Capacity Building Lessons from East Africa

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www.start.org

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START’s Scope of Action

Capacity building needs within interacting domains of knowledge generation, sharing and informed action

- Capacity to assess adaptation actions, manage risks and apply scientific knowledge to issues of sustainable development
- Capacity to share knowledge through societally-relevant tools, methods and approaches that catalyze action
- Capacity to advance understanding of global environmental change impacts and consequences, and to communicate that knowledge
## Approach to Capacity Building

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Capacity Building....</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Should be country driven and issue based</td>
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<td>2. Should occur within a framework of integrated interdisciplinary problem solving</td>
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<td>3. Is much more than training; requires institutional strengthening and human resource development</td>
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<td>4. Should encourage potential for interaction and dialogues among diverse stakeholder groups</td>
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The Conservation Context

Ecological sustainability

Capacity Building, Networking & Communication

Address multiple drivers across scales and sectors

Effective Management instruments
Clear collaborative institutional roles

Sustained Ecosystem G & S and Livelihoods

Economic efficiency

Social equity

START’s Capacity Building Portfolio Relevant to ABCG

Advanced Training
- Climate Change & Biodiversity Conservation in the Albertine Rift

Fellowships, Grants
- Sustaining Ecosystem Goods & Services under Climate Change (ACCFP and GEC grants)

Assessments
- Peri-Urban agriculture & climate change
- AIACC,
- CORDEX

Communication
- Science-Policy & Stakeholder dialogues
- CORDEX – Climate services
- ACCCA

Foster collaborative networks of individuals and institutions at local/national/regional and global scales
Biodiversity Conservation and Climate Change
Albertine Rift Countries: Burundi, Congo, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda

**Partner:** Institute of Resource Assessment, University of Dar es Salaam

**Funding support:** The MacArthur Foundation

- Advanced Education and Training, networking and communication.
- For: practitioners, researchers, graduate students, educators and policy community
- Phase 1 (2007-2008); Phase 2 (underway)
- Emphasis on sustaining ecosystem goods and services and livelihoods
# Biodiversity Program Achievements

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Capacity building contribution</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Curriculum</td>
<td>Advanced Training courses; updated Master’s program at UDar; distance learning platform (in progress)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Advanced Training and Assessments</td>
<td>Theoretical training, special Training of Educators and practical hands-on assessment experience in 2 program Phases</td>
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<td>Stakeholder Dialogue</td>
<td>Planned: Stakeholder discussions on regional implications of climate risks for ecosystem goods and services; shared experiences; and recommendations for action.</td>
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<td>Networking - regional/global</td>
<td>Program alumni (diverse organizations) and faculty (NUR, Makerere, etc.) WCSTRCEAR, SANBI, CORDEX, Advisory Committee, etc.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Communication and Outreach</td>
<td>NWP, CBD, DIVERSITAS, COP-15, Peer reviewed and grey literature, synthesis documents, web-platform, etc. ELAN, IPBES, GEO-BON, AEO</td>
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Alumni Engagement

• **Government Institutions/Ministries**: e.g. TAWIRI; TAFORI; Ministry of Agriculture, Tanzania; Geographic Institute of Burundi; Department of Forestry (Burundi); Ministries of Environment and Agriculture in Uganda; Uganda Wildlife Authority; Rwanda Development Board (Tourism)

• **Protected area personnel**: TANAPA

• **Non-government institutions**: JGI; WWF – Rwenzori; Greenwatch; TCCB, Congo; CARPE/IUCN PACO; OCEAN: Center for Research in Natural Sciences, DRCU; BCRD, Uganda; UDar; NUR.

• **Higher education**: Master’s and PhD programs (potential experts)

• **Other training programs**: UNITAR’s climate diplomacy program; SEI-UNISDR-UNU writeshop; ACCFP; UC Davis

• **University Educators**: In all Albertine Rift countries
Programmatic Challenges and Lessons

- **Strengthening individuals**
  - Access to information
  - Access to training in relevant tools and methodologies
  - Building communication skills
  - Building collaboration skills
  - Building skills to transform knowledge to action

- **Strengthening institutions**
  - IRA success story, others? Need “stars” at the institutional level

- **Building and sustaining networks** – Individuals and Institutions

- **Sustaining the effort**

- **Evaluating outcomes**
Cross-Cutting Challenges

- **Scaling-up**
  - Spatially
  - Sectorally
  - Inclusive of Disaster Risk considerations!

- **Integration across issues and actors**
  - stakeholder categories
  - disparate programs
  - international efforts – e.g. IPBES, ELAN, GEO-BON, etc.

- **Knowledge dissemination and linking knowledge to action**
START Programs and the ABCG

• START’s programs are very relevant to needs/lessons identified by ABCG (capacity building as an important need; emphasis on sustaining eco-services and livelihoods).

• Potential for mutual benefits from individual programs, experiences, outcomes and outputs — e.g. advanced training opportunities, locally relevant and context specific knowledge for curricula, externships contributing to broader assessments and adaptation actions, etc.

• Stakeholder dialogues at national/regional levels — enable communication and linking knowledge to action.

• **START welcomes opportunities to engage with ABCG.**
Thank you!