



Progress Report II



Project title: *Enhancing Community involvement in six villages adjacent to Mikumi National Park on participatory conservation of African Elephants' habitats – Tanzania*



**Under Implementation by”
Conservation of Nature for Survival
P. O. Box 6202,
Morogoro,
Tanzania, Email: conasuo@gmail.com**

Under Support of The Rufford Foundation (RSG)

Project Summary

Pre – implementation overview

The implementation of this project is manifested from the position that currently the elephants experiencing poor vegetation cover where they can access feeding. Drought is seen to be increased as years go on. It is realized that human settlement and livestock grazing in protected areas and elephant corridors is widespread (Plumptre, et al., 2010; Hibert, et al, 2010; Jones, et al., 2009). During the implementation project 1 in this year, the project team noted that livelihoods activities which motivate conservation of habitats are highly needed. It is revealed that the villagers engage into various livelihoods but lack of entrepreneurship skills continue to facilitate destruction of habitats especially extension of farms and deforestation through overgrazing and charcoal making activities, the local residents claim that wildlife movement has decreased areas where farming or extensive grazing occurs. Otherwise, elephants are seen by adjacent community as destructors of their crops while farming have been extended to elephants corridors. Where also migration of people into elephant range has greatly exacerbated human – elephant conflict in recent times (Hoare 2007). Apart from villages trained in phase 1, other villages do not take any conservation role to the elephant’s habitat in Mikumi National Park because of inadequate knowledge on participatory wildlife conservation process which would also benefit themselves.

Project Objectives

From above overview summary of the project, the below are the project objectives

- i. Reduced destructive practices in Mikumi National Park along the border from three villages of *Kihondo, Parakuyo, Kilangali, Maharaka, Mkata and Doma* by year 2016.
- ii. Protected and managed elephant’s habitat in area bordered with three villages of *Kihondo, Parakuyo, Kilangali, Maharaka, Mkata and Doma* villages by year 2016.
- iii.

Quarter 2

a. Implementation overview

Conservation of Nature for Survival (CONASU) is concluding the implement of the project on *Enhancing Community involvement in six villages adjacent to Mikumi National Park on participatory conservation of African Elephants' habitats – Tanzania*. The implementation started in February 2016. During this reporting period the implemented activities are; undertake training to villagers on integrated activities, form groups and train on entrepreneurship skills and financial literacy, monitor fixing of beehives to villages and monitor the project progress which went together with report developments per each activity.

b. Planned Activities and implementation status

No.	Planned activity	Status	Any remarks
1	Trainings to indentified villagers on integrated activities	Twenty four (24) participants were trained on how to carryout integrated activities that promoted protection of habitat and at the same time are sources of income to the community	<i>This activity was noted to be very significant and useful to both community and the habitat.</i> <i>It was undertaken as planed</i>
2	Trained formed groups on entrepreneurship skills and financial literacy	The total number of 60 participants were trained from 4 groups formed	<i>This activity was also very significant and motive to participants</i> <i>It was also achieved as planned</i>

4	Facilitate the fixing of beehives	The total of 30 beehives have been fixed to the target project site	<i>It has completed as planned</i>
4	Conducting Participatory monitoring and evaluation throughout project implementation by August, 2016.	Undertaken for tracking changes	<i>The project team continued</i>

c. Applied Methodologies

During the trainings, facilitators employed several training methods to ensure effective participation of trainees. The facilitators applied PLA approach which ensured that the participants identifying conservation problems, analysing their magnitude and developing solutions to addressing them. In applying PLA, the facilitator took a lead of the approach and the way it works. Hence it was remarked as follows;

- a) **Question and answers:** Facilitators (Angelus Runji & Subira Yasin) used to ask probing questions to participants towards training topics for intention of simulating main concepts of the training. These probe questions awaken participants to explain their experience on carrying out various integrating activities and the application of financial literacy. Through probing questions, facilitators were able to define the dimension of community involvement in conservation



Participants are in training



Participants following presentation – During the training held in Doma

b) **Discussion:** this was one among the significant methods which was applied during the trainings. The participants shared experience regarding the ongoing destruction of habitat in the park areas and their role to carryout integrated activities adjacent the border zone in order to reduce the negative intervention which harms the habitat. Through discussion, the participants shared various techniques that suit the integrated activities be carried for habitat management and protection purpose.



Participants are in group discussion applying the Participatory Learning and Action Approach (PLA) – Mapping tool



Participants are in group discussion applying the Participatory Learning and Action Approach (PLA) – Resource Bag tool



Presentation of participants on Resources available in the project area that may support the carrying out of various integrated activities

c) **Presentation:** Facilitators used to share the key aspect on participatory wildlife management. The emphasis was based on how adjacent communities can participate effectively while benefiting from their integrated livelihoods and the key financial management skills that are significant to the rural community. The financial skills were focused on production, selling, earning and saving.



Facilitator, Mr. Angelus Runji delivering a topic on beehives project management



Facilitator, Mr. Angelus Runji leading a demonstration on how to extract honey



Facilitator continues explaining the significant of modern beehives

d. Implementation results

1. The implementation remarked on the increase of knowledge and skills on carrying out integrated activities that will promote effective management and protection of the wildlife habitat in Mikumi National Park (MINAPA).
2. This quarter also realized the significant increase of capacity by communities in four critical financial areas which are production, selling, earning and saving. The project team realized that these skills are very significant to addressing poverty especially on the sense of controlling and the use of the resources in significant way.
3. The trainings resulted into encouraging the initiation of Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) in Mikumi National Park. This was seen as one of the community conservation integrated activities for effective management of wildlife. Through having WMAs, the villagers will offer more efforts to protection of the habitat.

e. Publication (information sharing)

During this period of project implementation, the project team designed brochures and one newsletter which was shared to trainees and other stakeholders. They carried a message that

promoting integrated activities that community living surrounding the Mikumi National Park and other reserved area can carry out (*refer below attached Newsletter*)

f. Future plan

1. The future plan is based on completing the remained activities of the project which are following
 - i. Continue with monitoring and evaluation exercise
2. Finalize the implementation report (through RSG template with attachments) which expects to be submitted by end of this month, 2016.
3. Continue updating RSG and other stakeholders on project outcomes
4. Upscale the project based on evaluation report recommendation

Conclusion

Thanks a lot to The Rufford Foundation for generous support provided to us to implement this project and that continuing efforts to rescue habitat from deterioration will create sustainable protection and management of the elephants in Mikumi National Park.

The report prepared by

Conservation of Nature for Survival

And submitted to RSG on 13th August, 2016