



Sustainable Agriculture and Natural Resource Management Collaborative Research Support Program

SANREM CRSP
Office of International Research, Education, and Development
Virginia Tech (0378)
840 University City Blvd., Suite 5&7
Blacksburg, Virginia 24061

Phone: (540) 231-1230
Fax: (540) 231-1402
sanrem@vt.edu
www.oired.vt.edu/sanremcrsp

Trip Report: Uganda, Kenya, and Zambia

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Keith M. Moore, Associate Program Director, and
Maria Elisa Christie, Gender Equity Coordinator
SANREM CRSP, Virginia Tech

Purpose of Trip: To assess the initiation of the following two SANREM projects, meet the project teams and their partners, learn about the implementation contexts, and develop linkages with USAID Missions.

- Decentralization Reforms and Property Rights: Potentials and Puzzles for Forest Sustainability and Livelihoods, PI: Elinor Ostrom, Indiana University
- Developing a Participatory Socio-Economic Model for Food Security, Improved Rural Livelihoods, Watershed Management, and Biodiversity Conservation in Southern Africa, PI: Alex Travis, Cornell University

Sites Visited:	Uganda:	Forestry Management, Makerere University, Kampala Mabira Central Forest Reserve, Mukono District Mpigi Districts
	Kenya:	Kenya Forestry Research Institute, Nairobi Forest Department, Nairobi Kakamega Forest Reserve
	Zambia	Wildlife Conservation Society, Lusaka Mambwe CTC, Mfuwe Lundazi CTC, Lundazi Chifunda and Mwanya Bush Camps Communities of Luero, Chifunda, and Zoekwe

Description of Observations:

These SANREM CRSP Long-Term Research activities are progressing well. Initial sites have been identified and biophysical fieldwork and social surveys initiated. Both projects build ongoing institutional relationships. In Uganda and Kenya, the Ostrom project is structured around International Forestry Resources and Institutions (IFRI) research teams. In Zambia, the Travis project is organized around the Community Markets for Conservation (COMACO) development project. Variations in the start-up of the two projects can be attributed to differences in these two initial institutional arrangements. Given these established relationships, a challenge for both

projects will be to forge a distinct and coherent SANREM CRSP research program with SANREM specific impacts. The National Advisory Committees (NACs) in Uganda and Kenya, integral to the policy advisory role of the Indiana University-led project, are up and functioning at the country level. Communication between the two country teams has been established. Individual project research components in the Cornell University-led project in Zambia are moving forward and an institutional mechanism for their integration is being sought. Site visits demonstrated the richness and complexity of issues these two projects will be analyzing. Each of the country programs offers immediate value to their respective USAID country Missions. In Uganda, local livelihoods and extra-local forces for biodiversity conservation in the Western provinces are being examined; in Kenya, institutional and community-based mechanisms as well as training programs for decentralized forest management are being explored; and in Zambia, an alternative business model for enterprise development leading to wildlife conservation is being tested.

Uganda: After individual meetings with partners and a visit to Mabira Central Forest Reserve communities, we participated in the second meeting of the NAC. The SANREM team reported on research findings from Mabira. The committee discussed, and approved in principle, to develop a large-n survey to facilitate the extrapolation of findings. The methodology for the survey, and whether additional funding can be found or the number of case study sites reduced, is yet to be determined. Opportunities for collaboration with USAID/Uganda's PRIME-West Project and how to better structure research to address biodiversity threats were discussed with USAID and team members. Pam Jagger's dissertation research will be central to these efforts. Analysis of the role of extra-local actors, whether private sector or national government, will be critical to understanding the dynamics of decentralized forest management in Uganda.

As the project evolves, the following suggestions based on site visits and participation in the NAC meeting should be considered. (1) While the reporting of the preliminary findings from the Mabira surveys was appreciated by the NAC, there was a lack of contextualization. This is a comparative project, both within and across nations, and over time. Some synthesis of progress made, or status of overall site development would have been a useful in structuring the discussions. (2) The addition of a NAC member representing decentralization (Ministry of Local Government) would clearly add to the quality of the discussions, as would a representative from the Uganda Wildlife Authority. (3) Threats to biodiversity conservation should be clearly emphasized where they are relevant. Forest management for biodiversity conservation is habitat management. The same principles and behaviors apply and can be credibly discussed in the same breath. It appears that there are and will be data sets available to facilitate analysis in this regard.

Kenya: Decentralization is a very new concept for the administration of Kenya's forest resources. While traditional and modern community efforts for managing local forest resources have been engaged over the past decade or more, the Forest Department is only beginning to have the legal and administrative autonomy to forge new linkages and build networks across sectors and communities. Our discussions with NAC members and the Deputy Chief Conservator of the Forest Department indicated that core forestry service staff, on the one hand, and forest community leaders, on the other; don't have the requisite training for their new roles in decentralized forest management. It was unfortunate that there was no USAID representative

at the NAC meeting. Linking with the forest sector restructuring committee will be a value to both SANREM research efforts and the transition of the Forest Department to the Kenya Forest Service.

SANREM CRSP research on the transformation of Kenya's national forest administration into a system for decentralized forest management is very timely, providing important new information and findings on methods for the development of local forest associations, forest management plans, and forest management agreements leading to both resource conservation and enterprise development. For these activities to be successful, community-based monitoring and evaluation capacity will need to be developed. Members of the SANREM CRSP team also have experience with the USAID FORREMS project so that they are well positioned to assist in the transformation of forest sector governance through the provision of training, forest valuation services, and guidance in developing effective community participation.

Zambia: The COMACO project is developing a new business model to provide alternative livelihoods that will decrease poaching and increase wildlife conservation in the Luangwa Valley of eastern Zambia. SANREM CRSP research is designed to determine the extent to which this model is economically and socially self-sustaining and improves biodiversity and watershed conservation, and provides new technologies for improved profitability, food security and rural incomes. A critical element of this research is the economic viability of specific enterprises within the overall COMACO model. We have concerns about how SANREM will assess the various COMACO commodity lines through a value chain profitability analysis. This may be a challenge because of the difficulty in identifying and partitioning costs between conservation and economic development activities. An associated sustainability issue involves the extent to which local decision makers (COMACO employees and members, and the Community Resource Boards) understand the real costs of operating these businesses. Addressing these research questions will provide valuable insights concerning the economic and social sustainability of the COMACO model, the economic viability of component COMACO enterprises, and an estimate of the costs of environmental services provided by the COMACO model.

The SANREM research is also addressing additional technical questions contributing to sustainable livelihoods in the region. This component research focuses on soil fertility, conservation farming practices, improved poultry husbandry, the production of new food crops, and food processing to produce value-added food products. Further research is quantifying the ecosystem service benefits delivered through the COMACO model, in particular wildlife conservation. And in a related question, does improving livelihoods of the population in wildlife threatened areas decrease poaching and protect wildlife?

Gender Equity: The SANREM CRSP teams in Kenya and Uganda have strong in-house experience with social forestry issues including gender analysis and have experience working together. Dr. Gorettie Nsubuga Nabanoga of Makerere University's Faculty of Forestry and Nature Conservation, serves as a gender consultant in KEFRIs' regional social forestry training programs. In Kenya, Jane Wangu Njuguna is the gender person for the SANREM CRSP team at KEFRI. While they stressed the importance for effective analysis of putting gender in from the beginning, it is unclear how they will investigate gendered access to forest resources and products through the existing household surveys. There is the potential for exciting contributions

to the SANREM knowledge base on issues relating to gender and forestry (and local participation in forest management) from these two teams; however this appears to need more participation and support to succeed. Recourse to alternative data collection methodologies may be needed.

In the COMACO model, the “community” is assumed to be gender neutral; however, a substantial portion of the alternative livelihood programs target poachers, who are men. Though this focus is logical, research on gender relations is critical since transforming poachers affects a major source of men’s gender identity and social status. COMACO initiatives are changing both men’s and women’s behavior, and relations between them. For example, rather than work in their husband’s fields, some women have decided to plant their own fields this season in light of their concern over inequitable distribution of benefits within the household. SANREM should study how COMACO programs impact gender relations, in particular, how shifting gender power relations and intra-household disparities affect achievement of COMACO’s conservation and livelihoods objectives.

List of Uganda Contacts Made:

Name	Title/Organization	Contact Info (address, phone, email)
Abwoli Banana	Associate Professor Forest Products Engineering Makerere University	banana@forest.mak.ac.ug
William Gombya-Ssembajjwe	Head, Forest Management Makerere University	gombya@forest.mak.ac.ug
John R.S. Kaboggoza	Dean, Faculty of Forestry Makerere University; and Board Chairman National Forestry Authority	kaboggoza@forest.mak.ac.ug
Gorette Nabanoga	Head of Department Community Forestry and Extension	nabanoga@forest.mak.ac.ug
Joseph Bahati	Senior Lecturer Forest Biology and Ecosystem Mgmt Makerere University	bahati@forest.mak.ac.ug
Steve Amooti Nsita	Acting Head, Field Operations National Forestry Authority	steven@nfa.org.ug
Gershon Onyango	Director, Forestry Inspection Ministry of Water, Lands and Environment	
William Mujuni	District Forest Officer, NFA Mukono District	
Leaders of Nakalanga and Kirugu Villages	Nakalanga and Kirugu, Mabira CFR Mukono District	
Jody Stallings	Natural Resources Management USAID/Kampala	jstallings@usaid.gov
Pam Jagger	Graduate Student/Researcher Indiana University	pjagger@indiana.edu

Marty Luckert	Professor, Rural Economy University of Alberta	marty.luckert@ualberta.ca
Jim Seyler	PRIME/West Kampala, Uganda	jim_seyler@dai.com
Frank Kawooya	Vice Chairman Mpigi District Council	
Juuko Kasiita	Resident District Commissioner Mpigi District	0772-60 73 14

List of Kenya Contacts Made:

Name	Title/Organization	Contact Info (address, phone, email)
Paul Ongugo	Programme Coordinator Kenya Forestry Research Institute	paulongugo@msn.com
Paul Konuche	Director Kenya Forestry Research Institute	kefri@nbi.ispkenya.com
Jane Wangu Njuguna	Kenya Forestry Research Institute	Wangunjuguna@yahoo.com
Hewson Kabugi	Forest Programme Coordinator Kenya Wildlife Service	hkabugi@kws.org
Erick Nahama	Forest Department Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources	
Michael Gachanja	Kenya Forests Working Group	
A. Ochino	Forest Action Network	fan@fanworld.or.ke
Ernest Ambune	Deputy Chief Conservator of Forests Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources	ccf@wananchi.com
Emily Obonyo	Kenya Forestry Research Institute	eobonyo@kefri.org
P.W. Mukira	District Forest Officer, Kakamega Forest Department, MENR	
Jacob Ilo Okhle	Sector Leader – Kakamega Kenya Wildlife Service	kwskakamega@yahoo.org
Dan Odhiambo	Forester, Kakamega Forest Sub-Centre Kenya Forestry Research Institute	
George Aimo	Center Head Kakamega Forest Department, MENR	
William Ojjo	Deputy Centre Head Kakamega Forest Department, MENR	
Daniel Murende	Chairman Kakamega Community Forest Assn.	kacofaa@yahoo.co.uk
Representatives from	Kakamega Environmental Education Programme Isukha Heritage Organization Women's and Men's Self-Help Groups	Kakamega Forest Periphery

Allen Fleming	Agriculture, Business and Environment USAID/Kenya	allen@usaid.gov
Walter Knausenberger	Senior Regional Environmental Officer USAID/East Africa Region	wakausenberger@usaid.gov
Robert Buzzard	Natural Resource Management USAID/Kenya	rbuzzard@usaid.gov
Candace Buzzard	Deputy Director, Program Office USAID/East Africa	cbuzzard@usaid.gov
Charles Oluchina	Natural Resource Management USAID/Kenya	coluchina@usaid.gov
Joseph Mangira	Policy Officer, Mara River Initiative WWF Eastern Africa Programme	JMangira@wwfearpo.org
Wanjiku Muhato	Regional Advisor on Gender Issues for Eastern and Southern Africa USAID/Regional Office	wmuhato@usaid.gov

List of Zambia Contacts Made:

Name	Title/Organization	Contact Info (address, phone, email)
Ruth Nabuyanda	Office Coordinator WCS/COMACO - Lusaka	nabuyanda@yahoo.com
Dale Lewis	Director, COMACO	wczsam@coppernet.zm
Alex Travis	Assistant Professor Reproductive Biology Cornell University	ajt32@cornell.edu
Yolum Njere	CTC Manager COMACO, Mambwe	
Whiteson Daka	Extension Regional Coordinator COMACO, Mambwe	
Joel Ngumayo	Asst. Extension Coordinator COMACO, Mambwe	
Ruger Kahwa	Head of Sub Office UN World Food Programme, Chipata	ruger.kahwa@wfp.org
Nemiah Tembo	Regional Coordinator COMACO, Lundazi	
James Phiri	Business Manager, COMACO, Lundazi	
Poachers and Women	Villages of Chifunda, Luero, Zoekwe	
Ida Lungu	Manager Its Wild Bush Camp, Chifunda	
Zick Kolala	Manager Its Wild Bush Camp, Mwanja	
Dann Griffiths	Agriculture and Natural Resources USAID/Zambia	dgriffiths@usaid.gov
Cornelius Chipoma	Education Program (Gender) USAID/Zambia	cchipoma@usaid.gov

Mike Field	Private Sector Development PROFIT – Profit, Finance and Technology Programme	mike@profit.org.zm
Robert Delve	Senior Scientist Tropical Soil Biology and Fertility Institute – CIAT	r.delve@cgiar.org