

**Inception Report**

**Cross-Border Fire Management in Angola/Namibia**

**A partnership project between ACADIR (Angola) and IRDNC (Namibia)**

**GIZ Agreement No. 83156473 (144/2013)**

**3 February 2014**

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Project Status The grant agreement has been signed by IRDNC and GIZ. The project manager has been appointed by IRDNC. The inception meeting involving ACADIR and IRDNC was held on 22nd – 24th January 2014.

Project Schedule The project started when agreement was signed by all parties and is on schedule. Project period runs Nov 2013 – June 2014

Project Deliverables Reporting is at the Inception Phase. The project has just started. The first series of cross-border activities has been planned for February. ACADIR and IRDNC have developed plans for logistics and handling of project finances.

Project Changes None at this time.

# INTRODUCTION

# The goal of this short-term project is to develop and implement an Integrated Trans-frontier Community-Based Fire Management Strategy for Liuana Partial Reserve in Angola and Bwabwata National Park in Namibia. The strategy will build upon the lessons learned from Namibia’s fire management work in Zambezi Region, and will be designed to complement the environment, community, land use, capacity and available resources of the area. The strategy, which will draw on Namibia’s experiences, will have a strong Community Based Fire Management (CBFiM) focus through decentralization of decision-making and coordinated / integrated implementation between neighbours.

The project will achieve this by undertaking the following activities:

1. Carry out formal visits to local and provincial/regional authorities responsible for forestry in each country to formally introduce the project and obtain their support for implementation.
2. Facilitate a series of reciprocal site visits for community leaders and traditional authorities in Liuana and Bwabwata to raise awareness about fire management approaches, to obtain guidance on implementation protocol and to develop a common vision for fire management between the two sites.
3. Develop institutional framework for community collaboration and communication between Liuana and Bwabwata.
4. Provide technical assistance to the Liuana-Bwabwata transboundary community forum to improve their advocacy skills, and equip them to address their local authorities and to obtain further buy-in for the project from their respective governments.
5. With support from CBFiM specialist, carry out CBFiM training in Liuana and refresher training in Bwabwata, and develop Integrated Trans-frontier Fire Management Strategy for Liuana and Bwabwata.
6. Engage with the KAZA-TFCA secretariat to share lessons learnt and to identify ways that this activity could be transferred into common practice and further institutionalised in the broader KAZA-TFCA.

# BASELINE AND DETAILED STATUS REPORT

ACADIR and IRDNC were first introduced to each other in 2003, when ACADIR was involved in aerial surveys to determine water abstraction levels by different countries in the Kavango River’s catchment area. ACADIR subsequently led Angola’s involvement in the Every River has its People Project, which initiated a Kavango Basinwide Community Forum. This forum did not however live beyond the lifespan of this project – it was established long before the KAZA-TFCA was in place, and at that time Community-Based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM) was new to Angola, and communities that were still recovering from the civil war had more urgent priorities than establishing linkages with their neighbouring countries. In 2007, IRDNC’s Bwabwata National Park team visited the Mucusso area in Angola to explore collaboration possibilities with communities and NGOs there. This came after IRDNC had begun work, in 2002, on developing transfrontier community forums (most of them between neighbouring communities in Botswana, Namibia and Zambia). The long-standing desire to increase linkages between communities in Angola’s Kuando Kubango Region and Namibia’s Zambezi and East Kavango (then Caprivi) Regions was further reinforced when ACADIR visited IRDNC in Katima Mulilo in 2008 to learn about CBNRM in Namibia. In 2013, ACADIR and IRDNC developed a Memorandum of Understanding to collaborate on transboundary work in their respective project areas. The two NGOs are linked by a similar ethos; both are field-based and believe in empowering local communities to take ownership and control of projects, both have a vision for CBNRM, and both have strong working relations with their respective governments.

Policy guidelines for fire management in the two countries are somewhat similar, though the on-the-ground realities differ significantly:

* Angola has an early burning policy in place to promote cool, early burns. However in practice, the people in Liuana National Park burn late in the year (September – October) resulting in very hot and destructive fires. The people who are resident in the Liuana area are a mixture of the indigenous minorities who have lived in this area for centuries (whose cultural practice is to carry out early burning) and other ethnic groups (mostly Mbundu) who moved into this area during the Angolan civil war and have never left. The more recent arrivals burn late in the season (to clear crop fields, to promote new grass for grazing), and have not received any training or awareness-raising on the benefits of early burning. Angola is currently developing its management plan for the Luiana National Park, which presents a good opportunity for this project to inform the plan and to ensure that sounds fire management guidelines are incorporated in the plan. This project will be the first initiative to introduce the early burning approach to Luiana National Park. There is no equipment in place, and there are no formal community structures or Community-Based Organisations who are likely to take ownership and responsibility for early burning (unless the community were to set up such structures as a result of the project). As such, the project will focus on building awareness, especially amongst community leaders and government officials, and on advocating for the fire management strategy that is developed to be included in the Luiana National Park Management Plan.
* Namibia has an early burning policy, and guidelines for early burning in National Parks have been in place for some years. The resident communities in Bwabwata National Park have burned the bush before the onset of the hot and dry season for many centuries, and continue to do so. In fact, their traditional burning practices are now largely the guiding principles in the Ministry of Environment and Tourism’s Fire Management Strategy for National Parks. For four years (2006 -2009), IRDNC employed a fire management specialist who worked with communities, the Ministry of Environment and Tourism and the Directorate of Forestry to implement early burning in Namibia’s north-east. This has been more successfully implemented in Bwabwata National Park than in communal areas, where communities rely less on wild food for their livelihoods and have less incentives to carry out early burning. The Kyaramacan Association (KA), which represents the residents of Bwabwata National Park, regard early burning as one of their responsibilities, together with the Ministry of Environment and Tourism. Community Game Guards employed by the KA carry out the early burning, using traditional techniques and without equipment, in the multiple-use areas of Bwabwata National Park.

The project took some time to get started as the agreement was signed late in the year, and most field staff took their customary annual leave during December. This is not expected to affect project delivery however, and activities have been planned so that all deliverables will be achieved during the project period.

IRDNC has appointed Friedrich Alpers (Bwabwata National Park Coordinator and SAREP project coordinator), based in Bwabwata National Park, as the overall project manager for this project. Karine Nuulimba, IRDNC co-director based in Windhoek, will be responsible for financial and narrative reporting. Antonio Chipita, ACADIR’s coordinator based in Menongue, will take responsibility for implementation of ACADIR’s tasks.

An inception and planning meeting was held on 22nd – 24th February in Namibia’s Kavango East Region. Antonio Chipita represented ACADIR. IRDNC was represented by Alfred Tcadau (Senior Field Officer, Bwabwata National Park), Benson Kupinga (Senior Field Officer, Bwabwata National Park), Janet Matota (Assistant Director, IRDNC), John Kamwi (Transboundary Coordinator, IRDNC), Friedrich Alpers and Karine Nuulimba.

## 4. Project Schedule and Work Plan

All activities will be carried out over the course of the remaining five month project period.

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| **Activity number** | **Activity** | **Time** | **Logistics** | **Who involved** | **Activity details** |
| 1 | Carry out formal visits to local and provincial/regional authorities  responsible for forestry/fire  management in each country to  formally introduce the project and  obtain their support for  implementation. | February  2014 | 8 X Namibians to travel to Luiana  (via Susuwe), 4 x Angolans to meet Namibians in Bwabwata and travel  north via Susuwe | Antonio, Americo (Project Manager  ACADIR), Lisboa (KAZA liaison officer  Angola) + perhaps also representative/s  from Angola Ministry of Environment),  Fidi, Alfred, Benson, Elvis and John K.  Possibly also MET (Sanzila), KA reps  (chairperson and Mashambo committee  member who is a woman), chairperson  Kwandu Imusho Transboundary (Charlie  and Memory from ZAWA Imusho). Also  involved Ministry of Agriculture/  Directorate of Forestry. | 1. Antonio to inform KAZA  liaison officer about plan to meet  in Luiana and fix date  2. Fidi to inform Elvis and MET  3. John Kamwi to inform Charlie  3. Antonio to make appointment  with councilors in Luiana and  Rivungu  4. Meet with councilors in Angola  5. On return to Namibia, meet  with councilor and MET  6. Add planning day for the  exchange visits and the fire  strategy development workshop |
| 2 | Facilitate series of reciprocal site  visits for community leaders and  traditional authorities in Luiana and  Bwabwata to raise awareness about  fire management approaches, to  obtain guidance on implementation  protocol and to develop a common  vision for fire management between  the two sites. | April  2014 | 4 – 6 days trip exchange trip in  Angola followed by 3 - 4 days  exchange trip to Namibia,  workshop, immediately followed  by fire strategy workshop (2 days).  Venue for workshop – Nunda  Campsite or field site in Bwabwata | To be determined. | 1. Details of exchange visit to be  worked out during February –  Plan is for fire expert to join the  exchange visits and to facilitate  the workshop  2. Karine to check with fire  expert whether he would want to  join the exchange visits, and to  check what dates would work for  him/her.  3. Karine to obtain 3 quotes for  fire management consultancy  (check with Jericho Mulofwa for  names or advertise in Namibian  paper)  3. Fidi to check with Nunda about  using campsite and providing food |
| 3 | With support from CBFiM  specialist, carry out on-site CBFiM  training (facilitated by a CBFiM  specialist in collaboration with  resident fire specialists from  Bwabwata). | April  2014 | As above | As above | As above |
| 4 | Develop and Integrated  Trans-frontier Fire Management  Strategy for Luiana and Bwabwata | April  2014 | As above | As above | As above. Make sure that it gets  translated into Portuguese. |
| 5 | Develop institutional framework  for long-term community  collaboration and communication  between Luiana and Bwabwata, i.e. establish appropriate local  transboundary forum in Luiana and Bwabwata that would be  responsible for further developing  the transboundary linkages between  Luiana and Bwabwata  communities and formalise the  roles and responsibilities for the  forum. | April –  May  2014 | The establishment of the  transboundary forum will depend  upon the level of interest shown by communities and government  officials on both sides of the border. IRDNC’s expectation is that once  the communities and government  officials are able to meet, they will  see the value of engaging more and  will request further meetings. | To be determined – John Kamwi should  play advisory role. | To be determined – based upon  outcome of work in February and  April. |
| 6 | Provide technical assistance to the  Luiana-Bwabwata transboundary community forum to improve their advocacy skills, and equip them to  address their local authorities and to obtain further buy-in for the forum and its objectives from their respective governments. | June  2014 | A mentoring approach would be  used to develop the skills of the  new transboundary forum. There  are several functional forums in the  region (with the nearest one being  the Imusho-Kwandu forum  alongside the project area) and these forums would be willing to assist with  sharing their experiences. | John Kamwi will be responsible to ensure  that lesson-learning between the new forum  and existing forum/s can take place. | To be determined |
| 7 | At regular intervals during the  course of the project, engage with  the KAZA-TFCA secretariat to  share lessons learnt and to identify  ways that this activity could be  transferred into common practice  and further institutionalised in the  broader KAZA-TFCA. | June  2014 | An initial meeting has been  scheduled with Simon Munthali  (Natural Resource Management  Specialist at KAZA secretariat)  and Elvis Mwilima (KAZA Liaison  Officer for Namibia) on 17th  February in Katima Mulilo to  update them on this project’s  progress, and to plan how KAZA  can become more actively engaged  with this project, and how the  community forum could be  introduced to KAZA. | John Kamwi, Karine Nuulimba and Beaven  Munali from IRDNC to schedule meeting  with KAZA in Feb 2014 to keep them  informed about this project and identify  how to engage them further. | To be determined |

# FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION

# ACADIR will submit invoices for mileage to IRDNC – best to do this monthly.

# Check with GIZ - how to indicate proof of match funding; we cannot transfer money from ACADIR for salary match funding and from IRDNC staff (these are costs from other donor contracts).

# As much as possible finances will be managed by Friedrich Alpers, and he will disburse money to Antonio Chipita and reconcile Antonio’s receipts.

# There will be no allowances for food. All food will be purchased for meetings and trips. There will be N$50 provided per day for soap/other personal costs for community and NGO participants travelling OUTSIDE of their country/project area. Friedrich will develop a form ‘contribution for personal costs associated with travel’ which recipients will have to sign and which can be used as receipt for this money.

# Fire management specialist Terms of Reference will need to be advertised – Karine Nuulimba will also enquire as to who are the fire experts that could be approached for quotes.

# IRDNC can transfer N$ 45,000 to ACADIR as an advance for vehicle repairs/vehicle running costs – treat as an advance from IRDNC reserves. ACADIR should inform Karine of the bank account details for their Rand account.

# CONCLUDING REMARKS

Angola does not yet have the enabling environment in place for rural communities to own, manage or benefit from their natural resources. Namibia on the other hand, has progressive policy and several CBNRM initiatives in the Kavango East and Zambezi Regions have been held up as best practice. ACADIR and IRDNC see this fire management project as a unique opportunity to build up community and government awareness of CBNRM in Angola and to work towards CBNRM being implemented in Angola.