

Project Update: June 2019

1. 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 tried to see if baboons can't eat them. We started by doing nursaring of them and then, secondly we planted crops which was ready to be transplanted from nursaring to the gardens as we have three gardens from two 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.



Growing non-edible crops for Baboons around NNP

Result

On 29th April 2019 we found that carrots, beetroot, onions (one types with roots), onions without roots, garlic and spinach was almost ready to be harvested to give us productivity. So I told our gardens guards to leave the gardens alone so that we will see what will be happen with the surrounding but told him to be nearby the gardens to observe the movement for baboons in those gardens.

On 10th May 2019 at 4:45 baboons come in gardens located at IPRC Kitabi and ate all carrots in gardens and some red anions with roots, they removed some other onions without roots but they didn't eat them at all. The time they were sitting in the gardens, the students passed around and disturbed them to run away, but they didn't touch

beetroot, spinach and garlic at that time. On the following days one baboon come in the garden, he took one beetroot and tried to eat it but fortunately he thrown it back on the ground. The same baboon tried to move and walk around in the garden but failed to find anything else to eat until now no other baboon comeback into that garden, and for the other two gardens baboons are not yet reaching the place.



On 22nd May 2019 the time I was on the field, I found that the beetroot not eaten by baboons which is the success of the first party for our research project, and then for the second party I tried to harvest some beetroot to see if the soil quality is good for them. Together with my garden supervisor & guard, we harvested many beetroot with four of them were measuring 1kg, which means that the soil types for this location is good for beetroot and once we grow many we can get high productivity.



Unfortunately, our other crops are not yet ready like ginger, but we also added lemon trees on the list which will take longtime to have fruits, while all chili's didn't adapt the climate at the place because the elevation there is too high for chili's as they like to be grown where the altitude is lower. After observing this above, I took initiative to plant more carrots again, other crops like beetroot, ginger, garlic, onions and protect them from baboons as I would like to see their productivity from that soil type. Vegetables are very important food in many different ways, once we found that there is a good and a high productivity for those crops, we will have another plan to grow many with the local farmers from sectors which are close to the park boundaries so that we can organise a conservation market for the products.