

Progress Report

BMZ Small Grants

General Information

Implementing Organisation and Contracting Partner	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH Friedrich-Ebert-Allee 40 53113 Bonn Tel. +49-(0) 228-44600 Internet: www.giz.de
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Closing date	End of February per year
Reporting period	July 1-December 31, 2019
Submit by e-mail to	

1. Basic data

The IARC applicant	ICARDA
Project title	Reversing land degradation in Africa through scaling-up Evergreen Agriculture- Component 1 Economics of Land Degradation (EGA/ELD)
Funding type, GIZ Project Number and Contract Number	GIZ Project number: 17.2010.1-005.00 Contract number: 81220167
Reporting Period	From 01/07/2019 to 31/12/2019
Project Coordinator and Project Scientist	Richard Thomas (ELD scientific coordinator) c/o ICARDA, 2512 Clayborne Place, Oakville, Ontario L6M 4C3, Canada Phone number: +1 289-888-1400 e-mail address: r.thomas@cgiar.org ; drjthomas@gmail.com

Project Partners	ELD consortium partners and 2 Kenyan national teams led by Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology and University of Nairobi
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2. Progress Report

State of Project Implementation
The aim of this grant is to collaborate with the ELD secretariat/initiative in its current implementation phase that aims to facilitate the engagement of ELD consortium in research/policy dialogue/capacity development activities in 8 partner countries in Africa (Kenya, Ethiopia, Ghana, Mali, Niger, Rwanda, Senegal and Somalia). Specifically this grant supports overall scientific coordination and the Kenyan case study in particular. The activities are financed from an agreement with the European Commission (EC DEVCO) which is valid for 35 months. The contract runs from 01.01.2018 to 31.03.2020. General Achievements and Problems encountered The consultant worked for a total of 25.5 days during the period July-Dec 2019. He provided guidance and teaching to the two Kenyan case study teams including a visit to Nairobi and responded to additional requests to i) review materials and provide voice over for the ELD campus modules ii) attend an UNCCD COP-14 in Delhi, India.
Achievements are listed under each activity listed below following the grant agreement: a. Provide scientific guidance to the ELD Initiative and assistance to the ELD working group leaders and consultants in the context of national ELD case studies and capacity development activities of the partner institutions within the eight target countries of the joint EC/GIZ/ICRAF project. Assist in literature research, provide backstopping and review services and contribute to the finalisation and editorial review of all eight country studies and eventually a summary report. Provided guidance to the implementation of two case studies in Kenya including review and editing of the proposals. Organized and attended one additional training activity with a review of on-going activities in August 2019. b. Provide direct research, study and report writing inputs (including in-country research) to the ELD case in Kenya. Provided Kenyan teams with reading material and examples of cost-benefit analysis. Continued preparation of a review paper of ELD's approach, activities including capacity building and the strategy to insert ELD information into policy making processes. c. Assist and advise additional national research activities, for example related to ICRAF's agroforestry component, as they are developed. Discussions held regularly with the ELD secretariat via Skype on activities and opportunities as they were identified. E-mail correspondence with Kenyan project teams on implementation of two case studies as well as the additional visit under a. above.

- d. Organise ELD scientific working group meetings at least twice yearly and report on working group meeting's outcomes. The meetings will be a mix of physical and/or virtual meetings.

No working group meetings held during this period.

- e. Provide information on events of interest to the ELD to the ELD Secretariat. Participate in and contribute to relevant ELD meetings as Scientific Coordinator and promote the ELD initiative at national and international meetings and events.

Regular email exchanges with ELD secretariat on developments and possible future activities for the ELD consortium.

- Attended the UNCCD COP-14 event in Dehli, India. Facilitated and moderated a side event of iCRA and ELD on halting land degradation through large scale adoption of SLM practices Sept 6.

Participated in the following side events:

- ICRISAT Applying research in development approach to scale land restoration and achieve the LDN targets
- The Netherlands PBL backdrop of LDN future projections for the world and extent and impacts of land use and land degradation
- World Bank resilient landscapes and livelihoods in Africa and Central Asia drylands
- FAO-GIZ the economics of ecosystem restoration (TEER) initiative: Developing comprehensive measurements of costs and benefits to support decision making
- The Rio Pavilion Science Day Sept 5
- The UNCCD/Mirova the role of the private sector in financing ecosystem restoration and LDN.
- UNCCD Global Land Outlook regional thematic reports.
- WOCAT donor consultation meeting Sept 7.
- Participated in donor consultations with World Bank on Building resilience in Central Asia
- The WOCAT-ICARDA donor consultation Saturday Sept 7 with World Bank, GIZ, IFAD, SDC, the Netherlands, Australia, JICA

- f. In close cooperation with the ELD Secretariat help identify further funding opportunities for the project and for the ELD Initiative. Contribute to discussions on relevance of research proposals to the ELD initiative when extra funding becomes available.

Discussions held with WOCAT and ELD on a future project with the Global Environment Facility (GEF). Project proposal available from ELD secretariat.

- g. Review and update the database and classification of the ELD collection of existing case studies and estimate their relevance and their helpfulness for the respective national contexts. When appropriate add descriptions of existing case studies relevant to the initiative to the existing database for publication on the ELD website.

Scanned literature and circulated relevant scientific papers on ecosystem evaluation to ELD steering group.

- h. Ensure that ELD interests and results from the ELD national activities are inserted into on-going policy processes at the international level such as: the UNCCD Land Degradation Neutral World, land-related issues in the SDG process, and Global Soil Partnership, as well as a scoping study for land degradation under the IPBES.

See e above.

Continued dialogue with UNCCD on role of ELD in Land Degradation Neutrality efforts. Attended events at UNCCD COP-14 in September 2019 as under e above.

- i. Provide support to the ELD Initiative's capacity-building which includes online content contribution, editorial oversight of the course script assignment assessments and eventually facilitating in-country training courses.

Organized and undertook a 1 day additional training and consultation with Kenyan national staff in August 5-6th. See attached annex on meeting notes. Provided email assistance to WOTR India case studies.

The teaching modules on ELD were completed in Bonn in August with added voice over and are available on line at www.eld-initiative.org. These modules introduce the ELD approach and methodology with a fictitious example for non-economists that will enable them to undertake a cost-benefit analyses of SLM interventions/options.

- j. ICARDA will further work to ensure that the results from national ELD studies and research activities will be included in national and sub-regional policies and decision-making processes, facilitating in parallel the development of necessary capacities of decision makers.

See sections b, e, above for activities and achievements.

Conclusions for the following Reporting Period

The Kenyan training produced a cadre of potential trainers drawn for government agencies and universities. Two projects were implemented during the reporting period and included a visit of the consultant to Nairobi to provide guidance and feedback on the on-going activities in August 2019. UNCCD continues to express interest in the ELD activities and positive discussions were held with the Manager of the Global Mechanism on continuing collaboration.

Summary and Recommendations

The two Kenya case studies are proceeding as planned and will aim to be finalized by the end of the contract (March 2020). Initial results were reviewed during the end of the reporting period.

The teaching modules on ELD were completed in Bonn and are available on line at www.eld-initiative.org. These modules introduce the ELD approach and methodology with a fictitious example for non-economists that will enable them to undertake a cost-benefit analyses of SLM interventions/options. They can be freely used by national teams to scale up the economic understanding of SLM.

Annexes

- I. ELD case study teams meeting notes August 2019.

2. ELD campus materials available online at www.eld-initiative.org