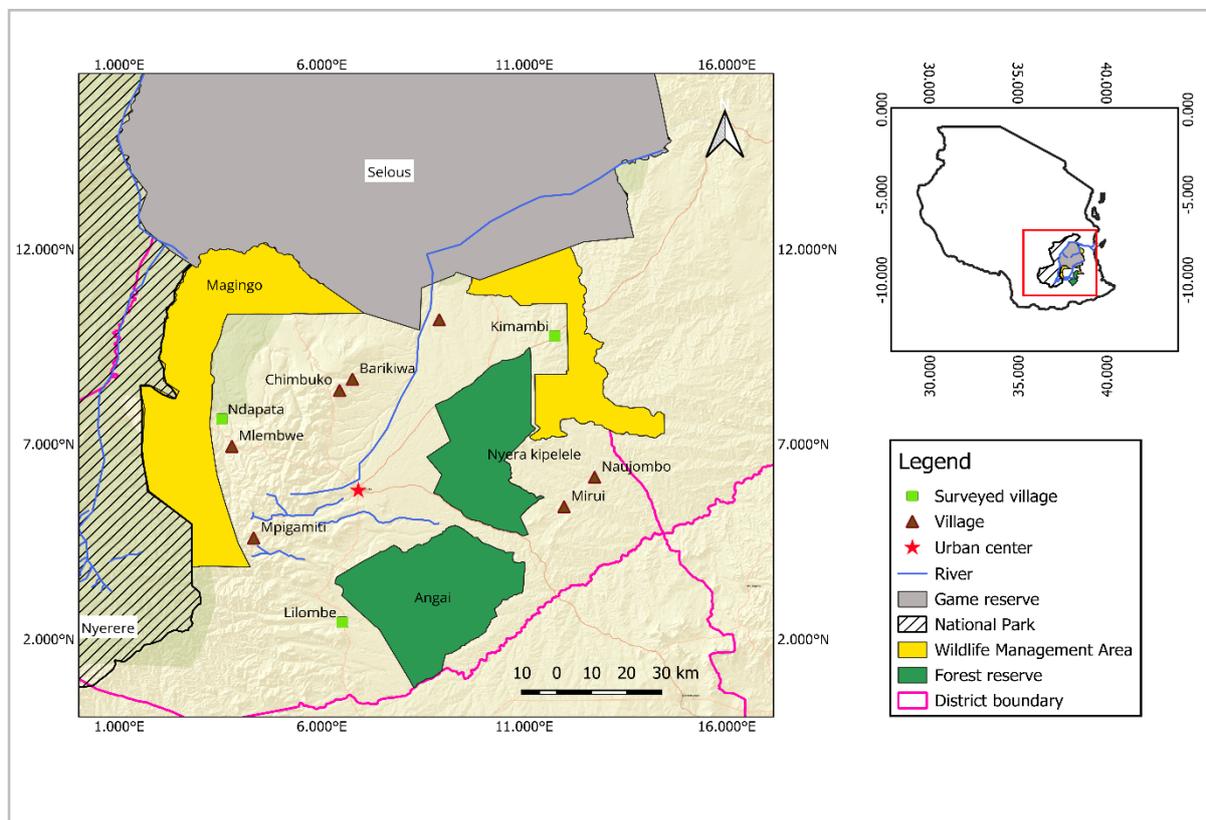


Project Update: April 2023

1.0 Project summary

We started our project in March 2023 after successfully receiving the project fund from the foundation in January 2023. It was delayed for a month because of extended processes in the acquisition of research permits from the Tanzania Wildlife Research Institute (TAWIRI) and Tanzania Commission for Science and Technology (COSTECH). After the acquisition of the required documents, I traveled to the Liwale district to get in touch with the team. I met with the team and had a meeting with them to discuss the long-term sustainability and impact of the project on the conservation of large carnivores in the landscape. During March-April 2023, we conducted three activities: (i) Familiarization with the study area; (ii) Testing our methodological approaches and modifying them where necessary; and (iii) Collecting evidence on carnivore attacks in villages adjacent to protected areas.

2.0 A map of the study area



3.0 Project activities

3.1 Familiarization with the study area

First, we met with the District Executive Officer (DED) to give him all the necessary documents and permits that allow us to conduct a study in the district. We explained in detail the purpose of the study and what benefit it can bring in terms of large carnivore conservation as well as welfare to the communities that are affected by human-carnivore conflicts in the area. We had a long discussion with the DED since he was unaware of the scenario as for the past 3 years there have been more incidences of human-elephant conflicts than any other form of human-wildlife

conflicts. In a roundup of the discussion, DED was interested and requested us to share the final findings.

We had a key stakeholder meeting with conservation institutions and livestock-keeping officers in the district i.e., Tanzania Wildlife Management Authority (TAWA), Tanzania National Parks (TANAPA), Tanzania Forest Service Agency (TFS), District Game Officer (DGO) and District Livestock and Fisheries Development Officer (DLFDO) to discuss the issue of human-carnivore conflict and be briefed on identify villages that are vulnerable to human-carnivore conflicts based on reported incidences. We visited 10 villages that are adjacent to protected areas and discovered that only three are highly affected by carnivore attacks. We conducted a meeting with village/local community leaders in each village we visited to explain the scope and limitations of the study. With the help of village game scouts, we succeeded to survey the protected areas (wildlife management area, forest reserves and open areas) to check the accessibility of potential sites for carnivore surveys and have all the necessary information for the study.

3.2 Testing our methodological approaches and modifying them where necessary.

To ensure that our approaches for data collection are well structured to capture accurate data depending on the field environment, we tested the sign survey, questionnaire survey and village meeting approaches. We tested the questionnaires on 40 respondents in the selected villages. Questionnaires were translated into "Kiswahili" so that they can be well understood by the respondents. We made changes to the questionnaire after discovering that local people were uncomfortable in some parts. We tested it again and was perfect to capture the intended information. During the meeting with village leaders, they advised the team to use group discussion instead of village meeting because it is simple to discuss and acquire information with a group of 5-15 people rather than with more than 50 people sitting in one place. We agreed that could work better. On the sign survey approach, we could use camera traps in some places where We see that it will be hard to acquire data.

3.3 To collect evidence on carnivore attacks in the villages adjacent to protected areas.

To accomplish this activity, we provided a data collection kit to VGS in the selected villages. This activity is from April to October 2023. Information needed is the date of incidence, location/GPS coordinates, carnivore involved, type and number of livestock killed, Human injured/death, local people's action against carnivore and other useful information.

4.0 Pictures description

- Stakeholder Meeting - SHM
- Village leaders meeting - VLM
- Testing questionnaire clarity - TQC
- Protected area surveys - PAS (WMA, FRs and OAs)

