

FP158: Ecosystem-Based Adaptation and Mitigation in Botswana's Communal Rangelands 2022 APR Summary

Following GCF Board approval in March 2021, the Funded Activity Agreement (FAA) for FP158 became effective on 1 December 2021 with key staff onboarded in January 2022.

During start-up, the project focused on creating awareness, understanding, and buy-in with key stakeholders. The project began with high-level introductory meetings at five key ministries (Ministry of Agriculture [MoA], Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development, Ministry of Environment and Tourism & Ministry of Lands and Water Affairs). This culminated in a Cabinet briefing by project leadership, who provided a short introduction of the project to Cabinet along with a Cabinet Information Note. This was followed by the National Project Launch event in August 2022, hosted by MoA. A well-attended National Inception workshop in November 2022 offered an opportunity for project stakeholders including government, parastatals and civil society to participate in project planning.

District government sensitization began in all project target areas in June 2022 and continued through the end of the year. The process to formalize the opening of the project in each district is being managed on a case-by-case basis with district governments. The project Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with MoA was negotiated in 2022 and was signed in February 2023 (beyond the reporting period).

Progress towards developing and implementing a Train-the-Trainers program included regular engagement with subgrantee Rare including initial engagement, contracting, and onboarding by August 2022. In October, Rare staff visited Gaborone and Northwest District for an initial sensitization of the context, to interact with the project team, and to conduct initial Behavior-Centered Design (BCD) training to project staff.

Relevant legal frameworks for the project were developed by a legal firm in 2022, including the draft Rangeland Stewardship Agreements (RSAs), the project's conservation agreements to be signed between CI and project beneficiary communities.

Progress towards the development of a demonstration site network included identification of project partners for demonstration sites. An open call was issued in April 2022, and five project partners were selected in September. The project's Kgalagadi Area did not receive any suitable applications, and the project will recommend an alternative option to the GCF in 2023. To take the partnerships forward, draft MoUs were in advanced stages by the end of December 2022 and signature of the agreements is projected in Q1 2023.

Through engagement with various government departments, a benchmarking exercise was conducted for the develop development of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for the project's Rangeland Stewardship job creation programme. Solicitation documents for a supporting consultancy were prepared by the end of the 2022.

CI also conducted engagement with project partner and subgrantee Botswana University of Agriculture and Natural Resources (BUAN). A high-level presentation to BUAN leadership was conducted in Q1, followed by direct engagement in with counterparts from BUAN's CICE (Centre for Inservice and Continuing Education), which will both support design of and deliver the curriculum to the Ecorangers engaged to support project activities.

Progress towards design and development of the Rangeland Stewardship Information Portal (RSIP) includes user need scoping, relational design, development of a test database, and initiation of web hosting services. System testing will begin in 2023. CI engaged the RSIP "task team" – which includes a variety of

stakeholders including government counterparts. In Q4, all parties adopted the ToR and workplan for the task team to continue engagement in 2023.

To facilitate Graduate Monitor engagement in the project, an initial meeting was held in Q4 with the Ministry of Labour and Home Affairs, which will help identify and hire interns to will serve as graduate monitors for the project.

Progress toward design of the M&E Plan, Safeguards Plans, Impact Evaluation (IE), and Social & Ecological Baseline Assessment (SEBA) included engagement with a range of CI staff and stakeholders beginning in Q1. In Q3, a group of all stakeholders met on the topics of M&E, SEBA, Safeguards, and the Impact Evaluation. By year-end, the SEBA and IE designs were nearing completion, with final tools to be developed by Q2 2023.

By the end of 2022, the project had onboarded 14 staff members and recruited the project's field science team. In Q1 2023, the project expects to onboard seven new key positions.

Financial overview:

Budget and Expenditure¹

	Budget Y1	Expenditure Y1	Expenditure Rate Y1	Budget Project Total	Expenditure Project Total	Expenditure Rate Project Total
GCF financing	\$1,929,796	\$1,466,761	76%	\$36,760,394	\$1,466,761	4%
CI Co-financing	\$360,098	\$273,698	76%	\$6,859,491	\$273,698	4%
Government of Botswana Co-financing	\$0	\$0	n/a	54,013,138	\$0	n/a
Project total	\$2,289,894	\$1,740,459	76%	\$97,633,023	\$1,740,459	2%

Disbursements

Number of Disbursements Y1	Disbursement Amount Y1	Number of Disbursements Project Total	Disbursement Amount Project Total
1	\$1,900,000	1	\$1,900,000

¹ Expenditure figures exclude reported commitments