

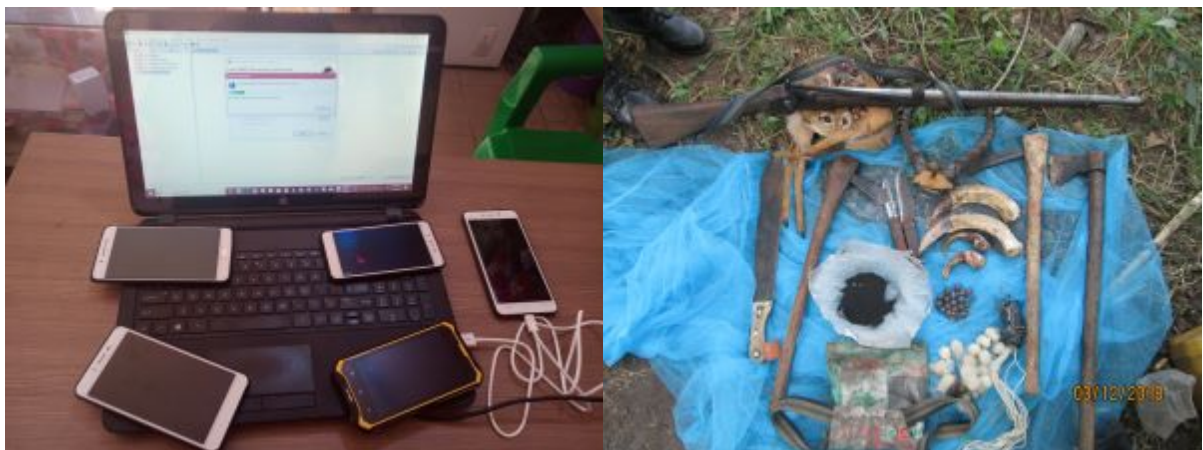
Project Update: September 2019

From June to July 2019 we conducted nine focus group discussions with groups of people who legally carry out their activities within Ugalla Game Reserve (e.g. legal subsistence beekeepers and fishermen, game rangers, game officers, and trophy hunting companies' staff; see photos). The aim was to learn from them as they are knowledgeable about Ugalla ecosystem and illegal activities therein. So, we asked them the following questions.

- 1) What do you perceive as drivers of poaching?
- 2) How can relationships between the local community and game rangers be improved?
- 3) How do you think we can reduce illegal hunting in Ugalla?

We are now using the information obtained from the focus groups to improve our household survey plan.

So, we are going back to Ugalla in early November 2019 for 2 months (November and December) for household surveys, and more focus groups but this time with only local communities (villagers) around Ugalla ecosystem. The plan is to combine questionnaire data and ranger collected (SMART) data. From our experience, November – December is the best time to conduct interviews with villagers around Ugalla. We thank the project manager and staff at Ugalla for support and encouragement. We have just bought six smartphones for Ugalla rangers (see photo 1) because the data collection by the rangers will also include use of CyberTracker to record data.



Left: Smart phones that will be used by game rangers at Ugalla. Right: Confiscated poacher belongings (knives, muzzleloader, animal carcass etc.)



Left: Warthog meat abandoned by poachers fleeing from patrollers in Ugalla Game Reserve. Right: A bushmeat hunters' camp encountered by patrollers in Ugalla Game Reserve.



Left: Paulo Wilfred and a research assistant–Dennis Njovu–first and third from right on the first row respectively with a patrol team at a rangers' basecamp within Ugalla Game Reserve. Right: A focus group discussion with a group of legal subsistence fishermen who carry out their fishing activities in Ugalla Game Reserve.



Left: A focus group discussion with a group of beekeepers who are permitted to conduct beekeeping activities in Ugalla Game Reserve. Right: A focus group discussion with trophy hunting staff at a trophy hunting camp in Ugalla Game Reserve.