

Final Evaluation Report

Your Details	
Full Name	Kugonza Moses
Project Title	Conservation to Coexist: Participatory Action Research for Wildlife Conservation in Kibale National Park, Uganda
Application ID	24846-2
Grant Amount	£5000
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1. Indicate the level of achievement of the project's original objectives and include any relevant comments on factors affecting this.

Objective	Not achieved	Partially achieved	Fully achieved	Comments
Reduce human-wildlife conflict		65%		Our strategies need extended to fully reduce the conflict.
Promote relationship between UWA and local people			100%	The dialogue is now open, and everyone is benefitting.
Reduce crop-raiding		80%		Much of the crop raiding has been reduced, but more is needed.

2. Please explain any unforeseen difficulties that arose during the project and how these were tackled.

The project has been a great success at reducing crop raiding. The participants are generally very happy but there are always improvements that could be made. One challenge that we have had is participants not putting effort into the project. One of the communities, Kanyansohera, did not engage with the different project activities. As this is a participatory action research project, it is not possible to conduct it in a community where the participants are not active, so we stopped working in and collecting data from Kanyansohera during the second phase of the project. However, we were able to expand the strategies being used in Isule and also expand to another neighbouring community, Mugusu.

The tea has also been a challenge because of weather and delays in government programmes that are supposed to provide tea seedlings. After the failure of the first round of tea, we strategised ways to deal with climate change for the next round of planting. Unfortunately, the government programme that was supposed to distribute new tea seedlings failed to do so. Given the unpredictability of tea and the long investment needed to get a tea crop growing, our participants instead decided they prefer to invest more in growing garlic. There are two harvest seasons for garlic each year and it is also a cash crop. We are working with farmers to increase their garlic crop to have a steady supply for marketing. Because garlic can be growing in a relatively small area, it is also better for the environment than tea and does not take away space from food crops. We now face the challenge of finding a market for garlic, which we hope to do in the next phase of the project.

Maintaining the trench and beehive fences require digging materials and beekeeping equipment. We realised that the participants needed new or additional materials, so we re-organised the budget to provide these materials. We believe that many of these challenges will be overcome in the next phase of the project. Even with these challenges, we have seen decreased crop raiding, increased interest in wildlife conservation, improved relationships between the park and the community members, and economic security.

3. Briefly describe the three most important outcomes of your project.

The three most important outcomes of our project are:

- 1) Crop raiding has significantly been reduced.
- 2) People have a much better relationship with the Uganda Wildlife Authority.
- 3) There is a decrease in the conflict between humans and animals on their land.

Before our project, crop raiding was a great threat to conservation initiatives. People who used to suffer from crop raiding were not happy with wildlife conservation and were not supporting protecting animals like elephants and chimpanzees, according to our results from the initial survey. But based on results from monthly surveys, there is a significant reduction in crop raiding in participating communities. Our data indicate an 80% decrease in crop raiding in the three communities that participated in project activities. There was no reduction in the crop raiding for the fourth community, which did not participate in the project activities. Because of the regular community meetings that we organize and transport UWA representatives to, there is also a great improvement on the relationship with the Uganda Wildlife Authority officials and people neighbouring the park. We have also documented many perceived benefits of the project such as improved health and wellness of the participants.

4. Briefly describe the involvement of local communities and how they have benefitted from the project.

This project was designed to be participatory action research, which includes both mobilising the community towards some goal (in this case, reducing crop raiding) and then studying the effectiveness of these methods for reducing the problem. Participatory action research empowers people to improve the issues in their community. The second phase of funds from the Rufford Foundation helped us to expand and continued implementation of our strategies to reduce human-wildlife conflict in communities neighbouring Kibale National Park. In this way, Conservation to Coexist project has provided benefits to people living near the park. Crop raiding has significantly been reduced, people have a much better relationship with the Uganda Wildlife Authority, and there is a decrease in the conflict between humans and animals on their land. Additionally, people have reported many other benefits, such as improved health and wellbeing.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

We hope to continue and expand our project. We do not currently have a continuous barrier to crop raiding around the park or even in the communities where we work, so we hope to finalise the land-use changes in the communities where we work and extend the project to additional communities in the next phase of the project. For example, the newest community, Mugusu, does not have a trench, which means one needs dug. Because there is no trench, elephants can cross into Mugusu and one of our original communities, Nyabingyungu, which neighbours

Mugusu. Additionally, there are swampy areas that still do not have bee fences. All of the communities could benefit from additional beehives, but in particular, there is a large swamp between our current community of Kyamugarra and a neighbouring community, Rurama. This is a popular route for elephants to cross, so we would like to create a beehive fence across the Dura papyrus swamp that runs between these two communities. We also hope to expand the project to Rurama in the future. Even in the communities with beehives, there are not enough to completely prevent elephants from crossing. We also hope to use the next phase of the project to create a sustainable market strategy so that the existing communities can begin supporting their own efforts through funds raised from garlic and honey sales. Ultimately, we believe this next phase will make the project truly self-sustaining.

6. How do you plan to share the results of your work with others?

We shall share our results through publications, conference presentations, and social media. We are ready to submit our first manuscript for publication and hope to have many that follow.

7. Timescale: Over what period was the grant used? How does this compare to the anticipated or actual length of the project?

One year as planned.

8. Budget: Provide a breakdown of budgeted versus actual expenditure and the reasons for any differences. All figures should be in £ sterling, indicating the local exchange rate used. It is important that you retain the management accounts and all paid invoices relating to the project for at least 2 years as these may be required for inspection at our discretion.

Item	Budgeted Amount	Actual Amount	Difference	Comments
Operating Costs	1000	751	249	We originally budgeted only for watering equipment, but participants requested equipment for beekeeping and trench maintenance, so we reorganized the budget to accommodate their request.
Bonus for trench maintenance	600	487	113	
Equipment	133	1160	1027	
Garlic	150	143	7	
Beehives	3117	2459	658	
Total	5000	5000		Based on an exchange rate of 4880 Ugandan Shillings per Great British Pound

9. Looking ahead, what do you feel are the important next steps?

The important next steps are:

- 1) Extend the trenches and bee fences to create a continuous barrier around the park in our participating communities.
- 2) Find a market for the products being produced and implement a system for having these products support the maintenance of the project.
- 3) Continue to monitor the effectiveness of our strategies and share the results of our work.

10. Did you use The Rufford Foundation logo in any materials produced in relation to this project? Did the Foundation receive any publicity during the course of your work?

Yes, for a PowerPoint presentation at the American Association of Physical Anthropology conference.

No, but we do acknowledge The Rufford Foundation when we talk about the project.

11. Please provide a full list of all the members of your team and briefly what was their role in the project.

This project is run by myself and **Busobozi Richard**. We have a field assistant, Akugizibwe Ronald, who works with us full-time. We conduct this project in collaboration with local government, Uganda Wildlife Authority, and Makerere University Biological Field Station and with funds from the Rufford Foundation, which has been crucial for implementing our strategies. We as local project managers also gained a great support from our mentor Professor Krista Milich. Additionally, each participant is an important project team member and collaborator.

12. Any other comments?

We are requesting for more support so that our strategies are fully implemented and to expand the project to communities suffering from crop-raiding.