

## Project Update: April 2018

### Research Progression

During collection of community perceptions about the reasons that caused extinction of elephants in Nyungwe National Park, we encountered different people with different backgrounds including Karayini, an old man of 63 years and ex-poacher. He started hunting animals in Nyungwe forest when he was 18 years old, where his father first trained him about hunting and animal trapping tricks before he became a famous and experienced poacher in Nyungwe National Park.

They used to hunt different animals with a focus on elephants for selling their tusks / ivory, which were expensive compared to other animals that were hunted for bushmeat. According to his witness, he spent 45 years hunting different animals in Nyungwe, where many animals had been killed until some of them like elephants become locally extinct. Even if his family was much depending on his poaching activities for living, he decided to leave and stop his poaching activities in 2010 after being aware on its negative impacts on Nyungwe's biodiversity.

During interview, he said " I am not happy and I am sorry for what I did for many years of ignorance". Nowadays, he is contributing in protecting and conserving of Nyungwe National Park's biodiversity, which he has spent most of his time destroying. He is participating in anti-poaching patrols in Nyungwe National Park, where he helps park rangers to pursue and arresting poachers, removing snares from the park as he knows all the tricks poachers use when poaching and trapping animals. He said that he will do whatever he can for conserving remaining biodiversity of Nyungwe and he would be very happy once elephants are reintroduced in Nyungwe forest and he can do whatever he can for protecting them.



Left: Daniel ( researcher) , with Karayini during interview. ©Daniel N. Right: Karayini, Who was elephants poacher in Nyungwe National Park. ( now stopped poaching activities ). ©Daniel N.