

**STRENGTHENING MONITORING SYSTEMS FOR ADAPTIVE
MANAGEMENT AND PROTECTION OF FOREST ELEPHANTS IN
OMO FOREST RESERVE, SOUTHWESTERN NIGERIA**

PROGRESS REPORT II

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Patrol Activities for Monitoring and Arresting Illegal Activities in Project Area

The Forest Elephant Protection Initiative/Project has ten (10) rangers actively working on the field with two (2) managers and one (1) rangers' supervisor. The rangers operate on shift of two teams with a team comprising five rangers. Patrol activities are carried out by the rangers on foot and motorbikes. The rangers make use of intelligence report, roadblock, stop and search, ambush and at times joint patrol with the government's Safety Corps in some locations within the project area. Field reporting of daily events and activities are captured in field notebooks, use of camera, video recording and taking of GPS coordinates of incidence locations. Rangers are empowered to stop and prevent all forms of encroachments into the elephant sanctuary. These encroachments could be in form of farming, hunting, logging and trespassing within the elephant sanctuary.



Field Rangers under The Forest Elephant Protection Initiative/Project



Rangers on Patrol within the Project Area.



Arrest of a Trespasser within the Project Area.



Confiscated Traps and Arrested Hunter within the Project Area.

GeoTracker Applications for Evaluating Patrol Activities in Project Area

In order to improve patrol efforts and activities, there was the need to acquire relevant scientific materials and conduct training sessions on how to use and manipulate them. Training sessions focused on the use and manipulation of the GeoTracker Software for field data collection with intensive practical sessions for field testing. The training was tailored to ensure that rangers have the capacity to collect accurate and reliable information and are able to carry out preliminary analysis to provide decision support to meet conservation needs. The training methodology had to do with instrument manipulation, data collection, data download, data export and import from and to other software programmes and how-to carryout preliminary analysis on the collected data. Key elements handled during the training included but were not limited to; presentation on what a GeoTracker is, why the GeoTracker, the major features and functionalities, how to use the GeoTracker for data collection in the field and how to manage and maintain the GeoTracker. Prior to the beginning of each training session are the installations of various software and databases which are at same time synchronized into different handheld smart phones and laptop computers. The training sessions

involved presentations, discussions, a question and answer session and lastly an intensive practical field exercises on manipulation of the GeoTracker System.



Left: Training session on the use of GeoTracker Application. Right: On-the-field training on the use of GeoTracker Application.



Left: Participatory Learning and Action by Rangers on the use of GeoTracker Application. Right: Field Data Collection During Patrol.



Left: Shape File of Omo Forest Reserve. Right: GPS Coordinates of Areas Patrolled around Elephant Sanctuary.



Plotting of GPS Coordinates of Areas patrolled into Base-Map.

It is important to note that the project area has continued to record significant visit of tourists, researchers and students into the sanctuary owing to increased level of protection for the forest elephants and the generally enhanced integrity of biodiversity in the area.



Visitation to Elephant Sanctuary by School Children.



Visitation by Tourists to Elephant Sanctuary.



Project Team Member Inspect Camera Trap in Elephant Sanctuary.



Encounter with Fresh Elephant's Dung by Rangers.

