

Republic of the Sudan

Butana Integrated Rural Development Project

Supervision report

Main report and appendices

Mission Dates: 1-20 December 2013
Document Date: 3-Mar 2014
Project No. 1332
Report No: 3529-SD

Contents

Abbreviations and acronyms	v
A. Introduction	1
B. Overall Assessment of Project Implementation	2
C. Outputs and Outcomes	3
D. Project Implementation Progress	12
E. Fiduciary Aspects	12
F. Sustainability	17
G. Other	17
H. Conclusion	18

List of Figures

Figure 1: Loan utilization by category of expenditures	13
Figure 2: IFAD loan/grant disbursement, comparisons between original and revised allocations and actual disbursement	30

List of Tables

Table 2: Results for the Community Development activities in 2013	9
Table 3: Status of Audit Recommendations	15
Table 3: Benefits of water supply facilities as per people's set criteria and assessment	18

Appendices

Appendix 1:	Summary of project status and ratings	2
Appendix 2:	Updated logical framework: Progress against objectives, outcomes and outputs	5
Appendix 3:	Summary of key actions to be taken within agreed timeframes	11
Appendix 4:	Physical progress measured against AWP&B, including RIMS indicators	21
Appendix 5:	Financial: Actual financial performance by financier; by component and disbursements by category	29
Appendix 6:	Compliance with legal covenants: Status of implementation	31
Appendix 7:	Knowledge management: Learning and Innovation	33

Abbreviations and acronyms

BDA	Butana Development Agency
BIRD	Butana Integrated Rural Development Project
CBAHWs	Community Based Animal Health Workers
CDCs	Community Development Committees
CIF	Community Initiative Fund
MTR	Mid-term Review
MOARFR	Ministry of Animal Resources, Fishery and Range
MOFNE	Ministry of Finance and National Economy
MOAI	Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation
NRM	Natural Resources Management
SOE	Statements Of Expenditure

A. Introduction¹

Goal: to improve in a sustainable manner the livelihoods and resilience to drought of the poor rural households.

Specific objectives:

- (i) establishing a coherent and cost effective governance framework that ensures a regulated access to land and water resources of the Butana;
- (ii) improving the access and bargaining position of women and men in the marketing of livestock;
- (iii) developing the capacity of community-based organizations to engage in environmentally sound, socially and gender equitable development initiatives;

Components²:

- (i) Policy and Institution Building;
- (ii) Natural Resources Management (Water, Range, Forest, Vegetable, Fodder and Agriculture Crops)
- (iii) Animal Resources;
- (iv) Community Development and Business Options.

The **Butana Development Agency (BDA)** carries out coordination and backstopping functions to 5 State Coordination Units (SCU) and their development teams.

Direct/indirect beneficiaries: 40,000 households

Total cost: USD 29.8 million

Approval date: 14 December 2006; **Agreement:** 16 Feb-2007; **Effectiveness:** July 2008

Current project completion date: 31 March 2017

1. The Government of the Sudan, IFAD, the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation (MOAI), Ministry of Finance and National Economy (MOFNE) and Ministry of Animal Resources, Fishery and Range (MOARFR) fielded the fifth supervision mission (SM) to the Butana Integrated Rural Development Project (BIRDP) from 01 to 20 December 2013 and spent two weeks in the field; on average two days per State. The objectives of the supervision mission are: (i) to review both the technical and fiduciary aspects of BIRDP; (ii) to take stock of the progress made in the implementation of the Project, in particular on aspects and issues highlighted during the latest implementation support mission (June 2013) and the Mid-term Review (MTR) carried out in September 2012; (iii) to provide recommendations on how to improve implementation and address bottlenecks mainly with special focus on BDA structure and role as well as the NRM governance structure; and (iv) advise the project on how to organize the procurement aspects in light of the recommendations of the recent IFAD's procurement mission of September 2013.

2. At federal level, the scheduled initial debriefings were cancelled due to the reshuffling of the cabinet and the fact that the main counterparts were occupied with preparation of the financial plans for 2014. The mission visited 5 States where it interacted with several communities (Al Saadya, Gezira State; Al Edaid Banant and Al Derayhan, Gedarif State; Um Gameis and Abu Ushar, Kasala State; Al Ekodah and Abu Hasheem, Khartoum State; Um Hatab, River Nile State). In general, one community was visited per day; thus, extensive interactions took place between the mission and the respective groups. The mission managed to have extensive interactions with Community Development Committees (CDCs), interest groups, networks of voluntary forest cum range guards, networks of CDCs, etc. In doing so, the mission managed as well to visit home steads and investigate the home based animals (goats in particular, but also sheep and local poultry), local and improved fodder/forage and seed storages, forest, range, fodder, crop plots/land as well as communal women managed fodder gardens, home nurseries, vegetable gardens and small exhibitions prepared by CDCs. The mission managed to also visit the livestock market in Abu Delig whereby interacting with the market management. In Sharg Al Gezira Locality, Gezira State, the current slaughtering place was visited and discussions were held with the locality administration regarding the delayed take off of the planned slaughterhouse. The mission held discussions at the project level (at the headquarters) as

¹ Mission composition: The mission consisted of Ms Lucy Maarse, Natural Resources Consultant, Mission Leader, Consultant NEN and Mr Omer Egemi, Policy Consultant NEN. Mr Rens Verstappen, Institutional Consultant, NEN and Mr Ezekiel Ijala, procurement consultant, NEN (3 days); Mr Ahmed Subahi, Country Programme Officer, NEN joined part of the mission activities. Mr Elfadul Ishag, ICO Programme Support Officer, NEN visited the project during the period 22-26 December to carry out financial management and disbursement supervision. Mr Mohamed Abdelmoteleb, International Development Directorate and Investment, MOAI; Yousif Mohamed Gesm Elbari, Head International Relations, Directorate General Planning, MOARFR; Mr Omer Hassan El Dirani, Livestock Marketing Consultant of the BDA and advisor to the mission joined the mission from the Government and the project side

² Revision of activities under components and its name slightly revised during MTR.

well as the individual SCUs, with different teams to discuss the achievements and bottlenecks hindering progress post the MTR (September 2012 – November 2013). After each of the field visits, a meeting was held with the concerned SCU team to share and reflect upon the field observations. At the same time, the mission would also present a set of questions for discussion so as to enrich the tentative findings and identify the challenges faced by BIRDP. This approach was appreciated by the counterpart team and the mission as it worked as a learning platform for all involved.

3. A wrap-up meeting was organized on 16 December, 2013, in Abu Delig. It was attended by members of the PCU, SCU teams of River Nile and Khartoum State as well as the coordinators of the SCUs of Gezira, Gedarif and Kasala. The purpose of the meeting was to share and discuss progress, observations, challenges, innovations, urgent issues and draft recommendations of the mission³.

4. At the federal level, the wrap-up meeting took place on 13th February 2014 and was chaired by Director General, Mr. Omar El-Haj of MoFNE, and enjoyed full participation of representatives from MOFNE, MOAI, MOARFR, BoD, BDA and BIRDP team. This aide-mémoire (AM) summarizes the main findings and recommendations of the mission and incorporates the feedback and comments received during the stakeholders workshop held in Abu Delig and the wrap-up meeting at the federal level.

5. The mission would like to thank Mr. Rashid MUSAAD, BDA Director, the BIRDP and SCU teams and all the Government counterparts and the communities for the support received in organizing and carrying out the mission. The mission would in addition like to thank the Government officials in Khartoum and all the people consulted during the mission for their availability and for their frank assessment and constructive feedback.

B. Overall Assessment of Project Implementation

6. The overall assessment of project implementation is ***moderately satisfactory (4)***

7. The process of developing a coherent cost effective governance framework that ensures a regulated access to land and water resource in the Butana received substantial attention during the past year. The project organised five state level workshops that focused on awareness creation and stock-taking of the existing policies, laws and by-laws related to Natural Resources Management (NRM) at locality, state and federal levels. Unfortunately, the work done by the project for synthesizing and analysing the outcomes of the workshop with the ultimate goal of formulating a vision and scope for a national conference in 2014 has not yield the desired results. It is the mission judgement that the consultancy team that carried out the post workshop work was not adequate for that task. Notwithstanding that the state level workshops generated valid information, the mission assessed that the process tends to be ad hoc, lacking guidance and direction, while no vision neither a roadmap is in place for achieving this complex but important objective of the project.

8. At the field level, the project has started new processes such as networking among forest cum range guards, who are in charge of guarding the social fenced rangeland and/or forests and whose registration is on-going if not yet finalised, networks of Community Development Committees (CDCs) aiming at protecting and managing larger tracks of range and/or forest land, etc. These networks have come into existence, and they ensure strong grass root attention for governing the NRs. The roadmap should build on these achievements and this should start by recruiting qualified policy officer(s) / advisor(s) to advise the project regarding the right process and develop a vision regarding how this could be developed.

9. The strengthening of the BDA so that it would truly operate as a lead agency for the development of Butana is one of the main outputs of BIRDP. However, it is the judgement of the mission that this has received minor attention so far. The assessment made during the MTR (September, 2012) remains valid; i.e. the BDA is still seen and managed to a large extent as if it is a PCU for BIRDP. In fact, BIRDP is meant to create a sustainable and functioning BDA even after the project closes.

³ Consult Annex 4: 'Wrap-up presentation, project level, Monday 16th December, 2013'.

10. Significant achievements were made by the project in terms of investing in community development including businesses, operating towards multi-disciplinary teams through taking water supply and harvesting as the entry point.

11. The project also supports the establishment of the business and livestock markets information entities (as part of the rehabilitation / construction of livestock markets) and ensuring sustainability. The mission found that while the systems have been put in place as part of the markets rehabilitation / establishment, much remains to have a functioning and sustainable system. It is envisaged that the information systems would be integrated and linked to BDA while the markets itself would be managed by the market teams of the locality administration. Starting 2014, the localities market teams have been fully trained and made ready for the job. It is worth mentioning that in one instance, women have planned the establishment of a primary livestock market (River Nile State, network of CDCs) in order to sell their goats themselves in this nearby market. It is significant to mention that the project focus so far has been on secondary livestock markets only.

12. During the field visits and team discussions it has been noticed that the Butana region suffers from: (i) speedy encroachments by legal and illegal mining activities (e.g. gold and sand), (ii) allocation of large tracks of land to foreign investors, (iii) expansion of mechanised irrigated and rain-fed agricultural activities even beyond the grazing line, (iv) expanding human settlements, and (v) commercial traders using the grazing sites with large trucks of sheep for fattening. These developments have led to severe impacts on the dominant vegetation cover (grass, scrub and acacia trees). Therefore, there are a lot of uncertainties to the targeted communities by the project.

13. Among others, it was recognised that it is of utmost importance to bring all the actors who have a stake in the governance of Butana on board; in particular the relevant Ministries and related departments in order to raise their awareness⁴ regarding the issues at hand and to build consensus. This would provide scope for awareness creation, harmonisation, information sharing, support and building of synergies, evidence gathering and seeking alliances. In addition, it was understood that many problems which are faced by the SCUs are normally state specific; such as integrating Community Based Animal Health Workers (CBAHWs) to be part of a referral system, involving and capacity building of locality service providers, organising vaccination and fire line campaigns, planning and coordination of farm and heavy machineries, range and forest laws and by-laws of locality and state level, modalities for scaling-up, etc. It was therefore proposed to organise bi-annual meetings among the relevant actors at the state level. Another level of bi-annual meetings would be among state coordinators. Coordination and exchange would be improved through intensifying the e-coordination, which can be done through improving the internet connectivity and thus making use of Skype conferences, e-exchange, uploading and downloading items of items when pro-active using BLOGS of BIRDP -, Karianet and other websites.

Agreed action	Resp.	Agreed date
i. Recruit quality policy advisor to guide the process of developing sound policy framework for land and water governance in the Butana area.		April 2014
ii. Communication and coordination among the State / Locality actors related to governance of NRs in Butana to be improved, through six-monthly meetings convened and prepared by concerned Coordination of SCU with support of BIRDP.	SCU coordinators, BIRDP	2 nd and 4 th quarter 2014, 2015
iii. Communication and coordination among SCUs to be revised namely up-grading the internet connectivity, intensifying the e-communication, organising regular Skype meetings and less face-to-face meetings namely six-monthly.	BIRDP, SCU coordinators	1 st and 3 rd quarter 2013, 2014
iv. In terms of annual and quarterly work plans and budgets, it is recommended to allow diversification ⁵ among the different States as circumstances are varying, performance is diverging, and hardships are not constant.	BIRDP, SCU coordinators	ABWP 2014

C. Outputs and Outcomes

Component 1: Policy and Institution Building; Outcome: An enabling governance framework is developed for natural resources management in Butana. The mission assessed this component as **moderately unsatisfactory** (3)⁶.

⁴ Among others, this was observed during the State Workshops organised in 2013 regarding governance of natural resources in Butana.

⁵ Diversity in terms of incentives for Development Teams (criteria to performance and hardship), scope for developing pilots and innovations, transport means and budget, etc.

⁶ Item 1.1 and 1.2 'unsatisfactory' (2), 1.3 – 1.7 ranges from 'moderately unsatisfactory' (3) to 'satisfactory' (5).

14. This component was intended to contribute to the development of an enabling governance framework for natural resources management in Butana. As per revised Logical Framework (MTR, September, 2012) seven output levels were defined and subsequently agreed namely: **(1.1)** Legislation for NRM, **(1.2)** Policy and Strategy, **(1.3)** Institutional Development Building, **(1.4)** Knowledge Management, **(1.5)** Capacity Building, **(1.6)** Studies and **(1.7)** Young Professionals Programme, etc.

15. **1.1 Legislation for NRM:** The mission noted that although the project is already more than half-way, there is still lack of clarity of what the ultimate framework will entail; nor does a plan including time frame, milestones and essential relations between and sequencing of the needed activities ('critical path') exist which would lead to the envisaged enabling governance framework by 2016 or even beyond. In spite of the enormous efforts undertaken at state level (5 workshops) and the emerging of number of community-based regulatory frameworks to natural resource governance the Project is still struggling with how to link these initiatives to higher levels of governance. The issue of establishing a framework for natural resource management looks particularly taking into account the rising stakes over land in Butana as a result of mining activities, expanding agribusiness investments, expansion of irrigated and rain-fed agriculture, expanding human settlements and the activities of commercial traders entering the grazing sites with large trucks of sheep. The mission endorses the MTR's advice to appoint shortly a full time senior policy expert/facilitator with the overall responsibility of managing the process that leads to the development of the required framework. To that end a clear road map in the project with respect to the development of the enabling governance framework.

16. **1.2 Policy & Strategy:** The only output realised in 2013 on the MTR's recommendation appears to be a one month, seemingly rather ad-hoc, consultancy for stocktaking of some existing legal cases related to (community) management of natural resources. The establishment of a coherent and cost effective governance framework is the first objective of the BIRDP, and is also the anticipated outcome of component 1. As discussed under 1.1, the mission strongly urges the project management to develop very soon a roadmap for this component, and at the same time recruit competent expertise within the BIRDP to be appointed as the process manager for this component. The development of the outline of the governance framework to be established as well as composing the road map could be assisted by short term consultancies. Because of the absence of clear policy recommendations the issue of enhancing pastoralism, one of the recommendations of the MTR mission remains a confused and blurred issue in the project.

17. **1.3 Institutional Development building; 1.3.1 Butana Development Agency:** The establishment of the BDA is part of the envisaged natural resource governance framework. However, at present the BDA appears to have no clear long-term perspective. There is also no very clear notion of what the BDA stands for or what exactly it could mean for development and management of natural resources in the Butana region. It is recommended that the BoD of the BDA embarks in the first half of 2014 on a process to develop a clear vision statement. The vision could be developed during a special meeting of the BoD in a well facilitated session. A vision agreed by the members of the BoD would provide management (notably the BoD and the Director of the BDA) with clearer direction for further development of the BDA.

18. The **management of the BDA** consists of the Board of Directors and the Director of the BDA. For effective and efficient management each should have its own role and responsibilities, with the Director primarily responsible for the day-to-day management of the BDA, and the Board with a role aimed at general oversight. The Board of Directors may be advised by the Conference of the BDA. Both the BDA bureau and the projects should have their own plans and reporting, their own budgets, their own staff, and distinct lines of responsibility. Project Leaders are not part of the BDA management, but are in charge of the management of their projects only: Project Leaders manage projects, including performance assessments of project staff and project consultants. The mission recommends the BDA management to change its mode of operation to reflect the above, and develop in 2014 task and job descriptions in line with the proposed changes. In addition, it is strongly recommended to reconsider the composition of the BoD to ensure better representation of Butana interests, notably to include the Commissioners of the localities that make up Butana.

19. In the BDA, at present only the Director is employed on a permanent basis, all other staff in the

BDA has a temporary contract. If the BDA intends to become a genuine sustained organisation it should have a (core) staff of permanently employed staff. For the BDA, this would lead to an organisational structure with at least the following staff: Director, Financial Controller, NRM Officer, Fundraising and Business Development Officer, and Support Staff. The annual budget required to run the BDA in a sustainable manner is estimated at some SDG 1,171,000. The BDA should soon start to arrange for its own funding. The mission, in close cooperation with the Director of the BDA, suggests this is possible along the lines detailed in the Working Paper, attached to this Aid-Memoire. The BDA should not receive direct funds from the BIRDP after 2016 anymore, and is to start on an ambitious fund raising programme in 2014 aiming at full funding as of 2016, targeting the following prime sources: **1.)** Federal Government, **2.)** Localities (share of grazing taxes), **3.)** Overhead on projects implemented under responsibility of the BDA, **4.)** Direct billing of BDA staff to projects, **5.)** Generate income through business activities and **6.)** Other sources. This would need substantial effort by the BDA Director assisted by a Fund Raising Officer as well as by the Board of Directors. The above ideas will be further developed and investigated in a business plan to be developed by BDA.

20. **1.3.2 CBOs: Community organization** remains central to BIRDP approach. Accordingly, a large number of community-based structures have been created around the management of natural resources. The most important of these community-based structures are Community Development Committees (CDCs). 140 CDCs have been established during the 2009-2013 period. An apparent feature in 2013 is the increased representation of women in these committees; i.e. representation of women in CDCs %: - 2009, 30%; - 2010, 32%; - 2011, 32%; - 2012, 32.7%; - 2013, 34.7%. Progressive and appreciated efforts have also been made in the legalization and registration of CDCs. 22 CDCs have been fully registered in 2013 with additional 19 CDCs due to complete the process of registration. Classification of CDCs by effectiveness show that 16.4% were classified as very good, 31.4% as good, 27.9% as moderate and the remaining 16.4% as weak CDCs reflecting the need for more concerted efforts to build the capacities of these organizations targeting the effectively weak and moderate ones. The formation of networks of CBOs focusing on the management of range and forest resources is a big achievement that is likely to set the base for scaling-up which is already taking off in some communities.

21. **1.3.3 Markets:** Five livestock Markets have been constructed by the project in Abu Deleig (Khartoum State); Tamboul (Gezira State); El Rattagga (Kassala State); El Soubagh (Gedarif State) and; El Dammar (River Nile State) constructed by the locality. The markets visited demonstrated increased revenue generated from these markets; a situation that resulted in change of management of the markets namely from contractors to localities. In addition, small businesses have started to emerge around these markets, where management mode has changed. It is worth mentioning that the previous low income and poor management, which the localities attributed to the private sector management, might actually be the result of poorly structured and managed process, in the past, of recruiting the management contractors and subsequently poor contract management on the side of the localities themselves. Realizing the importance of accessibility to local markets for rural livelihoods, the women of Um Hatab village and its surroundings in River Nile State have developed the initiative to establish a primary livestock market in the area and a piece of land has been allocated for that purpose. The mission recommends support and follow up for the realization of this important initiative.

22. **1.3.4 Others** (e.g. Govt. Partners): The project has managed to foster and maintain mutually beneficial partnership with a wide range of partners from diversified government institutions particularly at local and State levels. However, the mission noted that one of the apparent limitations of the Project is its failure to establish partnerships with other actors outside the domain of government, particularly civil society organizations, especially those who are advocating and articulating demands for environmental accountability and socially informed natural resource governance. Project's active engagement with such groups is an essential entry point for generating wide and informed social discourse on natural resource governance. Owing to their rich and varied experience with communities professional civil society actors could also be capitalized on by the Project as important service providers, especially training. Mapping of the various actors and understanding of what they are doing is recommended as an essential step towards the realization of that purpose.

23. **1.4 Knowledge Management (KM);** Knowledge management gained due attention during 2013. This involved training of five project members on KM and sharing through Karianet KM; participation in a number of KM and sharing events such as Knowledge Share Fairs. The project KM portal was revised and developed with technical support across the Kenana Online Portal. The number of visitors for Project Window on Kenanaonlin.com web site increased from 10,660 in Feb 2013 to 13,954 in 30th Nov 2013. Number of items was also posted in MENA knowledge base. Examples include: success stories in terrace cultivation, multiplication of range seeds, forest guards, paravet services, women farms, community water management, guar cultivation and community mobilization to enhance management of natural resources. However, the mission noted the need for exerted efforts to enrich the website through the uploading of project successful stories and community indigenous experiences in natural resource management and conservation of nature.

24. **1.5 Capacity building and Technical Assistance;** Development Teams (DTs) constituted by SCU staff received important capacity building training in 2013. This involved training on maps images and monitoring NR information, water harvesting, proposal and report preparation, training and facilitation skills, participatory approaches, communication skills and team building, strategic planning, knowledge management, and leadership. However, the mission noted that some capacity gaps still exist, particularly in areas of strategic planning, report writing and data analysis; a situation that raises legitimate questions about the quality of the training provided. The mission recommends articulated soliciting of professional training service providers to ensure provision of quality training and capacity building undertakings by the project.

25. **1.6 Studies, Pilots, Research:** Some studies were conducted in 2013. The first on Botulism animal disease focusing on causes, symptoms, impact and treatment and was conducted by one of the project staff.

26. The other study, on natural resource governance in Butana, was a one month study conducted by an external consultant, recruited by the project for stocktaking of some of the existing case-studies related to community management of natural resources. The mission judgement that the presentation falls extremely short of informing the processes of NRM policy development. The study is void of sufficient analysis, policy guidance, and recommendations that would inform the envisaged framework for natural resource governance in Butana.

27. A quality study was conducted regarding the Butana milk value chain namely milk production, milk collection, processing and marketing in Butana⁷. Contrary to the design document, it is now clearly shown that limited surplus milk is available in the BIRDP targeted area. The recommendation to invest in strengthening and up-grading the indigenous milk processing (ghee, cheese) through individual and women groups having surplus of milk was welcomed.

28. **1.7 Young Professionals Programme, etc.:** Very little had been achieved in bringing up or making use of the potential capacities of young professionals. The mission had the impression that the process is largely an ad hoc process lacking articulation of a clear plan covering a learning route besides the absence of recognizable proper procedures for engagement of young professionals and their entitlement. This is an area that needs considerable scope of improvements.

Component 2: Natural Resources Management (Water, Range, Forest, Vegetable, Fodder and Agriculture Crops); **Outcome: Improved Natural Resources management** (range, forest, vegetables, crops. This component was assessed as **(5) Satisfactory** and consisted of 3 sub-component namely **2.1** Water infrastructures, **2.2** water harvesting and **2.3** Wadi crossings⁸.

⁷ **Reference:** 'Study on milk collection, processing and marketing value chain in Butana', October 2013, prepared by Omar Hassan El Dirani; BIRDP Livestock and Marketing Consultant in cooperation with Sadig Osman Animal Production Extensionist and Abd Allah Abbas; Animal Health Extensionist, Gezira SCU (Ruffaa), Ms. Ghada Hago Mohamed Ahmed; Animal production Extensionist and Ms. Omeima Mohamed Musa Animal Health Extensionist Abu Deleig, Khartoum state SCU, Ms. Nagwa Abd Allah, Animal production Extensionist, El Dammar, River Nile State SCU, Omer Ali Idriss, Animal Health Extensionist, Kassala SCU (New Halfa), Ms. Bidour Ibrahim Ahmed Animal production Extensionist, El Gedarif SCU (El Soubagh), Butana Integrated Rural Development (BIRD) Project, Component 3: Livestock and marketing development.

⁸ Outsourced to sister project Rural Access Roads (RAP). Regarding progress made, reference is made to Aid Memoire of Supervisory Mission RAP of December 2013.

29. Activities under **2.1 'Water Infrastructures (hafirs, water yards for people and animals)'** received due attention in line with the MTR recommendation of taking water supply as an entry point. In total 23 (46%) (outcome) of the planned water yards, hafirs, cisterns, and/or dams were constructed or rehabilitated while a total of 59% (71) of the set project target (120) was achieved. In certain cases the drinking water problem is addressed by other agencies (UNICEF, CDF, etc.) or even by the State authorities (Gezira, Khartoum). Delays were mainly caused by land disputes, site non-suitable for hafir construction, postponement by National Water Corporation to inspect the facility, community, Locality and/or State (e.g. Gedarif, River Nile) not having fulfilled their contributions/commitments, etc. In terms of **outcomes**, considerable time of women and children is saved due to availability of nearby drinking water sources, increased participation of women in Natural Resources Management and other activities, less expenditure for purchasing water, while water sources itself contributing to development of businesses as the water yards in particular have generated substantial revenues. For 2013, 11 communities (225 persons) were involved in repair and maintenance of drinking water facilities. Training of water management committees' members, in partnership with CDF, is on track (90% for 2013).

30. The activities under **2.2 Water harvesting** (per Agro-ecological zone for forage, forest, fodder, vegetables and crops) were better coordinated, while full payment for farm machinery services for older (2009, 2010) communities and partially for those who joined in 2011 and 2012 was successfully introduced. In particular, for improving the terraces (establishment of subsidiary bunds locally known as *Kawajreeb*), the demand and adoption rate (beyond targeted communities) is high; for 2013 14,343 feddan have been covered, benefitting 1,643 HHs, while cumulative achievements are (2009-2013) improved 65,782 feddan; benefitting 8,070 HHs. Chisel plough⁹ adoption was less impressive (about 500 HHs out of 1,643 HHs which have adopted the improved terraces, make use of Chisel plough). The implementation team argue that they lack a by-law limiting the utilisation of wide level disc. It is the mission impression that the teams in charge need to focus more on conservation agriculture as it helps increase soil fertility through coverage (mulching), crop rotation, inter-cropping, crop spacing, etc.

31. Through improved terraces, HHs managed to return to self-sufficiency in sorghum grains (local or improved variety¹⁰), but diversification of crops in terms of non-cereals remains low albeit the necessity of crop diversification has turned a cross cutting issue in all routine work. The driving forces for focusing on crop diversification are decline in productivity of sorghum as principal crop, the fluctuating rainfall, the spread of weeds such as in Gezira (*Striga hermonthica*), the switch to livestock as an alternative production mode, which means high demand for fodder, etc. are all drivers that would encourage fe/male farmers to diversify their crops. For example, the high rate of scaling up amongst Households particularly by cultivating cluster bean (*the miracle of Guar*¹¹) was reported in ALdrehan village in Gedaref State from 2 HHs with 16 feddan in 2012 to 25 HHs and 1,100 feddan in 2013 bringing the land under cluster bean to 25% out of the total cultivated land by the villagers (the other cultivated crop is sorghum only). This case of ALdrehan village reflects tendency amongst fe/male farmers to diversify their crops. Also compartmentalization of terraced farms by inner bunds (*Kawajreeb*) have encouraged farmers to introduce leguminous fodder crops (*Clitoria*) making use of the new land put under improved soil moisture.

32. The number of activities which have been implemented under this component are: - Improvement of Wadi cultivation (1,525 feddan covered, benefitting 188 HHs (8% Female Head HHs¹²); cumulative achievement above 100%); - irrigated agriculture (flood, mitra and sprinkler irrigation, supplementary and home garden irrigation) of which 16 systems were installed in 2013, benefitting 300 HHs (201 Female Headed HHs) of 17 communities. These activities generate in general good results with the cost – benefit provides a good return to labour.

⁹ Partly due to competition of track use for range, forest and crop, relative high costs of Chissel plough compared to other types of mechanised ploughs.

¹⁰ Yield increases ranges from 2 sacks (180 kg) per feddan to 11 sacks (990 kg) per feddan.

¹¹ Successful introduction of Guar or cluster bean (*Cyamopsis tetragonoloba*) is an annual fodder legume. It is also known as Gavar, Guwar or Guvar bean. Guar as a plant has a multitude of different functions for human and animal nutrition.

¹² Female access to and control over land is limited but through gender sensitisation certain States made breakthroughs such as Gedarif and River Nile where respectively 183 female headed HHs (4%) and 85 female headed HHs (2%) benefitted.

33. Communal female managed irrigated gardens have generated good results especially where women are well organised; usually in small plots per group of five persons. Another successful activity is irrigated vegetable production, from women farms, which turned lucrative (okra, cucumber and pumpkin) when HHs had good access to the market. Net returns of surplus sales of 1,700 SDG, 6,000 SDG and 3,000 SDG were obtained in respectively in Al-Rigail -, Ab Jarad – and Surooj Manana communities. Much variation is however observed with the level of community organisation playing a critical role.

34. As per the MTR, the Natural Resource training and extension sessions, provided to the communities are apparently more in line with the needs expressed by the communities and shown in the table on the right. Hay making and dry fodder storage received considerable attention in Gedaref and River Nile States,

Community members trained Subject Matter	Gedaref Year 2013	Gezira Year 2013	Kassala Year 2013	Khartoum Year 2013	Nahr EL-Nil Year 2013
Hay Making and Dry Fodder Storage	31	0	0	0	40
Natural Range Seed Collection techniques	25	0	0	0	0
Voluntary Forest Guards Orientation & Empowerment	15	0	0	16	0
Range/Vegetation Measurements	14	0	0	0	0
Tree Seed Collection & Extraction Techniques	0	0	0	0	0
Compost (organic manure) Making & Application	0	0	0	0	0
Water and Soil Conservation	0	0	0	0	0
Training on Making Sand Blocks Fortified with Cement Using Manual Machine	0	0	0	0	35
Vegetable Production	0	0	338	0	257
Water Harvesting	0	9	0	0	79
Nursery Establishment & Tree Seedling Production Techniques	0	10	0	1	0
Integrated Pest Management(IPM)	0	23	0	0	0

while vegetable production was the focus in Kassala and River Nile State, while Gezira invested much in tree nurseries and integrated pest management. Khartoum State provided the least training except for training of forest cum range guards. 43% of all participants were women and female participation was in particular high regarding topics such as 'hay making and fodder storage', 'natural range seed collection', 'range vegetation measurements', and 'vegetable production'.

35. The different activities related to communal range and forest reserves, individual range reserve, individual fodder plots (Guar, Clitoria and some Berseem), and communal fodder gardens (Guar), dual purpose sorghum (large quantity of palatable straw/stover), and production of tree seedlings at home level, received due attention in 2013 whereby adding attention for fodder conservation (cutting stage, drying, etc.) and – storage allowing development of stratified feeding systems. These activities contributed substantially to **enhancement of fodder availability** and combined with the preventative and curative animal health services, considerable improvements in growth rates, milk yield (from 0.25 litres to 0.75 – 1.50 litres per goat, per day) and reduction in mortality (up to 40%) were observed and reported. Forest cum range guards network with each other so as to scale up the range cum forest area to be covered as well as exchanging experiences. The first network of CDCs has been formed, among others, to link the different socially protected range – cum forest land.

36. The two most remarkable achievements concern the re-appearance of lost range varieties which is highly valued by the communities and triggers interest of neighbouring communities and secondly the impressive up-take of Guar as a fodder crop.

Component 3: Livestock development and marketing services; Outcome: Business and livestock markets information entities (BLMIE). This component was assessed as **moderately Satisfactory** (4) and consisted of five sub-components namely **3.1** Business and livestock markets information entities (BLMIE), **3.2** Animal feeding innovations and initiatives, **3.3** Comprehensive extension and vaccination campaigns, **3.4** Animal husbandry and management (large and small stock including indigenous poultry), **3.5** Enhancement of Pastoralism.

37. BIRDIP has remained consistent in contributing to the vaccination campaigns (in 2013, 283,086 head of animals –mainly sheep-; against Pox, PPR, HH, BQ and Anthrax) and fire-lines campaigns which are coordinated through the relevant State Ministerial agencies. The sustainability of these activities deserves however attention as the entire set-up is not sustainable. The same concerns the establishment of CBAHWs of which BIRDIP has trained as many as 174¹³; they are not formally linked to a veterinarian for referral, advice and supervision, while not all States have yet accepted this form of para-vets (i.e. Khartoum State). Currently, Khartoum State has 52% female CBAHWs, 40% in

¹³ In 2013, 51 new CBAHWS were established of which 22 were women. Female CBAHWS are nowadays more appreciated by the communities as female CBAHWs remain to stay while male CBAHWs often are involved in seasonal off-farm work as agricultural labourer, shepherd or in mining, etc.

Kasala State, 39% in River Nile, 32% in Gazera and of Gedarif State this record was not clear. In total, more than 14,503 cases were treated of which the majority of the cases were in River Nile (5,735) and Gazera State (7,403), records of Gedaref were not present, while Khartoum State had 740 cases and Kasala 625 only. Considerable differences can be observed. Some CBAHWs as well as communities worked on combating external parasites in particular ticks.

38. Regarding the goat re-stocking and goat cross-breeding, the teams have a better grip on the former and would only work on re-stocking when there is sufficient potential for obtaining fodder. The cross-breeding is turning less popular as the cross-breed does not any longer fetch a higher price in the market, while communities and development teams observe considerable increase in milk yield of the desert goat due to feeding dry Guar, which is a real milk boasting crop. Monitoring the performance of the goat cross-breeds remains crucial so as to obtain meaningful data.

39. Year around feeding approaches and linking feeding practices to animal stratifications (late pregnancy ewes, early lactating ewes, breeding for twins, etc.) has been initiated by the different teams; i.e. - the utilisation of fresh and dried leguminous plants (Guar, Clitoria, etc.), - sorghum residues (chopping, application of molasses where available), and local concentrate making. The improved feeding practices are particularly applied for goats, which are kept by women and to a lesser extend for sheep. Fine-tuning the rations with green or dried leguminous fodder is planned as the interest among both women and men is high. One State has made efforts to understand the local practices of backyard poultry. Commercial layer production has a niche market namely in few cases where the egg price is extremely high namely Subagh (due to cold mining), but in other cases the margin is highly competitive and needs economies of scale. BIRD and SCU teams realise the importance of interacting with all users of Natural Resources in Butana, but communicating, interacting and reaching out to nomadic groups who access the grazing areas on seasonal basis, is not yet developed. The SCU team in Gedarif State has however made a start to reach out to transhumant groups in 29 hamlets; i.e. - provision of animal health services, facilitating solving of disputes regarding access to water and rangelands.

40. The implementation of the ambitious slaughterhouse plan as designed by BIRD participants who participated in the learning route on livestock marketing in Kenya (2012) lags behind due to difficulties in adequate involvement of the private actors (formal and informal butchers), commitment of the relevant Administrative unit not fulfilled and time constraints as effective facilitation requires time, consistency and skills.

41. **Component 4: Community Development & Business Options; Outcome:** Community-based groups are empowered and business-oriented. Achievements as per planning for 2013 are presented below. The mission assessed the progress of this component as '**Satisfactory**' (5). It consisted of various sub-components namely **4.1** CBOs Organisation and Management Training, **4.2** Social Skill Training, **4.3** Business promotion projects Community Development projects, **4.4** Training of Trainers Community based extension workers (Development Community-based extension cadre: CBAWs, Water Committee's, range – and other local extension agents). The below presented overview shows in a nutshell that female leadership, monitoring and evaluation at CDC level, attention of animal health and income generating activities, and social skills building formed core activities in 2013.

Table 1: Results for the Community Development Activities in 2013

Output	Unit	Year 2013		
		Planned	Achieved	
Component 4. Community Dev. & Business Options		No	No	%
1. Community trained in Score Cards and used it as an evaluation tool	Community	5	15	300
2. Groups with women in leadership position	Group	70	208	297
3. Households receiving animal health services (RIMS) facilitated by the project	HH	1,200	3,113	259
4. Women and men trained in income generating activities	No	330	710	215
5. Pers. receiving social skill trainings	No	1,500	2,613	174
6. Rate of disbursement of CIF	%	27	35	130
7. Persons involved in the repair, maintenance and development of Hafirs/dams/water yards	Persons	183	225	123
8. Social infrastructures constructed/rehabilitated (health centers, schools, storage, community centre, etc.)	Infrastructure	15	18	120

Output	Unit	Year 2013		
		Planned	Achieved	
Component 4. Community Dev. & Business Options		No	No	%
9. Community organizations registered	Organization	20	22	110
10. Community Village Plans formulated	Village Plan	140	140	100
11. Trainer of Trainer (ToT) training	Training	5	5	100
12. Community agents of mature communities actively involved in scaling up of best practices/activities	Agent	30	30	100
13. Community initiatives implemented	Initiative	30	29	97
14. Household benefiting from community initiatives	HH	600	557	93
15. CD groups formed/reviewed	Group	700	601	86
16. NRM groups formed/reviewed	group	500	408	82
17. Integrated Pest Management Agents (IPM)	Agent	30	23	77
18. Men Members of the CD groups.	Person (♂)	8,451	6,320	75
19. Meetings held by CDCs and decisions taken	Meeting	1,410	1,027	73
20. People trained in post-production, processing and marketing	No	300	210	70
21. Community radio listening group formed	Group	15	10	67
22. Women and men belonging to groups	No	13,293	8,484	64
23. Gender empowerment training sessions delivered	Session	140	77	55
24. Women and men trained as Paravet	Person	112	51	46
25. New CAHWs trained	no	112	51	46
26. Women members of the CD groups.	Person (♀)	4,842	2,164	45
27. Community networks formed	No.	4	1	25
28. Communities involved in the repair, maintenance and development of Hafirs/dams/water yards	community	61	11	18
29. Local and national NGOs involved in scaling-up best practices/activities	NGO	5	0	0
30. Rapid results initiatives achieved	No.	3	0	0
31. Scaling up and planning workshop	Workshop	5	0	0
32. CBAHWs received activity and advanced training (business, CARDA manual, etc.)	no	35	NA	-
33. Average increase in revenue generated by women and men CBAHWs	%	10	NA	-

42. Regarding overall outcome for the year 2013, BIRDP and the SCU teams have been far **too ambitious regarding their planning of 2013** as by the end of September only about 42 % of the annual budget was utilised; Expenditure in Component 1: Policy and Institutional Building 41%, 42% in Component 2: Natural Resources Development, 38.4% in Component 3: Animal Resources Development and 44.5% in Component 4: Community Development and Business Options. Main reasons provided were: - over estimation of the costs, and - unrealistic planning, while in a few cases it concerns delays in community, locality or State contribution or otherwise.

43. **4.1 Community-based groups are empowered and business-oriented:** The establishment of community-based groups was completed in 2012. The total number of effective interest groups in 2013 was 601 groups out of which 408 are natural resource-based groups and 193 are special women groups related to adult education, community initiatives and nutrition groups. Women representation in the interest groups increased from 34% in 2011 to 43% in 2013 reflecting a remarkable interest and involvement of women in the social and economic life at the community level. The mission established that many of the interest groups, particularly women groups have become particularly business oriented with strong sense of self-realization and empowerment. Involvement of women in a wide variety of small businesses, especially food stuffs, at the level of the project targeted villages has become a reality of everyday life in these villages. To be effectively empowered and to access formal credit institution these groups should be registered and legitimated. This is an immediate task to be facilitated by the project in 2014.

44. **4.2 CBOs Organisation and Management Training:** Capacity development of community-based organizations received due attention in 2013. In class and on the - job technical and managerial training was provided. Such training course included: meetings on management, management of CBOs, monitoring of community based interventions, seedlings cultivation, integrated pest management, management of water sources, etc. Appreciating the directional positive change observed at community level the mission recommends the continuation of capacity development with especial targeting of communities that are lagging behind.

45. **4.3 Social Skill Training:** This involved adult education, first aid training and nutrition training.

Adult education specifically targeted women who expressed considerable appreciation to these classes that also serve as public fora for women besides its impact on their school children. Women participation in CDCs has also been significantly enhanced. One of the main limitations of adult education training is the failure to attract men. Out of the total 1311 persons who attended classes, men accounted for only 2.3%. Shortage of adult education teachers is another challenge that needs to be addressed by the project in collaboration with adult education administration in the localities. First Aid training was also described by communities as being highly valuable in areas that suffer acute shortage of health services. The need for expanding the programme was stressed by most of the communities visited by the mission. Training on basic nutrition and food storage expanded significantly in 2013 in comparison with previous years. Besides contributing to the emergence of small business-oriented group, the training was described as contributing to nutrition of children while encouraging women participation in the different project interventions. The demand for more intensive training was expressed by both men and women. Scaling-up of these businesses by linking these groups with formal credit institutions is recommended as an important undertaking by the project in 2014.

46. **4.4 Business promotion projects Community Development projects:** The pre-MTR main focus on animal restocking through Community Initiative Fund (CIF) has been changed resulting in support of diversified initiatives and improvements in the implementation of the CIF. This is evident in the increase number of initiatives in 2013 to 29 initiatives compared to the total of 36 initiatives over the previous years. Of the main new initiatives introduced in 2013 were gas units (LPGs and cookers) and grain storage facilities. The repayment of these two initiatives at the time of the mission ranged from 85% to 63%. Business promotion projects in 2013 focused principally on women farms where 24 women groups with total number of 475 members were supported. Although intended as a food security mechanism women farms contributed to increased income at the household level, establishment of women saving groups and enhanced capacities of women to manage small businesses. The mission noted that such women projects have huge potentialities for scaling-up and hence needs to be more energetically supported and facilitated.

47. **4.5 Training of Trainers Community based extension workers:** With exception of animal health workers (51 trained in 2015) the number of those trained and capacitated as local extension agents in 2013 is limited, only 23 agents constituted by integrated pest management agents, 10 midwives who started their work in the communities, and 9 female literacy agents. The progress in midwifery training, although at high demand in the project villages is constraint by local culture that restrict the movement of women, especially for long time, outside villages. Facilitation mechanisms/options to facilitate need to be thought. The work of community animal health worker CAHW is also constraint, particularly in Khartoum State by the rejection of authorities to legitimize the work of CAHW. This is a long pending but critical issue.

Agreed action	Resp.	Date
v. Develop roadmap defining and leading to governance framework (achieving objective one)	BDA Dir., BIRDP	2014
vi. Appoint full time senior policy officer within BIRDP, to be assisted with short consultancy	BIRDP	2014
vii. Develop vision and strategy for BDA ¹⁴	BoD	2014
viii. Separate APWB and progress reports for BDA and BIRDP	BoD, BDA Dir., BIRDP	2015
ix. Adapt mode of operation of BDA management, and develop job and task descriptions accordingly	BoD, BDA Dir.	2014
x. Reconsider composition of BoD	BoD	2014
xi. Venue of BoD meetings twice/year within Butana region	BoD	2015
xii. Adjust organisational structure BDA and employ staff on permanent basis	BDA Dir. with approval by BoD	2014, 2015
xiii. Arrange for sustainable funding and income generation after 2016	BDA Dir., BoD	2014, 2015
xiv. Appointment of BIRDP Animal Production Officer ¹⁵ and specific training on animal production and – health to be conducted including exposure visits for Livestock and Animal Health Professionals.	BIRDP,	Immediate

¹⁴ Regarding the recommendations related to BDA, consult Annex 1 'Working Paper Working paper 1: Institutional Strengthening of the Butana Development Agency'.

xv. Promote and support the existing gender role in milk production and marketing and indigenous/local knowledge in processing in areas with a surplus of goat and/or cow milk through appropriate training programmes on milk processing (on ghee – and cheese making, etc.) and provision of suitable and affordable equipment.	BIRD, SCUs	AWPB 2014
---	------------	-----------

D. Project Implementation Progress

48. The overall project implementation has been assessed as "**Moderately Satisfactory**" (4). Overall, planning, reporting and monitoring remain areas of concern. Regarding planning, the hardly 50% expenditure by the end of the third quarter clearly shows that on the one hand a more realistic planning approach is needed, while on the other hand, improved communication and coordination so that plans can be implemented as scheduled.

49. For example, the mission noted that many adult males leave the communities for considerable part of the year, a fact which delays activities or disrupt continuity. Taking this seasonal migration into account in planning is important whereby also bearing in mind that there are plenty of *de facto* female headed HHs.

50. Reporting at the SCUs level has improved and some teams manage to provide simple analysis, including cases to reflect impacts or effects. However, at BIRD level there is still plenty of room for improvement in terms of the analysis, flow of report, relevant and correct data presentation, etc. At that level, there is a need for more focused attention to quality of monitoring including specific longitudinal monitoring; e.g. goat cross-breeding, changes in range reserves, etc., should continue so that the collected data could be used as a mean to improve planning, to reflect and to learn. It should be mentioned here that compared to the MTR, the data presented to the mission have improved fairly.

51. Being gender sensitive and aiming at gender transformation remains a big challenge. Although participation of women at community level keeps increasing and women show tremendous dynamism and commitment, the SCUs teams are not necessarily gender sensitive. More effort at the SCUs is needed to accommodate women colleagues through flexi-hours, etc. In addition, gender is still much perceived as having female and male participants with little focus on details of household dynamics; namely men and women have bargaining and negotiation powers within the household, in the community, etc. These dynamics can be influenced without distorting the social fabrics. It was also jointly observed that as women own goats and backyard poultry and have access to home kept sheep and a cattle, attention for agriculture benefits relatively more the men. Focusing on home based livestock remains therefore a priority.

Agreed action	Resp.	Date
xvi. It is recommended to organise a quality gender training for SCU teams, including preparing a gender action plan per State.	BIRD	2014
xvii. Monitoring and evaluation should develop towards a mean to plan, reflect and learn and less a mechanical instrument to provide so called RIMS I and II data.	BIRD team incl. SCUs.	2 nd Quarter, 2014

E. Fiduciary Aspects

52. **Financial management:** The finance and administrative team has appropriate skills and experience. The accounting system adopted by the Project assists in proper budgetary control of the different projects managed by the BDA. The system is designed so that it generates reports such as, withdrawal applications (WAs), statements of expenditure (SOE), special account reconciliation statement (SARS) and periodic expenditure reports (by category, by component and by financier) compared to annual budget. It also generates the register of contracts which needs further improvement and the contracts payment form. The system has enabled unification and harmonization of project accounts. The Project financial management is considered **satisfactory (5)**.

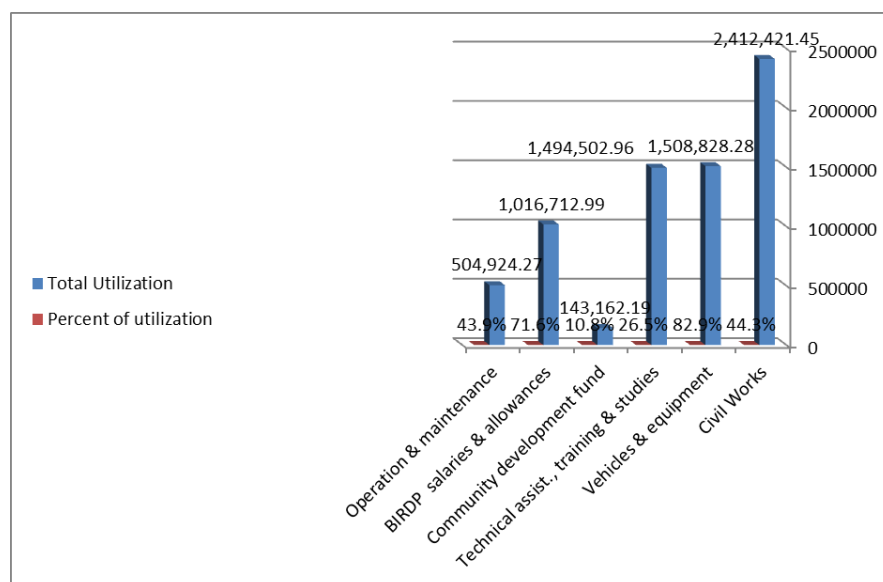
¹⁵ Considering that one of the short-listed and interviewed candidates is a female, it is advisable to apply positive discrimination as most animal production members of the Development Teams are women while also some of the Veterinarians. The bulk of the animal production work is related to goats, backyard poultry and dairy cows, which are normally home based and cared for by women.

53. **Disbursement:** Disbursements from IFAD Loan up to September 2013 are SDR 8,289,491, including the initial deposit. This amount represents 49% of the total Loan amount. Forty two WAs have been processed until the above mentioned date with two of them not deposited to the project account. The project estimates that the disbursement up to the year-end would be estimated at 51% of the total loan amount. Disbursement for BIRDP is considered **moderately satisfactory (4)**.

54. The mission reviewed the documentation of two SOEs (WAs 40 and 42) on sample basis. The review showed that proper documentation is being kept for the claimed disbursements.

55. **Loan utilization and remaining funds for project completion:** Disbursement of IFAD Loan 717-SD up to end of year 2013, including forecast for last quarter of the year, is SDR 8,541,183 (51%) with the remaining balance is SDR 8,258,817.

Figure 1: Loan utilization by category of expenditures



56. **Disbursement of Project Funds against Allocation:** Actual disbursement/utilization, by disbursement category, from Loan funds for BIRDP are shown in figure on the right, from project inception up to September 2013.

57. **Counterpart funds:** The flow of counterpart funding (GoS) has improved slightly. During the year 2013, cash amount of SDG 1,135,000 (48% of commitment for the period) was transferred to the project account from the federal government. Federal Government's contribution to date is 74% of their envisioned total financing at appraisal. The ratios above do not consider the MTR adjustment of GoS contribution. The mission requests that BDA/BIRDP management should modify the accounts and the financial reporting system to reflect the adjustments made at the MTR, and that the Government of Sudan would increase their contribution to match these adjustments.

58. While the yearly and project total financing plan includes amounts that are deducted at source such as custom duties on imported vehicles, the project accounts and the financial report do not reflect such amounts. Accordingly, the actual government contribution and percentage is slightly higher than the amounts mentioned in the above paragraph. The project justification for not including these amounts in their financial reports is that no supporting documents thereto have been provided by the government. The State Governments and Beneficiary contributions to date are 17% and 15%, respectively of what was envisioned at appraisal. Counterpart fund flow is considered **moderately unsatisfactory (3)**.

59. **Compliance with Grant Covenants:** Performance against loan covenants is still considered **moderately satisfactory (4)**. The project implementation manual (PIM) draft has been completed by BDA and will be submitted to IFAD for review. The implementation agreements between the State Governments and the Localities have not yet been finalised.

60. **Procurement:** This year witnessed the first thorough procurement follow-up to be carried out for IFAD financed projects in Sudan including BIRDP and RAP as earlier missions focused much

more on the financial management aspects. At the time of the mission, procurement practices were considered **moderately unsatisfactory (3)**, given the project management commitment to improve. It has to be mentioned that during earlier missions, not sufficient guidance was provided regarding the ongoing procurement practices and this has been part of the reason for the above assessment. Training and follow-up will be conducted in the future to ensure improvement of the ongoing practices for all ongoing projects. It is reported that some steps have been taken to correct some of the weaknesses, however, much more remains to be done. Overall, the Project faces a number of challenges in the management of the procurement function.

61. The Central Co-ordination Unit (CCU) is contracted to assist the project to execute procurements which attract the International Competitive Bidding (ICB) or National Competitive Bidding (NCB) methods. While NCB's and ICB's are conducted at the CCU level, the practices of procurement at this level suffer from the following weaknesses: i.) poor and outdated standard bidding documents have been used, ii.) Evaluation methods do not conform to what is listed in the bidding documents, iii.) Evaluation (points system) methods are unacceptable as they could yield subjective results, iv.) The standard parts of the documents are being changed from one procurement to another, v.) Non-compliance with the right practices for ICB such as international advertisement. In September 2013, IFAD has agreed with the MoFNE and the CCU that new standard bidding documents, which are issued by the MoFNE in Arabic for NCB should be used. The CCU informed IFAD that they started implementing this reform. The CCU is urged that the procurement practices as mentioned in the bidding documents should be followed.

62. While the efforts of the project are appreciated and acknowledging the fact that not enough capacity building was provided, lack of capacity is the single most important issue and, all the interlocutors with whom the team met cited the lack of capacity and skilled personnel as a great impediment to conducting sound procurement. Lack of understanding of key procurement principles is manifested and is also an impediment to conducting sound procurement in the project. It is recommended that the CCU should be strengthened to provide backstopping for procurements that are done at the level of the PCU. In the meantime IFAD will be fielding procurement support missions more regularly.

63. The Mission noted that although some key players in the procurement process were generally aware of the existence of IFAD's Procurement Guidelines, few knew the regulations and very few appeared to be conversant with the actual contents and specific procedures of the procurement regulations. The result is that most procurement is not carried out in accordance with the prescribed regulations.

64. The Mission examined the procurement cycle as carried out by the project. In almost all instances, the Mission found deviations from the procedures prescribed in the regulations due to lack of knowledge to follow proper procedures. In many cases, ad-hoc alternative procedures were used, reflecting lack of knowledge to follow proper procedures.

65. The specific operational weaknesses observed in the execution of the procurement function in the project include: i.) **Procurement planning needs improvement.** While the attempt to prepare Annual Procurement Plan was good, the contents of the previous years' plans need a lot of improvement to qualify as a real procurement plan. The plan simply lists the budgeted items as per component, lacks consideration for appropriate packaging / aggregating of various common procurements. Goods, Works and Consultant Services are mixed. Therefore in its present form, the plan cannot be used for planning, forecasting, organizing and scheduling procurement activities. IFAD has shared a new template to be used for the 2014 procurement planning; ii.) **Excessive use of the Shopping method** due to splitting of procurements; iii.) **Excessive use of Direct Contracting and Single Source Selection Method of procurement**, in particular for Selection and Employment of Consultants; iv.) There is a need to improve **a filing and record-keeping** and; v.) **Contract administration system** to ensure that suppliers, contractors and/or consultants perform in accordance with the terms and conditions specified in the contract.

66. Back in September, 2013, the MoFNE and IFAD discussed that the CCU should be strengthened with one more procurement officer to allow provision of guidance and capacity building in the field of procurement to the projects' PCU's. A procurement manual for procurement methods that are commonly applied at the PCU will be developed and shared with the projects. IFAD will be fielding on temporary basis bi-monthly / quarterly procurement missions to the different projects to provide trainings to the different PCU's. It was agreed as well that after strengthening the staffing of

the CCU, it will provide backstopping to the PCU with regard to procurement activities to be carried out at that level.

67. **Audit:** The audit report for the year 2012 was issued with an unqualified opinion. However, it did not include a separate opinion on the SOE. The audit report was submitted late compared to IFAD requirements. As such audit exercise for the year 2012, is considered **moderately satisfactory (4)**. Following is the response of BDA management to the audit observations and recommendations:

68. Audit recommendations for previous year -2011- were implemented except for the approval of the project by-laws, which have been submitted as a unified proposal to MOFNE since 2012, through CCU, yet no approval could be secured. For the 2012 the project response to audit recommendations for BIRD- is as follows:

Table 2: Status of Audit Recommendations

Ref	Audit Recommendation	Clarification/Reply/Progress made
5.1.a/1	All contracts should be authenticated by the legal advisor	The project started to have large value contracts authenticated by an advocate
5.1.a/2	All purchases should be based on purchase and contracts article 33/1	The incident referred to pertains to a contract in the amount of SDG 37,990 for providing doors/windows for BDA buildings. This was based on previous experience with the supplier. Based on the observations and the audit recommendations in year 2013, the project is now adopting proper procurement procedures. This is incorporated in the purchase module of the accounting software –the project is using.
5.1.b	The project should create a post with clear job description (logistics assistant)	Since the post is not part of the project structure, it could not be created. However, the logistics assistant is government staff assigned to the project and the project is paying him topping in line with SCU staff arrangements
5.1.c/1	All technical limitations of the system should be eliminated through on-line connection to project units	Most of the technical issue regarding the accounting system will be addressed in 2014. However, communication problems still limit on-line connections at some project SCUs
5.1.c/2	The in-kind contributions from the communities should be evaluated and added to their contribution.	The method for calculating in-kind contribution by communities/state governments is incorporated in the project accounting system. As such, similar contributions shall be reported in 2013 reports.
5.1.c/3	Concession on tax and customs by GoS should be included in GoS contribution toward project disbursement	The project is in continuous follow up with MOFNE to provide documentation for such concessions –with no luck so far. The project will continue follow up on the issue.
5.2.a	Regular replenishment to the special account (SA) by eligible expenditures under IFAD funding.	Although suspension of IFAD funding is due to factors beyond the project control, the project acknowledges the importance of having the SA regularly replenished –as a measure to reduce repercussions of such events- and the project is now working on that.
5.2.b	All financiers of the project should adhere to their contributions in the project budget	BDA and the project BOD continue to follow up on co-financing to the project. This has resulted in a slight improvement in GoS remittance in 2013. The project will continue such follow up in the future.
5.2.c	Direct payments to suppliers/service providers made by co-financiers (Kassala State) should be documented and included in sources of financing	This has been solved by having co-financing deposited as a pre-requisite for implementation of activities requiring such financing.
5.3.a	Project is to re-open a special account at SFB Hiesahiesa Branch to reduce high bank charges on fund transfers	The project SA account was initially opened in the SFB Hiesahiesa Branch and moved to the current bank on directives from the Central Bank of Sudan (CBoS). The project has requested MOFNE to reinstate the SA to SFB, but the request was rejected.
5.3.b	Payments to suppliers/service providers should be made against final commercial invoices stamped by tax authorities	This practice was made due to lack of GoS contribution to meet VAT. Now the situation has improved especially with improvement of GoS contribution.
6.SCU-K	Vacant post at SCU Kassala should be filled by government agents – Range/Forestry	State government assigned a forestry agent to the project and no need is seen for range agent – range activities do not warrant recruiting an agent
6.SCU-Gz	The SCU at Gezira State should play its full role in supervision, monitoring and training of water communities in finance and management	The project has started training for water committees, by a task force that includes specialists in finance and management. The Gezira SCU is carrying out its monitoring function regularly

Ref	Audit Recommendation	Clarification/Reply/Progress made
	The project should investigate procurement of land levelling equipment. These machines were found inadequate and were never used since they were procured	BDA is proposing to have suitable tractors in 2014 to operate these lands levelling equipment, to be financed by GoS; otherwise BDA would get rid of the levellers

69. **Administrative and Assets Management:** Project administrative and assets management is considered **satisfactory (5)**. Vehicle Management: The project has a fleet of vehicles comprising station wagons, pick-ups, a truck and a tipper, which are assigned to BDA and the SCUs. The project maintains a log book for individual vehicles to monitor vehicle movement and fuel consumption. A monthly report is prepared for each vehicle including, in addition to the above, vehicle repairs/maintenance, tyres/batteries purchased and major repairs. A further improvement is to analyse vehicle mileage, with regard to travel from/to the field and other activities to determine vehicles use and suggest improvements.

70. **Heavy equipment** in BIRDP is kept either at BDA HQ or at SCUs as follows: i.) Equipment at BDA are; wheel excavator, motor grader, tipper and Mitsubishi truck. These equipment are used exclusively for pilot project activities and are not earning any revenue; ii.) Equipment kept at SCUs are; tractors/equipment (ditcher, terrace former, disk harrow, chisel plough and scraper), back-loader and mobile clinic. Back-loaders are used exclusively for pilot project activities and mobile clinics are in particular used for vaccination campaigns. Both back-loaders and mobile clinics are not earning any revenue. Tractors and agricultural implements are used for project activities and for community scaling-up activities; thus, generating revenue on scaling-up activities. The project is charging benefiting communities; i.e. fees for services on up-scaling activities at 50% and 100% of market cost respectively, depending on when the community joined the project activities. The former for new communities and the latter for the older ones. The revenues generated from services provision for scaling-up activities are used to finance items such as tractor drivers' wages, cost of fuel/oil/lubricants, allowances for field supervisors and field agents. Any excess revenue over cost is put aside for maintaining/replacement of the equipment. This is applicable only where there is high demand for the service. Otherwise, it is not generating enough income to cover its costs.

71. **Stock and Inventory Management:** As the project organogram does not provide for a post of storekeeper, the project is not maintaining stocks of stationeries and other consumable items. Such items are purchased on need only. However, the project is keeping a record of all fixed assets at the different project units. The assets register is being updated on bi-annual basis to record additions of new items. The project conducts annual physical inventory check to ensure existence of and physical status of assets. A recommendation for improvement would be, to establish a coding system for assets and tag individual assets with respective codes. It is also recommended to tag the list of items in custody of individual staff members at their specific rooms.

72. **Personnel Management:** The project is maintaining personnel files for individual project staff members, at the BDA. The individual files contain employment contracts, job descriptions, CVs/copy of certificates, attendance sheets, and leave taken/leave balance. The SCUs are keeping parallel files for individual SCU staff members.

	Agreed action	Resp.	Date
xiii.	Capture the tax and custom exemption in the accounting system	Gov/ FM/ Accountant	June 2014
xiv.	Include MTR recommendations with regard to funding from government in the reporting system	FM/ Accountant	
xv.	Follow up vigorously with state governments and beneficiaries to meet co-financing targets in the appraisal and MTR	BDA	
xvi.	Provide government contribution timely, including VAT contributions.	MoFNE	2014
xvii.	Update the inventory, tag the list of items in custody of individual staff and codify all assets	Gov/ FM/ Accountant	April 2014
xviii.	Analyse vehicle mileage, with regard to travel from/to the field and other activities to determine vehicles use and suggest improvements.	Gov/ FM/ Accountant	April 2014
xix.	Update to fix the problems in the contracts register form of the accounting system.	CCU/PCU/ GOV	immediately
xx.	Continue the use of the agreed upon Ministry of Finance Standard Bidding Document (SBD) for NCB.	CCU	immediately
xxi.	Adhere strictly to the evaluation methods, listed in the new SBD. Discontinue the use of the points system for works and goods contracts in all projects.	CCU	immediately

	Agreed action	Resp.	Date
xxii.	Apply international advertisement to all ICB's	CCU	immediately
xxiii.	Start using the new template for the procurement plan and update them regularly over the year	PCU/BDA	immediately
xxiv.	Strict adherence to IFAD guidelines with regard to shopping and selection of consultants	PCU/BDA/CCU	immediately
xxv.	Reduce frequency of use of shopping procedures, through reducing splitting of contracts as practical	BDA/PCU	immediately
xxvi.	Reduce frequency of use of single source selection / direct contracting. Such proposals should be included in the procurement plan; subject to IFAD no objection. No direct contracting should be used unless explicitly listed in the procurement plan that received no objection.	BDA/PCU	immediately
xxvii.	Based on past and current assessments; address the CCU human, institutional and organizational backstopping needs	IFAD/GOS	30/03/14
xxviii.	Provide practical training, specific to Procurement Planning, Contract Management and management of the Shopping method of Procurement to the concerned staff. This should be done continuously by means of short-term technical assistance	IFAD/GOS	30/01/14
xxix.	The CCU to be strengthened with an assistant procurement officer to provide procurement backstopping to the PCU as needed		
xxx.	Provide Procurement Implementation Support	IFAD	quarterly intervals
xxxi.	Appoint one person at the level of assistant Procurement Officer to manage the Procurement function	BIRDP	15/04/14

F. Sustainability

73. The mission assessed sustainability as '**Moderately satisfactory**' (4); the targeted communities have the potential to sustain their activities, among others reflected by their eagerness to conduct business and generate funds to sustain and expand their outreach. Provision of services can partly be taken over by the on-going development of a local extension cadre, but as of now the services of SCUs and BDA/BIRDP cannot be sustained post-project. The approach (referring to design document) that '*BIRDP will provide front line staff in the State MAARI and agriculture and range departments in the Localities with the equipment and skills to respond to community needs, build community management skills, and monitor the results of the project on local livelihoods, environmental re-generation, and financial sustainability of services provided*' is rightly perceived as unrealistic, among others, due to lack of cadre and operational budget at Locality level.

74. Delayed agreement on a harmonized framework for the governance and management of natural resources and the emergence of BDA as an evolutionary and strategic agency form the major constraint. Governance of NRs is however not a stand-alone problem with respect to Butana but a feature also observed in sister IFAD projects such as SUSTAIN and WSRMP. It deserves concerted efforts of MOA/IFAD to address this issue.

	Agreed action	Resp.	Date
xxxii.	Sustaining community and extension services post-BIRDP deserves attention whereby taking into account the limitations of relevant Ministries to reach out at large.	BoD, BIRDP,	2014
xxxiii.	As the governance of Natural Resources is not a stand-alone problem as acknowledged in the recently approved COSOP (2014-2016), IFAD Sudan should consider playing a facilitating role in addressing it.	IFAD Sudan	2014

G. Other

75. **Project Impact.** A community-led evaluation study facilitated by BIRDP on **impact of drinking water supply** revealed that communities ranked increase in water quantity, saving of time and increase in child school attendance as the highest impacts of water supply facilities. The full list is shown in the table below.

Table 3: Benefits of water supply facilities as per people's set criteria and assessment		
Indicator¹⁶	No. of Communities (out of 15)	Average Scores (range: 1- 5)
Increase in Water Quantity	11	4
Increase in Saving of Time in Water Collection	6	3.8
Increase in School Enrolment & Attendance	4	3.8
Short Trekking of Animal for Watering	10	3.7
Improvement in Efficiency of Water Functional Subcommittee	8	3.6
Better Performance of Water Source Operators/Fees Collectors	8	3.2
Less Effort in Water Collection	6	3.1
Less Consumption of Wood & Thatch in Building of Dwellings and Construction of Thorny Fence for Fodder Storage	14	3
Increase in Trees Planting out in Living & Public compounds	11	2.6
Increase in Revenue and Return from Water Source	9	2.6
Increase in Land under Fodder & Vegetable Production	4	2.4
Barbed Wire(Metallic & Green Fencing)	7	2.3
Improvement in Personal Hygiene & Public Health	10	2

H. Conclusion

76. BIRD has grown stronger in terms of achievements at community level, capacities and commitment of the Development Teams (SCUs) and governance of natural resources (range – and forest reserves at community level) by communities. BIRD keeps perceiving objective one as something which can be achieved through working with the communities, while MTR, current SM as well as wise men in the Communities stress the importance of working on NR policies for Butana and related framework for Governance; i.e. communities did express their concern regarding uncertainties concerning land use in particular the common NRs. Achievements made at field level can easily be overruled / put aside by Federal or State laws such as Investment Law. It is important that the project team would be strengthened with a policy officer.
77. The development of BDA and BoD remains behind as both tend to function as a project management team and – steering committee respectively. The current set-up is not sustainable and should be treated urgently.
78. Monitoring and evaluation functions need to be strengthened and reporting should be improved further.
79. Procurement practices at the PCU level need major improvement. Training will be provided but BDA management should be aware that they need to have well trained people carrying the procurement. Single source and shopping should be avoided and procurement plans has to be improved and respected.
80. Supplemental financing to the project is pertinent to showing progress in the policy component, sustainability of BDA, and fiduciary aspects.
81. IFAD and the Government of Sudan endorse the findings of the supervision mission.

¹⁶ These indicators were identified & grasped by the communities during focused group discussions.

Appendices and Annexes

Appendix 1	Summary of Project Status and Ratings
Appendix 2	Summary of key actions to be taken with agreed timeframes
Appendix 3	Financial: Actual financial performance by Financier; Disbursements by Category and by component
Appendix 4	Compliance with Loan Covenants: Status of implementation
Appendix 5	Physical progress measured against APWB, including RIMS indicators
Appendix 6	Updated logical framework indicating progress against objectives, outcomes and outputs
Appendix 7	Knowledge management: Learning and innovation
Annex I	Working paper 1: Institutional Strengthening of the Butana Development Agency by consultants Runs Verstappen and Omer Egemi
Annex II	Working paper 2: Fiduciary Aspects by Mr Elfadul Ishag, ICO Programme Support Officer
Annex III	List of people met
Annex IV	Itinerary
Annex V	Wrap-up presentation, project level, Monday 16 th December, 2013

Appendix 1: Summary of project status and ratings

Basic Facts							
Country	Sudan			Project ID	1332	Loan/DSF Grant No.	717
Project	Butana Integrated Rural Development Project				Top-up Loan/DSF Grant		
Date of Update		18-December-2013					
Supervising Inst.		IFAD/IFAD					
No. of Supervisions	5	No. of Implementation Support/Follow-up missions		5			
Last Supervision	20 December 2013	Last Implementation Support/Follow-up mission		12-Jun-2013			
						USD million	Disb. rate %
Approval	14-Dec-2006			Total financing		29.85	
Agreement	16-Feb-2007	Effectiveness lag	19.0	IFAD Total		24.80	
Entry into force	07-Jul-2008	PAR value		IFAD loan		24.80	40
First disbursement	Dec.2008			DSF grant			
MTR	26-Sep-2012	Last amendment		IFAD grant			
Original completion		Last audit	22-Sept-2013	Domestic Total		5.05	
Current completion	30-Sep-2016					0.77	9
Original closing						1.06	16
Current closing	31-Mar-2017					3.23	61
No. of extensions	0			External Cofinancing Total			
Project Performance Ratings							
B.1 Fiduciary Aspects		Last	Current	B.2 Project implementation progress		Last	Current
1. Quality of financial management		5	5	1. Quality of project management		4	4
2. Acceptable disbursement rate		3	4	2. Performance of M&E		4	4
3. Counterpart funds		3	4	3. Coherence between AWPB & implementation		4	4
4. Compliance with financing covenants		4	4	4. Gender focus		5	5
5. Compliance with procurement		4	3	5. Poverty focus		5	5
6. Quality and timeliness of audits		5	4	6. Effectiveness of targeting approach		4	4
				7. Innovation and learning		4	5
				8. Climate and environment focus		-	4
B.3 Outputs and outcomes		Last	Current	B.4 Sustainability		Last	Current
1. Community development & Business Options		4	5	1. Policy and Institution building (BDA, CBO, etc.)		3	3
2. Animal Resources		4	4	2. Empowerment		4	4
3. Natural Resources Management		5	5	3. Quality of beneficiary participation		5	5
4. Policy and Institution Building		4	4	4. Responsiveness of service providers		4	4
				5. Exit strategy (readiness and quality)		4	4
				6. Potential for scaling up and replication		4	5
B.5 Justification of ratings: In line with the June support mission findings, the current SM subscribes the observations made: multidisciplinary approach is in place, - DTs (SCU) with the exception of Kasala State, stabilised, matured and showed improved capacities. The June 2013 awarding of an additional point for respectively 'Poverty focus' (back to 5), 'Exit strategy' (from 3 to 4) and 'Quality of beneficiary participation' (from 4 to 5) remains valid, while 1 additional point provided for 'Community development and Business Options' (from 4 to 5) and 1 for 'Potential for scaling up and replication' (from 4 to 5). Communities turn business oriented (e.g. regarding fodder, bread, water, tree seedlings, etc.), BIRDIP managed to charge full costs regarding utilisation of farm machineries (except for communities which started in 2011, 2012), while networking among forest cum range guards							

formation of networks of CBOs focusing on range and forest protection and development of local extension cadre are a reality setting the base for scaling-up which is already taking off in certain communities. Institution building (BDA, CBOs, etc.) remains 3 albeit CBOs are doing well but this has been rewarded by B3- 1. Main reasons remain the lacking behind on the 'Framework for Governance of Butana' and 'Strengthening the BDA'. In particular, the Framework for Governance of Butana is grossly affecting directly the 'exit strategy' and indirectly 'empowerment'; i.e. local laws and by-laws can easily be overruled when an overall framework is not in place; - empowerment is constraint by uncertainties regarding land use (investment law can displace communities, for instance). 'Quality of project management', 'Performance of M&E' and 'Coherence between AWPB & implementation' remained 4 as there is considerable scope for improvements. As BIRDP as well as DTs managed to be more demand driven and dared to work out solutions with the communities (see appendix 7: Knowledge management: Learning and innovation), an additional point has been provided. As there is an understanding in place regarding 'Climate and environment focus', which was not given a score earlier, the SM provided a 4. The home tree nurseries, forest, range and fodder production activities contribute to increasing adaptation and reducing vulnerabilities.

Overall Assessment and Risk Profile (remain as per previous mission)		Last	Current
C.1 Physical/financial assets		4	4
C.2 Food security		4	5
C.3 Quality of natural asset improvement and climate resilience			4
C.4 Overall implementation progress (Sections B1 and B2)		4	4
Rationale for implementation progress rating. The project, particularly under component 2 and 4 are on track towards achieving most of its outcome targets with various outstanding results (fodder conservation, social protection of forest and range and the related networks, CDCs and their businesses, local extension cadre, etc.), and without doubt several targets will be exceeded by the end of the project. Already the project is making visible breakthrough in women participation, although DTs need more gender training so that they pro-actively can contribute to gender transformation. In addition, the developments of livestock markets and livestock information systems are on track while the handing over of the management to Administration or Locality authorities is promising. Animal production lacks behind due to delays in recruitment of staff. Albeit the fact that livestock health services do generate considerable results (reduced mortality rates), the services are currently not sustainable (vaccination campaigns, CBAHWs not part of a referral system, etc.), while enhancement of pastoralism did not yet received sufficient attention. However, under performance is observed regarding the key activity under component one, 'Policy and Institution Building', namely 'development of an improved governance of natural resources' which should lead to achieving specific objective one. Among others, this is due to not recruiting a policy expert while hiring a substandard policy consultant. KM, YP, Studies, Technical Assistance too, remain areas with scope for improvements. One additional point provided for 'Food security' as community organisations and their activities considerable contribute to food and nutritional security; i.e. communal women farms, individual vegetable gardens and nutritional extension sessions provide a direct impact as long as access to drink water is secured.			
C.5 Likelihood of achieving the development objectives (section B3 and B4)		4	4
Rationale for development objectives rating. BIRDP is effective in two (2 and 3) out of the three objectives and the implementation is largely on track. Yet, the results in the development of the governance system for NRM and regulation of access to open grazing areas are still weak and lagging behind the design target. The marketing infrastructure and management improved but the slaughterhouse pilot has not taken off yet. Women (River Nile State) request for primary livestock market deserves attention.			
C.6	Risks Short description of major risks for each section and their impact on achievement of development objectives and sustainability		
Fiduciary aspects	Procurement practices at the PCU level need major improvement. Training will be provided but BDA management should be aware that they need to have well trained people carrying the procurement. Single source and shopping should be avoided and procurement plans has to be improved and respected.		
Project implementation progress	The inter linkages of the different components and sub components have considerably improved post-MTR and as a result more synergies and complementarities are developed to achieve improved livestock centred livelihoods, to build resilience to drought and reduce vulnerability. In this regard, considerable and tangible results are expected in 2014.		
Outputs and outcomes	Major risk remains 'Framework for governance of NR in Butana' not timely in place. Promising developments at field level cannot easily be sustained if adequate NR policies, laws and acts are not in place.		
Sustainability	Risk: delayed agreement on a harmonized framework for the management of natural resources. Emergence of BDA as an evolutionary and strategic agency is a prerequisite for an exit and sustainability plan.		

Proposed Follow-up			
Issue	Recommended Action	Timing	Status
BDA	MTR recommendation 'BIRDP to recruit a senior policy expert/facilitator taking the lead in the process of developing a coherent framework for governances of Butana's natural resources' remains pending.	immediate	Not addressed
Animal Production	Recruitment of a pro-poor oriented animal production/animal health specialist to strengthening the BDA/BIRDP remains pending. Ideally, positive discrimination should be applied towards female candidates. Animal production and Veterinarians of SCUs need appropriate training and exposure including regarding backyard poultry.	immediate	On-going

Proposed Follow-up			
Issue	Recommended Action	Timing	Status
SCU & BIRDP Teams	Need adequate internet access so that Skype conferencing can materialise, up - and down loading information on Karianet -, BIRDP –and other website, etc. made easy. In addition, adequate gender training resulting in gender action plan per State deserves high priority.	immediate	New

Additional observations

The recommendation related to up-scaling in particular regarding NR related activities namely from mother villages (target communities) to satellite villages is getting shape, while access to water for people and animals is addressed by all teams albeit difficulties regarding the partnerships in place. This is commendable.

The development of BDA as development institution does not yet receive the attention it needs; separating function of director and coordinator of projects, development of strategy, business orientation, etc. As it received specific attention during the current mission, the related Working paper (annex one) needs to be consulted so as to achieve a breakthrough.

Follow-up mission should provide attention to 'strengthening the BDA', 'development of road map for development of Framework for governance of NR in Butana', and 'learning event on indicators'.

Appendix 2: Updated logical framework: Progress against objectives, outcomes and outputs

Narrative	Indicators –gender and HH disaggregated-	MTR Target ¹⁷	Means of Verification ¹⁸	Risks/Assumptions
Goal: Improve in a sustainable manner the livelihoods and resilience to drought of the poor rural households	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Number of households that have improved food security - Decrease in child malnutrition, among boys and girls (RIMS)¹⁹ - Increase in household asset base, by type of household (RIMS) - Number of persons receiving project services by gender (Target: 40,000 pers). 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - RIMS baseline and impact surveys - UNICEF MICS survey. 	Continued political and macro-economic stability.
Development Specific Objectives: 1. Establishing a coherent and cost effective governance framework that ensures a regulated access to land and water resources of the Butana;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Legislations, laws and by-laws enacted and enforced - Number of communities with registered community range/forest/pasture/water resources committees - Decrease of dispute cases over natural resources solved at community organizations level. 		Incremental support of Federal Government to BDA Bench mark setting (surveys) for new and old indicators ²⁰ Inter -, State and Locality State legislation	CCI Assessment: BL, MTR and PCR CCI data analysis as per MTR recommendations Lack of coherent cost effective governance framework and strategic vision for the development of the Butana region Resistance to Inter State harmonisation of laws, by laws overcome Political will in place
2. Improving the access and bargaining position of women and men in the marketing;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Decrease in transportation time and cost to market and social services - Increase in animal off take (livestock markets) - Increase in the No of traders (livestock markets) 		Longitudinal ²¹ Market and Livestock surveys	Agriculture and Livestock sector performance improves in the national economy (GNP and balance of trade)
3. Developing the capacity of community-based organizations to engage in environmentally sound, socially and gender	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - % of women and men who have access to the markets - Increasing CCI value - % of women participating in decision making 			

¹⁷ Post MTR Targets; existing targets remain valid unless indicated.

¹⁸ It is difficult to keep each source exactly in line with corresponding indicators, while some indicators refer to same source. In my view it is not needed to distinguish each source related to indicator. Normally a general listing of main sources of verification is provided.

¹⁹ All RIMS indicators are indicated in red. These are standard indicators which cannot be modified.

²⁰ It is proposed to conduct simple surveys (last quarter 2012/first quarter 2013) to check on benchmarks for all relevant indicators but in particular concerning the new ones. Later we keep referring to this activity as 'see bench marking'.

²¹ Longitudinal implying that it will be done at regular intervals; regarding markets it will be done as part of the LMI System, while livestock surveys are done 1/yr. by SCU.

Narrative	Indicators –gender and HH disaggregated-	MTR Target ¹⁷	Means of Verification ¹⁸	Risks/Assumptions
equitable development initiatives and management of natural resources.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> structures No of HHs benefitting from the CIF and ability to manage the revolving funds and business options 			
Component 1. Policy and Institution Building²²				
Outcome				
An enabling governance framework is developed for natural resources management in Butana	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Policies, Strategy, Laws, By-laws established and enforced. No of interstate partnership/agreement established for NRM management Effectiveness of NRM Conservation Plans Likelihood of Sustainability of Market facilities 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environmental monitoring system Info on State and Inter State regulations Livestock and market surveys 	Continued Government decentralization policy Focal points (Fed./State) pro-active
Activities (Outputs)				
1.1. Legislation for NRM 1.2. Policy & Strategy 1.3. Institutional Development building <ul style="list-style-type: none"> BDA CBOs Markets (see indicators under 3) Others (e.g. Govt. partners) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gaps in existing laws and by-laws identified and addressed Number of Environmental Plans formulated Area (Ha) of land under improved management practices (range, forest; individual and communal areas) No of local NRM regulations and by-laws established at community level. Share of federal budgets allocated to BDA No of cost-recovery based services provided to communities by BDA and earning generated No of CBOs partnerships established Number of markets rehabilitated/constructed fully functional No Market services established Number of performance based contracts with market operators 	Highest priority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Court records State progress reports Proceedings/Minutes of meetings/workshops/people forums/dialogues/etc. Revised and new State and inter State legislations BDA annual budget Progress & annual reports, minutes (State Ministries: Agri/Animal Wealth) 	BDA Role is perceived only as an implementing agency and not as a strategic Development Agency BDA does not become financially self-sufficient Conflicting function of BDA director and TL of BDA projects addressed
1.3 Knowledge Management; 1.4 Capacity building ²³ (Development Teams),	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Simple BDA KM strategy developed Number of locality staff and private operators trained 	10 YP ²⁴ 10 GP ²⁵ BIRDP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Technical Assistant contracts and reports, BIRDP -, MENA -, IFAD 	Incentives provided to those individuals / Development Teams pro-active in domain of KM

²² Direct Project Management and State Coordination Units left out.

²³ All capacity building at community level is placed under component 4.

²⁴ Young professional.

²⁵ Good Practices documented.

Narrative	Indicators –gender and HH disaggregated-	MTR Target ¹⁷	Means of Verification ¹⁸	Risks/Assumptions
Technical assistance; 1.5 Studies, Pilots, Research; 1.6 Young Professionals Programme, etc.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No of studies/research undertaken on NRM - No of young professionals successfully benefiting from young professional progr. - No of innovations, learning process, pilots/trials documented by the Project - Extension materials and handbooks produced - No of items postings in MENA knowledge base and IFAD website 	Web-site	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Website content - Good Practice NOTES - Extension materials - Training Manuals - Annual report BIRDP 	
Component 2. Natural Resources Management (Water, Range, Forest, Vegetable, Fodder and Agriculture Crops)				
Outcome				
Improved Natural Resources management (range, forest, vegetables, crops)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Effectiveness and sustainability of water infrastructure (drinking water for people, animals) - Savings in SDG for the poorer households' purchase of portable water. - Amount of money invested in repair and maintenance and development of domestic water facilities - Increase in yields of subsistence, cash, food, dual purpose and fodder crops (irrigated, rain-fed) - Effectiveness of NRM plans - Increased carrying capacity of the range - Savings in SDG on smallholders' purchase of feed in the dry season - % of decrease in time and frequency of tracking animals outside the area (open Butana grazing, irrigated areas along Atbar river and Kasala area) - Number of women and men adopting technology recommended by the project (i.e. beyond demonstration/outcome); area covered, amount invested, etc. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Annual Impact Assessment - Community organization reports - SCU reports - Benchmarking (see above) - Cost – benefit analysis - Reports on trials and pilots 	In case of extended drought, national drought coping mechanisms are in place
Activities (outputs).				
2.1 Water Infrastructures (hafirs, water yards for people and animals)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No of Drinking Water Systems constructed/rehabilitated (Water yards, Hafirs, Cisterns, Dams) - People trained in water infrastructures management 	106 (post MTR: 52)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Environmental Monitoring System - Quarterly reports - Programme training and 	<p>Compartmentalization approach of the extension team (against multidisciplinary).</p> <p>Engineer (jointly with RAP) in place for</p>

Narrative	Indicators –gender and HH disaggregated-	MTR Target ¹⁷	Means of Verification ¹⁸	Risks/Assumptions
2.2 Water harvesting per Agro-ecological zone for forage, forest, fodder, vegetables and crops	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Land under improved management practices (covers below 1-7) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Area under modified traditional terrace cultivated 2 Area under improved depression cultivation 3 Area under contour ploughing 4 Type of irrigation system installed and commanded area (incl. women gardens/farms) 5 Community irrigated shelterbelts & woodlots 6 Area under sand dune fixation 7 Area under improved range and forest management including protection - People trained in water harvesting and related plant and land management (regarding above mentioned 1-7) - Increased contribution of locality/state/communities to fire line construction (i.e. 4000 km / annum) - Length of fire lines (km) and area protected (feddan) 	20% above target set	Extension activities plus lists of attendance	<p>supervision of 2.1</p> <p>All farm machinery of BDA used effectively and efficiently</p>
2.3 Wadi crossings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Other productive infrastructures constructed (Wadi Crossings) 			Outsourced to Service Provider of RAP
Component 3. Animal Resources				
Outcome				
Improved animal health and animal productivity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No of calving/lambing/kidding rates (large and small ruminants) - % of (cattle, shoats) animal mortality rate (young stock, adult) - % decrease in mortality rate traditional poultry systems - Decrease in market transportation costs during the rainy season 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Community organization reports - Household survey - Project progress reports - Bench mark setting (livestock / other surveys) - Flock and Hen card records - State animal vaccination and health reports - Programme training and Extension activities plus lists of attendance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Backyard Poultry taken up as important activity for women - Reaching out to nomads (seasonal herders) feasible

Narrative	Indicators –gender and HH disaggregated-	MTR Target ¹⁷	Means of Verification ¹⁸	Risks/Assumptions
Activities (Outputs)s				
3.1 Business and livestock markets information entities (BLMIE)	- No people trained in livestock production technology	5 BLMIE	- Quarterly progress reports. - Extension/paravet reports - Performance assessment reports of CAHWs	Change in the mentality of the communities and adoption of the cost-recovery approach.
3.2 Animal feeding innovations and initiatives	- No. of women and men accessing (livestock) extension services			
3.3. Comprehensive extension and vaccination campaigns	- No. of business and livestock market information entities established, operational and financially sustainable			
3.4 Animal husbandry and management (large and small stock including indigenous poultry)	- No of producers and traders benefitting from LIMS			
3.5 Enhancement of Pastoralism	- No of facilities/services available in market places (including for women)			
Component 4. Community Development & Business Options				
Outcome				
Community-based groups are empowered and business-oriented	- Effectiveness/Sustainability of CDC groups - Effectiveness/sustainability of service providers - Rate of implementation of the community development plans		- Community organization reports - CDC assessment - Bench marking (see above)	
4.1 CBOs Organisation and Management Training	- Number of CD groups formed; Number of NRM groups formed - Number of groups with women in leadership position - Number of women and men members of the CD groups. - Number of community organizations registered - Community Score Cards - No of meetings held by CDCs and decisions taken - Number of women and men belonging to groups - No of Community Village Plans formulated - No. of gender empowerment training delivered	+20% (through up-scaling)	- CDC meetings minutes - Training attendance sheets - Village profile - Records of CDC, CBOs, Groups, Extension agents, - Quarterly progress reports - Records on business enterprises and revolving fund management - Activity reports of community extension agents	Up-scaling happens by making use of drivers, champions and spaces created/available Delay in CBOs legalization at State level. Model of preparing and working with community extension agents appreciated by development teams
4.2 Social Skill Training	- No of social infrastructures constructed/rehabilitated (health centres,			

Narrative	Indicators –gender and HH disaggregated-	MTR Target ¹⁷	Means of Verification ¹⁸	Risks/Assumptions
	<p>schools, storage, etc.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No of pers. receiving social skill trainings - No. of communities and participants involved in the repair, maintenance and development of Hafirs/dams/water yards - No of local and national NGOs involved in up-scaling activities 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Performance assessment reports (CAHWs, others) 	
4.3 Business promotion projects Community Development projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Number of women and men trained in income generating activities. - Rate of disbursement of CIF 			
4.4 Training of Trainers Community based extension workers (Development Community-based extension cadre: CBAWs, Water Committee's, range – and other local extension agents)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No. of TOT training - Number of women and men trained as paravet - No new CAHWs trained - No of CAHWs received activity and advanced training (business, CARDA manual, etc.) - Average increase in revenue generated by women and men CAHWs - No of Integrated Pest Management Agents - No of community initiatives implemented - No of community agents of mature communities actively involved in up-scaling activities - No of people trained in post-production, processing and marketing - No households receiving animal health services (RIMS) facilitated by the project 			

Appendix 3: Summary of key actions to be taken within agreed timeframes

Core recommendations & Agreed Action (as MTR, 2012)	Resp.	Agreed date	Action taken to date (Nov. 2013)
i. Strengthen the BDA so that it can truly operate as a lead agency for the development of Butana.	BoD, Dir. BDA, BIRDP, Fed. Govt.	Immediate	The BDA has submitted a proposal approved by the BOD to MOFNE (October 2013) for financing under year 2014
ii. Provide first priority to facilitating the process of developing a coherent cost effective governance framework that ensures a regulated access to land and water resources in the Butana.	BoD, Dir. BDA, BIRDP, SCU	Immediate	a. Five introductory workshops were held at states level , the objectives of these workshop are to: 1- Inventory of legislation related to natural resources. 2- Developing insights on legislation related to natural resources. 3- Preparing a proposal for follow-up mechanism of the workshops recommendations as well as mechanism for the implementation of the legislation that regulate access to land and water resources in the Butana. b. BDA conference was initiated and started by one forum at locality level including community leader's native administration community leaders' native administration and CBOs representatives. The main findings of this forum the customary laws are being enforced as they were envisaged and endorsed by the communities
iii. In terms of focus and orientation, invest in community development, operate as multi-disciplinary team and take water supply and – harvesting as the entry point.	BoD, Dir. BDA, BIRDP, SCU	Immediate	1- Most DTs by now operate as multi-disciplinary team as guided by weekly and monthly staff meetings. 2- In the AWPB for 2013 and 2014 that the two sub-components (water infrastructures and water harvesting per Agro-ecological zone for forage, forest, fodder, vegetables and crops) are the entry points for realizing development at community level. This is being revitalized through focussed discussion with the interest groups.
iv. Facilitate the establishment of the business and livestock markets information entities as part of the rehabilitated/constructed livestock markets as a self-sustaining integrated part of BDA.	BoD, Dir. BDA, BIRDP, SCU	Immediate	1- Training of market cadres in Tamboul, Ar-Rattaja and Abu Delaig was carried out to enhance their capacity in information collection. 2- The information system was set in a way that can address the producers and local traders in their market language and could be disseminated via local radio 3- The investment center for vet. Health, production and extension services is underway 4- Several small business /investments are flourishing beside or as the result of market rehabilitation e.g. catering services, fodder supply,.....etc.
Component 1.: Institutional Support			
v. In order to ensure quality investments in community development, the BDA requires their own professional staff. Ideally, NR and Community Development expertise should be permanently available at BDA level.	BoD, BDA,	Immediate (preparing) 2013 (take off)	Not done
vi. BIRDP to recruit a senior policy expert/facilitator who can take the lead in the process of developing a coherent framework	BoD, BDA/ BIRDP, SCU	Immediate	Announcement for the job was made. Only one applicant was potential for short listing. The project will re-announce for the post 2014.

Core recommendations & Agreed Action (as MTR, 2012)	Resp.	Agreed date	Action taken to date (Nov. 2013)
for governances of Butana's Natural Resources.			
vii. Development teams should operate as multi-disciplinary teams who can work with technology options and appreciate indigenous knowledge.	BoD, BDA/BIRDP, SCU	Immediate (preparing) 2013 (take off)	Template for monthly plan was developed and enforced ensuring mobility and the implementation of each activity in a multi-disciplinary way. e.g. application of the integrated programme of increasing milk production and offspring by the intervention of animal health and production extensists, as well as using farm terrace in production of fodder crops and the case of Ed Derayhan village (220 terrace).
viii. Development of a user friendly version of the Ecological Zonation Study appropriate for use at community and locality level and dissemination at large.	BDA/BIRDP, SCU, Study team	Immediate	As an initial phase, awareness was done for some communities describing the results and outputs of the study through meetings and introductory workshops concerning governance of the NRM in the five states. Summary of the main outputs of the study as well as the findings were shared and disseminate with different stockholders. The DTs were trained on new version of GIS and GPS applications to update and monitor the changes that occur annually compared with the results of the study.
ix. Develop capacities at the appropriate State level so that the Ecological Zonation Study can be up-dated at regular intervals, enriched with livestock information, and each step in proposed governance of NRs be assessed on its' potential effects, costs and effectiveness.	BDA/BIRDP/Study Team	Immediate	In 2014 the update of the study enriched with livestock information following animal survey and training of the rest of the DTs.
Component 2.: Agri/Range/Forest/Water Services			
x. Consolidate and enhance the terrace cultivation by installation inner contour bunds for better water control and distribution.	BDA/DTs	2013	The relevant extension agents were trained on water harvesting and in turn are started to consider this inner contour bunds in community training and application activities. Moreover, in Khartoum State 20 out of 27 covered communities are adopting kawajreeb after being introduced by the project. For instance in Um Singgid community the kawajreebs construction was introduced in 17 out of 85 terraces (20%) in 2009, while in 2013 and in the same community kawajreebs were introduced in 66 out of 112 terraces rehabilitated /constructed (59%).
xi. Training of DTs in water harvesting and conservation techniques and planning as a cross-cutting issue for all water related use and production. Also, minimize the use of wide level disc and restore the traditional sowing system			The training on water harvesting was updated (April 2013) to cover those DTs members who missed the first round and those recently seconded to the project. However this training has involved 16 participants 10 out of them from the BIRDP while the rest are from the line government departments. This training has involved all DT members who have relation with natural resources whether range, forestry and agriculture. From other hand these trained DT members have started to train local extension workers from communities on water harvesting techniques. Accordingly in 2013 about 9 and 79 local extension workers from Gezira and River Nile State respectively from communities were trained on water harvesting. In minimizing the use of wide level disc our routine extension programme includes messages with advices to explain the risk/damage resulted from using this implement and what is the available and affordable alternative. Moreover, in the five workshops (one in each state) that

Core recommendations & Agreed Action (as MTR, 2012)	Resp.	Agreed date	Action taken to date (Nov. 2013)
			were convened to elaborate the gaps and the loopholes in the existing legislations and how to address them to protect and develop natural resources, agricultural mechanization particularly with the use of this particular implement was counted and pointed out as one of the major problem that needs urgent and more effective legislations.
xii. Scaling up and out of terrace cultivation including crop diversification	BDA/DTs	2013	<p>Successful stories on terrace cultivation were being documented and routed to enhance the spread of this intervention. Also local entrepreneurship for manufacturing the suitable implements for this activity is being encouraged.</p> <p>The necessity of crop diversification is becoming a cross cutting issue in our routine works. For instance , decline in productivity of sorghum as principal crop , the fluctuating rainfall , the spread of weeds as in Gezira (Striga hermonthica), the switch to livestock as an alternative production mode which is coupled with high need for fodder, all these factors are combined to encourage farmers to diversify their crops through extensive extension methods. For example, the high rate of scaling up amongst HHs particularly by cultivating cluster bean (guar) was reported in in ALdrehan village in Gedaref State from 2 HHs with 16 feddans in 2012 to 25 HHs and 1100 feddans in 2013 bringing the land under cluster bean to 25% out of the total cultivated land by the villagers (the other cultivated crop is sorghum only). This case of ALdrehan village reflects tendency amongst farmers to diversify their crops.</p> <p>Also compartmentalization of terraced farms by inner bunds(Kawajreeb) have encouraged farmers to introduce leguminous fodder crops making use of the new land put under improved soil moisture .</p>
xiii. Use of agro-ecological zone study for selection of appropriate cropping pattern and advices regarding range, shrub and tree species and choice of water harvesting technic.	BDA/DTs	2013	<p>The DTs being behind / entrusted with the appropriate selection of the cropping system and water harvesting were part of the implementation of this study and therefore are well oriented to take over its findings .Also implementation of this study after more than three years of project life span has assisted in formulating recommendations relevant to the project circumstance , for instance , the study is substantiating/validating many implemented activities e.g. planting out of the acacia trees along terraces (Acacia seyal) in Kassala , introduction of (Clitoria ternata) on irrigated and rain-fed areas as leguminous fodder crop ,scaling up the already range reserves protected by the communities, etc.</p>
xiv. The contour ploughing cultivation should be piloted with few progressive fe/male farmers who keep livestock and aim at replacing sorghum with fodder cultivation.	BDA	2013	<p>Discussion is going on with Gedaref SCU to apply this activity and already Surooj Mana village as closed to the respective mechanized farms area is selected (either individual, communal or both types of farms). Apart from adjacency also this village has a high interest in fodder and rangeland development and protection.</p> <p>Nevertheless, the service provider, giving the intricate nature of this intervention from technical point of view as not yet well introduced, is an issue and concern for the BIRD. However, the sourcing out of this service provider is duly kept in mind hopefully to finalize with good selection before June 2013.</p>
xv. Consolidation of activities which started in 2009 -2010 by not more than year 2013, and continuing supporting communities who	BDA	2013	<p>The activities planned for consolidation are already identified and listed to pave way for better consideration with no or minimal support of the project apart from the technical package e.g. terrace improvement , introduction of clitoria , establishment of matra /irrigated farms.....etc.</p>

Core recommendations & Agreed Action (as MTR, 2012)	Resp.	Agreed date	Action taken to date (Nov. 2013)
joined the project late (2011-2012) but not to exceed year 2014. Thereafter, all component activities should be run on cost recovery basis.			Thus the cost recovery basis is now in place nearly for all productive activities with villages started with the project in 2009/2010. For example in Gezira 70 % of terraces rehabilitated (439 out of 647) were done by the project with full cost. For villages started with the project in 2011 and 2012 we believe it is early to judge on that at this stage, given the suspension/high turnover amongst staff, although this idea or recommendation is admitted to the communities to entail and create better enthusiasm with an active and efficient partnership / participation and iron out apathy and relaxation.
xvi. No rehabilitation and development work of open range land and community reserve to be put in place unless protection is first discussed and ensured from communities.	BDA	2013	This is became one of our strategy in planning and implementation of BIRDP activities/interventions and therefore was conveyed to all staff and actually now in place. Moreover, successful stories in protection of rangelands by communities were documented and circulated to others to ease adoption and scaling up. Also exchange visits by the relevant communities to these sites were organized and implemented.
xvii. The BDA should discuss and strengthen the functions and roles of DTs in monitoring (e.g. field data collection, analysis and reporting) of water supply and water harvesting interventions.	BDA	2013	A training course was implemented on proposal and report writing targeting more than half of the DTs staff of all SCUs .Thus, beside these activities, some cases particularly pertained to management of water points were documented by DTs using different methodologies in data collection and analysis with reporting as the end result after being discussed.
xviii. There where the interventions have been convincing, accordingly no more demo farms to be established, but focusing on management skills of water committees, irrigation networks, optimization, development of community extension agent, etc.	BDA	2013	No demo in most of our activities i.e. no demo for long lived/supported activities became as a strategy. Moreover, on-job training linked with frequent follow up visits are being in place to improve and strengthen the management skills of water functional committees who already received training with that meaning. For efficiency of the irrigation networks, the respective SCUs have been delegated to seek advice and technical assistance from the relevant entities at local or federal level e.g. ICARDA/FAO-financed projects.
xix. Conduct a cost/benefit analysis for the main investments made up-to-date	BDA/DTs	2013	Based on request from MTR mission already cost/benefit analyses were done for some main investments e.g. terraced farms, women irrigated farms, matra-irrigated farmetc. Nevertheless, capacity building in this area of specialty is highly needed and urgent for the staff particularly DTs and SCUs Coordinators (AWPB 2014).
Component 3.: Livestock Development and Marketing Services			
xx. Recruit a (pro-poor oriented) animal production/animal health specialist to strengthening the BDA/BIRDP team.	BDA/BIRDP	Immediate	Announcement for the job was made on 20/2/2013, 28/2/2013 and 4/3/2012. A short list of 6 applicants out of 17 applicants was selected in May, 2013. The interviews was done in 27 November 2013 and send by CCU to IFAD for no objection.
xxi. Continue with hiring the current technical services of the livestock marketing specialist so as to ensure realisation of the business and livestock markets information entities and addressing the pending livestock market issues.	BDA/BIRDP	Immediate	The current technical services of the livestock marketing specialist continued, Omer El Dirani was contracted to ensure realisation of the business and livestock markets information entities and addressing the pending livestock market issues.

Core recommendations & Agreed Action (as MTR, 2012)	Resp.	Agreed date	Action taken to date (Nov. 2013)
xxii. Study the current milk collection, - processing and – product marketing value chain, assess whether margins at each chain level are fair, review the proposed interventions (Design Report) and up-date the financial and economic analysis presented in the BIRDP design document.	BDA/BIRDP	Immediate	Study on current milk collection, - processing and – product marketing value chain assessment was done Dr. Omer El Dirani the livestock marketing specialist and the DTs at SCUs.
xxiii. Regarding finalising the physical livestock market infrastructures, tree planting –shade for animals on longer term and less dusty- and women friendliness (toilets, special gate) should be addressed.	BDA/locality authority	Immediate	Some of the facilities (physical market infrastructures) were done in some markets such as the toilets and special gate for women in Abu Deleig livestock market as well as in Al Rattaga, El Soubagh and Tamboul.
xxiv. Introducing additional fe/male CAHWs (as per target set) and invest in the well performing existing CAHWs, while also lobbying for their formal recognition as considered in the proposed legislation on privatization of veterinary services.	BDA, MARF&R	Immediate	The Introduction of additional fe/male CAHWs as per target set is an on-going process considered in the AWPB 2013 and 2014. As for the formal recognition as considered in the proposed legislation (Khartoum State-Ministry of Agric.) on privatization of veterinary services. Contacts were made with the Sudanese veterinary council commissioner who provided the project with the acts and bylaws that support the CAHWs rights in their work underway efforts to convince the veterinary authorities. All states have the formal recognition.
xxv. Keep conducting simple livestock surveys and disease mapping at regular intervals while also developing appropriate concepts of de-stocking and re-stocking (relevant for Butana area)	BDA, MARF&R	2013	Simple livestock surveys were done indicated milk production mortality but disease mapping was not done. The appropriate study on the concept of de-stocking and re-stocking relevant for Butana area will be done in 2014.
xxvi. Jointly with other members of DTs, the livestock specialists (production, vet care) should invest in enhancing pastoralism and reaching out to the nomads visiting the Butana grazing areas on a seasonal basis.	BDA/DTs	2013	The enhancement of Pastoralism and reaching out to the nomads who are visiting the Butana grazing areas was done during the rainy season in El Sobagh through the annual campaigns for vaccinations.
xxvii. Stop promotion of indiscriminate goat cross breeding but instead monitor the performance of Desert goat and Cross breed goats over a longer period of time and in a professional manner. Care is needed regarding rotation of current bucks.	BDA/DTs	2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> During 2013 no exogenous breeds such as the Damascus (Shami) goats were introduced. The animal production and health extensists were recording the performance of local Nubian/Desert goat and cross breed goats. They were also monitoring the rotation of current bucks from one community to another to avoid inbreeding depression in using the same buck for the same community. A consultative workshop was held in Rufa, Gezira state by BDA/ the 5 SCUs DTs and the consultant, On 28th. May, 2013, to discuss this issue. Recommendations of the workshop were: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue with cross breeding, but considering different issues as animal breed, origin, health, ability to manage, provision of comprehensive extension programmes. Because of the good performance of F1 and F2.

Core recommendations & Agreed Action (as MTR, 2012)	Resp.	Agreed date	Action taken to date (Nov. 2013)
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A comprehensive evaluation should be done on stages; adaptation, disease resistance, fertility, offspring conditions etc...Moreover, continue with the evaluation of BIRDIP interventions to monitor results and to avoid influencing factors that lead to deterioration of production. ○ Some of positive practices of introducing new blood – in confined areas- introducing new extension packages, drenching, weighing, classification techniques, exchange of bucks, selection criteria etc. ○ The projects should exert interventions in terms of recording, classification and follow up via ear tags. ○ Gene survey for goats genetically potentials (if were not tried by MARF&R). ○ Focusing in goats feed is mainly to increase the nutritional value of the existing ingredients. ○ Convene training programme for goat producers on breeding and genetic issues and selection of different buck samples from different generations. ○ Research work at the field level on goat management through selected producers from the 5 SCUs. In addition to refreshing training courses to establish a database.
xxviii. Convene a Workshop to share the experiences made and lessons learnt regarding containment of <i>Abu Regeiba</i> disease (Botulism).	BDA/DTs	2013	<p>A workshop was held on the 27th. May, 2013 in Rufa, Gezira state to share the experiences made and lessons learnt regarding containment of Abu Regeiba disease (Botulism), the recommendations of the workshop were :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrate political, executive and technical efforts to find remedies of Abu Regeiba control. • Recommending the importance of vaccination issue against Botulism and promote for it at different levels especially at higher authorities to provide the flow of the vaccine in the right time. • Training programmes for SCUs animal health and animal production extensions in laboratory diagnosis, animal feed and nutrient requirements and feed proximal analysis. • Document success stories and local knowledge applied by producers and subject them to scientific research. • Perform field scientific research on: • The feasibility of using Berseem (Alfa alfa) and Di-calcium phosphate in Botulism control in sheep in Gezira state. • Identify types and varieties of grasses and fodder in Butana region that facilitates the control of Botulism disease in the region. • Investigate the level of carbohydrates and proteins in the animal body in relation to the incidence of Botulism disease in Butana.
xxix. Facilitate the development of pro-poor livestock policies in the 5 Butana States or a simple inter-State one.	BDA/BIRDIP	Immediate	Consultative workshop will be convened in Rufa in 2014. Mainly to set priorities of the pro-poor policies (The pro-poor livestock policies are multidimensional issues: pro-poor livestock policies could encompass water policies, nutrition policies, feed policies, food policies energy policies etc... The consultative workshop invitation will cover local leaders, NGOs and CBO,

Core recommendations & Agreed Action (as MTR, 2012)	Resp.	Agreed date	Action taken to date (Nov. 2013)
			Government officials and the BIRD Project senior officers and DTs.
Component 4.: Community Development			
xxx.In terms of financing options (community investments e.g. irrigated women farms/gardens) linking communities to accessing Micro Finance institutions should be encouraged.	BDA	Immediate	Awareness and messages regarding encouragement of communities to benefit from micro finance institutions were already done through the DTs extension works. Although the collateral needed according to the bank procedures (family bank) made the access of communities so difficult as in Nahr Elnil but linking women groups with one of micro finance institutions was achieved in Asubry community in Kassala State where 4 women groups (each of 10 women) formed as saving groups. These groups submitted proposals to the development institution in the State Ministry of Finance to be funded through the productive families program, the requests accepted and expected to receive fund during December 2013. In year 2013 ABSUMI started the scaling-up phase and selected Butana region i.e. BIRD for its scaling-up program in 2013-2014 period, memorandum of understanding was signed between the Agricultural Bank of Sudan (ABS) and BIRD to establish ABSUMI unit in Abu Delia
xxxi.In terms of drinking water and other social entities (community centre), it is essential to follow the common approach of tripartite sharing arrangements; i.e. state, locality and community contributions are to be pre-requisites for any kind of project support	BDA/ Locality/ State	Immediate	The tripartite agreements and community contributions were set and planed as one of the project strategies for AWPB 2013, 2014. In all social services (community centre, water resources) established, rehabilitated or constructed during the period Oct 2012-2013, the locality and community contributions were provided before the project support.
xxxii.Regarding the CIF, it is recommended to widen and open up the fund for any kind of community initiative that contributes to the project objectives and generates its capital investment to be used by CDCs for further Revolving Fund activities.	BDA	Immediate	All community investments now agreed to be financed under CIF, communities were got aware that fund under CIF was opened up for any kind of initiatives that are economically and environmentally sound and socially acceptable. Therefore a number of community initiatives (apart from animal restocking) were already funded, e.g. gas units, grain storage, mataras pumps, poultry ...etc.
xxxiii.As the core of BIRD concerns development and sound management of NRs and animal production, adequate use should be made of reputable national institutions such as SECS; SDA; NGOs and at state level NGOs such as Ma'an in Gadarif state that could provide all kind of necessary training at grass roots level	BDA	Immediate	With exception of Sudanese Red Crescent, no NGOs were directly engaged in the training programs at community level. Nevertheless some NGOs in Kasala State, Um Gumees community, were heavily involved in different activities including training.
xxxiv.The Development Teams need more training in participatory / strategic planning, participatory M&E, team building, team management and working in multi-disciplinary teams.	BDA	Immediate	The Development Teams were trained in different subjects focusing on participatory approaches , team building and team management, e.g. 1 All DTs members trained in training and facilitation skills (TOF). In addition to methods and facilitation skills this training focus strongly on participatory approaches , communication skills and team building, strategic planning, knowledge management, leadership and many other subjects that were identified during the application of training

Core recommendations & Agreed Action (as MTR, 2012)	Resp.	Agreed date	Action taken to date (Nov. 2013)
			<p>skills.</p> <p>2 About 50% of DTs members were trained in proposals and report writing as part of M&E needs and the others will be trained during year 2014.</p> <p>3 Representatives of each SCU have attended a number of training programmes organized by Sahelian Center for Information and Forestry Training (SACIFT) such as concept of rural development, leadership, quality in implementation of development projects and knowledge management.</p> <p>4 Training under remote sensing for DTs GIS and GPS were highlighted as important tools in M&E of natural resources interventions.</p>
xxxv. Community Development Officers should be supported with over-night stay at village level.	BDA	Immediate	This issue was solved by engagement of young graduates to support the Community Development officers at SCUs with agreed TOR and stay at village level for specified days in each village according to the TOR and the issues need to be overcome.
xxxvi. A change of approach is needed namely towards developing a community based extension cadre.	BDA	Immediate	<p>The number of those trained or capacitated as local extension agents up to Oct. 2013:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 23 agents in IPM. • 10 midwives completed the training period and started their work in the communities. • 9 literacy agents (females) selected from the communities and trained in coordination with the adult education department in Butana locality. • 3 local nutrition agents. • 174 local animal health workers. • 9 in water harvesting. • 79 in home nurseries and seedling production. • 69 in forestry as voluntary guards.
xxxvii. Efforts should be made to retain female professionals.	BDA	Immediate	<p>Comfortable accommodation spaces were provided for female staff in Gadarif and Khartoum SCUs.</p> <p>Retaining female professionals was done where possible e.g. female animal production extensions recruited in Gedaref is and RN SCUs instead of the previous ones also three female graduates was now working with Gazera and Khartoum SCUs to support the implementation of different activities at village level.</p>
Project Implementation			
xxviii. Invest in consultative planning accompanied with more delegation of tasks and responsibility among and between all BIRDP members and SCU teams (DTs); seek technical assistance where appropriate.	BDA	2013	More delegation of tasks and responsibilities were agreed and granted at various levels to take advantage of the advisory services available at each level according to clear agreements and term of reference and specific period of time so as to further improve project implementation performance. All this has been taken into account by allocating the needed technical and financial inputs in AWPB 2013.
xxix. Develop a KM strategy and encourage all DTs to contribute to its implementation; in a healthy institution every professional staff contributes to KM	BDA	2013	Five of the project members trained in the process of KM and sharing through KariaNet KM. The project also in collaboration with KariaNet and through the network for Knowledge Access in Rural Interconnected Areas in the Middle East and North Africa, participated in a number of KMS events such as Knowledge Share Fairs. More over the project KM portal was revised and developed with technical support across the Kenana Online Portal; one of the important

Core recommendations & Agreed Action (as MTR, 2012)	Resp.	Agreed date	Action taken to date (Nov. 2013)
			results is that the number of visitors for Project Window on Kenanaonlin.com web site increased from 10,660 in Feb 2013 to 13,954 in 30 Nov. 2013. The work is on-going to develop Project Knowledge Portal, and linked with similar Portals at IFAD and KariaNet.
xi. It is of utmost importance that all monitoring and evaluation activities are harmonised; i.e. various above mentioned recommendations concern M&E and/or have implications for M&E; M&E should be a concern of all professional staff and an important mean for action, analysis and reflection.	BDA	2013	In order to strengthen the functions and roles of DTs in monitoring, and as part of the harmonization of monitoring and evaluation activities, a program was developed to pursue the development of a monitoring system through several steps summarized as follow: The job of M&E Extension at SCUs level was cancelled, every extension agent according to his specialization will take the M&E process. A comprehensive training program developed for all the project cadres at BDA and SCUs level in relevant technical M&E aspects and processes, the programme consists of three specialized packages include: Proposal development and report writing and exploring and identifying results.
Fiduciary Aspects			
xli. Referring to XX , it was agreed that the Government would cover the costs of operation to the end of the year.	BDA/Govt.	Immediate	Proposal has been prepared counting the full operation costs of the project according to the MTR agreed action & recommendations, the proposal has been sent to the MOFNE for approval.
xlii. Regarding the sustainability of the existing operation and maintenance system for heavy equipment/farm machinery, it was agreed that during the remaining project period the IFAD loan would finance O&M in decreasing amounts such that it would provide for 50 percent of O&M costs in 2013 – 2014 and 25 percent for the two remaining years. This agreement applies to all O&M. The cost of hiring out heavy equipment will be borne by the project communities and the state and federal governments.	BDA/Govt.	Immediate	The AWPB for 2013 was prepared according to the MTR agreed action & recommendations, IFAD loan to finance O&M in 2013 were calculated for 50 percent applies to all O&M. It was also planned that the cost of hiring out heavy equipment will be from communities, State and federal governments according to the schedule of the activities. The same calculations were done in AWPB 2014.
xliii. It was agreed that the future AWPBs will be within the funding limit; i.e. a fund balance of approximately USD 14.2 million to finance project activities up to the Loan Closure date of 30 September 2016.	BDA/Govt.	Immediate	AWPB for year 2013 and 2014 were prepared within the funding balance agreed in MTR. The project will continue in the preparation of budgets according to what was agreed in the MTR to finance project activities up to the Loan Closure date of 30 September 2016.
xliv. Referring to Projected Budget – Government contribution, it was agreed that the Governments at both State and Federal Levels would bear the costs of O&M in the proposed financing proportion.	BDA/Govt.	Immediate	All the recommendations on this subject have been sent to the all concerned institutions, at the same time the AWPB 2013 and 2014 have been prepared in accordance with what was agreed in MTR.
xlv. It was agreed that the Government would	BDA/Govt.	Immediate	AWPB for 2013 and 2014 were done accordingly

Core recommendations & Agreed Action (as MTR, 2012)	Resp.	Agreed date	Action taken to date (Nov. 2013)
finance 50% of the BDA/BIRDP staff costs for 2 years and 75% for the remaining project period in preparation for the BIRDP staff to evolve into a functioning BDA. .			

Appendix 4: Physical progress measured against AWP&B, including RIMS indicators

BIRDP Physical Outputs Targets and Actual Achieved Jan. – Oct. 2013

Output	Unit	Total Target	Y 2013			Total Ach. To date	% To Date	Remarks
			Planned	Ach. Y 2013	Ach.%			
Component 1. Policy and Institution Building								
Gaps (issues) in existing laws and by-laws identified and addressed	laws/by-laws	5	2	2	100%	2	40%	
Environmental Plans formulated	plan	140	140	140	100%	140	100%	
Area of land under improved management practices (range, forest; individual and communal areas)	Feddan	347,142	30,625	24,559	80%	114,532	33%	
Local NRM regulations and by-laws established at community level.	regulations/ by-laws	20	5	5	100%	5	25%	
Share of federal budgets allocated to BDA	US\$ (000)	3,233	535	272	51%	2,412	75%	
Additional funding mobilized by BDA	US\$ (000)	100	25	0	0%	-	0%	
Cost-recovery based services provided to communities by BDA and earning generated	services	100	30	3	10%	3	3%	
CBOs partnerships established	partnership	30	10	6	60%	6	20%	CDF, Practical Action, SOLO, GASMAR, Peace Organization, Sudanese Red Crescent
Markets rehabilitated/constructed fully functional	markets	5	5	5	100%	5	100%	
Market services established	services	5	2	2	100%	4	80%	
Performance based contracts with market operators	contracts	5	5	2	40%	2	40%	
Simple BDA KM strategy developed	strategy	6	2	2	100%	2	33%	
Locality staff and private operators trained	person	130	25	46	184%	46	35%	
Studies/research undertaken on NRM	studies/research	16	5	5	100%	5	31%	
Young professionals successfully benefiting from young professional programme	person	100	25	9	36%	9	9%	
Innovations, learning process, pilots/trials documented by the Project	innovations	20	5	4	80%	4	20%	
Extension materials and handbooks produced	materials/			5	100%		50%	

Output	Unit	Total Target	Y 2013			Total Ach. To date	% To Date	Remarks
			Planned	Ach. Y 2013	Ach.%			
	handbooks	10	5			5		
Visitors to BIRDP websites (frequency of downloading info)	Visitor	15,000	10,000	7412	74%	13,954	93%	
Items postings in MENA knowledge base and IFAD website	Article/Item	12	5	10	200%	10	83%	
Component 2. Natural Resources Management (Water, Range, Forest, Vegetable, Fodder and Agriculture Crops)								
Effectiveness and sustainability of water infrastructure (drinking water for people, animals)	%	70	35	35	100%	35	50%	
Savings in SDG (AVG) for the poorer households' purchase of portable water.	SDG/HH/Day	2	2	1.5	75%	2	100%	
Saving in time spent for water collection for women (Per Household)	minutes/HH	60	60	30	50%	30	50%	
Amount of money invested (by community) in repair and maintenance and development of domestic water facilities	SDG	1,075,000	500,000	120,000	24%	120,000	11%	
Increase in productivity sorghum	kg/Feddan	1,200	900	315	35%	315	26%	
Increase in productivity vegetable	kg/Feddan	3,000	1,000	850	85%	850	28%	
Increase in productivity fodder	kg/Feddan	3,000	1,000	NA	-	-	-	
Increase in water utilization per household/day	liter/day	140	96	76	79%	76	54%	
Effectiveness of NRM plans	plan	100	40	35	88%	75	75%	
Increased carrying capacity of the open range land	TAU/Ha/Yr.	1.00	0.12	0.15	80%	0.13	13%	Calculation of Achieved to date is an average
Increased carrying capacity in community range reserve	TAU/Ha/Yr.	5.00	3.50	3.3	94%	2.54	51%	
Savings in SDG on smallholders' purchase of feed in the dry season	SDG	20,000	10,000	NA	-	-	-	
% of decrease in time and frequency of tracking animals outside the area (open Butana grazing, irrigated areas along Atbara river and Kasala area)	%	-	0	NA	-	-	-	
Cost – benefit records of below mentioned 'land under improved management practices	rate	NA	-	-	-	-	-	
Women and men adopting technology recommended by the project	person	15,500	5,000	6727	135%	16,753	108%	
Constructed/rehabilitated (Water yards, Hafirs, Cisterns, Dams)	Source	120	50	23	46%	71	59%	
People trained in water infrastructures management	person	600	250	225	90%	225	38%	

Output	Unit	Total Target	Y 2013			Total Ach. To date	% To Date	Remarks
			Planned	Ach. Y 2013	Ach.%			
Area under modified traditional terrace cultivated	Feddan	35,560	13,560	14,434	106%	65,782	185%	
Area under improved depression cultivation	Feddan	30,000	2,450	3,460	141%	24,834	83%	
Area under contour ploughing	Feddan	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Type of irrigation system installed and commanded area (incl. women gardens/farms)	system	20	12	12	100%	12	60%	
Community irrigated shelterbelts & woodlots	Feddan	500	20	25	125%	64	13%	
Area under sand dune fixation	Feddan	105	13	0	0%	23	22%	
Area under improved range and forest management including protection	Ha	347,142	3,625	5646	156%	114,532	33%	
People trained in water harvesting and related plant and land management	person	7,112	2,712	912	34%	912	13%	
Contribution of locality/state/communities to fire line construction (i.e. 4000 km/annum)	Km	400	400	NA	-	-	-	Going on not yet finished
Fire lines constructed	Km	11,750	2,750	NA	-	-	-	Going on not yet finished
Area protected by fire lines constructed	Ha	57,600	12,600	NA	-	-	-	
Productive infrastructures constructed(Wadi Crossings)	crossing	10	5	0	0%	-	0%	
Component 3. Animal Resources								
People trained in livestock production technology	person	1,000	350	260	74%	260	26%	
Women and men accessing (livestock) extension services	person	1,700	5,000	3,113	62%	6,943	408%	
Business and livestock market information entities established, operational and financially sustainable	entities	5	3	3	100%	5	100%	
Producers and traders benefiting from LIMS	person	15	3	3	100%	3	20%	
Facilities/services available in market places (including for women)	facilities/services	15	3	3	100%	3	20%	
No of pastoralist HH reached	HH	4,800	1,000	3113	311%	3,113	65%	
Component 4. Community Development & Business Options								
CD groups formed/Reviewed	group	700	700	601	86%	601	86%	
NRM groups formed/Reviewed	group	500	500	408	82%	408	82%	

Output	Unit	Total Target	Y 2013			Total Ach. To date	% To Date	Remarks
			Planned	Ach. Y 2013	Ach.%			
Groups with women in leadership position	group	200	70	208	297%	208	104%	
Women members of the CD groups.	person(women)	4,842	4,842	2,164	45%	2,164	45%	
Men members of the CD groups.	person(men)	8,451	8,451	6,320	75%	6,320	75%	
Community organizations registered	organization	140	20	22	110%	91	65%	
Community trained in Score Cards and used it as an evaluation tool	Community	85	5	15	300%	15	18%	
Meetings held by CDCs and decisions taken	meeting	5,640	1,410	1,027	73%	3,177	56%	
Women and men belonging to groups	no	13,293	13,293	8,484	64%	8,484	64%	
Community Village Plans formulated	Village Plan	140	140	140	100%	140	100%	
TOT training	training	10	5	5	100%	5	50%	
Gender empowerment training sessions delivered	session	560	140	77	55%	152	27%	
Women and men trained in income generating activities.	no	1,008	330	710	215%	710	70%	
People trained in post-production, processing and marketing	no	700	300	210	70%	210	30%	
Social infrastructures constructed/rehabilitated (health centers, schools, storage, community centre...etc.)	infrastructure	70	15	18	120%	45	64%	
Households receiving animal health services (RIMS) facilitated by the project	HH	3,600	1,200	3113	259%	6,493	180%	
Pers. receiving social skill trainings	no	4,500	1,500	2,613	174%	8,045	179%	
Rate of disbursement of CIF	%	100	27	35	130%	35	35%	
Women and men trained as Paravet	Person	167	112	51	46%	174	104%	
Communities involved in the repair, maintenance and development of Hafirs/dams/water yards	community	164	61	11	18%	11	7%	
Persons involved in the repair, maintenance and development of Hafirs/dams/water yards	Persons	492	183	225	123%	225	46%	
Community agents of mature communities actively involved in scaling up of best practices/activities	agent	70	30	30	100%	30	43%	
Local and national NGOs involved in scaling-up best	NGO	15		0	0%		0%	

Output	Unit	Total Target	Y 2013			Total Ach. To date	% To Date	Remarks
			Planned	Ach. Y 2013	Ach.%			
practices/activities			5			-		
New CAHWs trained	no	167	112	51	46%	174	104%	
CAHWs received activity and advanced training (business, CARDAs manual, etc.)	no	140	35	NA	-	-	-	
Average increase in revenue generated by women and men CAHWs	%	25	10	NA	-	-	-	
Integrated Pest Management Agents (IPM)	agent	75	30	23	77%	23	31%	
Community initiatives implemented	initiative	104	30	29	97%	65	63%	
Household benefiting from community initiatives	HH	2,080	600	557	93%	1,132	54%	
Community networks formed	No.	16	4	1	25%	1	6%	
Rapid results initiatives achieved	No.	12	3	0	0%	-	0%	
Community radio listening group formed	Group	50	15	10	67%	15	30%	
Scaling up and planning workshop	Workshop	20	5	0	0%	-	0%	Usually conduct in December at stat level

RIMS 1st level indicators Year 2013 (October 2013)

Component	Results	Unit	Cumulative			Sum of actual of previous years	REMARKS
			Appraisal	Actual	% of Appraisal		
Total Outreach	People receiving project services	Male	20,000	41,869	209%	34,744	
	People receiving project services	Female	20,000	27,000	135%	23,686	
	Households receiving project services	Number	33,000	37,672	114%	31,463	
	Communities receiving project services	Number	140	172	123%	141	
1.Policy and Institutional Building	Staff of service providers trained	Male	55	102	185%	67	
	Staff of service providers trained	Female	33	72	218%	57	

Component	Results	Unit	Cumulative			Sum of actual of previous years	REMARKS
			Appraisal	Actual	% of Appraisal		
2.Natural Resources Development	Drinking water systems constructed/rehabilitated	Number	75	93	124%	70	G. total: Water Yards Rehabilitation Construction=38, Hafirs Rehabilitation & Construction=32
	Rainwater harvesting system constructed/rehabilitated	Number	75	38	51%	35	
	Land under improved management practices	Ha	333,060	407,643	122%	313,651	Include= Traditional Terrace, Wadi/Depression Cultivation, Semi-mechanized Farming, community based forest, Individual and Community range reserves, Range-land protected by the belts of fire lines grids
	Land under irrigation schemes constructed/rehabilitated	Ha	302	189	63%	157	
	People in natural resources management groups formed/strengthened	Male	29,250	41,878	143%	34,678	
	People in natural resources management groups formed/strengthened	Female	15,750	22,950	146%	18,950	
	People trained in natural resources management	Male	31,500	38,487	122%	31,287	
	People trained in natural resources management	Female	13,500	21,658	160%	17,458	
	Natural resources management groups formed/strengthened	Number	140	744	531%	744	
	Environmental management plans formulated	Number	140	141	101%	141	
	People trained in crop production and technologies	Male	3,150	8,226	261%	7,126	Includes =Crop production and technologies in terraces cultivation, Wadi/depression, irrigated agri
	People trained in crop production and technologies	Female	1,350	1,800	133%	1,350	
3. Animal Resources Development	Marketing facilities constructed/rehabilitated	Number	5	5	100%	4	
	People trained in post-production, processing and marketing	Male	700	782	112%	666	
	People trained in post-production, processing and marketing	Female	700	621	89%	531	
	Government officials and staff trained	Number	10	70	700%	35	
	Households receiving animal health services	Number	4,000	4,100	103%	3,880	

Component	Results	Unit	Cumulative			Sum of actual of previous years	REMARKS
			Appraisal	Actual	% of Appraisal		
	People trained in livestock production and technologies	Male	196	978	499%	868	
	People trained in livestock production and technologies	Female	84	1,033	1230%	928	
	Marketing groups formed/strengthened	Number	280	12	4%	12	
	People in marketing groups formed/strengthened	Male	2,800	320	11%	320	
	People in marketing groups formed/strengthened	Female	2,800	446	16%	356	
	People accessing advisory services facilitated by project	Male	1,260	1,396	111%	1,240	
	People accessing advisory services facilitated by project	Female	540	672	124%	580	
4. Community Development and Business Options	Community groups formed/strengthened	Number	700	885	126%	885	
	People in community groups formed/strengthened	Male	7,350	6,350	86%	5,460	
	People in community groups formed/strengthened	Female	3,150	3,713	118%	3,533	
	People trained in income generating activities	Male	702	775	110%	555	<i>Nutrition and food processing for storage and marketing & other income-generating activities</i>
	People trained in income generating activities	Female	1,638	1,582	97%	1,122	
	Village/Community plans formulated	Number	140	141	101%	141	

RIMS 2nd level indicators Year 2013 (October 2013)

Component name	Results	Rating	Actual Rating			
			<u>PY3 (2011)</u>	<u>PY4 (2012)</u>	<u>PY4 (2013)</u>	<u>Overall</u>
1. Policy and Institutional Building	Effectiveness improved performance of service providers	1 - 6	2	4	5	4
2. Natural Resources Development (Agriculture, range and water services)	Effectiveness of productive infrastructure - Livestock water points	1 - 6	3	3	4	3
	Likelihood of sustainability of natural resources management groups formed/strengthened	1 - 6	3	4	4	4
	Effectiveness of natural resources management and conservation programmes	1 - 6	3	4	5	4
3. Animal Resources Development	Effectiveness improved agricultural, livestock and production	1 - 6	3	3	4	3
	Likelihood of sustainability of marketing facilities	1 - 6	2	2	3	2
	Effectiveness: producers benefiting from improved access to markets	1 - 6	1	1	3	2
4. Community Development and Business Options	Effectiveness: of community development	1 - 6	4	4	5	4
	Likelihood of sustainability of community groups formed/strengthened	1 - 6	4	4	4	4

Appendix 5: Financial: Actual financial performance by financier; by component and disbursements by category

Table 5A: Financial performance by financier

Financier	Appraisal (USD '000)	Disbursements (USD '000)	Per cent disbursed
IFAD loan	24,799	12,189	49.2
IFAD grant	0	0	0.0
Co-financier	0	0	0.0
Government ¹	5,059	2,712	53.6
Total	29,858	14,901	49.9

¹ Includes Federal/State Governments and Beneficiaries

Table 5B: Financial performance by financier by component (USD '000)

Component	IFAD loan			Government ¹			Total		
	Design	Actual	%	Design	Actual	%	Design	Actual	%
Inst. Support	6,218	4,425	71.2	1,654	1,727	104.4	7,872	6,152	78.2
Agr/Range/Water	11,744	3,877	33.0	1,510	294	19.5	13,254	4,171	31.5
Livestock Marketing	3,558	987	27.8	1,128	150	13.3	4,686	1,137	24.3
Community Develop	3,279	1,163	35.5	767	541	70.5	4,046	1,704	42.1
Initial Deposit		1,737	100.0					1,737	100.0
Total	24,799	12,189	49.2	5,059	2,712	53.6	29,858	14,901	49.9

¹ Includes Federal/State Governments and Beneficiaries

Table 5C: IFAD loan disbursements (SDR, as at 30/09/2013)

Category	Category description	Original Allocation	Revised Allocation	Disbursement	W/A pending	Balance	Per cent disbursed
I	Civil Works	5,650,000	5,440,000	2,412,421		3,027,579	44.3
II	Vehicles, Equipment, Machinery & Others	1,350,000	1,820,000	1,508,828		311,172	82.9
III	Technical Assistance, Training & Others	3,200,000	5,650,000	1,494,503		4,155,497	26.5
IV	Grants	1,180,000	1,320,000	143,162		1,176,838	10.8
V A	Salaries & Allowances	1,700,000	1,420,000	1,016,713		403,287	71.6
V B	Operation & Maintenance	400,000	1,150,000	504,924		645,076	43.9
	Unallocated	3,320,00	0	0		0	0.0
	Initial deposit			1,176,897		(1,176,897)	100.0
	Total	16,800,000	16,800,000	8,257,448		8,542,552	49.2

Figure 2: IFAD loan/grant disbursement, comparisons between original and revised allocations and actual disbursement

Appendix 6: Compliance with legal covenants: Status of implementation

Section	Covenant	Target/Action Due Date	Compliance Status/Date	Remarks
Section 3.03-a	Lead Project Agency (LPA) shall open and maintain a Project Account.		Complied	Project Account opened before loan effectiveness
Section 3.05-b	The Borrower shall deposit counterpart funds in an Initial amount of Euro 240,000 and shall replenish BDA project account quarterly in advance to fund AWPB.		Partially complied	During 2013, only 48% of the commitment of the GoS for the counterpart funds was transferred to the project account.
Section 3.06	The LPA and each other project party shall procure all items financed by the loan in accordance with shedule-4		Partially complied	Procurement practices at the PCU level need major improvement. Single source and shopping should be avoided and procurement plans has to be improved and respected.
Schedule-3A,4	The Borrower shall ensure that all vehicles procured under the project are insured and used for project implementation		complied	The Project is carrying out continuous insurance for vehicles with management for uses of vehicles
Section 5.02-b	The Borrower shall have the financial statements (FS) relating to the project audited each fiscal year and shall submit certified audit reports to the Fund no later than 6 months after year end		Complied with delay	Audit reports submitted to IFAD annually. The audit report for year 2012 was submitted late in September 2013
Section 4.02	The Borrower through the LPA shall submit to the Fund semi-annual and consolidated annual progress reports		complied	Progress reports are submitted to IFAD annually and semi- annually to supervision missions
Section 3.02-b	Draft AWPB to be submitted to the Fund for its comments and approval not later than 60 days before the beginning of the relevant project year		complied	2013 AWPB was submitted in January and IFAD NOB was given in June 2013 due to the need to revise the AWPB several times to address major issues.
Section 4.03	A mid-term review to be carried jointly by the borrower and the Fund during the fourth project year		Complied	A mid-term review was done jointly by IFAD and GoS in September 2012
Schedule-3,1.1-b	Project Implementation Manual to be prepared not later than 90 days after the effective date			The Lead Project Agency prepared PIM and will send to IFAD for review
Section 5.01	The Lead Project Agency shall prepare consolidated financial			The Lead Project Agency used to prepare

Section	Covenant	Target/Action Due Date	Compliance Status/Date	Remarks
	statements each six months			annual financial statement to IFAD in addition to semi-annual financial report to supervision missions

Appendix 7: Knowledge management: Learning and Innovation

Learning

1. **Storage of fodder/forages:** a range of varying efforts were observed regarding collection, drying and storage of fodder and forages; - during weeding of sorghum crop taking aside the palatable weed/grass species, dry and store these; - timely harvesting of range grasses (pre-seeding), - attention for indigenous storage of sorghum straw/stover, sorghum bran and empty cobs, - harvesting, drying and storing of Guar²⁶ and Clitoria²⁷; communally organised fodder store built by the community, etc. Through these efforts addressing year-around balanced feeding especially regarding goats is feasible allowing stratified feeding strategies for breeding (flushing) and milk production (late pregnancy, early lactation). There is also plenty of scope for cross learning among the SCU teams.
2. **A planned Women garden turned fodder garden** as excellent range species appeared prior to sowing vegetable seeds. Women were pleased with the range species and decided to keep it as a fodder garden whereby receiving full support of the concerned SCU team. Women fodder gardens might be in certain communities a better option than communal fodder gardens managed by women.
3. In the design document of BIRDP, investments in secondary livestock markets were proposed based on the assumption that it would contribute to objective two namely 'improving the access and bargaining position of women and men in the marketing of livestock', but in reality most women cannot access these markets due to cultural constraints of limited opportunities to travel long distance independently. It was therefore trilling to observe that **women planned as part of the CDC network for a primary livestock market**. Due to among others more and better fodder, women have more goats for sale. They stressed that they can access a nearby livestock markets as known people would be present. This initiative deserves attention and might work as an example of how IFAD Sudan can work in the field of Livestock Markets.
4. Communities being trained on preparing **cement-sand blocks** made adequate use of the new skills acquired; the locally manufactured cement-block device is used by all households whereby a set number of blocks have to be prepared by common initiatives such as building fodder stores in each hamlet, constructing permanent fence around the school compound, etc. Building with these cement-sand blocks considerable reduces the use of timber.
5. The initiative of **changing the management of Livestock Markets** namely from local contractors to Administration Units or Localities increases the ownership and sense of caring, while substantially improving the revenues generated. The rather idle staff, which earlier only collecting the fees from the contractors, received training and among others care for the market information system.
6. The voluntary **Forest cum Range Guards** have now recognised positions, an identify card, received trained, are acknowledged by the communities, while some are truly pro-active, others are already paid by CDCs and networking among Forest Guards is a fact.
7. The **facilitating of the development of local extension agents** is fortunately not taking place in an uniform approach, but teams manage to let it evolve; first examples of female nutritional agents training others in the communities were observed, while forest cum range agents already create awareness in neighbouring communities. When further guiding of this process is maintained a local extension cadre will be developed especially when considering provision of start-up budgets and in return fulfilling tasks in scaling-up.
8. **Women going public is a fact** including in conservative settings; they go out to buy medicines, a female local extension agent going to other villages, midwives going to other villages as well as female CBAHWs, they are requesting for primary livestock market as they are confident that they can visit such a market

Lesson learnt as per June follow-up Mission

9. **Diet for Goats**²⁸: being at the end of the dry season it was of interest to discuss and observe what HHs are feeding the animals kept at the home base (small herds of goats and cattle or just young stock). The usual straw and tree seed/leaves were offered. Yet, it was also observed that left-overs of meals (sorghum dish)

²⁶ The Guar or cluster bean (*Cyamopsis tetragonoloba*) is an annual legume and the source of guar gum. It is also known as Gavar, Guwar or Guvar bean. Guar as a plant has a multitude of different functions for human and animal nutrition.

²⁷ *Clitoria ternatea*, also known as *Butterfly pea*.

²⁸ The villagers had large herds in the past (pre '84) and as many as 300 heads of cattle, for instance, and now just small herd of goats.

are kept aside, dried and then offered to the goats; it concerns an energy rich supplement which is easily overlooked as fe/male farmers not easily share these kind of practices, which might be perceived as backward.

Lesson learnt: do not assume that you know what is fed to the animals but invest time in understanding the seasonal feeding practices and stratifications (pregnant ewes, he-goats, siblings, etc.). Especially when the herds are small, kitchen and meal left-overs can make a difference.

10. **Chicken & 5-6 goats are not considered as assets by the men:** times have changed and the large herds kept during the old days (pre '84 drought periods) are no longer present. Yet, 'chicken and small herds of goats' are not considered as assets of men, but a domain for women.

Lesson learnt: as men perceive backyard poultry and small herds of goats not as important resources, but as things of women, it is accepted and appreciated when extension efforts in this field are geared towards women.

11. **Male vs. female opinions:** at two junctions, we observed that men can have pronounced different views compared to women and vice versa. The first instance concerns the women group who did receive goats (passing on the gift approach); these women narrated that they started with sheep but moved to goats. Why did they start with sheep? This was the idea of the men who like sheep while we were not in the picture initially. Once we started, we explained to be more interested in goats as they provide milk. In another village, the men took us to the small water reservoir (from this reservoir water is pumped by a small pump to the vegetable garden –*jubraka*–) and explained that the deeper parts were on the left and right while it should be in the middle so that the pump does not have to be replaced. A kind request was made to the project namely deepen it please. Yes, 25% contribution could be provided. Yet, this community is of the earlier batch and project support is planned for other communities, while for this community hand holding and being active in scaling up. It was even suggested to the men to join hands and deepen the reservoir by hand as this would not be too much work. Later in the plenary, women narrated that they will manage to solve this problem without any difficulty.

Lesson learnt: men and women, even when from the same community, can have pronounced different as well as common interest, constraints and desires, etc. For BIRDP and DTs it is therefore important to anticipate on it whereby always ensuring that the opinions and ideas of women are covered, which might imply special efforts as women would not easily express themselves in front of men. In addition, the young, old and adults need to be distinguished.

12. **We need health centre and primary school:** during MTR, we learnt and agreed that covering the full scale of rural development needs is not realistic neither are the green departments well equipped for it and therefore post MTR BIRDP would fully concentrate on green sector issue and in particular NR and the governance of it. Older communities however keep on requesting for a health centre, a school, etc. and as planned BIRDP will try to link them to entities (Minister of Education, Local government, relevant NGOs) that might be able to provide these infrastructures. This however is not always easy for the communities to understand as some obtained these infrastructures through BIRDP.

Lesson learnt: when planning with the communities (for instance, using PRA method) it is important to provide clarity from the onset namely where project can provide interventions and where not. The initial IFAD Sudan approach (NKRDP, SKRD) was about developing a community development plan which primary focused on community infrastructures. This approach was somehow continued in WSRMP (initially) as well as BIRDP. As a result, communities have not very well planned their Natural Resources, while these are the most important –without a livelihood it is difficult to maintain the school as teachers need to be supported and the building maintained- and request substantial in terms of mobilisation, building technical skills, etc.

13. **Supply of molasses:** through the feeding demonstrations villagers are much aware of molasses viz. that it is liked by the animals, that it provides a good energy source, etc. Yet, molasses is in short supply and only available in market outlets in the vicinity of the sugarcane factory. For the demos molasses was provided by the project. Now, communities are begging for it. Indeed, it would not be sustainable when project would provide the molasses but even this is not feasible due to shortage. One staff member narrated in the car 'we should never introduce molasses when communities cannot buy it themselves due to distance, non-availability and/or affordability'. This experience of people requesting for molasses supply, is annoying as it cannot be fulfilled while communities are eager; as it was provided for free, communities are not really aware of the actual costs and do expect more for free.

Lesson learnt: instead of working with DEMO (demonstrations on preparing a supplementary feed mix), it is more appropriate to find out with the communities members how improved animal feeding can be materialised taking into account the local raw materials available as well as affordable and accessible products from the market or instead how to stratify the feeding system so that animal most in need (lactating

and young stock, for instance) can be offered the best quality in sufficient quantity. Conducting farmer field school regarding this topic with men and women in separate groups might generate appropriate feeding options and strategies.

14. **Community Fodder Storage with commercial set-up:** in Srog Mnan community the fodder store is run successfully and on a commercial basis at least in terms of income and expenditures. Grass collected from the protected range plots are stored for use by its members as well as for sale; grass seed, bundles of grass, sorghum stover etc. were stored. In short, apparently the 4000 feddan protected range substantially contributes to making this storage a feasible intervention. Other stores, visited during the MTR, were not necessarily as successful and the impression was that it aimed more at storage of cut straw (sorghum stover). Albeit I might be wrong, but the impression is that the technology reason has been: surplus stover/straw → chaff cutting stover allowing efficient usage → storing → using stored product during dry season. Yet, most of these examples were not impressive and the impression was that the running of it happened but benefitted limited people. The storage in Srog Mnan shows that they linked it with improving and protecting rangeland.

Lesson learnt: disseminating blue print technology package (straw-chaff cutting-storage) is not necessarily effective but people themselves might develop the best technology options (protect rangeland-harvest grass/fodder-storage).

Ideas suggested and shared during June 2013 Follow-up Mission

15. **Husband and Wife as Community Based Animal Health Workers:** we met a CAHWs couple namely husband and wife. It was interesting to observe that they narrated about a lot of practical things such as: - drenching and administering vaccines and de-wormers before the rains start, providing green fodder to prevent night blindness, special feeding of young stock, boiling of milk before drinking (goat and bovine tuberculosis), shade for poultry, care of zoonotic diseases, etc. Apparently, both husband and wife are pretty active as CAHWs.

Idea: earlier we learnt that female CAHWs tend to provide services in concerned community while male CAHWs go much beyond their own village. It implies among others that a male CAHW can obtain a reasonable income while for the women it will be a supplementary income only. It could be looked into whether women might need a slightly different curriculum (more on Backyard Poultry: BYP, young stock) and whether they can supplement their income by provide substantial BYP services. It might also be of interest to study the couple CAHWs model in some more detail namely whether it should be scaled up. Running preventive and curative health services as a business is another topic which deserves attention including the running of a drug fund.

16. **Cropping:** although HHs have considerable land (20 – 25 feddan) only 2 out of 10 years provide good rain. Therefore, cropping (only sorghum) is not just for grain but the fodder matters as much. They prefer local / indigenous sorghum varieties as these provide good straw (sweet) and produce reasonable yields even with moderate/low rainfalls.

Idea: would growing fodder not be a more profitable option for these livestock loving people? They are so called agro-pastoralists who are not necessarily good cultivators. Considering the very good results with growing fodder in these low rainfall areas, it might be an idea to pilot with communities to grow more fodder and less sorghum grain and calculate the difference in terms of costs of inputs (including farm machineries, labour) and value of output, maintenance of soil fertility, fodder value, etc. It could be discussed in a farmer field school (FFS) setting. The extension worker should be serious in conducting the proposed calculation whereby he/she can involve a monitoring officer, researcher. Another idea would be to search for typical dual purpose sorghum varieties. Apparently, traditional sorghum varieties are re-introduced and these too could be tested with the fe/male farmers through FFS.

17. **Female Headed de facto Households:** many adult men are tracking with the livestock herds to other areas for grazing. They easily stay for 4 months. Other men have migrated to construction sites, for casual agriculture labour (cotton harvesting), etc. It implies that the majority of adult men are only home based on a seasonal basis which is normally the planting season. Wives who stay behind are so called *de facto* (in practice) female headed HHs and not *de jure* (by law) which is the case of widows or divorces. As FHHH form an important target group within BIRD, it might be considered to also cover the *de facto* FH HHs, of whom some live in very difficult positions especially when the migrant is not able to send money home.

Idea: consider working with both *de jure* and *de facto* FH HH by estimating/assessing how wide spread *de jure* FH HHs are and the quality of their livelihood setting is.

18. **Household Tree Nurseries:** proudly the villagers explained how much they enjoyed having currently at least one tree at their home stead. Initially, the HH tree nurseries were used to rear sufficient tree seedlings for the entire village HHs but now they are serving the neighbouring villages and also manage to get paid. They still find it not so easy to sell tree seedlings but the growing is fully under control.

Idea: as per MTR, business training is one of the proposed options. Making these training down-to-earth and practical can best be done by using field examples. In this regard, making a business with HH tree nurseries could be a practical start.

19. **Handicraft skills provided:** women visited showed the different handicraft products which concern exactly the same products promoted elsewhere in the country while there is no clear market neither are local skills (- people have a lot of skills in working with leather, for instance-) explored. Women were therefore also not making any money but using them for little home decoration.

Idea: This type of handicraft training might have stopped. If not, it needs to be reviewed. As per MTR, it was proposed that BIRDP and DTs should focus on the green sector while the more social and business training / coaching / guidance could best be provided by local NGOs. In case, there is a high demand for handicrafts, it is of interest to look for agencies who know the local handicraft skills of the people (most are agro-pastoralists whose ladies have a range of skills in terms of working with leather, hair, wool, etc.), are able to provide designs which have a market, etc.

20. **Communities presenting their achievements in poem form:** although I do not speak Arabic, I keep being impressed about the skills people show in composing poems and through it explaining their achievements, narrating about the importance of planting trees and how these trees can prevent the encroachment of farming, etc.

Idea: these poems are actually Knowledge Products which could be used for scaling up activities, in working with the community radio, be posted on Karianet or other local websites, etc. One could consider a community knowledge product corner within Karianet or State Ministerial websites.

21. **Milk value chain:** one of the recommendations of the MTR is related to the milk and milk product value chain namely '*study the current milk collection, - processing and – product marketing value chain, assess whether margins at each chain level are fair, review the proposed interventions (Design Report) and up-date the financial and economic analysis presented in the BIRDP design document*'. As with goat supplementary feeding (see picture 1 & 2), women prepare a range of traditional milk products, among others, roub²⁹. Fermented products of cow and goat milk in particular but also from sheep and camel are popular and form practical forms of conservation.

IDEA: regarding value chain of milk and milk products, two things are important namely i.) To consider all animals from whom milk is taken for human consumption (camel, cattle, sheep and goats) and ii.) Identify all forms of milk processing and marketing whatever small. Young Professionals living for some time with the communities might be in a good position to observe how much milk is taken and what is done with it.

22.

²⁹ Roub is a traditional fermented dairy product produced in the rural areas of the Sudan from cow's milk when plenty of milk is available during the rainy season. Roub is made from surplus unheated milk by inoculating with starter culture from the fermentation of the previous day. Source: M.O.M. Abdalla and S. I.K. Hussain, 'Enumeration and Identification of Microflora in Roub, A Sudanese Traditional Fermented Dairy Product', Department of Dairy Production, Faculty of Animal Production, University of Khartoum, Khartoum North, Sudan. British Journal of Dairy Sciences 1(2): 30-33, 2010, ISSN: 2044-2440, Maxwell Scientific Organization, 2010