

Project Update: August 2019

Executive Summary of the project progress

Human wildlife conflict mitigation is a research based project aimed to look for what can be a sustainable solution for local people and baboons around NNP in Nyamagabe district where firstly, we organised crops suggested by local farmers to be grown and try to see if baboons can't eat them which started by doing nursery of them. Secondly we planted crops which was ready to be transplanted from nursery to the gardens as we have three gardens from two different sectors. On 19th and 27th March 2019 we planted crops in three gardens, some of them were growing fast while others needed more time to wait until when they were ready to be transplanted.



The third steps were long for three months because it was in two phases:

Phase 1: Protection of crops so that baboons will not access them when they are not ready to be consumed.

Phase 2: Allowing baboons to access on crops in the gardens.

Fourth steps: Harvesting Crops round number 1

At IPRC Kitabi some of our crops were ready to be harvested, we left our crops alone without protecting them for a week. Baboons come in the gardens and ate all young carrots on 12th July 2019, again they didn't attack beetroots. On 14th July 2019, with my field assistant Celestin we harvested beetroots which gave us a good productivity.



Photos 1: Baboons tried to pull out the carrots, unfortunately the soil was very strong.



Photos 2: Taken at IPRC kitabi, beetroots harvested are good where 3 of them measured 1kg.

The second garden is located behind Eco-center Kitabi on the opposite side of Sigira Company where baboons access easily from Nyungwe forest by crossing the tea plantation going to the local farmers. In this garden we harvested anions, garlic, beetroots, carrots and spinach. Because this garden is located nearby the people, baboons are chased away by kids when they are not yet reaching where our gardens are, so with the focus on our project aim of looking for non-edible crops to baboons and if the can adapt the soil quality, we realised that this soil is good for those types of crops.



Photos 3: All product harvested was given to the local farmers as our purpose is to teach how they cook beetroots with other food as well as their importance.



Photos 4: The local farmers are very interested on growing beetroots themselves in the property. from their testimonies, they said that beetroots are very expensive on the market and most of them buy beetroots only when they have babies or when the healthy facilitator advise them to use juice made from beetroots in case of low blood rate in their body.

Growing beetroots also will be the way of getting money to feed their family as they said because once they sell two beetroot they will get US\$1 dollar while 1e kg is about 1,200 Rwandan Francs. We are planning to give seeds of beetroots, onions and garlic to selected local farmer for this coming month to do nurturing, and then after in September 2019 we will give them to everyone who lives in close proximity of Nyungwe National Park to grow them as a way of seeing if everyone will take care of those types of crops. Within the growing season, we will also teach the people especially farmers from the same district, the importance of growing those types of crops, their useful and the proper way of cooking them in every vegetables meal and in salads because most of them knew that with beetroots they produce only juice.