

Darwin Initiative: Half Year Report

(due 31 October 2007)

Project Ref. No.	15/040
Project Title	Building Capacity to Alleviate Human-Elephant Conflict in North Kenya
Country(ies)	Kenya
UK Organisation	University of Cambridge
Collaborator(s)	Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS), Save the Elephants (STE), Laikipia Wildlife Forum (LWF),
Project Leader	<i>Professor Bill Adams (co-PI Dr. max Graham)</i>
Report date	26 October 2008
Report No. (HYR 1/2/3/4)	2
Project website	www.geog.cam.ac.uk/research/projects/heccapacity/ www.laikipiaelephantproject.org

1. Outline progress over the last 6 months (April – September) against the agreed baseline timetable for the project (if your project has started less than 6 months ago, please report on the period since start up).

The following sections refer to the outputs of the revised Logframe, approved 28 March 2008

0.1 GPS/GSM Collar based early warning system

As reported in the last Annual Report, this collaboration with Save the Elephants (STE) has been scaled back following an intense experimental period in two study areas 2006-8. The project is still supporting STE as it develops its internal procedures and external collaborations. A report on the e-fence technology and project practice has been drafted, and is being discussed with local partners.

0.2 Local Knowledge Based HEC Early Warning System

The Push-to-Talk (PTT) Mobile phone trial described in the Annual Report is being written up into an official project working paper. Completion awaits the outcome of a commercial viability assessment by Safaricom, the local commercial mobile phone partner. The outcome of this assessment will help Safaricom to decide whether or not to roll out the technology or not, with obvious implications for its applicability to human-elephant conflict management. We believe this technology has considerable potential, if wider commercial viability allows it to be made available to the public. We are also trialling group text message technology as an alternative early warning system to PTT. This uses elements of local organisation important to the effectiveness of PTT, but does not have the same dependence on novel technology.

0.3 Community-based Human Elephant Conflict Management

A report on farm-based deterrents trialled under this project is being drafted and will be circulated in the next reporting period. We have fallen behind on our original milestone for this report due to the new work required around the West Laikipia fence under Output 7 of the new Logframe. We anticipate completing this task before the next annual review.

Two demonstration sites have been established and used to provide training on farm-based elephant deterrents to local farmers through 4 field days.

A report on the performance of OI Pejeta Conservancy's fences has been drafted and is being revised to incorporate crop-raiding data recently entered into the project database. This will be circulated during the next reporting period.

Eight elephant scouts employed by the project were sent on a 10 day course in Amboseli, run by the Amboseli Elephant Project, where they learned to directly identify elephants. These scouts are now using these skills to identify elephants that break the West Laikipia Fence. Scouts have also been trained to collect data on fence breakages and voltage. The OI Pejeta Conservancy has established a problem elephant database and this will store data on elephants that break West Laikipia Fence to support management decisions.

O.4 Dissemination of Information relevant to HEC management

A follow up 'GIS for conservation course' was provided to 4 Kenya Wildlife Service researchers in collaboration with CETRAD and the Mpala Research Centre.

A 'proposal writing for conservation' course was provided to 18 conservancy/community managers across the Ewaso ecosystem in collaboration with CETRAD and the Mpala Research Centre.

Two further short courses have been developed and will run in the next reporting period.

Four human-elephant conflict plays have been performed by the Drama Group, targeting communities living alongside the West Laikipia Fence.

An East African HEC meeting has been organised. This was originally scheduled to take place this year has been postponed to March of next year due to existing commitments of the partner organisation, CETRAD, who are hosting the meeting.

O.5 Elephant defence livelihood systems

Meetings have been held with the Kenya Horticulture Development Programme, SITE and the Symbiosis Trust to discuss handing over livelihood activities in the final year of the project. Further meetings together with field sites are planned for the next reporting period with a view to securing commitments for a legacy plan. Report on livelihoods is still being drafted. Once again this has been slightly delayed by the work required to support the West Laikipia Fence. However progress has been made and this report will be circulated in time for the next annual review.

O.6 Strategy and revenue streams established for long-term HEC management

There have been extensive discussion with the Executive Director of the Laikipia Wildlife Forum about the availability of funds to support and continue with activities initiated by the project. He has confirmed that there are funds available to continue the work. There has been particular discussion of the project website (<http://www.laikipiaelephantproject.org/aboutus.html>) and the potential for fund-raising from international supporters of HEC work. Software development for this possibility has been done, but discussions about its adoption by LWF are continuing.

O.7 Supporting the LWF to manage the West Laikipia Fence

A fence management protocol for the West Laikipia Fence has been drafted, circulated and endorsed by the Laikipia Wildlife Forum, Kenya Wildlife Service and OI Pejeta Conservancy. The implementation of some elements of this protocol (rapid reporting and rapid response teams) has been moved to the next reporting period while the necessary agreements are drawn up between partner organisations.

A West Laikipia Fence Officer recruited and supervised by the PI but working under the Laikipia Wildlife Forum, is now helping coordinate management and monitoring of the West Laikipia Fence. Monthly reports on fence performance have been written by the fence officer, under the supervision of the project PI, and sent to the relevant stakeholders.

Three fence sub-committees, comprised of key stakeholders have been established (in Ex-Erok, Mutara and Pesi) and are meeting regularly. A fourth sub-committee has been established but is not yet functioning properly. Work is underway to support this committee to come up to speed during the next quarter.

2. Give details of any notable problems or unexpected developments that the project has encountered over the last 6 months. Explain what impact these could have on the project and whether the changes will affect the budget and timetable of project activities.

None. The work of adapting to the creation of the West Laikipia fence has been considerable, but has not yet thrown up difficulties of an unexpected kind. There is a lot of work to do.

Have any of these issues been discussed with the Darwin Secretariat and if so, have changes been made to the original agreement?

Discussed with the DI Secretariat: no/yes, in..... (month/yr)

Changes to the project schedule/workplan: no/yes, in.....(month/yr)

3. Are there any other issues you wish to raise relating to the project or to Darwin's management, monitoring, or financial procedures?

None

If you were asked to provide a response to this year's annual report review with your next half year report, please attach your response to this document.

Please note: Any planned modifications to your project schedule/workplan or budget should not be discussed in this report but raised with the Darwin Secretariat directly.

Please send your completed form email to Eilidh Young, Darwin Initiative M&E Programme at Darwin-Projects@ectf-ed.org.uk. The report should be between 1-2 pages maximum. **Please state your project reference number in the header of your email message eg Subject: 14-075 Darwin Half Year Report**

