

Annual Report 2024

IBLAC

Independent Biodiversity and Livelihoods Advisory Committee

for Oil and Gas Developments in Albertine Graben

Blocks: Contract Area 1, License Area 2, Kingfisher Development Area
(Uganda)

and

East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) from Kabaale in Hoima District
(Uganda) to Tanga (Tanzania)



Ray Victurine
Ward Hagemeijer
Ana Maria Esteves
Sebastien LeBel
Alex Muhweezi
Charles Meshack
Yunus Mgaya

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IBLAC Annual Report 2024

Purpose

Each year IBLAC prepares an Annual Report that outlines its biodiversity and livelihoods findings and recommendations from the year. The report provides an opportunity to directly engage with TotalEnergies leadership and with the Parties as part of IBLAC's effort to support the companies' efforts to achieve biodiversity net gain and contribute to improved livelihoods of people in the area of operation of the Projects. IBLAC is required to prepare the Annual Report as part of its responsibilities as outlined in its terms of reference. Upon completion, the report will be distributed to the Parties and relevant stakeholders. This report has been developed by IBLAC and finalized in coordination with the Parties prior to distribution.

Background

The Independent Biodiversity and Livelihoods Committee (IBLAC) was formed in 2013 by Total Energies EP Uganda (TEPU) to ensure that the Tilenga Project is carried out in accordance with best practice and applicable environmental standards, and particularly the International Finance Corporations (IFC) Environmental and Social Performance Standards. Later, with the aim of harmonizing environmental standards among the Projects, the role of IBLAC was expanded to include the Kingfisher Projects in 2015, operated by the Chinese National Offshore Oil Company Uganda (CUL), and then in 2017, the East African Crude Oil Pipeline Project operating in both Uganda and Tanzania. IBLAC is composed of seven members with expertise in biodiversity conservation, social and livelihood issues, policy, finance, environmental impact and mitigation, conservation, and sustainable development.

According to the agreed Terms of Reference, the objective of IBLAC is to advise the Parties on how best to conserve and enhance biodiversity and related aspects of community livelihoods within their areas of operation as well as the Projects' wider area of influence within the landscape, before, during, and after the Projects. IBLAC supports the implementation of impact mitigation and offsetting measures that are in accordance with no net loss and net gain commitments. IBLAC's advisory role is focused on the following three key areas:

- Providing the parties an independent transparent assessment/perspective on biodiversity and community livelihood aspects of the Projects.
- Communicating with the Parties openly and transparently about concerns or issues arising with stakeholders, such as civil society, local and national authorities, and other parties, regarding the Projects; and
- Providing the Parties with proposed solutions to the above assessments and concerns or issues that are in line with the biodiversity conservation programs of Uganda and Tanzania.

IBLAC works to meet its objectives through the following mechanisms.

- **In-country visitation.** An in-country visit to both Uganda and Tanzania that brings all the members of IBLAC together to assess the on-the ground-programs and produce a report of its findings.
- **Annual Paris meeting.** A meeting in Paris to meet with a broad representation of TotalEnergies Headquarters staff to provide them with a briefing on the state of biodiversity and livelihood actions and present issues of importance for the success of the project, including those that may create risk in terms of meeting net gain objectives.
- **Virtual meetings.** Virtual meetings take place on a regular basis and allow IBLAC to receive project updates, obtain information on issues that may need IBLAC attention, and plan for specific activities.
- **Technical support and representation.** In-country support from IBLAC members based in both Uganda and Tanzania. The local IBLAC team members, attend workshops and meetings, meet with Project staff, and provide direct support to activities. In country-members also represent IBLAC at specific events and engage with stakeholders to better understand needs and issues. This level of engagement helps to keep IBLAC abreast of issues and activities in the country.
- **Ad-hoc projects.** From time to time the Parties call upon IBLAC members to provide targeted technical assistance in support of specific projects. These may require travel to the field or might only require a desk-top exercises.

Activities in 2024

Virtual meetings: The IBLAC participated in six virtual meetings in 2024. These meetings were important for IBLAC to keep abreast of project activities through receipt of updates from the Parties on project progress. An Annual General meeting was held remotely in March. The AGM enjoyed a broad participation from the Parties and included more detailed updates from the

Projects, and the chance to address any substantive issues arising from the previous year's visits. The meeting also allowed for some initial planning for the planned in-country visit.

In-country visits: IBLAC visited both Uganda and Tanzania (see attached trip report) from April 29th until May 9th. The timing of the trip was not optimal given heavy rains during the rainy season which required modifications to the planned itinerary. However, despite the travel challenges the team was able to meet its objectives of engaging with stakeholders and authorities, visiting a variety of sites where programs can contribute to achieving net gain goals.

Table 1 shows the official meetings held by IBLAC in 2024. The list does not include the various ad hoc meetings held by IBLAC or between IBLAC and the Parties that were organized to discuss specific issues or provide targeted guidance and advice.

Table 1. Official IBLAC 2024 meetings.

Date	Meeting Type	Key Elements
February 1, 2024	Virtual Internal IBLAC meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparation for the Theory of Change workshop • Decision to revise the Conflict-of-Interest provisions in ToR to ensure clarity • Preparations for the in-country visit • Review of the 2023 final report
March 24, 2024	Virtual Annual General Meeting with Parties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognition of the 10 years of IBLAC and agreement to publish the IBLAC video. • Review and Discussion of the Annual report including suggested modifications before publishing the final document • Update on the progress on the establishment of the Tanzania Environmental Sustainability Fund (Chakwetu) • Update on the Chimpanzee Action Plan for western Uganda • Finalization of Plans for the in-country visit, including planning for the Theory of Change workshop in Kampala
April 29 th – May 17 th 2024	IBLAC Field Trip to Uganda and Tanzania	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Theory of change workshop in Kampala

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Post-visit debriefs and discussion held on May 16, 2024 at the EACOP offices in Dar-es-Salaam to review all findings and recommendations.
July 18, 2024	Virtual Quarterly Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of final comments on 2024 trip report, including requesting final comments from CNOOC Update from Tilenga including agreement with Uganda Biodiversity Fund and wetlands program around Murchison Update from EACOP including status of MoU with Chakwetu and the whale tagging program Discussions around incorporating social issues into the Theory of Change process.
September, 17 2024	IBLAC Virtual Internal Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tilenga provided updates on projects including challenges related to lack of capacity of local organizations in the field Both countries looking to use Conservation Trust Funds to disburse funds to NGOs IBLAC was informed that Pauline Macronald would be departing Tilenga for another position outside Uganda and that Martin Tiffen, the MD of EACOP, would also be departing. All comments on trip report were raised and addressed by IBLAC
November 13, 2025	IBLAC Virtual Workshop with Conservation Alpha (TOC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of next iteration of the Theory of Change exercise considering the large landscape and social issues Given complications agreement reached to focus on Murchison Falls National Park for first iteration to better understand model and then expand to other pillars (savannah, forests, wetlands). Work on TOC will continue into 2025 starting with a model for Pillars 1 and 2.

December 5 th and 6 th 2024	Meeting in Paris with TotalEnergies headquarters to discuss project activities, issues and recommendations. Meetings were a combination of in-person and virtual for IBLAC members and the Parties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meetings with leadership in Paris over two days including preparation of a final presentation delivered on Friday, December 6th. This meeting also served as the final IBLAC meeting of the year and represented IBLAC's first planning meeting for 2025. • In addition, IBLAC prepared and delivered a presentation on Conservation Trust Fund and long-term funding mechanisms.
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In addition to the various meetings IBLAC supported various on-going programs. These included the following:

- **Tanzania Environmental Sustainability Fund (Chakwetu).** IBLAC continued support the operationalization of the Conservation Trust Fund in Tanzania with the hope to launch the Fund in 2025.
- **Tanga Wader Study.** IBLAC efforts on the monitoring of migratory birds that spend part of their year in the Tanga area continued. With EACOP support, a successful Tanga Waders project was implemented in January 2023, which for the first time documented the daily movements of waders in the coastal areas of East Africa and described their amazing migration journeys in this flyway. Eighteen months later, EACOP supported a second Tanga Waders project, in the late Autumn of 2024, using the colour-ringed population that was established in 2023 to learn about survival and site fidelity and to further tag additional wader species to learn more about local habitat use and their migration strategies. A detailed report on the second Tanga Wader program from 2024 appears in Annex 2.
- **Ecological Corridors.** Since August 2022, IBLAC has been exchanging views with the EACOP project team on methodological guidelines for studying connectivity at the landscape level. The possibility of organising a technical workshop on this topic in Tanzania is still under consideration. In the same vein, an offer has been made to facilitate a study tour to southern Africa to explore the Community Conservancy concept as an institutional tool for involving rural communities in the co-management of ecological corridors.
- **Document and Program Reviews.** IBLAC reviewed the EACOP Uganda document, *EACOP RAP Implementation External M & E - Inception Report*, as well as Scopes of Work for Tilenga livelihood program implementation. In addition, IBLAC reviewed and commented on a wetlands conservation proposal provided to EACOP by a consortium of NGOs led by

Wetlands International.

- **Workshops.** IBLAC attended a meeting to present the Tilenga Biodiversity Report organized by TEPU with the Coalition of Civil Society Coalition on Oil and Gas (CSCO) which provided an opportunity to discuss project related issues of importance to these stakeholders. A positive relationship has been established between CSCO and TEPU – which was one of the IBLAC’s recommendations. In Tanzania, IBLAC attended a two -day marine biodiversity and livelihoods stakeholder workshop in Tanga to discuss on-going programs in support of net gain. The October workshop successfully facilitated meaningful exchanges between project implementers and the broader stakeholder community, emphasizing the importance of collective action in conservation and livelihood efforts across the Tanga Seascape. Future initiatives will build on the insights gained during these two days to enhance project efficiencies and environmental outcomes.

Operational Issues Identified in 2024

Over the past several years, IBLAC has developed an effective working relationship with the Project biodiversity and social teams and the positive interactions continued in 2024. Both IBLAC and the Parties recognize the challenges of implementing net gain activities in a very dynamic landscape and are working together to explore solutions. IBLAC recommendations to better integrate livelihood and biodiversity programs have been adopted, as have recommendations to enhance planning efforts to better understand the factors driving impacts and both supporting and constraining solutions.

The biodiversity and social program in Uganda will go through a transition as we enter 2025. At the end of 2024, the Biodiversity Director for Tilenga, Pauline Macronald, transitioned to a new position outside Uganda after a five-year tenure in the country. She was very committed to the net gain program and played an important role in effectively integrating biodiversity issues into the company’s operations. The new Director, Joy Muballe, moves from leading the social program to taking on the biodiversity portfolio as well and brings a clear understanding of the strong connection between livelihoods and biodiversity conservation. This recognition bodes well for continued efforts to integrate programs that can deliver both biodiversity and social benefits. IBLAC looks forward to working with the team and supporting this transition in Uganda. EACOP leadership for environmental and social programs will fortunately remain the same and IBLAC expects a continued strong commitment to programs in both Uganda and Tanzania. IBLAC looks forward to meeting and working with the new EACOP General Manager, who took up his position in the latter part of 2024, with the departure of Martin Tiffin.

In 2024, we learned that CNOOC did not sign the TOR to work with the IBLAC and gave conditions for re-engaging with the IBLAC. This represents a change from 2023 when an agreement was reached for CNOOC to sign the ToR and discussions were underway to include a CNOOC nominee as an additional IBLAC member. This means that there will be no mechanism in place for an independent third party with the IBLAC's credibility to verify whether CNOOC effectively manages all levels of impacts - direct, indirect, induced, and cumulative - and is working toward achieving net gain. This outcome is disappointing given the social and environmental sensitivities in the Kingfisher Region. This also poses a risk in terms of financing for the pipeline and the loan approval for EACOP.

The issue of disbursement to projects continued to receive attention. Most of the project implementing organizations for projects that will contribute to net gain, are reluctant to accept money directly from the Companies. However, there is willingness on their part to work with third party Conservation Trust Funds (CTFs). This year IBLAC continued work with Tilenga and EACOP to finalize the financing mechanisms to meet both short-term and long-term needs so that the Parties can secure the long-term biodiversity and social outcomes desired as part of their net gain ambitions. Without those mechanisms, funding for actions on the ground will be negatively affected, especially in Uganda, due to delays to secure budget approval from Regulatory Authorities/PAU. TEPU did sign an MoU with the Uganda Biodiversity Fund to be able to begin working with that institution, while in Tanzania, governance issues are being resolved toward a 2025 launch of Chakwetu. TEPU is committed to securing PAU's buy-in into this approach and then proceed to implementing strategic projects through the UBF.

In 2023 the IBLAC Secretariat, which is maintained by EACOP in Tanzania, was launched and began operating to support IBLAC's work. The Secretariat has proven very useful in providing important logistical and programmatic support to the IBLAC team, helping to make IBLAC work's more efficient and effective. Tiffanie Billey led the work of the Secretariat from its inception through September 2024. Upon her departure, Jennifer Nyanda was designated to take on that role.

Summary observations and recommendations for 2024 and next steps

The work plan establishes that IBLAC hold an annual meeting in Paris to ensure that company leadership receives a direct briefing from IBLAC and can exchange information with Committee members. This year, IBLAC held a two-day meeting at the TotalEnergies headquarters to review findings and recommendations and address issues identified during the year.

On Friday December 6th, IBLAC, Tilenga and EACOP made a joint presentation on Conservation Trust Funds to Romeric Roignan, Stephan Plisson-Saune, Steven Dickinson, and Kerstin

Brauneder. The presentation focused on the history of Conservation Trust Funds, their global coverage, how they operate and their success over the past 25 years. The presentation discussed how TotalEnergies could support these organizations and utilize them to channel financing in support of biodiversity and social activities in both Uganda and Tanzania and contribute to net gain outcomes over the long-term.

Following the CTF meeting, the combination in-person and virtual general IBLAC meeting took place on December 7th. The presentation provided for a lively discussion of the various findings and recommendations made by IBLAC as part of its work with the Parties, with a focus primarily on the findings and recommendations from the year. The list of attendees at the Paris meeting appears in Table 2 in Annex 1.

The key observations and recommendations from 2024 include the following:

1. **Long-Term Funding Mechanisms:** There is a need of a strategy for securing long-term funding for biodiversity and livelihood programs, including an assessment of the feasibility of creating endowments or long-term sinking funds and sustainable financing through Conservation Trust Funds (CTFs). This includes the option of working with existing CTFs in Uganda and Tanzania and building systems to ensure that effective capacity exists. IBLAC recommends that Tilenga and EACAOP develop several options and scenarios that can be presented to TotalEnergies for consideration and action. This would include having a small grants fund run by each of the CTFs established in each country to provide funding for community-level initiatives, as well as for capacity building for local organizations.
2. **Engagement with CNOOC:** CNOOC did not sign the TOR to work with the IBLAC and gave conditions for re-engaging with the IBLAC which means there is no mechanism in place to provide third-party oversight to verify whether CNOOC effectively manages all levels of impacts. This holds significant risk in terms of financing (meeting loan requirements) and meeting net gain commitments. IBLAC recommends that TotalEnergies engage with senior management at CNOOC headquarters in Beijing to address their lack of commitment to biodiversity and social programmes and push for compliance with environmental and social performance standards. IBLAC is prepared to continue to work with and support CNOOC social and biodiversity programs.
3. **Policy Environment Monitoring:** In Uganda the net gain policy is relatively new, while in Tanzania, net gain is not included in legislation. The NEMC extended an invitation to EACOP to support/engage in the ongoing legislation review and support integration of net gain protocols into new the revised regulations. IBLAC recommends that the Companies monitor ongoing policy reforms in Uganda and Tanzania to ensure these frameworks support the net gain programmes and address any potential disruptions. This is

particularly important in landscapes where the Parties are investing in net gain and social activities and where impacts from other initiatives may put at risk the Parties' expected gains. IBLAC recommends that the members of the Inter-Ministerial Committee are well trained in understanding net gain to better be able to support planning and decision making around landscape level activities. In addition, IBLAC recommends discussions with NEMA regarding CNOOC compliance with net gain requirements under Ugandan law.

4. ***Environment and Social Budget Approval Process:*** IBLAC recommends that Tilenga organize a discussion with the Petroleum Authority of Uganda (PAU) to address the budget approval procedure and ensure continuity of biodiversity offset programmes. Involving NEMA in these discussions could help in highlighting the importance of funding availability to ensure that net gain goals can be met. At the same time, IBLAC is recommending the creation of some kind of contingent fund that could be managed by the Uganda Biodiversity Fund, for example, to cover any delays in the release of annual government funding, to ensure that the lack of funding does not put at risk on-going, multi-year initiatives.
5. ***Theory of Change Workshop:*** In the last meeting it was agreed that the next phase of the Theory of Change work would focus on Tilenga biodiversity Pillars 1 and 2, given the challenges of addressing the entire complex landscape in which both Tilenga and EACOP operate in Uganda. IBLAC recommends that the next phase of the Theory of Change include an Invitation for stakeholders to participate in up-coming workshops and meetings to further develop and validate the framework for achieving net gain targets.
6. ***Community Conservation Initiatives:*** The Parties have launched some very successful initiatives that focus both on biodiversity conservation and livelihoods enhancement. IBLAC recommends exploring how best to expand and replicate community-led conservation initiatives, building on the experience working with the NGO, Mwambao, in the Chongoleani peninsula in Tanzania to enhance biodiversity and livelihood outcomes.
7. ***Communication of Project Impact:*** IBLAC recommends development of a communication strategy to effectively convey the positive impacts of the projects on biodiversity and livelihoods to stakeholders and the public. With the shift from compliance to impact based monitoring, information will be available to demonstrate both progress and impact. There is a need to ensure that people know what success looks like. What is net gain and how we will get there? And what will livelihood enhancement look like? Having a clearer understanding of these outcomes is important as part of communications with government, as well as both internal and external stakeholders.

Next steps

The following next steps were identified and agreed:

- 1 Finalize the IBLAC annual report and submit to the Parties for review and finalization
- 2 Prepare and secure budget & workplan for 2025
- 3 Develop scenarios for long-term funding mechanisms to achieve net gain and livelihood outcomes.

Conclusions

In 2024, IBLAC had the opportunity to observe significant improvements in the operation of the project in terms of addressing biodiversity and social issues. The integration of biodiversity and social programs represents an important achievement for the project, especially given how important the engagement of people in the landscape is for achieving the desired biodiversity and social outcomes. Supporting development that does not harm biodiversity; addressing human wildlife conflict and exploring economic opportunities from ecosystem services, including tourism, will all need to figure prominently in the activities supported as part of the net gain program.

IBLAC was also happy to see that livelihoods support has been extended beyond displaced people to focus on economic benefits. In Uganda, this included a greater focus on market access to crops and agricultural products to increase incomes. In addition, the programs are achieving greater integration of biodiversity and livelihoods, recognizing that there could be potential impacts from livelihood investments on biodiversity as well as impacts on livelihoods from biodiversity initiatives. IBLAC also pointed out that people potentially could derive economic benefits from conservation initiatives and programs could be designed toward that end.

As indicated earlier, the development of funding mechanisms that allow for funds to be disbursed to project activities will be important to ensure that adequate and timely funding is available to meet the program objectives. Funding will need to flow to a variety of implementing organizations and systems will need to be put in place to monitor both the use of the funds and the impact that the funding has on biodiversity and/or livelihoods. The expectation is that those systems will be built into the existing national Conservation Trust Funds, which are the entities with whom the various projects implementing organizations are willing to work. This will require the provision of technical support and adequate oversight.

Achieving net gain is a challenging and ambitious goal requiring dedication, commitment, and resources over a long period. Given the level of commitment to net gain that exists now, the

companies have an opportunity to demonstrate how net gain can be achieved across different landscapes and ecosystems affected by the Project. By making long-term commitments now to both conservation and livelihood programs, the Parties can demonstrate how its efforts will benefit both people and biodiversity. These achievements will be important for a variety of reasons. A successful net gain implementation program will be a first for Uganda and Tanzania, and, in the case of Uganda, an effective demonstration of the application of the revised environmental law. In addition, success provides an opportunity for the Companies to communicate to stakeholders, both supporters and detractors alike, the positive contributions that the project is making to both conservation and socio-economic development in both countries.

Annex 1. Table 2. List of Participants Paris Meeting December 6, 2024

Name	Affiliation	Position
In-Person Attendees		
Ray VICTURINE	IBLAC	Chair
Sebastien LE BEL	IBLAC	Member
Ana Maria ESTEVES	IBLAC	Member
Elizabeth PION	TotalEnergies Paris DG/STS/HSE/EP/SOC	Head of HSE/EP Social Performance
Claude-Henri CHAINEAU	TotalEnergies Paris DG/STS/HSE/EP/ENV	Head of HSE/EP Environment
Kerstin BRAUNEDER	TotalEnergies Paris DG/STS/HSE/EP/ENV	Resp Biodiversity HSE/EP
Celine DUHERON	TotalEnergies Paris DG/STS/HSE/EP	Director HSE/EP
Romarc ROIGNAN	TotalEnergies Paris DG/STS/HSE/ES	Director ENV & SOC
Jeremy ROEYGENS	TotalEnergies Paris DG/STS/HSE/ES/SOC	Head of HSE Social Performance
Stephan PLISSON-SAUNE	TotalEnergies Paris DG/STS/HSE/ES/ENV	Head of HSE Environment
Steven DICKINSON	TotalEnergies Paris DG/STS/HSE/ES/ENV	Delegate Environment Biodiversity
Carole LE GALL	TotalEnergies Paris DG/STS/S&C	Director Sustainability and Climate
Mike SANGSTER	TotalEnergies Paris EP/AF	Director EP/Africa
Cheick-Omar DIALLO	TotalEnergies Paris EP/AF/TFEC	Resp Communication
Joy MUBALLE	TEPU Tilenga	Social Performance Director – Incoming Biodiversity Director
Pauline MACRONALD	TEPU Tilenga	Biodiversity Director
Lodewijk WERRE	EACOP	Biodiversity manager UG & TZ
On-Line Participants		
Yunus Mgaya	IBLAC	Member
Charles Meshack	IBLAC	Member
Hagemeijer, Ward	IBLAC	Deputy Chair
Isabelle DALSACE	TotalEnergies Paris EP/AF	Director general affairs EP/Africa
Anastasia ZHIVULINA	TotalEnergies Paris DG/STS/S&C/SUST/SEP	Head of Social Engagement and Prospective
David OCHANDA	TEPU Tilenga	Biodiversity manager
Nebat Atuhura KASOZI	TEPU Tilenga	Biodiversity manager
Collins OPIO	TEPU Tilenga	Land acquisition project manager
Wendy BROWN	EACOP	HSE Director

Tiffanie BILLEY	EACOP	ENV lead Tanzania
Jennifer NYANDA	EACOP	Biodiversity Tanzania
Jean Lennock	EACOP	Land and Social Manager

Annex 2. Tanga Waders 2

The coastal landscape and seascape of Tanga – extending from Fish Eagle Point in the north to the southern border of the Tanga Coelacanth Marine Park, near Kigombe, in the south – is rich in biodiversity with ecosystems that provide significant benefits to local communities. Composed of coral-beds and mudflats, with mangrove lined sandy islands interchanged with deeper sea channels on the inshore and seaward side, and habitats like tidal mangrove creeks and extensively managed and often tide driven salt farming complexes close to the shoreline, the area is rich in waders. These mostly migratory birds find rich food resources on the mudflats and mud-covered coral beds, where they forage during low tide, and can find safe roosting places on sandbanks and in the saltpans, during high tide.

The numbers of waders in the coastal area around the village of Mwarongo, south of Tanga, are significant and reach 1% of global population levels for Greater Sand Plover and Crab Plover and therefore make the area of international importance for these species. The conservation of the habitats of these species and other waders as one of the major and more visible components of the biodiversity richness of the Tanga Coelacanth Marine Park, is a priority. There are important information needs about ecological functioning of the area to be able to answer some key questions: How do the waders use the habitats?; where are 'hotspots?; when are these areas most important for these waders?

The Tanzanian coast is part of the West Asian – East African flyway. This flyway extends from South Africa to Arctic Russia along the East Coast of Africa, includes the Middle East, the Caspian region and north into western Central Asia and norther Russia. Within this flyway the waders breed in the far north or high in the mountains of Central Asia during the months of June and July, then migrate south towards the Middle East and East Africa in August and September to arrive in the areas where they spend the Boreal Winter from October to April – including the Tanga Seascape. In April and May they migrate north again, which completes their annual cycle.

For seven months of the year the Tanga coastal landscapes are crucial for the waders in this flyway. Very little is known about the interaction between the birds and the habitats during these seven months of Boreal winter. The daily cycle of the birds is mainly driven by the tidal regime. The regime includes a short-term cycle of roughly six-hour intervals between low and high tide and changing elevations of the high tide throughout the lunar cycle, with spring tides around the New Moon along with differences in the absolute levels of the high tide over the months. During all these levels of tide cycles, the birds need to find safe havens for feeding and roosting. Management of these areas and the Marine Park to make sure these habitats are and remain available in the context of development activities – including the development of the EACOP project – requires management information and knowledge of the ecology of the area. Tracking local movements of birds is one powerful way to contribute to such information and knowledge.

Safeguarding the populations of the waders cannot be achieved by securing the habitats during the Boreal Winter alone. For the rest of the year, the waders need to find healthy ecosystems to stop over, feed, rest and breed, along the whole of the West Asian East African Flyway. Mapping the flyway, identifying these critical stop-over sites, and raising awareness for the need to safeguard these areas all along the flyway are important initial steps in enhancing the conservation of the flyway and its populations of waders.

The Tanga Waders project is contributing to exactly that. By catching waders, marking them and tagging them with GPS trackers, the project allows them to tell their stories about how they move within the Tanga Seascape and how they use and depend upon these habitats and when they leave for migration. In this way, the waders, tell us how they perform their amazing migration journeys to their breeding areas and then come back next Autumn. The gathering of the tracking information and the re-sightings of the colour rings they carry allow scientists to reconstruct their survival and daily movement patterns.

With EACOP support, a successful Tanga Waders project was implemented in January 2023, which for the first time documented the daily movements of waders in the coastal areas of East Africa and described their amazing migration journeys in this flyway. Eighteen months later, EACAOP supported a second Tanga Waders project, in the late Autumn of 2024, using the colour-ringed population that was established in 2023 to learn about survival and site fidelity and to further tag additional wader species to learn more about local habitat use and their migration strategies.

The first project clearly demonstrated the huge importance of the inshore mudflats and the onshore saltpans for roosting during the higher tides of the Boreal Winter period. The Tanga Waders 2 project acquired a huge number of re-sightings of birds that were colour-ringed nearly two years earlier, putting the Tanga Seascape on the map as an important bird area with high numbers of waders and terns returning every year. This help to refine the understanding of local habitat use, which provides very useful management information for the area.

The tracking results of the Tanga Waders 1 project were groundbreaking: for the first time globally, waders of the size of Curlew Sandpipers (as light as 50 grams) were successfully tracked during their complete 26,000 km long migration. Four complete tracks of these birds were obtained, which is a huge success. In addition, two Grey Plovers and one Tibetan Sandplover came back to Mwarongo and shared complete tracks.

Building on this, between 25 November and 6 December 2024, a team of Tanzanian, Kenyan and Dutch experts caught 713 birds, mostly waders, 649 of which were newly ringed and 49 were re-traps from 2023 (already ringed in the Tanga Waders 1 project). 280 waders were colour-ringed and 65 were tagged. The fieldwork for the Tanga Waders 2 project was completed in early

December and since then, most of the tagged birds have already been providing very useful local movement and habitat use information that can and will be analysed to inform management and conservation of the Tanga Seascape. The information from both Tanga Waders projects is making strong contributions to the better conservation of the wader populations in the Tanga Seascape and the whole of the West Asian – East African Flyway.

Trip Report of the Independent Biodiversity and Livelihoods Advisory Committee (IBLAC) visit to Tilenga, Kingfisher and EACOP Projects in Uganda and Tanzania

April 29 – May 17, 2024



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Acronyms

ARRC Task Force	Avoid, Reduce, Restore and Conservation Task Force
B&L	Biodiversity & Livelihoods
CAP	Chimpanzee Action Plan
CFR	Central Forest Reserve
CMP	Collaborative Management Partnership
CNOOC	China National Offshore Oil Corporation Uganda Limited
CSCO	Civil Society Coalition on Oil and Gas
CTF	Conservation Trust Fund
CUL	Chinese National Offshore Oil Corporation Uganda Limited
EACOP	East African Crude Oil Pipeline
EAMCEF	Eastern Arc Mountain Conservation Endowment Fund
ECO	Ecological Christian Association
ECOTRUST	Environmental Conservation Trust of Uganda
FR	Forest Reserve
GRM	Grievance Redress Mechanism
IBLAC	Independent Biodiversity and Livelihoods Advisory Committee
LRP	Livelihood Restoration Plan
ICF	International Crane Foundation
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MFNP	Murchison Falls National Park
NEMA	National Environment Management Authority
NEMC	National Environment Management Council
NFA	National Forestry Authority (Uganda)
NARCG	Northern Albertine Rift Conservation Group
PAU	Petroleum Authority of Uganda
RDC	Resident District Commissioner
RoW	Right of Way
SoW	Scope of Work
TEPU	Total Energies Exploration Production Uganda BV
TEST/Chakwetu	Tanzania Environmental Sustainability Trust
TOC	Theory of Change
UBF	Uganda Biodiversity Fund
UNRA	Uganda National Road Authority
UWA	Uganda Wildlife Authority
WI	Wetlands International

1. Introduction

The Independent Biodiversity and Livelihoods Advisory Committee (IBLAC) was established in 2013 to advise the Tilenga (TotalEnergies Exploration Production Uganda (TEPU)), Kingfisher (China National Offshore Oil Corporation Uganda Limited (CUL)) and East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) Projects. IBLAC advice is aimed at supporting Tilenga, Kingfisher and EACOP to achieve biodiversity net gain and enhanced livelihoods in landscapes and communities affected by their Projects.

The IBLAC remit calls for an annual field visit to the activities in both countries¹, as well as offsite advice and support provided both online and face-to-face, including meetings at TotalEnergies Headquarters in Paris once a year for IBLAC to present its findings and recommendation to company leadership and an Annual General Meeting with leadership of all Parties. In addition, IBLAC reviews and provides input into project documentation. The field visits are especially important as they allow us to engage with communities; Ugandan and Tanzanian government institutions; civil society; relevant third-party institutions, such as the IUCN SSC Primate Specialist Group ARRC Task Force, the Northern Albertine Rift Conservation Group (NARCG), the Civil Society Coalition on Oil and Gas (CSCO) and other stakeholders. This engagement allows us to observe and learn about conditions on the ground and make informed recommendations.

This report presents the findings and recommendations from our 2024 visit which took place from April 29th until May 17th, 2024. The IBLAC team included Ray Victurine (Chair), Ward Hagemeijer, Ana Maria Esteves, Sébastien Le Bel, Alex Muhweezi, Charles Meshack and Professor Yunus Mgaya, all of whom visited the Tilenga, Kingfisher and EACOP projects in Uganda. Sebastien LeBel needed to return to Europe after the Uganda portion of the trip and did not travel to Tanzania. The rest of the team travelled to Tanzania to visit critical areas for biodiversity and livelihoods as part of the EACOP pipeline development. The Tanzania itinerary did have to be modified due to heavy rains that contributed to poor road conditions. Fortunately, the EACOP team was able to reorganize the visit in time to permit visits to a variety of stakeholders



¹ As per the IBLAC TOR dd 1 January 2022

participating in EACOP supported programs. The visit ended in Dar es Salaam with various meetings, including with the Executive Director and Staff of the National Management Council of Tanzania where IBLAC explained its role and the activities that had been carried out in Tanzania. The IBLAC team debriefed the Parties on the afternoon of May 16th.

This report and its findings will form part of the Annual Report that will be published in early in 2025.

The report begins by highlighting positive changes since our previous visit (July 2023) and observations and recommendation on cross-cutting issues relevant across all Projects. Recommendations are made to address these issues (Section 2). Section 3 deals with Uganda specifically, and section 4 with Tanzania. Findings for EACOP appear under both chapters. Country chapters follow the same outline: landscape wide issues, supporting conditions, constraints, biodiversity findings, livelihood findings, and Project-specific recommendations.

2. Positive highlights

We observed good progress on several fronts in addressing biodiversity and livelihood impacts as well as building systems that may contribute to more sustainable program implementation. Some highlights are mentioned here and will be elaborated further under the respective country sections that follow.

Last year, IBLAC suggested that the Parties should consider developing a theory of change approach to address the challenges of working in a complicated landscape, especially in Uganda where there are many competing land use needs. As a result of that recommendation, Tilenga hired a company, Conservation Alpha, who organized a one-day workshop as a precursor to a more significant effort to develop a final theory of change plan over the next year. This work complements efforts by TEPU to revisit its monitoring and evaluation program, including the development of improved indicators. This is a very positive step for the companies' preparedness and abilities to achieve net gain.

The team noted important mitigation measures in Murchison Fall National Park, including the complete restoration of the exploration well pads; that experience will be useful when restoring other pads, including the HDD drilling pads and pipeline stringing areas. IBLAC observed



introduction of speed control measures along Masindi-Paara-Tangi Road in the form of additional speed humps and installed speed control signage and speed monitoring cameras, although the latter are not yet operational. This is a positive start to addressing speeding vehicles, an issue which IBLAC has been flagging as a crucial risk to achieving net gain. Additional inputs will be required to make that speed control more effective. The use of low noise drilling technology, and the very 'clean' and biodiversity-aware approach to the laying of the pipeline in the MFNP point to the Company's efforts to minimize impacts on nature and wildlife. Continued efforts to avoid and minimize impacts in the protected areas is encouraged.

The design for the co-management of Murchison Falls is well considered but progress has been delayed. The company is working with government agencies to prepare a cabinet paper so that government approval for the program can be secured, allowing UWA to commence the formal procurement process for the Collaborative Management Partnership (CMP).

South of the Park there has been progress on both biodiversity and livelihoods. Efforts by Tilenga to engage farmers in the production and marketing of cassava and flour have been successful around the Buliisa area, creating small-scale business opportunities for local people affected by the project.

Further south in Uganda, EACOP has identified Kyampisi Central Forest reserve near Mubende town where restoration efforts may be feasible and where people can benefit from improved management of water sources in the forest reserve. Kyampisi Central Forest reserve has been chosen in lieu of Taala Central Forest Reserve located in Kyankwanzi district in the Central region of Uganda, which was investigated initially as a forest offset, but which was found to be too degraded to serve that purpose. Striking a balance between conservation efforts and local livelihood issues will be important to the success of the Kyampisi initiative.

In Tanzania, the new Conservation Trust Fund, Chakwetu, was legally formalized in March 2024. The creation of Chakwetu was financed by EACOP and will provide a mechanism through which funding can be disbursed to various implementing agencies active in the field for implementation of programs relevant to EACOP's net gain objectives. A similar approach is considered by the Projects in Uganda, as evidenced by the planned signing of an MoU with the Uganda Biodiversity Fund (UBF).

In Tanzania, the team was able to observe positive results from the livelihood restoration programs, with a variety of good agricultural programs underway. The work with the Akie people in Napilikunya Hamlet has been successful over a fairly short time in assisting with the adoption of improved agricultural practices. Longer-term engagement will be necessary, but the initial efforts are very positive and much appreciated by the community. An FPIC Agreement was signed between the Akie Community and EACOP in compliance with the IFC Standard 7.

3. Cross Cutting Issues and Recommendations Across the Projects

During the visit, we noted seven cross-cutting themes related to Tilenga, Kingfisher and EACOP programs that require attention and further action. Where we have not named a specific Project, it should be inferred that the issue and/or recommendation applies to all Projects.

3.1 Incorporate Livelihoods and Landscapes in the Theory of Change (TOC)

Observation: The JV partners have made progress on a previous IBLAC recommendation: that a Theory of Change (TOC) be developed that shows the link between Project activities aimed at biodiversity net gain and livelihoods enhancement and the intended outcomes. However, the initial version of the Theory of Change was weighted more towards conservation rather than livelihoods. In addition, in this early stage of the process, the major focus was on Tilenga.

Recommendations: IBLAC recommends capturing social and livelihood issues in the TOC development and integrating them into a landscape approach. We have drafted a high-level TOC which attempts to integrate livelihood and biodiversity issues, and which represents our perspective of the important livelihood and biodiversity components to be considered.

We have provided a copy of our schematic in Appendix 2 and offer it as an input to the TOC finalization. IBLAC wishes to continue to engage in this process and to provide input into the next version of the TOC and participate in completing the entire process.

In addition, it is hoped that CNOOC and EACOP could apply the same principles of the TOC to further strengthen their programming to achieve biodiversity net gain and livelihoods restoration and enhancement outcomes. IBLAC is of the view that application of TOC would be applied at various geographical scales (landscape, activity sites), as well as for the planned/ongoing net gain and livelihood restoration/enhancement investment, as appropriate. This is particularly important for



setting priorities around net gain programs in the extensive area of influence (especially by EACOP), where there are a potentially diverse initiatives that could be supported toward achieving net gain. TOC at livelihoods program level is also important to identify which programs have potential impacts at a landscape level.

3.2 Provide Start-up Support for Funding Models

Observation: Significant progress has been made in building long-term funding models to support net-gain programs in both countries.

Recommendation: IBLAC recommends finalizing agreements with national-level Conservation Trust Fund (CTFs). Along with that funding IBLAC recommends the provision of technical assistance to the Funds for a period of 2-3 years to ensure that the institutions have the capacity to manage offset funding into the future.

In addition, IBLAC recommends that Company-level discussions take place to consider some kind of long-term financing mechanism, such as an endowment or sinking fund to support the biodiversity conservation efforts throughout the life of the project and beyond, both to secure net gain. As noted in the Uganda Environmental Act, the developer must fund the compensation mechanisms or offset for as long as the impacts last, or preferably in perpetuity (Sec 115 (6)). Some planning will be required to establish secure an effective long-term funding mechanism(s) and one of the options is providing funding through a Conservation Trust Fund (CTF). The long-term funding will also allow the CTFs to support the set-up of sub-funds that respond to community group proposals and assist them to: design projects, prepare proposals, network and collaborate with other stakeholders in landscape, manage projects, and improve institutional sustainability. This will help build community ownership of conservation initiatives and ensure sustainability of impact beyond program funding. Although a final decision on a long-term funding model is not necessary at this point, IBLAC does recommend that options be considered and discussed both at corporate and field levels to explore the most appropriate approach.

3.3 Support Programs Linking Conservation and Income/Wealth Creation

Observation: Community adoption of conservation practices will require implementation of models and programs that create income opportunities and wealth creation from conservation actions. Work is currently underway to implement corridor restoration through tree planting which generates carbon credits that provide income to local farmers who maintain their trees. However, scaling up those efforts runs into capacity constraints. Other opportunities may exist to create mechanisms for people to earn livelihoods or to diversify their income through provision of ecosystem services in line

with what the companies need to achieve their net gain goals. For example, in some countries with offset-related legislation similar to what exists in Uganda (e.g. Colombia, Brazil) new programs are underway to develop compensation credits based on a habitat banking model, which would be an innovation in the region. Such long-term payments (delivery of conservation outcomes for 30 years) could help achieve desired conservation outcomes by working with local landowners and community organizations, as well as underfunded protected areas in the Project Area of Influence. The success of test such a model would require right blend of technical assistance and international and local expertise.

Recommendations: Continue to provide technical support to NGOs and communities regarding the identification of different opportunities to benefit economically from conservation activities (e.g. existing support for implementation of the Chimpanzee Action Plan implementation). In addition, explore potential new opportunities to pilot incentive and payment for ecosystem services mechanisms that could benefit communities and conservation areas.

In the short to medium term, there may be a need to develop a funding mechanism, or facility, that can work for Tilenga and CNOOC, to ensure the flow of funds available to meet both annual and longer-term funding contracts and commitments. This funding mechanism would act as a kind of reimbursable account (i.e. a line of credit) that would provide funding for activities in those cases where annual budget approvals are delayed but where funds must be provided to meet net gain requirements. Funding delays could result in loss of community and NGO support, the continuity of investments, and be detrimental to the achievement of net gain. IBLAC recommends that the agencies establish a provision to allow the development of this facility to ensure that funding is not interrupted so that Companies can meet their offset obligations in accordance with Section 115 of the National Environment Act of 2019.

IBLAC also recommends continued efforts to build the long-term funding mechanisms that will be required to ensure achievement of no net loss/net gain in perpetuity.

3.4. Continue Livelihoods Support until Household-level Restoration

Observation: Uptake of new livelihood practices by affected people requires longer-term, intensive support. IBLAC's field discussions with affected households, CLOs and implementing partners revealed a high level of concern with short timeframes for support. This suggests that management commitment to the restoration goal needs to be

more effectively communicated at the livelihood restoration program implementing level. Uptake of new livelihood practices by affected people requires longer-term, intensive support which should be reflected in the contract scopes and schedules of Livelihood Restoration Plan (LRP) implementors. Furthermore, the current approach of only providing agricultural inputs once at the outset may be insufficient for the new practices to be sustained.

Recommendation: IBLAC recommends continuing to provide relevant agricultural inputs (beyond first season commitments) but scaling these down over time, along with financial literacy training, access to extension services, market linkages, etc. until household-level restoration is achieved. In addition, continue follow-up with contractors to ensure that all services providers have scopes and resources for mentoring and follow-up (extension).

3.5 Refine Livelihoods Programs for Lasting Impact

Observation: While good efforts have been made in implementing livelihood restoration programs that incorporate conservation farming techniques, many of the practices do not build in biodiversity-friendly practices that could create benefits for biodiversity and potentially reduce use of inorganic agro-inputs such as of pesticides and fertilizers.

Recommendation: IBLAC recommends including more biodiversity-friendly options in conservation agriculture support, e.g. agroforestry practices, use of organic manure, bird nest and bat boxes around farms, planting buffers around fields for pest management, etc. IBLAC also recommends that the sustainability of livelihood restoration programs be strengthened by complementary institutional capacity building for community groups that are involved in these programs, e.g. savings and loan groups, cooperatives, and Beach Management Units (BMUs).

3.6 Review Monitoring System to Cover Theory of Change Elements

Observation: While a company level biodiversity monitoring framework is under development with TEPU and EACOP, this was not apparent for CNOOC.

Recommendation: IBLAC recommends reviewing the conceptual model for the biodiversity monitoring framework and the M&E system for the LRP and the voluntary social investment strategy, to ensure it covers all elements of the Theory of Change by all JPs.

3.7 Refine Livelihoods M&E for More Frequent and Flexible Adaptive Management

Observation: The current LRP M&E system has many positive aspects, e.g. considers people's welfare, is tailored to the nature and scale of displacement impacts, is

household-level, and is outcomes-based as well as activity-based. The system is set up to answer the question of whether the Project has met its commitments to restore the conditions necessary for affected households to re-establish their livelihoods. However, the system is limited in that it is not set up to inform decisions on tailoring and graduating the support to each household based on the household's capacity to adapt to the impact and to learn the new practices. The M&E system does not respond to the different programming needs of early versus late adopters.

Recommendation: To address this, IBLAC recommends making better use of the household welfare monitoring data being collected to determine the extent to which interventions have restored the conditions necessary for affected households to re-establish their livelihoods. This could be achieved by setting automatic thresholds for indicators such as, e.g. all household members have at least two nutritious meals per day in the past week; household income meets basic needs; the household has access to at least two productive assets and to markets; household savings are above a certain threshold and can cover at least the lean periods, a major crisis, or household event; household is linked to formal savings institutions. As a result, any extensions to support could be justified, and agreement reached with the household on either decreasing or increasing the intensity/type of support and the frequency of monitoring.

4 Uganda

This Uganda portion of the IBLAC field trip took place from April 29th through May 7th, with the first two days comprising of meetings in Kampala with the Parties and stakeholders, including the day-long Theory of Change workshop which has already been discussed in earlier sections of the report. The remainder of the Uganda visit involved visits to Murchison Falls National Park, the Buliisa region, Kingfisher, Mubende and the region of the Rwizi Catchment

4.1 Meeting with the Partners

Observations:

There has been positive progress towards strengthening investments and approaches for net gain and livelihoods in the Tilenga project. There is substantial progress towards putting in place the foundations for achieving both biodiversity and livelihoods targets as well as demonstrating a positive response to some of the previous IBLAC recommendations. The preparation of a Chimpanzee Action Plan (CAP) is progressing. IBLAC identifies some aspects of the CAP that should be addressed in subsequent stages of completing the CAP design and ensure a credible product owned by Stakeholders in

the region. Such aspects include institutional mandates, participation and obligations towards implementing CAP.

IBLAC was informed about the CNOOC commitment to sign the IBLAC ToRs which would lead to the participation of CNOOC senior management in IBLAC engagements. We also learned that CNOOC wishes to nominate a person to join IBLAC. IBLAC welcomes such nominations in the fields it needs to strengthen its expertise. This includes specifically conservation agriculture, livelihoods and community co-management.

Unfortunately, IBLAC engagement with Ugandan regulators (NEMA, PAU) remains limited despite efforts over the years to engage through country visit meetings. In addition, past recommendations have included issues under the purview of UNRA (e.g. speed humps, canopy bridges). Given the complexity of achieving net gain and the level of investment and coordination required for success, IBLAC believes that continued discussion with government agencies, at all levels, needs to occur to ensure understanding and acceptance of the program. We believe that meetings with IBLAC can support this effort and would be beneficial.

In addition, IBLAC was disappointed to learn of delays in implementing the Inter-Ministerial Committee to address the work on cumulative impacts and understands the delays have arisen due a decision by IUCN to not engage with any new oil and gas projects. A working group has now been created with the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development (MEMD) to develop a Regional Cumulative Impacts Framework.

Recommendations:

IBLAC recommends that the Parties continue efforts to define the governance and implementation of the Chimpanzee Action Plan (CAP), while providing for the mandates, obligations, and participation of mandated institutions, regulators and other stakeholders.

We recommend that CNOOC provide input into the IBLAC ToR as soon as possible so that an updated ToR can be finalised. We also urge CNOOC to propose its nominee to IBLAC, considering the need to have expertise in areas related to livelihoods, community co-management and conservation agriculture.

We also recommend the Parties continue efforts to foster IBLAC engagement with the PAU, NEMA, and UNRA, other Ministries, and even local government, during future visits to Uganda as part of efforts to gain support for net gain initiatives. IBLAC also recommends continued discussions with UNRA around wildlife crossing solutions (e.g. canopy bridge) in key areas such as Budongo and Murchison.

On a related issue, we do recommend that efforts continue to finalise selection of a competent implementation partner to launch the multi-stakeholder cumulative impact activities.

4.2 Meeting with Stakeholders - Civil Society Coalition on Oil and Gas (CSCO) and Uganda Biodiversity Fund (UBF)

Observations:

CSCSO indicated that it wishes a more productive engagement with IBLAC and was particularly interested in seeing IBLAC annual reports to understand IBLAC's mandate, findings and recommendations. During the meeting, it was also clear individual members held strong views, which were not necessarily shared by all CSCSO members.

In discussions with the Board Chair and Executive Director of UBF, we learned that UBF is very committed to working with the Parties to serve as a grant manager for programs that the Parties hope to implement in the field. The meeting allowed for clarification of questions related to the mandate of UBF (granting versus implementing organization), but some questions remain around institutional capacity.

Recommendations:

Structured engagement between IBLAC and CSCSO is recommended to include a virtual presentation on the annual report and identification of topics for discussion during the annual visit. In addition, it was agreed to provide CSCSO with a link that provides access to IBLAC annual reports. We also agreed to provide a synopsis of the final IBLAC ToR so that CSCSO better understands the IBLAC mandate.

IBLAC recommends the finalization of the MoU with UBF. In addition, it is recommended that technical assistance for institutional strengthening and capacity building be provided as part of the funding package to render UBF a stronger and more effective a grant manager.

4.3 Tilenga in Murchison Falls National Park

Observations: IBLAC observed good efforts to minimize impacts, such as the restoration of exploration pads, effective monitoring programs for assessing vegetation changes and animal behaviour, as well as efforts to address poaching in the Park.



However, concerns remain about the effectiveness of speed humps and signage on

the main road. Speed humps are far apart, and electronic monitoring is not operational yet and there was much evidence of significant wildlife numbers very close to and crossing the road. Cars were observed to be speeding beyond prescribed speed limits. Although the road is not directly part of the Project, it does provide some risk to wildlife that will require engagement with UWA

Fences used around the well pads to keep wildlife out are not wildlife fences, which are of sturdier construction than what has been employed. Such fencing has been used in the Park by UWA (e.g. Pakuba airport and is available in Uganda. However, there is potential for wildlife intrusion as the mesh is not designed for such control, which if it occurs, could require the acquisition of sturdier wildlife fencing. As mentioned on site, the use of Bonnox hinge-joint field fencing is specifically designed for game farms.

Good efforts are underway to protect trees at some of the in-park well pads. However, it was noticed that dirt was piled up against the trunks of some trees, which could contribute to tree mortality.

Meetings with UWA staff also indicated challenges in sustaining bordering community income generation projects run by UWA as part of its benefit sharing program. These challenges and lessons can provide some insights into the design of future social investments by the CMP contractor in Murchison once that program is launched.

There are ongoing ecological monitoring/assessment research supported by Tilenga through Makerere University on borassus palm, problem animals, etc.

Tilenga has worked with UWA to undertake an evaluation of the current GMP for Murchison in preparation for the launch of a new GMP process later in 2024.

Recommendations:

IBLAC recommends that Tilenga work with UWA and the future CMP contractor to integrate identified research priorities into the new Park Management Plan as part of its efforts to support the development of that Plan

With regard the road, continue to urge UNRA and UWA to finalize the electronic speed monitoring system, while also monitoring road crossings to determine areas highest use and where additional controls (e.g. additional humps) could be placed to deter speeding.

Tilenga will need to monitor animal behaviour towards the existing fences and determine if they are effective in deterring animal entry, if not, acquiring wildlife fencing may need to be considered.

Care needs to be taken not to pile dirt against tree trunks on the well pads. In addition, compacting soil around the base of the trees should also be avoided to prevent trees from dying.

The CMP scope should integrate TEPU's overall social program objectives that are working to balance conservation and social needs. These efforts would align with, complement and hopefully improve upon the existing UWA community conservation programme (benefit and revenue sharing).



4.4 Tilenga in Buliisa

Observations:

IBLAC noted positive efforts such as Project procurement of food from project-affected people participating in livelihood restoration programs for catering purposes at Bugungu Camp. Concerns remain about population influx and scaling up of agricultural livelihoods programs could lead to land use conversion risks.

IBLAC was informed about an upcoming SI strategy targeting the growing of high value commercial crops such as soybeans applying an out-grower model. Whilst this strategy could result in increasing land productivity and revenue from agriculture, the potential

exists to stimulate land conversion for monoculture agriculture and put added pressure on conservation areas that could ultimately undermine the objectives of the net gain program.

IBLAC observed a recent in-migration of people to an area of land bordering the CPF on the southeast side, close to the main gate. Although, this is only one small area, and does not pose any problems, monitoring influx into region will be useful to understand population changes as well as when settlement occurs.

Opportunities exist to develop 'green' practices along RoW and facilities. At CPF a significant number of grey crowned cranes were observed.

IBLAC missed an update on corridor and connectivity activities and issues in chimpanzee areas during this visit.

IBLAC observed that there is no action focused on monitoring of biodiversity in the Ramsar Site and that there has been quite some time since data have been collected. Consequently, there is a risk that impacts on this sensitive ecosystem and the biodiversity therein will be missed.

Recommendations:

IBLAC recommends explicitly scoping investments in agribusiness programs in a way that discourages large-scale conversion of land to agriculture at the expense of conservation and assesses impacts on the Net Gain program. This recommendation applies to the social investment strategy as well as the proposed soybean project.

IBLAC recommends monitoring and documenting population influx trends for future reference as data to inform issues related to the impact occasioned by that influx of people close to Tilenga infrastructure. Moreover, monitoring population changes will also inform any land use pressure increases that could affect the overall program.

Explore the adoption of biodiversity-friendly agricultural and land management practices along RoWs and at facilities such as the CFP. This could include both agroforestry practices, using a mix of trees and crops to improve soil nutrients and multipurpose trees that provide benefits (fruit trees, forage for livestock, firewood, etc.) as well as RoW boundary markings (along with beacons); and the use of organic manures/fertilizers. A similar approach could be taken by CNOOC.

Provide an update on corridor development/connectivity for chimpanzees. This could include a presentation by TEPU/ implementors in a monthly meeting, including an update on the Ecotrust activities.

Carry out biodiversity assessments and monitoring in the Ramsar site to measure the impacts on fishes, reptiles and both resident and migratory birds to better understand impacts on these sensitive areas and identify any appropriate mitigation actions.

4.5 Kingfisher

Observations:

Flood defense : With elevated levels of the lake over recent years, CNOOC has developed a hard-engineered flood response for lake-shore infrastructure, raising the level of well pads and placing of metal sheeting, with additional rocks. However, these practices

do change the coastline profile of the lake, from dynamic and gradual to partially hard-edged and fixed. This has consequences for the currents and sediment dynamics along the shoreline and could lead to bank scouring and, in combination with wave action from the lake, affect the integrity of the flood-defense. Next to that it does affect the ecology of the shoreline, e.g. interrupting linear connectivity for certain animals (both aquatic and terrestrial) along the shoreline.



Pipeline trenching: The visit to the pipeline trenching operations on top of the escarpment revealed that trenches are open for up to 17 days. IBLAC observed lengths generally between 500-700 m but sometimes to 1000 m. No safety barriers were placed around trenches.

Light solutions: Tree planting to diffuse light emission from facilities mostly failed due to livestock eating the seedlings.

Human – Wildlife conflict: CNOOC reported that hippos come out onto the shore regularly and recently there was an attack on a local person. The hippo also knocked down the fencing around the camp (the same fencing used around the Tilenga well pads).

Feeder pipeline route up the escarpment: IBLAC observed that the feeder pipeline



route from the flats up the escarpment to the plain above, is incredibly steep with significant erosion from construction. The construction process appeared quite dangerous given the slopes.

Water management on the flats: CNOOC is constructing water channels lined with concrete and rocks across the Buhuka

Flats to move water away from facilities and protect them from flooding. These hard-engineered solutions bring the water from the escarpment across the Flats to Lake Albert. The objective (flooding-avoidance) is understandable, but the channeling and fast removal of the water deprives the areas of much needed water and groundwater recharge. On the Flats there are traditionally drier (higher) areas and wetter (lower) areas, the latter recognizable as green corridors connecting the escarpment with the lake, taking care of both infiltration and groundwater recharge as well as excess water drainage to the lake. See Figure 1 on the following page.

This diversity on the Flats serves an adapted biodiversity and supports a range of livelihood options. The lower areas are wetlands that are currently being overgrazed and deprived of water due to all the development of infrastructure and disruption of natural water flow, which reduces the wetland functioning and impacts biodiversity. Remarkably, some of the higher places, e.g. the airstrip and connected areas east of it, still hold a diversity of bird life, including ground breeding waders.

Livelihood restoration plan: The Project has not made progress on its livelihood restoration plan since IBLAC's 2023 visit.

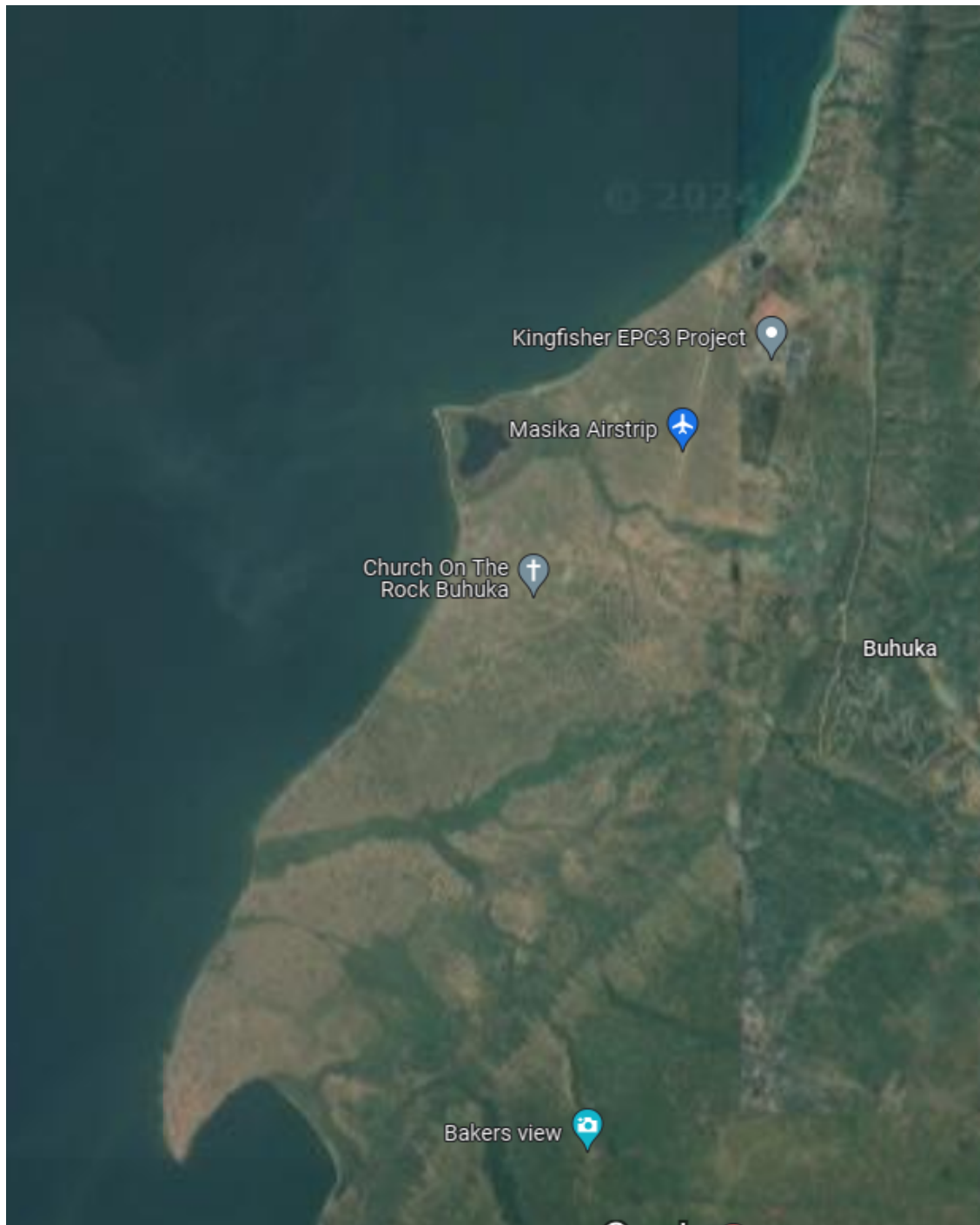


Fig 1: Satellite view of the Buhuka Flats with the green corridors connecting the escarpment with the lake. These green wetland corridors are the natural water drainage and infiltration function of the flats and are essential for its biodiversity and livelihood support.

Recommendations

Flood Response: For the flood response, IBLAC recommends a hybrid shoreline protection system that combines the current rock barriers and metal sheet armoring a vegetated foreshore to attenuate the force of the waves, reduce scouring and provide habitat for biodiversity.

IBLAC has agreed to share information on the design and implementation of these nature-based solutions (NbS) to facilitate their adoption. During earlier visits and in earlier reports IBLAC has shared suggestion and made recommendations about hybrid engineering approaches to flooding challenges at the Kingfisher operations, including creating a (vegetated) foreshore in combination with an engineering solution that together provides the required flooding protection. Such ‘building with nature’ approaches (Nature Based Solutions) reduce negative impacts on coastal current and sedimentation processes and can, when done well, increase the structural integrity and sustainability of the solution. Furthermore, they can contribute to conservation and even enhancement of biodiversity. See <https://www.ecoshape.org/en/> for more information and access to a book that documents successful application of this approach

CNOOC should continue to monitor lake water levels as the loss of shoreline over the past several years has been significant and impacts other stakeholders and biodiversity on the Buhuka Flats as well.

Pipeline trenching: Use removable lightweight fencing or other appropriate barriers around open trenches to dissuade people and small animals from getting too close to those trenches

Lighting at facilities: Consider the use of low-impact lighting (such as used for marine facilities to reduce the impact on sea turtles and birds) and manage the direction of the light at CNOOC facilities.

Human – Wildlife conflict: IBLAC recommends that CNOOC consider a couple of measures to address hippo concerns. It was noted that one of the entry points for Hippo deep into the Flats was through the lakeshore culvert into the water drainage channel that leads into the Flats. The installation of a gate/door in the culvert that opens one way – out to the lake - would prevent access into the channel and allow the animals to find access back to the lake and not get stuck on flats, once they had entered. In addition, as hippos regularly enter the Flats from the lake, CNOOC could explore the use of a heavy cable around the existing perimeter fences to deter hippos from reaching the

fencing. Hippos will push against the cable but would not be able to push through it or jump over it. IBLAC has promised to provide CNOOC with information on such cable systems. It is noted that the study of hippo incursion requires a comprehensive approach to determine which hippos are involved, their origins, entry points to the lakeshore, and the timing and frequency and nature of these incursions (whether by isolated individuals or groups).

IBLAC also recommends that CNOOC continue to work with UWA to develop and implement a Problem Animal Management Action Plan that include these solutions.

Escarpment Pipeline: If the pipeline route up the escarpment is completed successfully, there will be a need to work to stabilize the slope and avoid the flow of sediment down the hillside. Terracing may offer a way to provide some slope stability and allow for vegetation to regenerate.

Water management on the Flats: It is recommended finding a balance between avoiding water damage to facilities and allowing water to recharge the groundwater table and support livelihoods and biodiversity.

Groundwater recharge is essential for the livelihoods of many stakeholders, both pastoralists and farmers and for the biodiversity on the flats. At the same time, it is essential to prevent water damage to installations. Instead of fast-tracking the water away to the lake, infiltration capacity, linked to the existing wetland infrastructure on the Flats (the green corridors in Figure 1) can be created. The water should be guided to these areas, to have the time to be absorbed into the groundwater table, combined with an overflow system that avoids flooding in case of extreme events. This can be engineered in a way that it provides equal protection of the facilities against flooding while still maintaining the naturally existing wetland infrastructure between the escarpment and the lake, restoring the natural water management system. On somewhat drier (and slightly higher) areas in the flats, in between these natural drains, there are some habitats that are typical for more arid-adapted biodiversity. In managing the water, it is important also that such drier habitats are being maintained, for grazing and wildlife.

Livelihood restoration plan: IBLAC recommends urgent resumption of livelihoods support activities.

4.6 EACOP LIVELIHOODS

Observations

IBLAC highlighted the positive aspects of the household 'passports' for livelihood monitoring as well as the accessibility of the agricultural demonstration sites. In the visit to the MPCY One, IBLAC received reports of concerns regarding contractors impacting livelihoods e.g. an instance of MCPY One run-off into vegetable gardens due to works and heavy rains, of short-cutting community recruitment protocols, and occasional late or non-payment of casual workers and rent to local accommodation.

Recommendations:

IBLAC recommends that the Household Passport system be shared across the Parties to have a common reporting database (KOB0) across the landscape.

Contract owners should work to drive better contractor performance and compliance in a timely fashion to avoid conflicts with local communities; follow up with contractors is advised.

4.7 EACOP Kyampisi

Observations:

EACOP has identified Kyampisi CFR as an offset site to substitute for Taala CFR which is far too degraded to provide conservation benefits. Kyampisi does have an important section of quality forests, provides ecosystem services to local communities, and currently provides habitat to a group of chimpanzees.

IBLAC noted the positive relationship and engagement with the Resident District Commissioner (RDC) in Mubende who is well informed of EACOP programs in the district.



Recommendations:

At Kyampisi, we recommend that EACOP facilitate a participatory planning process (involving NFA, UWA, District Local government, Communities, Private sector, etc.) to develop a Forest Reserve (CFR) management plan and extend support to its implementation. The plan would comprise conservation, restoration, utilization of ecosystem services and tourism. Kyampisi could also serve as a model for the development of biodiversity compensation credits.

EACOP should call on the good offices of the RDC in the process of working with communities in and around Kyampisi, especially given the general concerns and hostility of some communities in the region regarding access to forested land and existing levels of encroachment.

4.8 EACOP Rwizi Catchment

Observations:

In a visit to the Rwizi catchment at Kaku Wetland, IBLAC observed that the wetland boundary is poorly defined and does not represent the local hydrology and in either case, even the existing boundaries have encroachment. Boundary adjustments will affect people who are currently using land that would fall into the wetland



boundaries. Human wildlife conflict (primarily hippos) is a concern, and people are looking for solutions. Fisheries practices were noted to be sub-standard and involve the use of mosquito nets and capture of immature fish.

EACOP is in advanced stages of a decision making to support management of Rwizi Catchment through a consortium of NGOs including Wetland International, International Crane Foundation, and Ecological Christian Organization. IBLAC reviewed the proposal

and found a disconnect between conservation objectives and local livelihood needs. There is a need to prioritize sites in the catchment given its size and create more appropriate indicators.

Recommendations:

For the ICF/WI/ECO proposal, IBLAC recommends that the consortium refine its proposal to connect conservation actions to intended livelihood impacts and benefits: provide method for designing/implementing programs at household or village level, selection of participants and match with the right program and mandates, monitoring and evaluation plan.

We also recommend that action on the biodiversity side including selection of priority areas in the catchment where the delivery of biodiversity net gain can be prioritized and then developing the appropriate institutional arrangements and priority activities to achieve results, incorporating in these plans livelihood interventions. Application of a theory of change approach as part of this process is recommended.



5 Tanzania

The IBLAC team, save for Sebastien LeBel who had to return to Europe, travelled from Entebbe to Dar es Salaam on Tuesday May 7th, and to Tanga by road on May 8th

5.1 EACOP Livelihood Program in Tanga

Observations:

The Tanga region is an area where EACOP will have its most concentrated activity both in terms of livelihoods and biodiversity, and where there have been impacts on local people that needed to be compensated and livelihoods restoration. IBLAC noted significant progress in the biodiversity and livelihood programs, especially regarding agricultural production. In addition,



IBLAC was happy to observe current efforts to develop a water provision strategy for Putini and market access strategy as part of livelihoods support for the communities around the Chongoleani Peninsula.

Recommendations

IBLAC supports the analysis underway of acquiring private land to secure tenure in the Putini area. IBLAC also recommends continued efforts to supply water and support market access for farmers.

5.2 EACOP Mangrove and Seagrass Research in Tanga

Observations:

Scientific Research – Mangroves and Sea Grass. Important research is on-going in the region. EACOP funding is exploring the reason for the die-off of a mangrove species in areas south of Tanga; the same species appears to be thriving to the north, no more than 25kms from the die-off site. The research is exploring a range of causes for the die off and so that remedial actions can be taken. This research is vital for developing effective conservation and restoration strategies and ensuring these critical ecosystems' long-term health.

Research is also underway with support from EACOP to explore the feasibility and potential for the restoration of sea grass. Such restoration efforts have the potential to generate income from carbon sequestration and could be included as part of the efforts of different organizations working to conserve nature while addressing livelihood issues.

Sharing the results of this study with local institutions is recommended to support such initiatives.

EACOP, working with partners, and based on the results of the research, could implement an offset-related program that secured the conservation of these important marine resources.

Mangrove Conservation. Part of the team travelled north of the River Ngole mouth, to Kandigani at Mtimbwani Village, Kigandini hamlet, where people, on their own initiative, were planting mangroves because they recognized their economic importance (salt pans, crabs, fish). People were not doing things correctly but showed significant initiative, and a strong understanding of the value of mangroves – something that could be built on to achieve positive outcomes for mangrove conservation in the region. This would allow EACOP to go beyond research to achieve conservation outcomes.

Wader Research. There was a missed opportunity to make a Wader Study observation of the tagged populations due to a lack of visits. Regular monitoring and data collection are essential for understanding the migration patterns, habitat use, and population dynamics of these birds. Ensuring consistent and frequent field visits would significantly enhance the value of the Wader Study, contributing to better-informed conservation strategies and the protection of these important species.

Recommendations:

Mangroves and Seagrass:

Mangrove research: For the mangrove research, IBLAC recommends exploring establishment of long-term monitoring programs and involve local communities in the research efforts. This can be achieved by providing training and resources for community-based mangrove monitoring and restoration projects. Additionally, the research findings should be disseminated widely and used to inform policy decisions and conservation strategies at both local and national levels.

It would be useful to connect the research efforts to international programs on mangroves (Global Mangrove Alliance). This collaboration will enhance knowledge sharing, access to additional resources, and the adoption of best practices for mangrove conservation and restoration. By aligning with global initiatives, local projects can benefit from a broader network of expertise and support.

Seagrass: Broaden the objectives of the seagrass program to include comprehensive conservation goals. With the NGO, Mwambao, expressing interest, there is potential to

explore the role of seagrass meadows in carbon sequestration. This expansion would not only enhance ecological health but also contribute to climate change mitigation efforts.

This would also involve expanding the work beyond research to include community-based restoration and education initiatives. Engage local fishers, school groups, and community members in restoration activities and raise awareness about the ecological importance of seagrass meadows. This approach can foster a sense of ownership and responsibility among local communities, ensuring the long-term success of restoration efforts.

Mangrove Conservation

Explore Restoration Opportunities in Control Areas - Investigate and develop opportunities for mangrove restoration in designated control areas to expand upon the successful community-led planting initiatives. This approach will leverage local knowledge and enthusiasm while incorporating scientific methods to ensure effective and sustainable restoration efforts. By creating demonstration sites in control areas, the project can showcase successful restoration techniques and promote wider community engagement and replication.

Opportunities may include the development of economic incentive programs that reward sustainable practices, such as payments for ecosystem services (PES), grants for sustainable aquaculture, and support for small-scale, eco-friendly businesses. Providing microfinance opportunities and technical assistance can help local entrepreneurs develop value-added products from mangrove resources, such as honey, vinegar, and crafts. This could be coordinated potentially with Mwambao.

Wader Study

Secure funding and logistical support to ensure regular visits and comprehensive monitoring of the tagged wader populations. Collaborate with local universities, research institutions, and birdwatching groups to create a robust network of volunteers and professionals dedicated to the study. This enhanced monitoring will provide valuable data to guide conservation actions and policy decisions.

5.3. Amboni Caves

Observations:

Amboni Caves which is managed by the Ngorongoro Conservation Area, has some important remnants of coastal forests that could be protected and managed; there is also some tourism potential, but most likely focused primarily on the local market and limited visitation by foreigners. However, there is encroachment for mining and agriculture,

leading to deforestation, destruction of rock outcrops, and erosion of the riverbanks. There is potential for promoting integrated conservation and sustainable management strategies to preserve these forests and their potential for ecotourism.

Recommendation:

Given the potential for securing the protection of important and relatively scarce coastal forests, IBLAC recommends support for the development of a comprehensive management plan that encompasses enhancements in tourism infrastructure, effective strategies for managing bat populations, diverse management and business



options, and meaningful engagement with local communities. This plan should aim to balance conservation efforts with sustainable economic development, ensuring the protection of natural resources while benefiting the local population. Once the plan is completed, EACOP should consider a funding strategy that can assist in securing the long-term sustainable management of the area.

5.4 MWAMBAO (Tanga Region)

Observations:

Mwambao represents a comprehensive program that effectively integrates livelihood enhancement with conservation efforts. It adopts a holistic approach to address the economic needs of local communities while ensuring the sustainable management of natural resources. By aligning conservation goals with community development, Mwambao fosters a symbiotic relationship between human well-being and environmental health. The program's success lies in its ability to create alternative, sustainable livelihoods that reduce pressure on natural ecosystems, thereby promoting

long-term ecological and economic resilience. The same objectives would apply in different parts of Tanzania and Uganda.

The innovative financing mechanism for community savings, investment, and insurance meets an important need for communities and linking participation to environmental commitments can serve as an incentive for people. These mechanisms are tailored to the unique economic conditions and needs of the local communities. By providing access to financial resources and risk management tools, these initiatives empower communities to invest in sustainable practices and enhance their economic stability. The success of these mechanisms presents a replicable model that can be adapted and implemented in other regions, contributing to broader socio-economic development and resilience.

Mwambao has been a successful program across a large area with many groups and funding sources. There is concern that the breadth of their activities may obscure the results of the EACOP funding making it hard to attribute outcomes and net gain results. It is crucial to implement robust monitoring and evaluation frameworks to track the specific outcomes and impacts associated with each funding source. Clear and transparent reporting mechanisms will help delineate the results attributable to EACOP funding, ensuring accountability and demonstrating the tangible benefits of these investments to stakeholders.

Recommendations:

For the Mwambao program ensure that the incentive structure directly correlates with the achievement of specific outcome indicators. These incentives should motivate and reward local communities, project teams, and stakeholders for meeting or exceeding set targets and be based on pay for performance criteria and contracts.

Establish a robust set of key performance indicators (KPIs) that specifically align with the goals and expected outcomes of EACOP's investment in the Mwambao program. These indicators should be clearly defined, measurable, and tailored to capture the direct and indirect impacts of the funding. By incorporating both quantitative and qualitative



metrics, the indicators can provide a comprehensive assessment of the program's effectiveness. Regular monitoring and data collection should be conducted to track progress against these KPIs, enabling EACOP to attribute successes and areas for improvement to its investments.

Furthermore, developing a detailed reporting framework will ensure transparency and accountability, showcasing the tangible benefits of the funding to achieve net gain.

5.5. Napilikunya Hamlet (Akie community)

Observations:

Strong relation with the Akie and Maasai and commitment to FPIC - The strong, positive relationship with the Akie and Maasai communities highlights EACOP's dedication to ethical engagement and respect for Indigenous rights through the implementation of Informed Consultation and Participation (ICP) and Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) when triggered. This approach ensures that these communities have a voice in decisions affecting their land and resources. EACOP's efforts in securing tenure for a spiritual site demonstrate a commendable commitment to preserving cultural heritage and fostering trust. Such relationships are vital for the successful implementation of any development project, as they build mutual respect and cooperation.

Challenges of Agricultural Livelihoods Programs for Akie and Maasai - Implementing agricultural livelihood programs for Akie and Maasai presents significant challenges due to the disparity between the program requirements and the traditional lifestyles and current capabilities of these communities. The Akie and Maasai have deep-rooted cultural practices and skills that may not align with modern agricultural techniques. Therefore, any agricultural initiative must be tailored to respect their cultural heritage

and include comprehensive training and support. Assessing the readiness and capacity of these communities is crucial to designing interventions that are culturally appropriate and sustainable.

Economic Constraints: The severe economic constraints faced by the Akie and Maasai communities, characterized by limited income opportunities and high levels of cash poverty, significantly impact their ability to adopt new and potentially risky practices. These economic conditions make it difficult for community members to invest in new ventures without immediate and reliable returns. Consequently, any introduction of innovative practices must be accompanied by financial support, risk mitigation strategies, and clear demonstrations of benefits to encourage adoption. Creating diverse and secure income-generating opportunities is essential to reduce vulnerability and foster resilience against economic shocks.

Recommendations:

IBLAC's recommendations focus on a long-term, holistic approach to supporting these marginalized communities, both in terms of their basic needs and in finding sustainable income sources that align with their existing capabilities and way of life. These include:

Long-Term Commitment to Social Investment - Maintain and enhance long-term social investment in the Akie and Maasai communities, focusing on fundamental areas of development. Examples of initiatives which strengthen the enabling conditions for the existing social investment programming include: school feeding programs to encourage attendance; promotion of health-seeking behaviors; life skills training for youth and exposure to role models to build leadership competencies; and strengthening community-group governance. Consistent with the participatory approach applied to date, these would be validated and refined with community input.

Exploring Cash-Generating Options - Investigate and implement innovative and sustainable cash-generating options to enhance the economic resilience of the Akie and Maasai communities. Options for the area may be limited, but a community-based carbon program that pays farmers to sequester carbon on their land, could generate a beneficial cash flow for people and help support peoples' ability to invest.

5.6. Visits to Korogwe, Kiteto and Dodoma

Observations:

IBLAC visited several livelihood initiatives, travelling west from Tanga to Dodoma. Projects included crop production, chicken raising, irrigation, and beekeeping. Except for the chicken raising most of the producers were very happy with their programs. Farmers in the poultry project were unhappy that they could not easily produce chickens from the eggs, without an incubator – this due to the type of hens made available. The irrigation farmer was happy but need a more efficient water distribution design, while the beekeeper was very committed to expanding and seeking markets.

Recommendations:

EACOP should continue with its follow-up efforts to address farmer concerns and/or constraints. We learned that EACOP is already working to address the poultry concerns and is providing other farmers with additional technical assistance. Contractors should also explore how best to respond to some of the identified needs (e.g. irrigation).

5.7 Dar es Salaam

Observations:

IBLAC visited with the Director of NEMC, Dr. Immaculate Semesi, and staff to explain about IBLAC and its mandate. Dr. Semesi is relatively new in her position and was not aware of our work. The Chair made a presentation and IBLAC members provided an overview of the mandate, which includes advising on the biodiversity and livelihoods program of the company as part of their commitment to achieve a net gain in biodiversity. IBLAC emphasized the importance of collaborating with regulatory bodies like NEMC to ensure that projects not only comply with environmental regulations but also contribute positively to the local communities and ecosystems.

IBLAC explained the mitigation hierarchy, IFC PS6, and the importance of compliance with such standards in terms of reducing impacts and supporting conservation efforts in the country. She requested information from IBLAC on legislation, offset standards, and the management of social risks. In addition, Dr. Semesi, invited EACOP to do a presentation for her and her staff on PS6 so that her team could learn more about these international standards and approaches.

IBLAC also visited Chakwetu, the new Conservation Trust Fund, whose creation was funded by EACOP, following a recommendation by IBLAC. The team met with the consultant working on the project and the Board Chair. Chakwetu was registered in March 2024, approximately a year after the first meetings were held to explore the feasibility of its creation.

Recommendations

IBLAC recommends continued discussion on the topic of the mitigation hierarchy and offsets with NEMC. EACOP could be an example to demonstrate that companies can have successful investments while at the same time, making efforts both to avoid and minimize impacts and then compensate for any residual impacts. Having a policy in place that requires companies to follow the mitigation hierarchy can provide conservation and social benefits for the country, allowing for the conservation and management of priority biodiversity areas and creating economic opportunities linked to conservation practices.

We also recommend meetings with NEMC during subsequent in-country meetings.

Finally, IBLAC requests to be kept informed about the progress and operations of the Chakwetu.

6 IBLAC Administration

Observations:

During the trip, there were so many places to see and visit and programs to analyze that the team found the time available limiting. Often there was insufficient time to explore issues at the level and depth desired. In addition, the need to travel between countries dictated schedules and consumed time.

During the last iteration of the review of the field trip report, there were often comments made that went beyond fact checking and correcting either misinterpretations or any errors of omission. Some comments reflected changes that had occurred post trip completion.

Recommendations

IBLAC proposes that future annual visits be divided into two – one visit per year to Uganda and another to Tanzania. This will allow more focused time in each country and should facilitate travel logistics. Also, it allows each country to plan around the most propitious timing based on schedules, weather and other factors.

IBLAC also recommends that any feedback on IBLAC reports be limited to fact checking, inaccuracies and omissions.

Acknowledgements

IBLAC wishes to thank the Tilenga, Kingfisher, and EACOP teams for hosting IBLAC in Uganda and Tanzania and for the flexibility in both organizing and rearranging the itinerary to address weather challenges.

Annex 1. Schedule of Meetings and Visits

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	ACTIVITY	(EXTERNAL) STAKEHOLDERS
Sunday 28th April	Arrive in Uganda	Entebbe International Airport	Transport from Entebbe to Golden Tulip Hotel, Kampala; IBLAC team for this visit complete (AM, AME, CM, RV SL, WH YM)	
Monday 29th April	Theory of Change workshop organized by Tilenga	Kampala	All-day presentation and discussion led by Conservation Alpha	
Tuesday 30th April	Company and Stakeholder Meetings	Kampala	<p>All day meeting in Kampala</p> <p>AM: Kingfisher General Project Update / Status of Recommendations Tilenga General Project Update and Status of Recommendations, Update on Chimpanzee Action Plan</p> <p>PM: Lunch with CSCO Delegation Presentation on Field Monitoring Report Meeting with UBF</p> <p>Focus Presentations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social and Livelihoods Update • Murchison Falls Conservation Program Update • Tilenga M&E Framework 	CSCO, UBF ED and Board Chair

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	ACTIVITY	(EXTERNAL) STAKEHOLDERS
Wednesday May 1st	Travel to Buliisa And CFP via Hoima	Buliisa Area	AM: Depart Hotel to Buliisa PM: Visit Ngiri 3 Visit Industrial Area Visit Ngiri 1 and the South HDD Pad Transfer to Bugungu Camp	
Thursday 2nd May	Site visits	Murchison Falls National Park	Well pads, HDD pads, roads Then Transfer to Hoima	UWA Warden Borassus Palm Researcher (Titus) WCS - Snare removal program
Friday 3rd May	Site Visits	Kingfisher Return to Hoima	Pipeline construction Farm visit Buhuka Flats	
Saturday 4th May	Travel and meetings	Travel to Mubende	Afternoon EACOP briefing and update	
Sunday 5th May	Site Visits	Mubende region	Visit to Kyampisi Forest Reserve as potential Offset site working with NFA	UWA and NFA

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	ACTIVITY	(EXTERNAL) STAKEHOLDERS
			Visit to MCPY 2 Demonstration garden visits and discussions with Farmers receiving agricultural support Lunch meeting with Deputy RDC Travel to Masaka	Contractors, Farmers
Monday 6th May	Site Visit	Rwizi Catchment	Visit Kyazanga – Kaku Kyazanga wetland Livelihood restoration program Meeting with watershed management committees and communities Travel to Entebbe	Watershed Management Committees Community groups NGOs proponents of watershed project
Tuesday 7th May	Travel Day	Travel from Kampala to Dar es Salaam	Travel IBLAC team meeting at Sea Cliff Hotel	

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	ACTIVITY	(EXTERNAL) STAKEHOLDERS
Wednesday 8th May	Travel	Travel by car to Tanga	Arrive Tanga and hotel check in	
Thursday 9th May	Site Visits	Tanga Region	Presentation on mangrove research project Travel to Amboni Caves AM visit to livelihood sites Visit by water to jack-up barge and piling construction for load-out facility (access to mangrove areas not possible)	Ngorogoro Conservation Authority Communities
Friday 10th May	Site Visits	Tanga Region	Morning visit to Wader Study site Seagrass presentation at hotel Visit to mangrove area acting as control for Research around Ngole River mouth Visit to livelihood projects around Putini and Chongoleani Peninsula	Seagrass researcher Communities and farmers
Saturday 11th May	Site Visit	Tanga Then travel to Korogwe	Meeting, presentation and discussion with Mwambao Leave for Muheza after lunch Visit maize demonstration and poultry production	Mwambo and communities Farmers and contractors
Sunday 12 May	Site visits	Travel from Korogwe to Kiteto	Meeting with community of Napilikunya Hamlet - Akie community signed FPIC agreement with EACOP. Traditional hunter gatherers	Communities

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	ACTIVITY	(EXTERNAL) STAKEHOLDERS
			transitioning to more sedentary farming	
		Overnight in Kiteto		
Monday 13th May	Sites Visits	Travel from Kiteto to Dodoma	Visit to herders practicing artificial insemination – located Tarangire corridor – evidence of wildlife in the region Visit to beekeeping and irrigation projects Cultural visit to the Kondoa Caves to see cave paintings	Communities and farmers
Tuesday 14th May	Travel from Dodoma to Dar		IBLAC team meetings in the afternoon	
Wednesday 15th May	Meetings	DAR	IBLAC meets at EACOP to begin debriefing preparation Meeting with the Tanzanian Environment and Sustainability Trust (Chakwetu).	Trust and consultant
Thursday 16th May		DAR	Meeting with the DG of NEMC and her staff Afternoon debrief with the Parties AM departs post briefing	

ANNEX 2. Theory of Change Schematic for Net Gain and Livelihood Enhancement at a Landscape Level

