitigation have also been conducted at local level. E.g. In Kenya and Tanzania 100 households were provided with solar lights chargers for ranger monitoring in 2019. WWF Nepal has been promoting alternative energy sources and energy efficient technologies to minimise fuelwood consumption thereby reducing pressure on forests. In 2021, 150 households received improved cook stoves (that consumes rice husk and sawmill dust) with the support from the program. Altogether 889 people in rural areas, during the whole programme period, have been supported to have improved and equitable access to affordable and clean, sustainably produced renewable energy in Nepal (biogas, improved cooking stoves and improved water mill).

Programme has furthermore supported cocreation and development of projects that aim for climate change mitigation. Pandalabs in Kenya supported co-creation of conservation solutions with community based enterprises e.g. on briquette making to reduce deforestation in Amboseli area.

The final evaluation recommended that most of the programme support in future should be directed to building local climate resilience, and the programme should consider how much efforts should be put in establishing impacts on deforestation and avoided emissions. Therefore, the new programme that started in 2022, will further investigate the partner needs related to establishing avoided deforestation and carbon emissions, and level of capacity building provided thereof.

Climate change advocacy

WWF's Earth Hour is a symbolic lights-out event to raise awareness of climate change, and is one of the world's largest grassroots movements for the environment. During the programme period approximately 1,5 million Finns have participated yearly in Earth Hour, and each year around 200 or more organisations have also taken part. While the Earth Hour has been a successful campaign throughout the years in Finland, it has also reached wide audiences in the programme countries over the years. In 2021 in Nepal alone, the digital Earth Hour event drew an overwhelming participation, gaining a digital reach of over 4.5 million and 9.2 million in social media impressions throughout the month-long campaign.

WWF Finland continued to participate to Finnish Development Policy Committee's expert group on biodiversity, food security and climate as mentioned earlier. In 2021 WWF provided inputs to the group's analysis of international climate finance from the perspective of development policy aiming to encourage discussion and decision-making related to the subject in Finland. In WWF Finland's climate advocacy work the need for increased funding especially for adaptation has been raised.

During the programme period 2018–2021, the programme partners also engaged in climate advocacy. In Indonesia vulnerability assessment conducted in 2019 has enabled WWF to support the district level officials to take the climate

risks into consideration in the spatial planning processes. WWF Tanzania has engaged East African Community and its member states on discussion around climate change and forest governance through multi stakeholder (government, civil society, private sector) platform for timber traders in the region in 2021, as well as the Uongozi Institute of African Leadership for Sustainable Development through promoting dialogue between the EAC state leaders to engage citizens for climate action in 2020. Some educational films directed to children have been developed to bring awareness on climate change in Nepal in 2020.

WWF engaged in Nepal with the Ministry of Federal Affairs and General Administration, the focal ministry of local government, for formulation and implementation of Environment and Natural Resources Conservation Act (ENRCA) Framework. Environment and Natural Protection Acts at local level have dedicated clause on formulation of adaptation plans at the local level as a primary responsibility of the municipality including special consideration for inclusion of vulnerable women, disable people, children, elderly, and poor communities while also ensuring that norms and standards of the Government of Nepal on climate change adaptation and mitigation are integrated while formulating annual plans and policies of the municipalities. The act also notes that the municipalities can implement greenhouse gas mitigation activities. Out of 753 local governments in Nepal, over 50% local governments have adopted the ENCRA framework while developing their legal instruments.

WWF Madagascar developed a training module to build the capacity of WWF offices as well as its partners on climate change adaptation. The e-training was designed to strengthen understanding the urgency of climate adaptation in the African context, the fundamentals of climate change adaptation, Nature-Based Solutions for Climate Adaptation in relation to other concepts, the meaning of Climate-Smart Conservation and to encourage it as a basic best practice, as well to explain and highlight the pitfalls of language and terminologies we use in conservation. The training module will be launched in 2022.

Support to climate advocacy, together with climate resilience, has been taken as one of the main approaches in the design of the new programme 2022–2025.

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SUCCESSES, CHALLENGES AND ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT

The programme has been able to leverage important additional resources from a variety of sources for new conservation programmes and initiatives, the results of which will add to the long-term impacts. During the programme period, the East Africa Wildlife Crime Hub leveraged some 13 million USD in new funding for addressing wildlife crime in East Africa (mostly from USAID), and investment of Programme staff time in East Africa Regional Forest Programme helped raise more than USD 7 million in GEF funding for a sustainable food systems, land use and restoration project in Tanzania. Similarly, WWF Finland was able to leverage over 10 million EUR EU DEAR-funding for a programme Eat4Change, that engages citizens, particularly youth, to take an active role in society and change their diets more plant-based for the wellbeing of people and the planet, and strives towards more sustainable diets and sustainable food production practices.

There was no specific target in the programme for the advocacy work in Finland on development policy or international agreements. However, during the four years WWF Finland grew its role as development sector expert, which is verified by having a position in the Finnish Development Policy committee from 2020 onwards. The new broader role of WWF and achievements in international advocacy can be seen as additional or unexpected results of the programme. The flexibility of the programme support, and MFA, enabled WWF Finland to participate and influence processes in Finland. WWF Finland believes that it has also had a significant role in influencing the new long-term development policy of Finland, especially regarding advocating biodiversity inclusion in the policy. WWF Finland's and its partners' role to influence policies at both national and international level has been integrated on the Resilience for People and Biodiversity programme (2022-25).

Policy advocacy also helps to bridge the gap between the programme outcome level objective and impact statement on recognition of biodiversity's importance for sustainable development and wellbeing of the people, which is now negotiated to be a target for the Global Biodiversity Framework. WWF was able to take a broad role in the programme implementation from the communities to the international policy level.

Nepal's self review pointed out that the impact of Covid-19 in 2020 and 2021 was not as great as

expected as the programme team timely discussed, identified and adopted the possible ameliorating options on time. In Bhutan, the sub-programme evaluation found that the Covid-19 pandemic impacted the majority of the project period. If it hadn't been for Covid-19, the project would have achieved most of its objectives. The project team was presented a unique opportunity to examine different approaches and strategies to implement the CBFRMG interventions, with inherent complexity overlaid with the challenges presented by Covid-19. The team adapted and pivoted in their approaches to project delivery, revised timelines and modalities of service provision. The design of the project had built in activity re-appropriation based on the annual performance in the field which enabled re-adjustment of activities and finances in order to increase relevance.

In Indonesia, WWF faced multiple challenges in the operational environment during the four years. Firstly, the long running MoU with the Ministry for Forests was ended making it difficult for WWF to operate with the normal modality. As a result, WWF adapted its approaches to focus more strongly on supporting local communities as well as local district authorities in sustainable natural resources management. WWF also strengthened its cooperation and support to local CSOs and CSO networks. The new Omnibus law in Indonesia also influenced greatly on the priorities as well as policies of the natural resources sector. There were both positive and negative impacts which WWF addressed and to which WWF adapted to. Elections on various levels also resulted in changes in the staff in government positions enforcing WWF to invest in building the capacity of the newly elected representatives. Covid-19 also affected WWF's work since government funding and resources were allocated elsewhere, which forced WWF to give additional support to partners in the natural resources sector. Clearing of new rice fields due to Covid challenges was worrying, but WWF was able to influence and promote agroforestry as a solution to securing food, income and ecological needs. WWF also addressed the increasing illegal mining activities due to Covid-19 with increased support to villages in sustainable natural resources management, training and governance.

One challenge that the programme faces are climate induced extremes, such as intense rains, flooding, prolonged dry spells, rising temperatures and forest fires. 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.

"During the four years WWF Finland grew its role as a development sector expert."

Uncertainty of the rains makes it difficult to decide the timing of the planting of for example the tree seedlings, and it can also result in low survival rate of the seedlings. In Nepal, WWF conducted vulnerability assessment and developed local adaptation plans leveraging financing from concerned sectors, and programme initiated mitigative/adaptive actions such as climate change adaptation and disaster risks reduction. The East Africa Forest Programme applied and received additional funding from the MFA to address the climate crisis in the region whereas communities are extensively utilising forest resources due to climate change and variability. In Indonesia high intensity rainfalls, combined with damages in the upstream catchment area and low water uptake in the downstream area caused flooding disasters and landslides. Mitigation was carried out in coordination with the local government to conduct a rapid study, impacts and rapid response that need to be carried out. More information and analysis about climate change is presented in the Chapter 3.2. Cross-cutting objectives, Climate resilience and low carbon development.

The pandemic impacted the programme implementation during the last two years of the programme period, but didn't cause any major changes to the programme document, result framework or implementation. Revision of 2021 work plans was done three times; first in June when confirmed carry forwards were also added to the work plans. Second revision was done in October and third in November. Even with the revisions, the programme had to apply for an extension of the programme for the first half of 2022.

In 2021 the specific focus on the programme was on securing already achieved conservation achievements as the Covid-19 crisis led to the situation that the pressure to use and to overuse natural resources increased. Pandemic also impacted the economy and declined income and employment opportunities. Both communities and the state have relied on tourism revenues in many countries. During the pandemic, WWF has paid special attention to the safety and health of the communities that it works with. Part of the funds were reallocated from the field activities to activities that could be done remotely, virtually or in small groups, like tree planting. More focus and resources were directed to digital campaigning and to produce digital material for schools and youth, and in some partner countries also for organisational development and for capacity building of staff. Where possible, several field support interventions were combined in one consolidated mission when travelling was possible. In Nepal the local resource persons in the villages were found very useful, as through them it was possible to monitor the activities and adjust plans when travelling was not possible.

Use of technology in conducting online training, seminars and social media, especially in youth outreach, enabled the programme to reach bigger participation numbers. This has increased the efficiency of events due to declining travel time and travel costs, and reduced workshop and training costs. It has also enabled more people to join. However, virtual events may not be as engaging as face-to-face meetings. Also, internet connections are not sufficient for virtual meetings in all areas. Some partners were supported with the equipment (for example in Bhutan). Also, other means of communications were adapted, for example in Nepal telephone, sms, email, messengers, etc. to the possible extent were used to gather information which helped to report human wildlife conflicts cases in time and to deliver immediate relief packages even during the lockdown.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

The programme implemented its MEL plan in 2021 as planned with exception of adjustments made to monitoring visits, due to Covid-19 restrictions. WWF Finland staff were not able to visit partner countries in 2020 and 2021. Programme was monitored via technical and financial reports, regular communication, virtual meetings and calls with partners. Implementing WWF offices monitored the programmes locally, being able to visit the field, even though there were periodical travel restrictions due to the pandemic. virtual monitoring session was organised with WWF Nepal, which was the first virtual monitoring session for WWF Finland and a positive experience. Possibilities for developing the virtual monitoring system alongside physical visits will be explored.

Program results have been reported annually to MFA reflecting the MFA KEPO-indicators. However, the availability of accurate data on the program results has varied annually due to differences in the monitoring processes of the partner offices. Many of the partners have focused on the final reporting of the four-year programme, collecting more systematic data on the results from the whole programme period as well as cross-checking the data carefully. Therefore, the final reporting data is more accurate and reliable than the individual annual results.

Final review of the programme (Annex 3A) started in October 2021 and was finalised in April 2022

"One virtual monitoring session was organised with WWF Nepal." by an external evaluator. The overall objective of the final review was to provide WWF Finland and its partners with an independent assessment of the Partnership Programme's results. Due to time and resources restrictions, the evaluator was not expected to do verification of results in the programme sites in programme locations but to evaluate the results based on evaluations carried out in each programme area and other programme level evaluations i.e. by conducting a programme level meta-review. The evaluation mainly focused on assessing the effectiveness, impact, sustainability and adaptive capacity of the programme. The review concentrated on assessing if/and how the programme has achieved its intended results as set in the Programme Document and Results Framework. The review informed if there was any evidence of impact level results and assessed the sustainability of the results. The geographical area of the evaluation covered the whole Programme

The review will be used to inform future programmes, and recommendations incorporated to the programme plans accordingly. The recommendations are currently being integrated to the new programme 2022–2025 during its inception period. Recommendations and WWF Finland's management responses are presented in the Annex 3A

Main observations from the evaluation were:

- The programme has been implemented according to plan – considering the considerable adaptations that were made necessary due to the Covid-19 pandemic – and has for the most part been effective in delivering towards the expected outcomes.
- The programme has made significant positive contributions towards the planned impacts within its areas of influence. However, the Programme impact level indicators are formulated at the global level, making it difficult to attribute any changes (positive or negative) to the programme. Local progress has been recorded in reducing deforestation, but this is dwarfed by increasing rates of deforestation outside the programme's sphere of influence. Significant changes in regional and national policies have been achieved, but changes in governance or behaviour are not captured at the impact level in the results framework. With the Programme level impacts being formulated at such a high level, and in the absence of targets for governance or human well-being, an alternative approach to appraising impact has

been applied. Based on the Programme's Theory of Change and the findings that the programme has been implemented more or less according to plan, and has for the most part been effective in delivering towards the expected outcomes, it can be concluded that it has also contributed towards the planned impacts.

- According to available data, most Outcome level targets at both the programme and subprogramme levels have been met or surpassed at an aggregate level. Some indicators and targets do, however, raise questions on how well they measure effectiveness, the clarity of definitions, and/or to what extent they are being properly monitored.
- The programme has also contributed to leveraging important additional resources (tens of millions USD) from a variety of sources for new conservation programmes and initiatives, the results of which will add to the long-term impacts.
- Community forestry being a key theme of the Programme, the initiatives to support community forest management and the income and livelihood opportunities that can be derived from the sustainable use of natural resources have produced good results both in terms of improved management and community benefits.
- The programme is well aligned with the policy priorities of Finland's development policy.
- Application of human rights-based approaches (HRBA) has been strengthened during programme implementation. Follow-up and reporting are done with tools that go beyond WWF Network's minimum requirements, but further support is needed to deepen the understanding of HRBA and make the best use of these tools. The programme is "HRBA progressive" in parts, but still faces challenges in terms of understanding as well as in practice.
- The programme has contributed towards improved governance by supporting the devolution of rights to manage forests and forest resources to local communities. Active engagement with and support to civil society, other than CBOs and international organisations, is most clearly present in the EASFP and the Indonesia sub programmes. Civic space is a bedrock of good governance, but civic space is deteriorating in most of the countries where the Programme is implemented. While WWF Finland monitors and reports on the status and trends of civic space, the issue has

"Most Outcome level targets at both the programme and sub-programme levels have been met or surpassed at an aggregate level."

not been directly addressed at a strategic level in programme countries.

- The programme has promoted gender equality and the rights of women and girls at multiple levels. While most of these activities have been implemented at the level of individual communities, a few sub-programmes have also promoted changes at higher structural and policy levels. The extent to which gender disaggregated data is collected and reported varies considerably across the programme. Regarding the work in Finland itself, there are no gender related targets or indicators. Gender issues have gradually become more prominent in the work on food and with youth, but gender perspectives are not well reflected in communications.
- The Programme has supported WWF offices to directly contribute to critical conservation strategies being integrated into government policies, regulations, plans and operations, all of which contributes to the sustainability of results. The rights-based, participatory and collaborative approaches have contributed to strengthening involvement and ownership, both of which also support sustainability. There is, however, scope for strengthening community ownership and control. Sub-programme evaluations and project reports present evidence of community forest entities and enterprises that can be regarded as sustainable on their own.
- Exit strategies are absent for most of the subprogrammes.
- The Programme allows for a high level of flexibility at the partner level and has successfully adapted to minimise the negative impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic.
- The monitoring framework is ambitious and complex, but the allocated budgets for monitoring and evaluation are low overall.

Sub-programme evaluations

Final evaluations/reviews were also carried out in six sub-programmes (Nepal, Bhutan, Indonesia, Mekong, East Africa Forest Programme and Innovation Hub). The strategic review of East Africa Wildlife Crime Hub is being conducted after the programme level evaluation and carried out by WWF UK in May 2022. In regards the EAWCH other report desk reviews and interviews were carried out to feed into the programme's final evaluation.

Terminal evaluation (Annex 3B) of the programme in Bhutan found that the Covid-19 pandemic impacted

the majority of the programme period and influenced the final results. Main findings of the evaluation were; 1) the programme targeted local community based-forest groups through appropriate, relevant, and well-founded approaches; 2) the programme objectives are aligned with the Royal Government of Bhutan, WWF Global Practice Outcomes & Finnish Development Policy; 3) the overall efficiency of the programme implementation is well structured and good; 4) most activities delivered value for money for the implemented activities; 5) most intended outputs for the implemented activities were attained; 6) goals of implemented activities were realised; 7) the project has partially contributed to perceived changes and 8) the project demonstrated reasonable adaptive management. There were also several recommendations for key stakeholders to consider; 1) how they can collaborate more with local administrations; 2) frequent communication and monitoring; 3) further strengthening the reporting capacity of the workforce; 4) build a staggered approach to capacity building, advocacy, networking, and enterprise development; 5) to develop a strategy to improve engagement and increased ownership among groups and 6) to design strategies for continuity and long-term benefits. It was also recommended that the project design should consider specific approaches to attract disadvantaged members to community-based forest livelihoods. The processes of adaptation and resulting impact should be documented.

In Nepal, self review of the programme (Annex 3C) was conducted in autumn 2021. The main objective was to assess the programme performance against stated outcomes and outputs alongside promoting organisational learning and knowledge sharing through capturing results and lessons learned. A review confirmed that the programme investment was highly relevant to the Government of Nepal's conservation plan and policies, and all the programme activities were consistent with the community forest operational plan. The programme was designed to contribute to the forest, wildlife, and conservation education themes of WWF Nepal and was found to be relevant to all of those. Interviews and discussions with both duty-bearers and right-holders reported that the interventions were consistent with needs and priorities of local people and communities and that the annual programming of the programme activities followed a consultative and participatory approach. At WWF Nepal's side, long-term coordination and partnership with implementation partners, wellstructured programme implementation modality, regular and timely capacity building of programme partners, periodic monitoring, and leveraging at partners end were the major factors for keeping

"In Nepal the interventions were consistent with needs and priorities of local people and communities."



programme progress on track. At sub-grantee level, the defined steps to implement activities, provision of community contribution mandatory requirement to conduct general assembly, Public Hearing Public Auditing (PHPA) and audit by the end of September, monthly meetings and demand driven investment helped to achieve programme deliverables on time. The impact of the programme is not so straightforward, thus the review points out that the observed impact in the programme site is the result of WWF's long-term investments along with contributions from various conservation actors.

Post-Project Performance Assessment of the programme (Annex 3D) analysed the level of changes on competence and awareness of rightholders and duty-bearers of Laljhadi-Mohana in relation to natural resource management and governance, and changes in livelihood asset holding, before and after the project implementation. The overall average knowledge levels (on sustainable use of natural resources, GFUC management etc.) of the respondents was 70.7%, an increment from 65.2% in 2018. Almost 83% of the respondents have an overall positive attitude towards the 14 parameters used in the study to measure their attitude towards conservation, government officials, SFM, roles, responsibilities, dependence and management of (BZ) CFUGs, and CBAPU. This is a remarkable increase from 74.4% in 2018, mostly because of the joint effort of the government, the MFA project, CFCC and community forests/buffer zone forests. The average asset (land, food, income etc.) holding of the people living in the study area was 0.56 while it was 0.52 in 2018. Assessment also highlighted some success stories: Grassland restoration, establishment of sawmill, economic support to a physically disabled beneficiary, community initiative of broom grass plantation, and mesh wire fencing to protect crops.

The PandaLabs Innovation Programme was assessed as a case study in a thematic evaluation (Annex 3E) carried out by an external consultant looking at work by Danish CSOs. The evaluation confirmed that the PandaLabs Innovation Programme in Kenya has been successful in broadening the scope of work within conservation and the office has gained recognition in Kenya and within the WWF network for the work it has done.

Final evaluation of the East Africa Regional Forest Programme (EAFP) (Annex 3F) was conducted in 2021. Together with the Programme level evaluation, it highlights that the EAFP has been able to achieve several outcomes related to curbing illegal timber trade in the region. At the regional level, the EAFP has successfully influenced the regional economic bodies (EAC and SADC). Significant gains include the adoption of the East African Forest Policy, a SADC agreement on a mechanism for management of seized timber stockpiles, and support from the regional blocks for community-based forest enterprises. Engagement with national governments has been a major component in influencing the intergovernmental processes described in the processes above, but also in building the political will and support for the national implementation of regional agreements and plans. This has included work to translate the East Africa forest strategies and the Zanzibar Declaration into country level planning, resulting in outcomes such as national export bans as measures to address illegal timber trade. In addition, the level of engagement of targeted civil society organisations (CSOs) with governments and private sector on decisions related to sustainable forest management and timber trade increased, with indication that CSOs are becoming key actors in influencing planning, decision-making and good governance in the forest sector in the respective countries. The evaluation, however, recommended that efforts to engage both government, regional economic communities and CSOs should be made to strengthen sustainability of the processes and maintain the established collaboration in implementing the Zanzibar declaration to promote legal and curb illegal timber trade in the region. The evaluation recommended also conducting an impact study to get better understanding on how well the outcomes have been converted to impact at the regional level.

The Indonesia evaluation (Annex 3G) indicated that the goals of the programme had been achieved well both under the engagement and sustainable forest management outcomes as well as on the impact level. Specific attention was given to the success of establishing good cooperation between the local district and provincial governments, CSOs/CBOs, companies, and local Indigenous communities, and it was recommended to further continue this work. A key success was the capacity building that WWF has been able to provide to different partners. Examples of this include various thematic training e.g., on land use planning, village development, planning as well as reduced impact logging and SMART patrolling, all aiming at securing wildlife and forests as well as improving communities rights. In addition, recommendation was given to continue supporting a few crucial policy processes in order to secure the ongoing goals for green and sustainable development in the landscape. The evaluation stated that it's important to increase the capacity of the government and companies as well as other stakeholders to meet the low carbon development targets and reduce deforestation, develop efficiency in the use of natural resources and in the social inclusion program. WWF's capacity in the landscape approach was emphasised and a recommendation was given to continue this work and capacity building for other stakeholders in the landscape approach. It was also recommended that due to limited resources, in the future WWF Indonesia should consider strategically clarifying its role and use its strengths and capacity in the most effective way in influencing sustainable development in the landscape and perhaps reducing activities to ensure efficiency.

The Laos project evaluation (Annex 3H) rated the project as satisfactory. Analysing the relevance and quality of design, effectiveness, impacts, sustainability and adaptive management of the project, it was suggested that the project supported the SDGs, government policy and national socioeconomic development. The project had good achievements in its designed activities, especially forest restoration and livelihood improvement. The establishment of the forest nursery and community-based agro-forestry were effective and production of NTFPs was satisfied by local villagers. The forest restoration and management plan was well conducted with local authorities, resulting in serious illegal logging activities not found. This contributed to the forest restoration and biodiversity conservation in the Xe Sap protected area. There was strong collaboration between PAFO and DAFO as well as with WWF-Laos project teams in the south. Local villagers received agroforestry production support to improve their livelihoods and income generation. Basic technical training and necessary equipment were fully provided. Thus, the project had a great contribution to the conservation of natural forest resources and improved local livelihood. However, it was recommended that in the future the cooperation with PAFO and DAFO and the local communities should be strengthened with more visits and discussions. Also, poverty is the underlying driver for deforestation in the region. Thus, poverty reduction should be reconsidered as a key component of the project in the future. Sustainable forest management and restoration must be done through local participation by providing alternative livelihood options both in short and long term. There is still high competition for cassava production rather than agroforestry products which should be addressed in order to avoid further deforestation. Tree nurseries and forest restoration do not provide the needed shortterm income for villagers. Therefore, in the future plants for home gardens or fruit trees would be a better choice to encourage villagers to produce and do agroforestry closer to their settlements. Forest restoration and tree nurseries could then be targeted to smaller groups and thus be more efficient. Also, natural regeneration of forests could be enhanced since it is more cost-effective than the active restoration. To improve the sustainability of the project, more continuous support to villages on technical training and enabling short-term income from agroforestry activities is needed.

Other reviews

A study (Annex 3I) was conducted in 2021 to analyse the impact that the programme has had on forest resources through multiple interventions during 2018–2020. For the main results, conclusions and recommendations of the study, please refer to Chapter 3.2. Cross-cutting objectives, Climate resilience and low carbon development.

In 2021, also an analysis on Disability inclusion in environmental conservation; an analysis on general aspects and a review on the status of disability inclusion in WWF Finland's partnership programme was conducted. (Abilis Consulting 2021); For more information, please refer to Chapter 3.2. Crosscutting objectives, disability inclusion.

"The project in Laos succeeded especially in forest restoration and livelihood improvement."

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. Each partner office has their own risk management system, keeps their own risk matrices/ registers, and risk monitoring practices vary among partners.

The need for more systematic risk management within the programme has been recognised. The programme level risk matrix will be revised for the new programme period, and ways to harmonise/develop risk management will be seeked. The new programme will make use of WWF Network guidelines and training when developing a more harmonised and systematic risk management system.

Risk matrices, both the programme level and country specific were updated in 2020 especially to better take into account the pandemic, which was the major risk that was realised and that impacted the programme implementation in all countries in 2020 and 2021. It was mitigated by revising the plans, using virtual meetings when possible, capacitating implementing partners to use

virtual platforms and with strict precautions when organising meetings or working at communities. Implementing partners were also supported with health and safety measures.

The pandemic created a downfall in the local economy, for instance because of lack of tourism linked income, directly impacting forest dependent communities, needing increased support to improve their livelihoods and economic opportunities. Environmentally unsustainable activities, such as forest encroachment and bushmeat hunting, increased in many places, triggered by the decline in the people's income during the pandemic. For example in Indonesia illegal mining by the communities in the forests, riparian and cultivation areas was highest during the pandemic. Mitigation carried out included providing support to the village government such as development planning training, providing technical support and assistance to activities related to providing job opportunities and alternative income. In addition, the project team consistently conducts participatory communication to promote sustainable practices on NRM.

"When looking to the future, the rise of new zoonotic pandemics is possible."

When looking to the future, the rise of new zoonotic pandemics is possible. To answer this development, WWF communicated about the primary causes behind Covid-19 pandemic; the degradation of nature creating continuously more contact between humans and wildlife.

One particular high risk which was identified, both in likelihood and impact, is the climate induced extremes, such as intense rains, flooding, prolonged dry spells, rising temperatures, and forest fires. Adaptation and mitigation measures are described in chapter 4.1.

In Nepal, the likelihood and impact of not fully implementing HRBA and gender equality and social inclusion (GESI) was mitigated by conducting HRBA orientation training, and integrating HRBA and GESI principles while planning and implementing the programme. In the initial years of the project, the approach was still quite new, and integrating HRBA into planning and implementation was started gradually.

In Bhutan, some partners have limited capacity to deliver project objectives and outputs leading to time delays. The risk assessment was carried out case by case depending upon the status of project progress. WWF Bhutan provided both technical and administrative support to the partners to ensure timely delivery of the project outputs, for example the Social Forestry and Extension Division, under the Ministry of Agriculture and Forests (SFED) was

supported in preparing the value chain analysis for Daphne. In the final evaluation of the Bhutan programme, it was recommended that external risks factors should be assessed in the design phase.

In Indonesia one of the materialised risks was changes in the government counterpart, which is likely to happen every two years after elections. The project team has been able to mitigate that by anticipating changes at the government administration level, the project team cooperates intensively with local CSOs/CBOs to take an intensive approach.

New procedures that WWF is adopting and implementing, such as FPIC, environmental and social safeguards screening and developing grievance mechanisms slows down the start and implementation of programs to some extent. A key lesson emerging is the need for clearly defined inception periods to ensure that due diligence processes can be focused on without the pressures to deliver activities. This is particularly apparent in East Africa Wildlife Crime program areas (SOKNOT and to a lesser extent the Greater Virunga Landscape), where there are a number of new projects starting up. Another issue resulting in delays is lack of staff. To mitigate this, new approaches need to be applied to and better resource secured to ensure efficient start of programmes.

In Laos communities are interested in forest protection and aware of the negative impact of forest loss. However, the project target communities are among the poorest in the country, so food security and livelihood improvement are always first priorities. Income generation activities that WWF is supporting are considered as supplementation but not at scale that would adequately incentivise a shift from unsustainable practices such as uncontrolled shifting cultivation/agricultural production or over/illegal harvesting forest resources. Nevertheless, the project supported socio-economic empowerment through community production groups and agroforestry activities, that are essential foundations for a sustainable livelihood pathway. WWF Laos has been exploring an opportunity to increase a broader social development activity in priority landscapes through partnerships with development organisations. Initial discussion with Oxfam and CARE International has started and there is high interest from both organisations as they also hold a view that healthy nature /forest landscape is fundamental to human wellbeing improvement.

The WWF network implements the Environmental and Social Safeguards Framework as one measure to implement its human rights-based approach.

The ESSF also assesses social and environmental risks in detail and develops mitigation plans accordingly. Please refer to Chapter 3.2. Cross cutting objectives, Improving human rights-based approach in global WWF Network.

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

2021 was the last year of the four year programme period. There were no changes compared to previous years in the financial management. The programme management was done in Finland by the international development team as described in the Programme Implementation Manual.

The programme budget and work plan was revised in June, in October and again in November, when the latest updated budget of 2021 was sent to MFA for approval.

Due to delays caused mainly by the Covid-19 pandemic, non-cost extension was applied from the MFA, which also enabled WWF Finland to smoothen the gap between the programmes. Hence this report covers the period from 1.1.2021 to 31.3.2022. The deadline for audit reports from partners was postponed from 31.3.2022 until 27.5.2022 in order to have carry forwarded expenses included. Agreement amendments were signed with all partners for NCE. Carry forwarded amount from 2021 to 2022 was 373,379 EUR. After 31.3.2022 there is still EUR 8,352 unused budget, and the plan for its use will be submitted to MFA. This amount will be reported after 2022.

MFA-funded programmes are annually audited in the respective countries. The programme expenses of WWF Finland and the annual programme level report are audited in Finland by PricewaterhouseCoopers Oy, including audit reports from all partners. Due to the Covid-19 epidemic some of the audits were conducted remotely.

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. 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.

Some minor budget reallocations were done. As travelling was not possible, there was saving in the monitoring and evaluation budget, and 15,000 EUR was reallocated from M&E to personnel costs within Finland's budget. Additional 746 EUR was reallocated to the Greater Mekong due to exchange rates. The contract with WWF Cameroon for East Africa Forest Expert was ended, and 20,000 EUR was reallocated to the East Africa Forest Programme to hire a Technical advisor to support the regional programme. 9,000 EUR was reallocated from Finland's M&E budget to Indonesia in January 2022 for the expenses of financial audit. Part of the Panda labs budget, which was unspent by the end of March, was reallocated to WWF Finland.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

The total available budget for the Partnership Programme for 2021 was EUR 2,910,987, including new MFA support for 2021 (EUR 2,130,000), carry forwarded MFA support from 2020 (EUR 344,338) and self-financing (EUR 436,649). The total costs of the programme in 2021 were EUR 2,537,270 and between 1.1.–31.3.2022 the costs were EUR 365,357. Total costs of the period that this report covers (1.1.2021–31.3.2022) were EUR 2,902,627.

The MFA temporarily lowered the requirement for self-financing in 2021 due to the Covid-19 pandemic implications to fundraising. However, WWF Finland paid 15% as self-financing.

In Bhutan and Mekong, the reported achievements were fully funded by this programme. In Nepal, for the output level, everything reported is fully funded by this programme. The outcome and impact level results were contributed by WWF Finland, WWF UK, WWF US, WWF Germany (KfW/IUCN), WWF Canada, WWF Cambodia and Ave Fenix Philanthropic Group. Finland's contribution is approximately 25% for overall TAL, 60% for Western TAL, 30% for policy work, and 2% for snow leopard work.

The activities in the East Africa Regional Forest Programme are basket funded by Sweden and Finland, Finnish support being the biggest contributing 90% of the total programme costs in 2021. For the Illegal Wildlife Trade Hub, this programme's contribution was 14% of the core budget in 2021, other donors being the UK, USAID and Sweden.

In Indonesia, Finland's contribution to the reported activities was around 60 %. The Panda Labs innovation initiative was supported by WWF

Finland MFA and WWF Denmark-Danida, Finland's contribution was 59 % in 2021.

In addition to the partnership programme, WWF Finland supports the WWF Network offices through network service fee which was EUR 745,138 in FY21. This funding is used to support the WWF Network, including offices in Africa and Asia, in organisational development and compliance of the network policies etc. In 2021 WWF Finland also supported WWF Bhutan with 45,000 EUR. East

Africa Wildlife Crime Hub's work to protect lions was supported with 95,000 EUR. WWF Greater Mekong Office was funded with 45,000 EUR to support the Regional Forest Hub Lead, Asia Pacific position. 10,000 EUR was given to WWF India Covid-19 emergency fund, and 10,000 EUR to WWF Kenya for drought intervention. These were all in addition to and outside the Partnership Programme funding.

The detailed financial report is presented in Annex 4.

Expenses by countries/regions

Programmes	Actual costs in 2021, €	Actual costs 01-03/2022, €	Total actual costs, €
Bhutan	121 011	20 004	141 015
Nepal	378 555	53 307	431 863
Indonesia	197 624	30 228	227 852
East Africa Forest Programme	792 788	162 554	955 341
East Africa Illegal Wildlife Trade Hub	47 709	6 991	54 700
Greater Mekong	149 287	28 064	177 351
Innovation Fund	89 658	10 032	99 690
Total costs of programmes	1 776 632	311 180	2 087 812
Finland			
Personnel	412 815	4 364	417 180
Communications	79 205	10 938	90 142
Learning for change	45 293	7 325	52 618
Planning, monitoring and evaluation	42 050	31 550	73 600
Admin	181 275	0	181 275
Total costs in Finland	760 638	54 177	814 815
Total costs	2 537 270	365 357	2 902 627
MFA support used	2 156 679	310 554	2 467 233
WWF Finland self-financing	380 591	54 804	435 394

ANNEXES

- 1. Result framework
- 2. Risk Matrix
- 3A. Final review of the programme 2018-2021, incl recommendations and management response
- 3B. Terminal evaluation of the programme, Bhutan
- 3C. Self-review of the programme, Nepal
- 3D. Post-project performance assessment, Nepal
- 3E. Case study of the Greenhouse sessions, Panda labs
- 3F. Final evaluation of the programme, EASFP
- 3G. Final review of the programme, Indonesia
- 3H. Final evaluation of the programme, Laos
- 31. Forest carbon assessment
- 3J. Sample Analysis on Forest Productivity of Laljhadi-Mohana Protected Forest, Nepal
- 4. Financial report
- 5. Audit report

