

## **Project Update: February 2019**

The project is being carried out in selected conservancies (Mara North, Naboish, Olchoro and Siana) within Mara ecosystem. A key objective is to examine extent of human-wildlife conflict (HWC). This is with a view to better understand trends of the conflicts in conservancies in terms of forms and causes, seasonality of occurrence and to establish effective mitigation measures local community can employ to address. Data collection during the dry season has just ended and the second phase (wet season) will be from early March to end of May 2019. Data on HWC is being obtained through field monitoring.

Three focus group discussions and interviews have been carried out and 60 questionnaires have been filled out by respondents from four different conservancies. The first phase data is yet to be analysed. At the end of the project, the information acquired will help enhance better understanding of prevalent types of human-wildlife conflicts in conservancies, causes of conflicts, trends of HWC based on seasons(wet and dry) as well as conflict hotspot zones, in terms of individual conservancies. It will also be essential in networking amongst the different conservancies, since they are set of connected areas within Mara ecosystem. The projects will establish means through which the conservancies can network and operate jointly and will aid in establishing particularly in addressing common conflict problems. In addition, our findings will also be helpful in addressing similar issues in other conservation areas in Kenya and elsewhere.