At this stage, we are started collecting data by using unstructured interviews with focus groups from local community. Those include people who carried out research when elephants were in Nyungwe, people who worked in Nyungwe when elephants were there, and former poachers who were poaching animals within.

The main objective of these interviews is getting information on collective views of interviewees about the cause of the extinction of elephants in Nyungwe National Park, Rwanda. Interviews are going to be done in different sectors adjacent to Nyungwe National Park as you can see them on map below.

We are also collecting data through literature review for understanding people’s perceptions of wildlife in protected areas, elephants and people, and conservation education approaches. People who are being interviewed are from different sectors adjacent to Nyungwe National Park as you can see them on the map below.

These research activities will help us to know reasons which caused extinction of elephants from Nyungwe, perceptions of community about park and its biodiversity today and factors to consider if and when elephants will be reintroduced to Nyungwe.

This map is showing different sectors adjacent Nyungwe National Park where data are being corrected using interviews for gathering views from local community about the causes of extinction of elephants in Nyungwe National Park.