

**Project Update: February 2026**

**Project Title: Mitigating Human-Elephant Conflict in the Kakum Conservation Area of Ghana through Education and Improved Chilli Fence Adoption**

**Project ID: 46700-2**

This report provides a summary of major activities undertaken since the inception of this project. Major activities undertaken include the acquisition of a research permit, multi-stakeholder consultations, baseline survey, and awareness creation workshop. The research permit was obtained from the national headquarters of the Wildlife Division of the Forestry Commission in Accra after paying a fee of GHC 1000.00. Subsequently, reconnaissance visits were paid to the project area. During the reconnaissance visits, inception meetings were organized to introduce the project and seek the support of key stakeholders including wildlife managers, farmers, and traditional authorities. The project was embraced by all stakeholders, who also emphasised its potential to contribute positively to ongoing efforts to mitigate human-elephant conflict in the area. The next major activity was a baseline survey. The survey was used to collect baseline data on the frequency of crop raiding by elephants, farmers' understanding of the benefits of elephants, as well as on their (antagonistic or friendly) attitudes towards elephants.

The most recent activity undertaken was an awareness creation workshop (Figure 1 and 2) which was organized in a fringe community called Gyahade. Members from other neighbouring fringe communities also attended the workshop. The workshop was organized in collaboration with field staff of the Wildlife Division of the Forestry Commission. The workshop was used to educate community members on the benefits of elephants, with the aim of preventing antagonistic attitude towards crop-raiding elephants. The role of elephants as tree planters (through seed dispersal) and how that contributes to forest regeneration and creates moist-humid microclimatic conditions to sustain cocoa farming in the area were emphasized. References were made to other parts of Ghana where rapid forest loss had contributed to the collapse of cocoa farming as a livelihood. The economic benefits of elephants in terms of revenue generation through ecotourism for community development projects were also highlighted. In addition, the workshop was used to provide a detailed explanation of the project objectives, methodology, and potential benefits to participants. Participants considered the project as timely and laudable and expressed their willingness to give it the support needed. Finally, timelines for the remaining project activities, especially the construction of chilli pepper fences, were agreed with participants, by taking crop-raiding patterns of elephants in the area into account.



Figure 1. Ishmael Hashmiu presenting at the awareness creation workshop.  
Photo Credit: Ishmael Hashmiu



Figure 2. A participant asking a question during the workshop.  
Photo Credit: Ishmael Hashmiu