Interim Project Report

We ask all grant recipients to send at least one update during your project. These updates help us to evaluate your progress and are a useful project management tool to keep your project on track and inform us of any changes. You are welcome to send additional project updates as and when you like.

Please fill in and submit this template approximately halfway through your project. This is intended to be a snapshot of your activities so far and does not need to be detailed. Where relevant, any specific details that are included should also be reported in your Final Evaluation Report (i.e. please do not omit key details from the final report just because you have already reported them here).

This Interim Project Report must be sent in **MS Word format (not PDF)** and completed in English. Note that the information may be edited before posting on our website.

Please email the completed report and accompanying Excel budget to jane@rufford.org.

Your Details	
Full name	MOHAMEDI HASANI KIDOGO
Project title	Community-Based Elephant Conflict Mitigation in Mkumbaru Village, Nanyumbu District, Southern Tanzania.
Application ID	51473-1
Project start date	June 2026 (grant funds received 11 June 2026)
Expected end date or month	May 2027
Date of this report	November 2026

1. **Briefly summarise the activities conducted so far** (c. 500 words or less)

Baseline and hotspot mapping (25-27 June). Household surveys (KoboToolbox) and GPS mapping were carried out with farmers and village leaders in Mkumbaru Village. In the first 51 questionnaires analysed, 92% of households were raided last season (mean 7 raids per farm), 98% said current methods (noise, fire, night guarding) do not work, 29% used no protection, and none had ever been trained in smelly repellents (86% had never heard of them). Raids peak March–May in maize, with a second peak in August–September in cashew; maize is the most damaged crop (84% of households) and 39% store harvest where they sleep. Mapping identified Chipunda and Songambele B hamlets within Mkumbaru village as hotspots, six demonstration farms were selected, three in each.

Farmer training (Preparation 8-9 July and Installation 3-8 August). With the District Game Office, we trained 150 farmers (85 men, 65 women, from the attendance registers; phase 1 of a 250-farmer target) on the preparation and installation days, to prepare and handle the repellent fill and hang bottles, and maintain fences after rain. Ten farmers have already prepared their own repellent for their own cashew farms without being asked.

Maliasili Club (established 10 July). The first HEC Club (Maliasili club) at Mkumbaru Secondary School has 70 active students (35 girls, 35 boys), above our target of 40, because the school asked to include more students. Sessions use the Save the Elephants HEC toolkit: Understanding the Elephant (09 September) and Farm and Boundary Protection (8 October) and Early Warning Systems (5 November).

Camera traps and fences. Six camera traps were installed on 1–2 August at the six farms and along elephant paths, followed on 3–8 August, just before the cashew raiding peak, by smelly-repellent fences on the six demonstration farms (three cashew farms in Chipunda, three farms in Songambele B). Farmers contributed cooking equipment for refreshment in installation days.

Public awareness meeting (10 September and 3-4 November). 97 farmers and leaders (35 women, 62 men) attended and learned about elephant behaviour, safety and coexistence. Since then farmers report good early results on the six farms, and belief in the project and in coexistence is growing in the village. On 3–4 November we displayed 55 posters in public places and government offices in Mkumbaru Village and at the District Office, and gave 350 Swahili leaflets to farmers and Mkumbaru students. The leaflets explain the risks of traditional deterrents to crops and farmers, and why smelly repellent is an effective non-lethal alternative.

Monitoring (since August). Farmer logbooks, field observation and camera-trap review began on 11 September and continued on 9–10 October. The six cameras (running for 69 nights since 2 August: 414 trap-nights in total) recorded 134 images.

Elephants appeared at one site only (Site A, Chipunda): 16 images of five elephants including calves on 6 August, which approached the fence and turned back. On 11 September we found elephant footprints ending about 5 m from the same fence. Cattles appeared in the remaining images.

2. Describe any challenges you have faced (c. 250 words or less)

1. Late start in the season. The proposal assumed a March start, but the grant was approved at the end of May, so we missed the March–May maize peak. The baseline was done in June, after that peak, so answers rely on farmers' recall. We therefore started with cashew farms, whose peak is August-September, and installed fences on 3-8 August just before it.

2. Limited government capacity. Nanyumbu District has only four wildlife staff. The Game Office joins every training, but cannot attend every monitoring visit, so we are building farmer and school capacity to continue the work.

3. Scepticism. Only 25% of baseline respondents believed coexistence is possible (49% said no). Demonstration farms and the ten early adopters are our main tool for changing this.

4. Demand above plan. The Maliasili club grew to 70 students instead of 40, and farmers are already making repellent on their own, which stretches repellent materials. The HEC toolkit booklets were printed as budgeted, and I teach with soft copies on my own projector.

3. Have there been any changes to the project plan? Are there any objectives or activities that you may struggle to achieve in the remaining project timeframe?

The proposal timetable began in March, but the project started in June 2026 and, as a one-year project, runs to May 2027. The endline survey and final analysis will therefore take place after the March-May maize season.

Crops. Raids peak in two seasons: March-May in maize and August–September in cashew. We started with cashew farms, fenced before the August-September peak, and the next cycle will fence demonstration maize farms before the March-May 2027 peak.

Maliasili Club. 70 students joined instead of 40; toolkit booklets were printed as budgeted and sessions use soft copies shown on my own projector.

Objectives at risk. We do not currently expect to miss any objective: May 2027 end date allows a full maize season (March–May) and about 12 monthly reports. The 40% reduction in raids can only be judged after the maize season, so the endline comparison will be done in May 2027.

4. What are the key activities planned for the coming months? (c. 250 words or less)

- Follow-up on the posters and leaflets, and pre- and post-surveys to measure changes in knowledge and attitudes among farmers and students.
- Monthly Maliasili Club sessions at Mkumbaru Secondary School, including debates and art competitions on elephant coexistence.
- Monthly data collection: farmer logbooks, field observation and camera-trap image review, with monthly reports and review meetings with the District Game Officer.
- Phase 2 training to reach the 250-farmer target, and the second preparation of repellent for demonstration maize farms.
- Reinstallation and installation of repellent fences on the maize farms, before the March–May season.
- Second public awareness meeting with farmers and leaders; we expect more than the 97 who attended the first, as villagers see results on the six farms.
- Data analysis, and an endline household and knowledge survey compared with the baseline, after the March–May maize season.
- Dissemination: results meeting with the District Natural Resources Office and communities, handover of the camera traps to the District Game Office, and the final report to Rufford. We have also submitted an abstract to the 2nd International HWC Conference (outcome pending).

5. Have you been in regular contact with your supervisor/mentor? Please provide details.

Yes. I update my mentor, Dr. Frazer Sinclair (Tropical Biology Association, Cambridge), every month on progress on the ground, and he advises on methods and data analysis. I am also very grateful to Mr. Chrian Zimbaiya, Technical Advisor of GIZ Tanzania's Mitigation of Human-Wildlife Conflicts programme, who has given me strong mentoring support. Locally, the Nanyumbu District Game Officer supervises field activities and joins every training session and the monthly data review.

6. Have you shared any project activities on social media? If so, please include details.

Yes. Project activities are shared on LinkedIn, including photos of the community awareness meeting at Mkumbaru, with the Rufford Foundation logo and @ruffordgrants acknowledged: https://lnkd.in/p/dbVRU9_i

1. **Please use the Excel template provided to complete your interim budget and return this via email along with the Interim Project Report.**

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