

Project Update: November 2014

Achievements:

1. Measure the extent of participation – Fully Achieved - currently preparing scientific report
2. Determine how the implementation of WMA changes the way people access land and land resources – Fully Achieved - currently preparing scientific report
3. Determine how implementation of WMA affect different individuals and households poverty pathways – Partially Achieved - data collection continues. Data is collected in two seasons to have a complete set of data that will allow estimation of livelihood impact and poverty pathways.
4. Capacity building and dissemination of results – Not Achieved - capacity building will be conducted after completion of scientific research to identify challenges and possible solutions in implementation of wildlife management areas initiatives.

Unforeseen Problems:

Initially the project planned to use motorbike for navigating through villages, however during rainy season it was not possible to use motorcycles, therefore for the period of three months (February to April 2014) the project hired a car which made transportation cost to be more than was planned initially.

Outcomes:

Firstly, the research has identified lack of community participation in managing wildlife resources and increased conflicts and tension within and between communities in project area. Wildlife management areas have become an arena for political struggles and centre for societal conflicts including violent confrontation between local people and investors, and farmers and livestock keepers.

Secondly, the research also has identified high sedimentation on Lake Manyara and Lake Burunge (the two lakes at project villages). The project however could not establish the extent and causes of sedimentation i.e. if the sedimentation is result of livelihood activities in the project villages or from other villages as the stream of water pouring into these lakes originate from uphill village (project villages are at low land close to the lakes).

Thirdly, effort to establish the impact on wildlife management areas on poverty pathways is in progress, at the end of the project, the research will document whether the intervention has facilitated (or not) to move rural people out of poverty.

Benefits to Local Community:

The local communities have been involved in providing information and discussion of how the project in being run, through these discussion (in groups and sometimes with individuals) local

people have reflected on issues of democracy and good governance, the project presented forums for discussion and open windows to challenge the functioning of the rules. When this project is completed, local people opinions and suggestions will be incorporated for capacity building to benefit a wider audience.

Future Plans:

The research is still in progress. Also, the research has identified large problem of sedimentation on Lake Manyara and Lake Burunge, therefore, future plan is to conduct research and establish the extent of sedimentation and its causes, and educate people to protect these two lakes from disappearing.

The project focus is to effectively complete the current research and capacity building within the project schedule, and thereafter plan for larger research on problems of sedimentation on Lake Manyara and Lake Burunge to help devise mechanism to prevent disappearance of the two lakes which are important water sources for wild animals inside Manyara and Tarangire National parks.

Sharing Results:

The result will be published in peer reviewed journals (free access will be the first priority), and also compiled for PhD thesis. Abstracts and policy brief will be produced and distributed to stakeholders at local and national level. For each project village, a summary of research work in local language will be provided and researcher will spend time to present the findings to local people for discussion and determine a way forward, both in terms of research and capacity building.

Timescale:

The project fund is provided for total of 18 months, however due to unanticipated increase of project costs, The Rufford Foundation grant serviced the project for about 12 months, currently the research is being supplemented by researcher own incomes sources and efforts to apply for supplement grant is being done. Currently, the researcher has submitted grant request to Graduate Academy of the Technische Universität Dresden (where the researcher is a PhD candidate), and continue to respond to more call to solicit funds to successfully complete the project.

Publicity:

The Rufford Foundation logo was (and is being) used when introducing the project and research assistants to local authorities. The logo will also be used in the final report. The project has also publicised RSGF, where through my personal contacts I have informed number of young Tanzanian researchers of the possibility and benefits of becoming RSGF recipient, and how the foundation contribute to the capacity building of both local communities and young scientist in developing countries.

Photos:



Despite being surrounded by rich environments, the boy live in deep poverty and has no hope.

Man guarding his crops against birds and monkeys.



Monkeys are very destructive to crops, they thus cause people to spend much time on field to guard their crops instead of engaging on other productive activities (see photo 3).

This photo show rural people dependence on natural resources, the house is fully constructed by wood and mud, it also show that despite the environment being rich, the people around still live in deep poverty (see also photo 5 and 6)





Giraffes browsing on village lands, they attract a number of tourist and tourism investments.

The photo depict the interaction between livestock and wild animals. Through this interaction there are risks of diseases transmission from wild animals to livestock and vice versa, and in case of extreme cases loss of assets and lives due to wild animal attacks.

