

In January 2015 DOF started a new 3 years program *Integrating Livelihoods and Conservation. People Partner with Nature for Sustainable Living* in Kenya, Uganda and Nepal. The Danish funded program was formulated in partnership between the four BirdLife partners DOF, Nature Kenya, Nature Uganda and Bird Conservation Nepal (BCN). It is implemented by our partners in six forested Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas (IBAs), three in Kenya, two in Uganda and one in Nepal. It has as its overall goal to reduce the depletion of forests and biodiversity. It will achieve this through participatory forest management, which involves and benefits local forest adjacent communities and supports the collaboration between community based groups and local authorities. The Program is expected to both, contribute to improved livelihoods among the local poor who will benefit from better access to the forest and 'green' income generating activities and to the protection of forests and biodiversity. At another level the Program engages in advocacy for biodiversity protection and supports networking and training of community based groups in order for these to be better able to influence policy decisions and advocate for their own involvement in decision making processes.

The Program is jointly managed by a Program Management Committee (PMC) consisting of the four BirdLife partners, who meet once annually. At the national level the national BirdLife organisation is responsible for implementing the program with assistance from a Program Advisory Group (PAG). It is a unique opportunity for cooperation across BirdLife and for achieving the common goal of reducing the destruction of forests and biodiversity by contributing to sustainable natural resource management and at the same time improving livelihoods of forest adjacent communities.



DOF visit in Nepal

DOF has been engaged in international activities for more than 30 years and is an active partner in **BirdLife International**, a global partnership of nature protection organisations. In close cooperation with national BirdLife partners DOF contributes to the protection of

important nature areas outside Denmark. DOF's international activities and strategy is fully in line with DOF's overall strategy and vision of securing that present and future generations can experience a rich and varied bird life. We therefore only work in *Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas (IBA'er)*, identified by BirdLife. The international engagement is based on DOF's experiences from more than 100 years of Bird protection in Denmark and Europe. As part of BirdLife, DOF refers to BirdLife policies and principles.

DOF's international work is concentrated on four core areas – bird protection, nature protection, sustainable development and strengthening of civil society. To reach these goals DOF works on the basis of Danish and international criteria for nature protection and development cooperation. Thus, gender and equality between women and men, rights and civil society are central areas of intervention.

We establish partnerships with local communities through mobilisation of and support to local civil society groups. We emphasize capacity building, advocacy, co-operation with local authorities and income generating activities for the poor. We work with locally based monitoring of biodiversity, GIS, biological studies, point counts and agreements on the sustainable use of natural resources between local actors. All projects are carried out in close cooperation with these. This approach is based on the realisation that important reasons for loss of biodiversity are closely related to local forms of natural resource management, power structures and inequality. In order to achieve genuine local engagement it is necessary to acknowledge people's rights to natural resources and to real participation through information, organisation and capacity building. This also includes indigenous peoples, who subsist directly on local natural resources, often forests.

For DOF and BirdLife there are very good reasons for integrating the protection of biodiversity with improved livelihoods and sustainable development under consideration of climate changes. You can read about some of DOF's approaches under gender, indigenous peoples, locally based monitoring and international nature political guidelines.

In addition to the Livelihoods and Conservation Program, DOF is currently engaged in projects in Indonesia, Uganda and Greece. In Indonesia we are finalising the second phase of a project concerning sustainable landscape management on Flores and our technical support to the Harapan Rainforest program on Sumatra. In Uganda DOF's intervention focuses on sustainable forest management in Echuya. This project will later become part of our program. The migratory birds project in Ghana has finished but volunteers continue to carry out activities for migratory birds in the region. You can read more about DOF's international engagement by clicking on the links for the individual project countries under *Internationale Projekter*.

Apart from the project work DOF is also actively engaged in BirdLife International's political and policy work and in a number of networks, including the 92-group for Sustainable Development, primarily in the working group for biodiversity.

DOF's International Section has two employees, anthropologist Charlotte Mathiassen and biologist Thomas Lehmberg.

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