



Progress Report

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



Under Implementation by”
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Under Support of The Rufford Foundation (RSG)

Project Summary

Pre – implementation overview

Currently the elephants experiencing poor vegetation cover where they can access feeding. Drought is seen to be increased as years go on. It is realised 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.

Quarter 1

a. Implementation overview

Conservation of Nature for Survival (CONASU) is underway to implement the project on “Upon implementation of the project titled *“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 following activities have already implemented which are inception meeting

to new three villages which are Kihondo, Kilangali and Parakuyo, conducting sensitization meetings in three new villages on Participatory wildlife management but sensitization meetings were also carried in three villages engaged on project 1 which are Maharaka, Doma and Mkata villages where the content during this project was on integrated activities and entrepreneurship skills. Also the implementation in this reporting period involved conducting workshop to patrol rangers from the villages of Kilangali, Kihondo and Parakuyo. This activity followed by purchase of 30 beehives and forming entrepreneurship groups that will be trained soon.



Seen far in the background are African Elephants in Mikumi National Park – Picture taken during the visit for a talk with Game warden in Mikumi



Seen far in the background is a giraffe in Mikumi National Park – Picture taken during the visit for a talk with Game warden in Mikumi

b. Planned Activities and implementation status

No.	Planned activity	Status	Any remarks
1	Conducting one day inception meeting to 18 stakeholders (6 local authority leaders, 2 Park Authority officers, 3 CBOs representatives and 7 villagers by	The meeting was conducted to 18 participants based on defined categories.	<i>The meeting conducted as planned</i>

	March, 2016.		
2	Facilitating three (3) sensitization meetings in three villages of Parakuyo, Kihondo and Kilangali to 120 total villagers on participatory wildlife conservation with specific focus to elephants' habitats in Mikumi National Park by September, 2014.	The facilitation meetings were undertaken to 141 participants. Contents - Participatory wildlife management - Entrepreneurship skills.	<i>There is difference of 21 participants.</i> The number of participants exceeded the planned number to be reached.
3	Conducting three (3) days workshop to 21 identified village patrol volunteers on undertaking management and protection of elephants and their habitats in collaboration to Park guides by April, 2016. The participants will drawn from Malangali, Parakuyo and Kihondo villages only	The training was conducted to 21 village volunteers. These volunteers were identified during the sensitization meeting carried out in three villages of Parakuyo, Kihondo and Kilangali	<i>Training was done as planned. All expected participants participated</i>
4	Form 4 groups and train 60 participants (15 people per group) on entrepreneurship skills for enhancing integrated livelihoods especially beekeeping project by May 2016. This activity will involve training communities from six villages where the distribution will be three former villages (Maharaka, Mkata and Doma) and other new villages in this upscaling project which are Malangali, Parakuyo and Kihondo.	Groups have formed - CONASU undertook meetings for facilitating the formation of 4 groups of 60 participants to be trained	<i>The training to the formed groups is underway</i>
5	Purchase and fix thirty 30 beehives (21 for three new villages and 9 for former villages) for improving livelihoods and encouraging beekeeping to facilitate protection of elephants' habitat	The 30 beehives have been purchased and distributed but fixed	<i>The 30 beehives will be fixed by beneficiaries mid of May 2016 after training in order to insure effective</i>

<p>adjacent the villages by June, 2016. This activity intend to provided opportunity for formed groups to exercise entrepreneurship skills from income raising activity</p>		<p><i>management by the recipients (beneficiaries)</i></p>
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c. Applied Methodologies

The following methodology were employed by facilitators during the sensitization meetings and trainings

- a) **Question and answers:** Facilitators (Angelus Runji, Ahmed Mdangu & Subira Yasin) used to ask probing questions to participants against African Elephant’s habitat management. These probe questions awaken participants to explain their experience regarding their role in managing the above named species’ habitat especially. Through probing questions, facilitators were able to define the dimension of community involvement in conservation

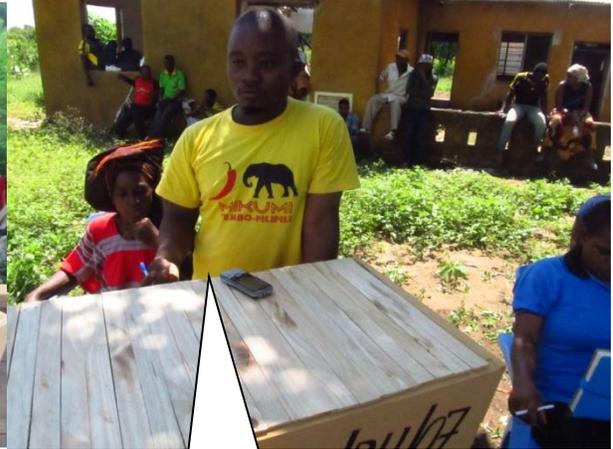


Facilitator – participants Interaction during the meetings

- b) **Discussion:** this was one among the significant methods during the discussions. The participants shared experience regarding the ongoing destruction of habitat in the park areas. The facilitators critically explain various approaches to manage the habitat. Through discussion, various habitat management techniques were discussed.



The meeting facilitator, Mr. Angelus Runji gives explanation regarding modern beehives



A village Environmental Committee Member sharing his views during meeting in Mkata village

- 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



The Ecologist – Mr. Samweli Stanley Mgothi from Mikumi National Park presenting during the meeting

d. Implementation results

1. Strengthened relationship between park authority and surrounding communities. This realized during the activities evaluation exercise where the project staff interviewed communities and park officers who responded to have learned from

each other regarding the weaknesses existed which led to poor collaboration on protecting and managing African Elephants' habitats

2. Collaborative and shared post – implementation plan between the park authority and communities from the target villages. Along the implementation, especially during sensitization meetings, villagers and park authority agreed to meet, discuss and develop a plan for furthering project initiatives.
3. Awareness on participatory wildlife management especially protection and management of African Elephants' habitat has increased to majority of the communities. After the sensitization meetings, the activities evaluation report indicates that at moment, individual villagers admit the importance of African Elephant in existence of ecosystem which is also beneficial to them. They are also motivated on how to take measures towards destructors of the habitat as well as participating in integrated activities which stimulate conservat

e. Publication (information sharing)

During this period of project implementation, the project team insured that various media are used to share field reports (issues). The project lead identified media with mass coverage to share project information as follows;

- *Radios- during the implementation, the project team involved journalists from various local radios who covers rural reports. the collected information aired in Radio Ukweli – Catholic Church and Planet Radio. Both are found in Morogoro region.*
- *Newspapers – the coverage in newspapers involved covering short stories about the project (some already published) and features (already prepared and will be published soon. One Newspaper known as UHURU – means “Independence” has published a short story on beekeeping project as Integrated activity which stimulate habitat management (see attached cutting in this report)*



- *Publication through website – This has been done through Global Forest Watch (GFW) for sake of sharing information on destruction of forest in Mikumi National Park and current underway measures within which CONASU under support of The Rufford Foundation (RSG) is carrying out in order to end the identified challenges. **Please visit the following links;** at <http://www.globalforestwatch.org/stories/392> and <http://www.globalforestwatch.org/stories/397>*
- *Publication through printed t-shirts for project team. There were eight (8) t-shirts printed having the logs for implementing organisation which was printed at back side and donor (RSG) which printed front left side of each t-shirt. The t-shirts are blue in colour and carried a message “All of us have the responsibility to take care of Elephants and their habitat, We have to protect our natural resources” These t-shirt delivers message to public when wore by the project team. The team member wore and will continue to wear a t-shirt throughout the project implementation*

f. Future plan

1. The future plan is based on completing the remained activities of the project which are following
 - i. Trainings to indentified villagers on integrated activities
 - ii. Trained formed groups on entrepreneurship skills and financial literacy
 - iii. Facilitate fixing of supplied beehives
 - iv. Continue with monitoring and evaluation exercise
2. Finalize the implementation report (through RSG template with attachments) which expects to be submitted by August, 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 28th April, 2016