



Progress Report

Project title: Empowering community in three villages adjacent to Mikumi National Park on participatory management and protection of African Elephants' habitats - Tanzania



Implemented by”

Conservation of Nature for Survival

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Under Support of Rufford Small Grants Foundation (RSG)

Project Summary

Pre – implementation overview

The project envisaged the existed situation in Mikumi national park where by elephants experienced poor vegetation cover where they can access feeding. Also the project noted drought to among of challenges encountered the reserved park. Furthermore, there were ongoing human vs elephants conflicts especially community living adjacent to park area. Plumptre, Hibert and Jones (2009) revealed that human settlement and livestock grazing in protected areas and elephant corridors is widespread. Also the baseline survey conducted by CONASU organisation during the evaluation exercise of land use project implemented in some adjacent villages indicating that poor land use management still was a problem especially to identified project area on protection of elephants habitats, it was noted that the local residents claim that wildlife movement has decreased areas where farming or extensive grazing occurs. Human-elephant conflict continued to be a major issue. The adjacent villages concentrated on extending their farms towards the park especially to elephants’ corridors. Otherwise, elephants were seen by adjacent community as destructors of their crops while farming have been extended to elephants corridors. As Hoare 2007 noted that as a result human – elephant conflict was extended in adjacent villages in Doma ward as given that however, the increasing migration of people into elephant range had greatly exacerbated human – elephant conflict. The adjacent community did not take any conservation role to the elephant’s habitat in Mikumi National Park because of inadequate knowledge on participatory wildlife conservation process which would also benefit them if well utilized by the surrounding communities.

Post – implementation overview

Upon implementation of the project titled *“Empowering community in three villages adjacent to Mikumi National Park on participatory management and protection of African Elephants’ habitats – Tanzania”* between January to September 2015 by Conservation of Nature for Survival and support of Rufford Small Grant Foundation (RSG) briefly the project has contribute a lot to streamline the Government initiatives to protect and manage the elephants especially their habitats. As CONASU concluded its monitoring and evaluation exercise on October, 2015, the it has noted that human vs elephants conflicts has reduced where since the start of the implementation on January, no conflict has reported up to moment, also community take conservation advantage to improve their livelihoods in there areas where they engage in rotation agriculture rather than shifting agriculture extended to park reserve mostly along the elephants corridors. More worth the project accelerated the government initiative to close the highway crossing the park which contributes various risks to wild animals. The project implementation and report disseminated through media stimulated Tanzania National Park Authority to hold a meeting to discuss more with various stakeholders on measures to rescue the park area out from various risks.

Project Objectives

From above overview summary of the project, the below were the objectives

- i. Reduced destructive practices in Mikumi National Park along the border from three villages of *Maharaka, Mkata and Doma* by year 2015.
- ii. Protected and managed elephant's habitat in area bordered with three villages of *Maharaka, Mkata and Doma* villages by year 2015.

Planned Activities and implementation status

No.	Planned activity	Status	Any remarks
1	Conducting one day inception meeting to 20 stakeholders (7 local authority leaders, 2 Park Authority officers, 4 CBOs representatives and 7 villagers) by August, 2014.	The meeting was conducted to 21 participants based on defined categories	<i>One more participant exceeded but she didn't affect the implementation</i>
2	Facilitating three (3) sensitization meetings in three villages to 150 total villagers on participatory wildlife conservation with specific focus to elephants' habitats in Mikumi National Park by September, 2014.	The facilitation meetings were undertaken to 137 participants	<i>There is difference of 13 participants.</i> 5 participants from Doma village didn't attend the meeting, 6 from Maharaka and 2 from Mkata village.
3	Conducting four days training to 21 identified village patrol rangers – volunteers on undertaking management and protection of elephants and their habitats in collaboration to Park guides by September, 2014.	The training was conducted 18 to village volunteers. These volunteers were identified during the sensitization meeting carried out in three villages	Only 18 participants were invited. The management reviewed the implementation plan based on the budget (<i>the amount received from RSG and internal contribution</i>)
4	Purchase and fix three beehives (one in each village) as sample for encouraging beekeeping to facilitate protection of elephants' habitat adjacent the villages by November, 2014.	The total number of 13 beehives were purchased and distributed to 3 villages as follows: <i>i. Maharaka 5</i>	The project team considered the advice from RSG review team and the clarification given on 20 th November 2014.

		ii. Doma 4 iii. Mkata 4	Were we increased the number of beehives distributed to the community.
5	Training 24 villagers from three villages on management and protection of elephants' habitats through integrated livelihoods activities on raising income by October, 2014.	The 24 villages were trained on integrated livelihoods especially beekeeping which followed by distribution of beehives which are under village management.	No change
6	Conducting Participatory monitoring and evaluation throughout project implementation by December, 2015.	The monitoring exercise carried out throughout implementation processes BUT on October, 2015, the management team carried project evaluation where at moment the analysis is under progress	The evaluation report will be included in the final report to be sent by 20th November, 2015.

General Implementation status

All activities have been implemented where the various immediate outcomes have been realized at moment include the effective participation of adjacent communities in protection of elephants' habitats, also reduced human – elephants conflicts where since the implementation started on January up to date, no case has reported rather community themselves take primary role to protect elephants with effective communication with park guards. Two beehives have experienced bees hosting while others expect the same for the coming months (*more updates will be shared to RSG*). The government at moment is planning to close the highway crossing at the park as one of media we worked with reported on <http://habarileo.co.tz/index.php/makala/2016-wanyama-kugongwa-kila-siku-mikumi-haikubaliki>

Future plan

Finalize the implementation report (through RSG template with attachments) which expect to be submitted by 20th November, 2015. *Current the team is finalizing the evaluation report*

Continue updating RSG and other stakeholders on project outcomes

Upscale the project based on evaluation report recommendation

Attachment with this report (*some photos are attached*)

**The report prepared by
Conservation of Nature for Survival**

And submitted to RSG on 10th November, 2015