

## Final Evaluation Report

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Your Details	
Full Name	Lameck Mkuburo
Project Title	An Assessment of Human-Elephant Interactions, Elephant Dispersal and Migration, and Community Attitudes around Northern and Southern Selous Game Reserve, Tanzania
Application ID	25434-1
Grant Amount	£5,000
Email Address	<a href="mailto:mkuburol@gmail.com">mkuburol@gmail.com</a>
Date of this Report	13 <sup>th</sup> February, 2020

**1. Indicate the level of achievement of the project's original objectives and include any relevant comments on factors affecting this.**

Objective	Not achieved	Partially achieved	Fully achieved	Comments
To identify forms and distribution of human-elephant conflict in villages around Selous Game Reserve				A few areas were not surveyed due to poor road infrastructure that prevented the field visit from covering large area. However, phone interviews were conducted.
To collect information about elephant movements, and historical range				Elephant collaring information was missing that could be used as an evidence to back up the claim of elephant movements around the area. However, based on local knowledge, communities were able to explain their experience on elephant movements around the study area.
To gather information about attitudes towards elephants and Protected Areas				Most respondents provided their feelings towards elephants and protected areas. However, a few were reluctant to talk about this because of the fear of being arrested by the government when talking negatively about elephants.
To understand how village government and farmers currently manage human-elephant conflict				Most respondents were unaware of the methods that can be used to manage human-elephant conflict; they were saying that it was government work.
To identify the need for providing conservation education and organizing awareness campaigns to educate the local communities				The communities need mitigation strategies as soon as possible to reduce crop raiding, before receiving conservation education and outreach programmes. However, school outreach programmes were not conducted due to budget re-allocation resulting from increased costs to some items.
To identify other sources of income generating activities to buffer financial losses from elephant crop-raiding				The information on this objective was collected and the communities need more help on how to generate alternative income.

**2. Please explain any unforeseen difficulties that arose during the project and how these were tackled.**

We experienced some delay in obtaining the approval of research permit from the government. We kept pushing the respective authority to release the permit in time in order to achieve the project objectives at the right time.

The original plan was to survey only in the northern part of the Selous Game Reserve in two districts (Morogoro DC and Rufiji district) but we encountered some difficulties in obtaining the permission from Rufiji District Council and we decided to shift the study to one of the district in southern part of the Selous Game Reserve (Tunduru district) which is also perceiving high human-elephant conflict events. This has resulted into small changes in the project title due to the addition of southern part of the Selous Game Reserve and of which recently its largest section underwent a shift of conservation status, from a game reserve (hosting game hunting) to a new national park (Nyerere National Park) providing total protection (only photographic tourism).

In some areas of the study we faced difficulties in access due to poor road infrastructure to make field visits. In those areas we conducted phone interviews to obtain information required by the project objectives.

There was an overlapping timetable for the other three proposed project team members (Zacharia Elias, Justin Mawingi and Jenipha Mboya) due to research permit delays. This resulted into changes and adding new members to cover their roles.

**3. Briefly describe the three most important outcomes of your project.**

- (i) We have collected baseline information for human-elephant conflict hotspot areas.
- (ii) We have identified the mitigation strategies that can be adopted and implemented to reduce human-elephant conflict and the threats facing elephant conservation and management around the area.
- (iii) We have identified that the communities need more conservation education to increase positive views and commitment towards mitigation measures and elephant conservation.

**4. Briefly describe the involvement of local communities and how they have benefitted from the project.**

In each village, village leaders and farmers were involved in questionnaire surveys. Also, each village, two local residents (one female and one male) were trained to help in conducting interviews. However, village leaders and farmers guided us in the selection of other villages reported with human-elephant conflict events.

The local communities were benefited by the provision of awareness towards elephant conservation and management, as well as various methods that can be adopted and implemented to curb human-elephant conflict around the area.

**5. Are there any plans to continue this work?**

Yes. Depending on matched funding, we aim to help the community by enhancing human-elephant co-existence through facilitation of community-led projects that diversify income, reduce crop losses from elephant and conserve biodiversity.

**6. How do you plan to share the results of your work with others?**

A detailed report of the findings will be shared with national conservation authorities, local and international communities. We also plan to publish the results of this project in a peer-reviewed journal that would be identified soon.

**7. Timescale: Over what period was the grant used? How does this compare to the anticipated or actual length of the project?**

The grant period was 8 months. This is 2 months less to the actual length of the proposed period of the project. We conducted a reconnaissance survey in August 2019 which did not require a research permit, while waiting for the research permit for the full survey.

**8. Budget: Provide a breakdown of budgeted versus actual expenditure and the reasons for any differences. All figures should be in £ sterling, indicating the local exchange rate used. It is important that you retain the management accounts and all paid invoices relating to the project for at least 2 years as these may be required for inspection at our discretion.**

Item	Budgeted Amount	Actual Amount	Difference	Comments
Stationery	93	100	+7	High printing cost
Accommodation for project participants	1500	1100	-400	Lower cost in some areas
Transport	1000	1200	+200	Higher rental vehicle cost
Subsistence for project participants	720	800	+80	Food cost were not the same in project areas
Digital camera (1)	152	150	-2	Cheaper than estimated
Report production and duplication	50	200	+150	More copies of the report were required by the government authorities
Conservation awareness raising in villages	300	300		Less area was covered
Presentation at national conference	125	100	-25	Cheaper than estimated-to be conducted
School outreach	400	400		Not conducted due to budget

program				re-allocation to other activities
Results publication	190	190		To be conducted
Printing T-shirts with Rufford logo for publicity	100	125	+25	Higher printing costs
Allowance for local residents to assist in data collection	320	285	-35	Cheaper than estimated
Backpack for carrying field items (2)	50	50		Satisfied the needs
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5000</b>	<b>5000</b>		Note: The exchange rate used was 1 sterling=2,905 Tanzanian Shillings

**9. Looking ahead, what do you feel are the important next steps?**

We are looking for submitting an application to The Rufford Foundation for second round funding to start helping the communities for mitigate the human-elephant conflict to reduce elephant crop-raiding to the level that can be tolerated by local communities.

**10. Did you use The Rufford Foundation logo in any materials produced in relation to this project? Did the Foundation receive any publicity during the course of your work?**

Yes, we used The Rufford Foundation logo to print t-shirts for the project participants and village leaders for publicity. We also used the logo into public document explain our project overview around the project area. We also posted the project updates through my Facebook page (Lameck Mkuburo), LinkedIn page (Lameck Mkuburo) and Instagram account (lameck\_mkuburo).

**11. Please provide a full list of all the members of your team and briefly what was their role in the project.**

**Lameck Mkuburo** (Project leader). Lameck was responsible to coordinate all project activities, permit application and follow-up, lead researcher in the field data collection, presentation to government authorities, data analysis and management and report writing.

**Humphrey Sanga** (Research officer). Humphrey is qualified in MSc. Biodiversity conservation from the University of Dar es salaam. In this project he was assisting with data collection, data entry, organization, analysis and report writing.

**Vaileth Jairosoy** (Education officer). Ms. Vaileth is has a Bachelor of Science in wildlife management from Sokoine University of Agriculture. In this project, she was assisting with field data collection, data entry and analysis as well as awareness raising towards elephant conservation.

**Athumani Mathayo** (GIS officer). Mr. Athumani is qualified in BSc. In wildlife management from the African College of wildlife management (MWEKA). In this project he was responsible for collecting all GPS coordinates, assisting with data collection, data entry and GIS mapping. He is the one who produced all maps in this report.

## **12. Any other comments?**

We thank The Rufford Foundation for supporting this project, and we hope to continue supporting us into our future projects to help the local communities to reduce human-elephant conflict and conserve biodiversity.