

**Darwin Initiative/D+ Project
Half Year Report
(due 31st October 2019)**

Project reference	26-007
Project title	Enhancing Tanzania human – wildlife coexistence through corridor restoration and livelihood projects
Country(ies)/territory(ies)	Tanzania
Lead organisation	Southern Tanzania Elephant Program
Partner(s)	Morogoro Regional Administration, National Land Use Planning Commission, Tanzania Forestry Services, Reforest Africa, Associazione Mazingira
Project leader	<i>Trevor Jones</i>
Report date and number (e.g. HYR3)	<i>HYR1</i>
Project website/blog/social media etc.	http://www.stzelephants.org/

1. Outline progress over the last 6 months (April – Sept) 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 to end September).

1.1. Conduct community meetings and gender focus groups at four new project villages

- In Katurukila, an initial project-overview meeting was held with the Village Council for which 14 members were present. STEP had a second meeting with community members interested in learning more about the project, at which 40 people were present. In Magombera, an initial project-overview meeting was held with 19 Village Council members. A second meeting was held with 42 community members interested in learning more about the project. In Kanyenja, an initial project scoping meeting was held with 11 Village Council Members. A second community-wide meeting was held in which 71 community members attended.

1.2. Train Local Elephant Monitors to record elephant activity

- STEP trained 3 new monitors in Katurukila, Magombera, Kanyenja on the usage of data sheets recording elephant activity, crop loss and activity at beehive fence locations. Monitors were also trained on how to use a GPS unit to track and mark waypoints. Refresher trainings were completed for two Monitors (Mkula, Msolwa Station).

1.3. Establish farmer's groups and register as CBOs

- The establishment of Community Based Organizations in Katurukila, Magombera and Kanyenja included the following activities: conducting interviews of interested candidates, selecting candidates, meeting for initial trainings, drafting of a constitution and formalizing a Memorandum of Understanding between the CBO and STEP. CBOs have been registered at the district level: Katurukila was established with 30 members: 15 women and 15 men with 47% youth. Magombera was established with 35 members total: 16 women and 19 men with 47% youth. Kanyenja was established with 33 members in total: 14 women and 10 men with 88% youth.

1.4. Determine optimal beehive fence configuration through ground surveys

- Data from Local Elephant Monitors was used as a baseline from which two ground surveys were conducted by the CEO and Kilombero HEC Team in August 2019. The main data points considered in site selection were the number of elephant trails along the site, frequency of elephant trail use and frequency of trail use to enter farmland, habitat suitability for bees (i.e. water and flower availability). Finally, flooding and water levels during heavy rain are considered to ensure fence integrity during the rains.

1.5. Construct beehive fences

- STEP completed construction and installation of beehives in two targeted villages (Katurukila, Magombera) and is close to finishing the fence in Kanyenja. Katurukila's fence is 1km in length, consisting of 50 true hives and 50 dummy hives. Magombera's fence is 2.6km (STEP's longest to date), consisting of 101 true hives and 50 dummy hives. Kanyenja's fence will be 1.4km in total once completed, consisting of 40 true hives and 40 dummy hives.

1.6. Monitor and maintain beehive fence by farmers' groups

- Weekly visits have been completed for each fence by STEP's Kilombero-based Team. Five visits have been conducted by STEP's HQ-based Team.
- 1.7. Monitor elephant crop damage**
- Five Local Elephant Monitors collected data for ten days per month. STEP's field researchers collect data on additional 3 villages. Across 8 villages, crop losses to elephants occurred on 42 days between April-August 2019.
- 2.1 Beekeeping and financial skills training for farmers' groups**
- STEP supported beekeeping and financial skills training for farmers' groups in the three targeted villages to equip the farmers with the necessary knowledge and skills to be able to create ownership of the project. In March 2019, Katurukila received theoretical and practical training on the basics of beekeeping as an activity, types of bees, best practices to capture bees, how to harvest honey, beekeeping equipment and their uses, monitoring of the beehives, how to make beeswax, how often should you harvest and how to check to see if a hive is ready to be harvested. The training included 23 participants present. In October 2019, Magombera received theoretical and training on the basics of beekeeping as an activity. The training included 30 participants present.
- 2.2 Establishment of VSLAs**
- VSLAs were established in Katurukila and Magombera. Farmers' groups were trained on the fundamentals of VSLA management. They were given cash boxes, record books, and share books. Once each group reached 1,000,000 TZS in share value, STEP provided a loan of 500,000 TZS as booster capital.
- 2.3 Monitoring beehive occupancy, hive condition and honey yields**
- Weekly visits have been completed to each fence by STEP's Kilombero-based Team. Five visits, on a monthly basis have been conducted by STEP's HQ-based Team
- 2.5 Develop elephant-friendly honey market by increasing links with tourism industry and honey retailers**
- STEP has helped to process 70 litres of honey in its Honey Collection Centre. Over 116 500-gram jars of honey have been sold: 50 at the Honey Collection Centre, 25 at Iringa-based events, 27 to tourism camps in Ruaha and 14 at workshops.
- 2.7 Developing and marketing coexistence tourism package in collaboration with tour operators**
- STEP has posted a volunteer position to develop coexistence tourism to Tanzania job boards.
 - STEP has supported rehabilitating Njokomoni Fence as part of a beehive fence tourism opportunity. Within the last six months, STEP has facilitating two tourist visits with groups ranging from 10-12 people at the Njokomoni Fence and the Udzungwa Honey Collection Centre. STEP is developing promotional materials, including a pamphlet for the Udzungwa Mountains National Park, that explains its work in the Udzungwa-Selous ecosystem. STEP has designed several other fliers for tourism fairs and tourist camps.
- 3.1 Ongoing sensitization and discussion meetings in corridor villages**
- STEP conducted sensitisation meeting to Regional Natural Resource Officer, Regional Commissioner of Morogoro and District Commissioner of Kilombero: STEP facilitated sensitisation meeting in villages of Kanyenja, Sole, Mang'ula A, Magombera with the Regional Natural Resources Officer, District Game Officer, Ecologist from Udzungwa Mountain National Park and Game Officer from Selous Game Reserve. More than 80 village leaders and 800 villagers were sensitised on human-wildlife coexistence and new Wildlife Conservation (Wildlife Corridors, Dispersal Areas, Buffer Zones and Migratory Routes) Regulations.
 - STEP conducted sensitisation of wildlife coexistence through film nights in Kanyenja and Sole villages attended by more than 500 people. The events provided knowledge of wildlife corridors and allowed for questions and answers.
 - STEP facilitated the discussions about compensation and individual rights for 267 famers' plots within wildlife corridor in Kanyenja. The meeting was led by the National Land Use Planning Commission Team, the District Participatory Land Use Plan Management Team, the Ward Councillor and the Village Council's leader.
- 3.2 Formalization of Corridor Management Committee involving all stakeholders**
- Working on progress soon after achieving Joint Land Use Plan Agreements first, then formation of Corridor Management Committee.
 - This is in progress through STEP's work with stakeholders from The Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism Wildlife Division, Tanzania Wildlife Authority (TAWA), the Regional Office and District Offices. However, STEP has faced a setback regarding the involvement of two key stakeholders from two village governments leading to a delay in completion of Joint Land Use Plan Agreements, key to formalizing the Corridor Management Committee. We are anticipating progress to resume soon after the (nationwide) Village Government elections in November 2019.
- 3.3 Technical corridor implementation plan prepared, finalized and improved by all stakeholders**
- The original Corridor implementation plan has been adopted as a guiding document by all stakeholders, led by the PLUM team and NLUPC on the ground, however this will also be revised and refined for and by the Corridor Management Committee.

3.4 Physical demarcation and legal gazettement of corridor

- Working on demarcation of corridor in Kanyenja and Sole villages is in progress, in collaboration with all farm owners and led by the District PLUM Team and NLUPC.

3.7 Fundraising for road and rail underpasses

- Funding for road underpass on the Kidatu-Ifakara Highway is approved by the EU (~\$300,000) and is in the final stages of Government approval, with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism having written a recommendation to the Ministry of Finance. The Ministry of Finance has now written a letter approving Budget modification to the Ministry of Works and Construction, who are, at time of writing, reverting to TANROADS, the Tanzanian road authority.

3.9 Monitoring of corridor use by elephants and other wildlife

- 12 camera traps installed along elephant trails at corridor end points in Mwanihana Forest and Magombera Forest. 18 mammal taxa detected. Total of 88 unique elephant events (a unique event is defined as detection of one or more elephants when images are > 15 minutes apart). Most elephant activity crepuscular and nocturnal. 90% of events involved lone bulls or bull groups.
- Camera traps have provided photographic evidence of elephant crossings between the two forest. An elephant bull first identified by STEP in Mwanihana forest in 2011-14, has now been detected in Magombera forest in 2019. Ground surveys conducted to document elephant crossing attempts and crop use in the corridor area. On four occasions in the past 6 months, elephants crossed all (or almost all) of the way from Magombera forest to Mwanihana forest using the corridor area.

3.10 Monitoring of elephant use of corridor endpoints (Mwanihana Forest, Udzungwa and Magombera Forest, Selous) via quarterly dung surveys.

- Elephant dung surveys were conducted every month in Mwanihana forest (four transects) and Magombera forest (one transect) by STEP field researcher with Udzungwa Park or Selous ranger. Dung encounter rates higher for Magombera than Mwanihana forest for past six months. 12 camera traps installed along elephant trails at corridor end points. Consistent presence of elephants in Magombera forest edge; elephant use of Mwanihana forest edge may be more seasonal (greater in wet season).

4.1 Conducting community meetings and awareness days about human-wildlife coexistence and ecological connectivity

- Completed as discussed in 3.1 in Kanyenja, Sole, Mang'ula A, Magombera villages.

4.2 Environmental education in 18 schools

- Developed three-module curriculum with materials covering 1) elephant ecology, behaviour and conservation; 2) human-elephant coexistence, 3) wildlife corridors. Lesson design informed by teaching best practices with focus on student participation. Baseline and end-line questionnaires developed for education program. STEP's Education Officer conducted 37 lessons in 18 schools (14 primary and 4 secondary) between August and September. A total of 43 hours of teaching was conducted reaching 2210 students. On track for teaching of all three modules in all 18 schools by end of 2019. Three student-run school events supported (Mwanihana Secondary School, Bokela Secondary School and Mang'ula A Secondary School). Students organized debates, sports events, theatre and drawings on the theme of human-wildlife coexistence.

4.4 Establishment of tree nurseries in 10 local schools for corridor habitat restoration

- 5 tree nurseries were planted in 5 schools (Mwanihana secondary, Kisawasawa Primary, Bokela Secondary, Mang'ula Primary and Mgudeni Primary). Each tree nursery contains 6000 saplings for a total of 30,000 trees. There is ongoing discussion with other local schools to ensure planting of more tree nurseries.

4.6 Updating of Tanzania Wildlife Corridors website and creation of online citizen science platform.

- A consultant for this work has been recruited and the Terms of Reference are in preparation.

2a. Give details of any notable problems or unexpected developments/lessons learnt 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.

The following are the notable problems / lessons learnt over the last six months:

1. Upon forming a new CBO in Kanyenja village, members were cautious about establishing a VSLA immediately. As a result, we are waiting three months and will check in with the group then about their interest.
2. Given several levels of certification complexity, packaging costs and market competition, it has been

<p>more difficult than expected to establish a consistent and viable elephant-friendly honey market without simply relying on opportunist sales. This is an active area of focus for the next six months.</p> <p>3. Local intra-village politics are complicating progress towards the completion of the Joint Land Use Plan for the wildlife corridor, with a small number of individuals on Village Councils being able to impede progress against the will of the majority. However, we are navigating these issues carefully and having members of our team who are long-term local and embedded in the local communities is hugely beneficial in this regard. The Village Government elections in November are expected to solve some and possibly all of these problems.</p>	
<p>2b. Have any of these issues been discussed with LTS International and if so, have changes been made to the original agreement?</p>	
Discussed with LTS:	No
Formal change request submitted:	No
Received confirmation of change acceptance	No

<p>3a. Do you currently expect to have any significant (e.g., more than £5,000) underspend in your budget for this year?</p> <p>No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Estimated underspend: £0</p>	
<p>3b. If yes, then you need to consider your project budget needs carefully. Please remember that any funds agreed for this financial year are only available to the project in this financial year.</p> <p>If you anticipate a significant underspend because of justifiable changes within the project, please submit a rebudget Change Request as soon as possible. There is no guarantee that Defra will agree a rebudget so please ensure you have enough time to make appropriate changes if necessary.</p>	

<p>4. Are there any other issues you wish to raise relating to the project or to Darwin’s management, monitoring, or financial procedures?</p>	
<p>NA</p>	

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. Additionally, if you were funded under R25 and asked to provide further information by your first half year report, please attach your response as a separate document.

Please note: Any planned modifications to your project schedule/workplan can be discussed in this report but **should also** be raised with LTS International through a Change Request. **Please DO NOT send these in the same email.**

Please send your **completed report by email** to Darwin-Projects@ltsi.co.uk. The report should be between 2-3 pages maximum. **Please state your project reference number in the header of your email message e.g. Subject: 25-035 Darwin Half Year Report**