





Darwin Initiative Capability & Capacity: Final Report

To be completed with reference to the "Project Reporting Information Note": (https://www.darwininitiative.org.uk/resources/information-notes/).

It is expected that this report will be a **maximum of 20 pages** in length, excluding annexes.

Submission Deadline: no later than 3 months after agreed end date.

Submit to: BCF-Reports@niras.com including your project ref in the subject line.

Darwin Initiative Project Information

Project reference	DARCC022
Project title	South-south capacity building for human-elephant conflict management
Country/ies	Tanzania, Namibia
Lead Partner	IIED
Project partner(s)	Honeyguide Foundation, IRDNC
Darwin Initiative grant value	£191,964
Start/end dates of project	1 April 2023 to 31 December 2024
Project Leader name	Dilys Roe
Project website/blog/social media	https://www.iied.org/south-south-capacity-building-for- human-elephant-conflict-management
Report author(s) and date	Dilys Roe, Anita Sohal, Sam Shaba, Damian Bell, John Kasaona, Josephine Kamelo, Russell Vinjevold

1 Project Summary

Wildlife can pose a direct and recurring threat to the life and livelihoods of people who live with or alongside it. And these people often retaliate and kill wildlife in response – or encourage others to do so - including rare and endangered species. Elephants can be particularly problematic, having the potential to wipe out a famer's entire harvest in one night, as well as being responsible for the loss of many human lives. The Elephant Crisis Fund (www.elephantcrisisfund.oJosrg) highlights that human-elephant conflict (HEC) is on the rise across Africa as people and elephants compete for space. In Southern Africa, where elephant populations are high, this problem is particularly pressing. Poor rainfall has also exacerbated the problem as both humans encroach further into wildlife areas in order to meet subsistence needs, and elephants move ever closer to community water points and farmland.

In Namibia, the community-focussed NGO Integrated Rural Development and Nature Conservation (IRDNC) has previously used electric fencing and community patrolling to protect farms from elephants, but this has had limited success, and pressures are constantly increasing. By contrast, in Tanzania, another community-focussed NGO – Honeyguide – has had extraordinary success in supporting farmers on the edges of community owned and managed Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) to deal with elephants to the extent that they have seen as much as a 90% decrease in crop destruction in the areas where their approach has been implemented (https://www.honeyguide.org/human-wildlife-conflict-prevention/).

Being aware of Honeyguide's success, IRDNC approached IIED (a partner of both organisations) to request support to facilitate a capacity development programme, delivered by Honeyguide to community rangers from Namibia communal conservancies, providing first-hand experience of how the Honeyguide approach works in order. This was the focus of this C&C project with a programme of exchange visits and trainings planned and executed. Training materials and resources generated from this experience were also produced in a manner that made them relevant to, and accessible by, other community-focussed conservation organisations facing similar challenges.

2 Project Partnerships

The partners in this project were IIED in the UK, Honeyguide Foundation in Tanzania and IRDNC in Namibia. The project was very much demand-driven, originating from a specific request from IRDNC for support in dealing with Human-Elephant Conflict. IRDNC was aware of effective elephant deterrent methods being deployed by Honeyguide in Tanzania in similar contexts (community-managed wildlife areas). Leaders of IRDNC and Honeyguide had previously

interacted with each other in various African conservation events, but discussions around this project started at the African Protected Areas Congress (APAC) in July 2022 when IIED, Honeyguide and IRDNC all participated in a community conservation "pavilion". IRDNC requested Honeyguide to provide support to develop its capacity to manage human-elephant conflict and IIED was asked to help facilitate the project and provide technical support to both organisations in managing Darwin projects. IIED had also been working on HEC both through its implementation of a Darwin Initiative project on HEC insurance and through participation in the IUCN Human Wildlife Conflict and Coexistence Taskforce and various community conservation forums in Southern Africa all of which - it was anticipated – will be useful channels through which to disseminate information about the Honeyguide approach to other communityfocussed conservation organisations beyond IRDNC.



Over the first year of the project, Honeyguide and

IRDNC benefitted from three in-person interactions (two visits by Honeyguide staff to Namibia and one visit by IRDNC staff and community rangers to Tanzania). The Namibian participants who are directly benefitted from the training were individuals who had been selected by their communities to be the focal points for dealing with human-wildlife conflict in each conservancy as well as IRDNC staff who were in a position to pass knowledge on to additional communal conservancy rangers.

The in-person interactions really helped cement the partnership, building friendships as well as working relationships – chasing elephants together in the dark helped forge a bond that will take time to break! This video documents the training visit in Tanzania and gives some insights into the nature of the relationship between Honeyguide and IRDNC: <a href="https://documents.nc.nih.gov/honeyguide-nt-nih.gov/honeyg

During the second year of the project no further in person meetings had been planned, however the project partners continued to meet online to check in on progress and IIED project lead, Dilys Roe, was able to meet in person with IRDNC during a non-project visit to Namibia in December 2024.

Throughout the project, IIED project manager Anita Sohal, regularly met with Honeyguide and IRDNC finance teams online in order to provide support and guidance in Darwin project financial management and reporting requirements.

3 Project Achievements

3.1 Outputs

The project had three intended outputs:

Output 1: Community rangers in Namibia have increased knowledge and skills to tackle human-elephant conflict

Output 2: Conservancies in Namibia are equipped with effective HEC management approaches and deterrents

Output 3: Interactive training materials on HEC management are available and widely disseminated in Africa and internationally

These are reported individually below.

Output 1: Community rangers in Namibia have increased knowledge and skills to tackle human-elephant conflict

Output 1 was achieved. The indicators for this output were that at least 12 community rangers from at least 5 conservancies would have:

- Indicator 1.1 improved knowledge of elephant behaviour
- Indicator 1.2 improved skills to manage HEC
- Indicator 1.3 practical experience in deploying the HEC toolkit

Training, and the opportunity to put training into practice in real life situations of elephant conflict, was provided to **25 rangers** (13 on the training visit to Tanzania, 25 during the Honeyguide visit to Namibia) coming from **9 different conservancies** (Okangundumba, Otjiu West, Ozondundu, Otuzemba, Ombwijokanguindi, Omatendeka, Ehirovipuka, Sesfontein and Ongongo) – thus exceeding the Output targets.

The training visit to Tanzania took place from 18th to 24th July 2024. 13 participants attended from 9 Namibian conservancies, accompanied by 5 IRDNC staff. The training covered a range of topics including elephant behaviour but the main focus was the four-part "toolkit" developed by Honeyguide. The training included a strong practical element with the Namibian rangers learning how to make chili crackers and how to use flashing strobe torches and air horns. The rangers got to interact with their Tanzania counterparts - Village Crop Protection Team members (people actively and frequently involved in managing problem situations) from nearby Wildlife Management Areas. One of the highlights for the Namibian rangers was the hands-on experience of dealing with elephants including a night-time chase deploying all components of the tool kit. Further details of the training are provided in the trip report available here and attached as an annex to this report: NAMIBIAN-COMMUNITY-GAME-GUARDS-AND-RANGERS-EDUCATIONAL-VISIT-TO-TANZANIA.pdf.

We conducted a survey of the rangers before and after the training in Tanzania to better understand the change in their knowledge and skills. Ten of the 13 rangers completed the survey form with the following results:

• In terms of improved knowledge of elephant behaviour (Indicator 1.1), prior to the training 3/10 said they were either very knowledgeable or had enough knowledge to predict elephant behaviour, whereas after the training all 10 felt they had enough knowledge of elephant behaviour.

- In terms of improved skills (Indicator 1.2), prior to the training 5 rangers had already
 used some of the methods in the Honeyguide toolkit whereas the other 5 found these
 completely different to anything they had tried before and were not confident in using
 the new tools. After the training all respondents said they felt very confident they had
 the relevant skills and methods available.
- In terms of practical experience (Indicator 1.3), 2 rangers had no prior experience; 6 had
 used various methods before but not found any effective; 2 had used different methods
 and had some success. After the training all 10 reported they felt either confident or
 very confident that they had effective methods they could use.

The survey results are available here:

Training was further rolled out by IRDNC during its annual conservancy planning meeting in July 2024 with the result that overall **40 rangers from 16 conservancies** had been trained by the end of the project. A follow up survey was conducted towards the end of the project with the rangers from the 16 conservancies involving those who had been to Tanzania for training and those who had had training in Namibia. Of 37 responding rangers/game guards:

- 22 reported that their knowledge for elephant ecology and behaviour had improved while 14 said it had stayed the same and one failed to respond (indicator 1.1)
- All except one who failed to respond reported improvements in their knowledge of and access to effective elephant deterrents and that they were now either confident or very confident that they had tools they could use and that would work (indicator 1.2)
- All except one who had not come across any of the tools before said they had used some of the individual tools in the toolkit before but all were now confident or very confident that they had knowledge of the full range of tools and the order in which to deploy them (indicator 1.2)
- All except three reported that they were either confident or very confident that they could train others to use the tool kit (indicator 1.2)
- All rated the tool kit as good or excellent.

All respondents did however note additional resources that they needed in order to be able to most effectively tackle human-elephant conflict. The most commonly mentioned responses were transport and electricity followed by separate water points for elephants. Elephant dams/ditches and elephant collars were also mentioned as well as the need for more tool kits – something for which IRDNC is now actively fundraising. The results of the survey are available here:

Output 2: Conservancies in Namibia are equipped with effective HEC management approaches and deterrents

Output 2 was achieved. The indicators for this output were:

- 2.1 HEC Toolkits available to at least seven conservancies in Namibia
- 2.2 Training in HEC management passed on to at least one additional community HEC responder in at least 5 conservancies by the trained volunteer rangers by end of project 2.3 HEC training and HEC toolkit rolled out by IRDNC to at least 2 other conservancies in Namibia (beyond those trained by Honeyguide)

Following the training visit to Tanzania, Honeyguide provided IRDNC will a list of equipment required to assemble the toolkits back home in Namibia. IRDNC were able to source and order most of the items locally to assemble ten HEC toolkits. There were some concerns that the flashlights available in Namibia were not as effective as those used in Tanzania so when the

Honeyguide team made a return visit to Namibia in March 2024 they brought additional flashlights which proved to be more effective than the Namibian equivalents.

The toolkits were distributed to the seven conservancies that had participated in the ranger training in Tanzania (Indicator 2.1). IRDNC report that because of the success of the toolkits farmers started replanting crops, confident that they would be able to deter elephants.

In March 2024, Honeyguide made a follow up visit to Namibia, the purpose of which was to repeat the training that was done in Tanzania but in a Namibian field context and involving a wider range of conservancies. The training



took place at sites in two conservancies both of whom had been involved in the first training in Tanzania but also included representatives from previously trained conservancies aswell as three additional conservancies. Overall, training was provided to 25 rangers covering 10 conservancies (indicator 2.2). It also included lighter touch training/exposure to the toolkits for 210 community members. The additional conservancies were all issued with a toolkit. A trip report for the visit is available here: https://doi.org/10.2016/journal.com/html/proportion/html/proportio

Training was further rolled out by IRDNC during its annual conservancy planning meeting which occurred in July 2024. 16 conservancies in the Kunene region now have a toolkit and more than 20 conservancies have trained Elephant ranger/community game guard (Indicator 2.3).

Output 3: Interactive training materials on HEC management are available and widely disseminated in Africa and internationally

Output 3 was largely achieved. The indicators for this output are:

- 3.1 At least two types of interactive training material developed
- 3.2 Training materials disseminated to all conservancies with elephants in Namibia
- 3.3 Training materials disseminated to community conservancy associations and support NGOs in at least 3 other low income Southern African countries
- 3.4 Training materials disseminated internationally to at least 500 recipients

As well as the in-person trainings that were delivered by Honeyguide in Tanzania and "on-site" in Namibia, we developed a number of online training resources (Indicator 3.1). We set up a separate web page for the online toolkit (https://www.iied.org/honeyguide-human-elephant-conflict-toolkit). Honeyguide created a series of short and accessible videos describing each of the elements of the toolkit explaining how to make each tool and how and when to deploy it. An introductory video explains why the toolkit is needed to protect people and crops from elephants and then there are separate videos explaining each of the key tools:

1. The torch/flashlight

- The air horn/siren
- 3. The chilli cloud bomb
- 4. The roman candle

Each of the videos is available on the toolkit website link above, with simple explanatory text.

In addition to the videos Honeyguide developed a user friendly handbook (<u>Human-elephant conflict handbook</u>: a guide to crop protection from elephant raiding | IIED <u>Publications</u> <u>Library</u>) which provides more background information, talks the user through each tool and explains how to use them.

As well as the practical hands on training that was delivered under Output 2, these resources have been shared with Namibian conservancies via IRDNC and also via the Namibian Association of CBNRM Support Organisations (NACSO) [Indicator 3.2]

The Kunene Elephant Rangers demonstrated the tools at the Opuwo Trade Fair Centre to attendees, including high-level government officials such as the Prime Minister, senior government officials, town councils, municipalities, and conservancy representatives across the country. The demonstration showcased effective strategies for mitigating human-elephant conflict. Inspired by the initiative, the Opuwo Town Council has invited the Kunene Elephant Rangers to become a permanent member of the Town Council Trade Fair Organizing Committee. As a result, the rangers are now expected to conduct annual demonstrations to educate the public on human-elephant conflict management and mitigation strategies. Furthermore, the Elephant Rangers provided information to community members during the conservancies' biannual review and planning meetings, which are attended by over 100 people and convened in January and July each year. As a result, individual crop producers and farmers have increasingly demanded access to these tools to protect their fields and livelihoods. Additionally, every second Friday, Mr. Gustav Tjiundukamba, Chairperson of the Kunene Regional Conservancy Association, who participated in the recent learning exchange trip to Tanzania, uses radio broadcasts to reach communities across Namibia. He highlights the success of the tools tested in Kunene and encourages those affected by human-elephant conflict to contact the Kunene Elephant Rangers for assistance with training, awareness, and behavioral approaches to elephant management.

More broadly in Africa, the training materials were shared in a number of ways (indicator 3.3):

1) via the Chair of Community Leaders Network of Southern Africa - Malidadi Langa. The Community Leaders Network comprises community conservation organisations from

 Via the Elephant Protection Initiative which has shared with all its African member countries (see email from John Scanlon) and via its LinkedIn account to over 4000 followers





And beyond Africa, the online training resources have been disseminated by IIED [indicator 3.4] including:

- via IIED social media accounts (over 1100 impressions and 700 individuals reached via project leader's personal LinkedIn account; promoted to nearly 88,000 followers on IIED's Linkedin Account);
- via IIEDs' regular Biodiversity Newsletter [over 2700 recipients]
- via the toolkit web page hosted on IIED's website [over 660 views and over 250 downloads of the manual]

3.2 Outcome

The anticipated outcome of this project was "Improved HEC management in Namibian conservancies resulting in improved attitudes to elephants and reduced negative livelihood impacts for small farmers and their households".

The indicators of successful achievement of this outcome were:

- 0.1 At least 5 Namibian conservancies reporting they are better equipped and skilled to deal with HEC by end of project
- 0.2 At least 50% reduction in incidence of negative encounters with elephants by end of project reported by conservancies
- 0.3 At least one other country reporting plans to adopt similar approaches by end of project

Based on these indicators, the outcome was partially achieved.

- In terms of Indicator 0.1, and as reported under Outputs 1 and 2, 16 conservancies
 have reported that they are better equipped and better skilled to deal with humanelephant conflict. Feedback to our survey showed that in all 16 conservancies
 respondents said they were now either confident or very confident that they had tools
 they could use to deter elephants and that the tools would work.
- In terms of Indicator 0.2, IRDNC has witnessed that farmers are now feeling confident enough to replant crops destroyed by elephants because they are confident the elephants will not return. The photo below shows Community Game Guards working with farmers to replant fields. We have not been able to collect sufficient data to report a 50% decrease in negative encounters but the rangers report that they are now able to identify individual elephants within the herd, allowing them to accurately pinpoint problematic elephants. The conservancies record conflict incidences in an Event Book and the rangers have just introduced a monthly monitoring system. Going forward they

to introduce the SMART system, along with ranger training, to enhance data collection and monitoring.



- In terms of Indicator 0.3, despite disseminating the materials and raising awareness about the training with other African countries we have not had any specific requests for an extension of the training to other countries. Honeyguide have continued to develop new tools and have reached out to Botswana and stand ready to support other countries but to date have not had requests. Potentially one reason for this is that there are other tools and approaches out there for dealing with human-elephant conflict and we need to do more to communicate the particular benefits of this approach and the effectiveness of this toolkit. Another reason is that there is a cost associated with the training and the toolkit and we don't have the resources to offer a similar experience to other countries as was offered to Namibia. Regardless, and despite the project having come to an end, tool development and refinement will continue by Honeyguide and IIED will continue to promote and disseminate the tools internationally which may still result in steady uptake over time.
- In Namibia, IRDNC are receiving requests from various regions and conservancies seeking training and toolkits to mitigate human-elephant conflict. However, ability to provide support is constrained by limited funding. Namibia is divided into 14 political regions, 11 of which are active elephant habitats. This highlights the significant pressure elephants place on crop-producing communities. To ensure effective elephant conservation and support affected farmers, there is a critical need for resource mobilization to enable IRDNC to extend its reach to these 11 regions.

3.3 Monitoring of assumptions

There were six key assumptions associated with this project each of which is discussed below:

1. Honeyguide training programme is adaptable to HEC context in Namibia Assumption held – the scoping visit by Honeyguide to Namibia at the start of the project concluded that the Namibian context was indeed suitable (albeit with significant challenges related to the scale of operation and availability of vehicles) and the second visit by Honeyguide actually saw the use of the tools in situ in Namibia

2. Namibian volunteer rangers are receptive to training and able to retain and then deploy new skills and knowledge

Assumption held – the training reports and videos (on the toolkit webpage) and post-training survey all document the enthusiasm of the trainees. The follow up survey conducted after the further roll out of the training by Honeyguide and IRDNC in Namibia clearly demonstrated that the rangers/community game guards felt that their skills and knowledge had improved and that they were confident in using the tools, and also in passing on knowledge to others.

3. IRDNC are sufficiently upskilled to be able to roll out training to additional conservancies in Namibia

Assumption held - 5 IRDNC staff participated in the training trip to Tanzania alongside the rangers. IRDNC also participated in the on-site training delivered by Honeyguide in Namibia in March 2024. As a result of their exposure to the training methods and to the tools, IRDNC were able to provide training to additional conservancies during their annual conservancy planning meeting in July 2024. Furthermore, the majority of trained rangers themselves all said they were either confident or very confident that they could train others.

- 4. HEC toolkit components can be easily and cheaply sourced in Namibia Assumption partly upheld the components are available in Namibia although the quality and fit for purpose is not as high as in Tanzania. IRDNC have slightly adapted the contents of the toolkits to reflect what is available locally.
- 5. Training programme lends itself to documentation in interactive formats
 Assumption upheld the training programme has been documented in a series of engaging videos which are very accessible. A practical manual is also available which can either be used online or downloaded.
- 6. There is sufficient interest in HEC mitigation for other community-focussed organisations to utilise the training materials

Assumption not upheld – while the training resources have been widely disseminated and widely viewed we have no evidence that they have been directly used in HEC situations by other community-focussed organisations and Honeyguide have not had requests from other organisations to extend the training to them. In Namibia, the Ministry of Environment and Tourism has, however, asked IRDNC to provide details of the tools and the training to the government rangers.

4 Contribution to Darwin Initiative Programme Objectives

4.1 Project support to the Conventions, Treaties or Agreements

The project has responded directly to the Namibian Human Wildlife Conflict Management Policy 2018-2027 (<u>HWC revise Policy(1).pdf</u>). The Policy has 13 objectives, one of which is specifically to empower communities and farmers to manage human wildlife conflict. By providing communities with the tools and skills to effectively deter elephants from crop raiding this project makes a significant contribution to that objective.

Reducing human wildlife conflict is also an international goal and is included as part of Target 4 of the CBD Global Biodiversity Framework. The indicator for this was under development and under negotiation through the course of this project so we were not able to respond directly to it. Ultimately it was adopted by CoP16 as a component (ie non-binding) indicator but is something that individual countries may still choose to report against. Depending on what Namibia decides to report on, this project could contribute to insights on the number of conservancies upskilled to tackle human elephant conflict.

4.2 Project support to biodiversity conservation and multidimensional poverty reduction

In our proposal we noted that the immediate beneficiaries of the capacity development activities would be the community rangers from Namibia who would have improved knowledge about elephant behaviour and improved skills in how to manage that behaviour in order to reduce human elephant conflict.

We know from the trip reports and the post training survey (evidenced in Section 3 and included in the annex to this report) that the community rangers do indeed feel better equipped to deal with elephants and we also know from the trip reports that HEC toolkits have been deployed effectively in real life situations.

Our proposal suggested that this improved knowledge, skills and equipment would result in the trained rangers being more able to protect their conservancies in Namibia, each of which is home to between 700 and 2000 people and that there would be a significant reduction in HEC as a result. We know from observations and discussions held by IRDNC that farmers are feeling more confident in planting crops knowing that the incidences of negative encounters with elephants are more likely to be successfully dealt with, and less likely to result in entire crops being destroyed. We have photographic evidence showing farmers planting fields and being supported to do so by the rangers (see Section 3). IRDNC sourced seeds locally and supported farmers with planting, marking the first time a conservation organization has demonstrated such empathy and provided assistance where it is critically needed. While the impact has not yet been quantified, the initiative has been highly appreciated at the local level.

From a poverty perspective this means that households are more food secure and also have more income. And from a conservation perspective it means that there is less antagonism towards elephants and retaliatory killings.

4.3 Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI)

Please quantify the proportion of women on the Project Board ¹ .	50% (3/6)
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¹ A Project Board has overall authority for the project, is accountable for its success or failure, and supports the senior project manager to successfully deliver the project.

Please quantify the proportion of project partners that are led by women, or which have a senior leadership team consisting of at least 50% women².

1/3: None of the three partner organisations are led by women. IIED's senior leadership team is 50% women.

IRDNC does not have 50% of senior leadership consisting of women, however, Kunene region – the biggest in Namibia with 35 conservancies is led by a woman as is the IRDNC Advocacy Unit in Zambezi region.

Honeyguide's senior leadership team is all male but 2/7 board members are women.

GESI Scale	Description	Put X where you think your project is on the scale
Not yet sensitive	The GESI context may have been considered but the project isn't quite meeting the requirements of a 'sensitive' approach	Х
Sensitive	The GESI context has been considered and project activities take this into account in their design and implementation. The project addresses basic needs and vulnerabilities of women and marginalised groups and the project will not contribute to or create further inequalities.	
Empowering	The project has all the characteristics of a 'sensitive' approach whilst also increasing equal access to assets, resources and capabilities for women and marginalised groups	
Transformative	The project has all the characteristics of an 'empowering' approach whilst also addressing unequal power relationships and seeking institutional and societal change	

We have marked the project as not sensitive since the majority of rangers trained are male and the project partners have not sought to influence the selection process of the conservancies to recruit more female rangers. This gender imbalance was noted by Honeyguide in one of their trip reports. It is possible for IRDNC to encourage the Conservancies to select more female rangers in the future, but the Conservancies are independent organisations with their own rules and processes in place and it is not possible for IRDNC to insist upon this. Furthermore the fact that the rangers are volunteers and are located in inhospitable environments has not made the role particularly attractive for women.

4.4 Transfer of knowledge

Knowledge transfer was a key focus of this project. This entailed transferring knowledge held by Honeyguide about elephant behaviour and ecology, about how to design and construct

² Partners that have formal governance role in the project, and a formal relationship with the project that may involve staff costs and/or budget management responsibilities.

effective tools for deterring elephants; and about how to deploy those tools – based on knowledge about elephant behaviour and the need to use tools in a specific order of escalating severity.

This knowledge was transferred through in person training, site visits and putting knowledge into practice in real life situations.

A second element of the project was transferring knowledge to a wider community of practitioners without the benefit of in-person training. This was through a combination of video and print media hosted on a dedicated webpage.

4.5 Capacity building

This was a capacity building project but the capacity building was focussed on capacity to effectively manage human-elephant interactions in order to prevent negative livelihood impacts to members of the community.

The community members who were selected by their conservancies to be the focal points for human-elephant conflict – the community game guards – gained some increased status, particularly as for some of them this meant a trip to Tanzania, for some the first time out of the country, the first time needing to apply for a passport etc. Two of the 13 participants in the Tanzania-based training were women. Since then the training has been rolled out in conservancy meetings with equal access for male and female conservancy members, although the majority of individuals selected by conservancies to be game guards/elephant rangers are men.

5 Monitoring and evaluation

There were no major changes to the project design other than a short no-cost extension. The logframe and indicators remained the same.

Overall monitoring of project progress was based on the logframe and the indicators within the logframe. The partners had regular video meetings or email exchanges to catch up on specific activities and check in on progress against the workplan and against the agreed outputs and indicators.

In terms of monitoring of the capacity of the trainee rangers, trip reports were prepared after each visit and surveys were conducted. A before/after training survey was used to assess changes in ranger's knowledge and skills after the Tanzania field visit, and a follow up survey was conducted with a wider group of rangers towards the end of the project following the training visit by Honeyguide in March 2024 and the conservancy planning meeting in July 2024. This also revealed that the trainees felt the training was effective and all felt confident that they could pass on new skills and knowledge to others. Trip reports are prepared after each visit and include recommendations and lessons that are shared amongst the project partners.

Day to day monitoring of elephant encounters is still currently on paper based records but IRDNC hopes to be able to mobilise sufficient funding to move the monitoring system onto SMART. Some funding has been secured for the implementation of the SMART system. Set-up and training will take place over the next few months, with the goal of having it fully operational by July 2025.

6 Lessons learnt

One key lesson is how impossible it is to replace in-person training and skills development. The training provided by Honeyguide was very well received and the trainee rangers reported positively on new knowledge and skills. The face-to-face interactions worked really well. It was an enlightening experience for the Namibian rangers to visit Tanzania, to see a different model of conservancy in the form of the Wildlife Management Areas, to talk with their counterparts in those areas and exchange experiences and to participate directly in an effort to chase

elephants off farmland. As noted in the trip report "The value of this exchange visit is not just confined to the objectives of the trip. The motivation factor is enormous, and the broad educational impact is very significant. The trip was an eye-opener for all and has stimulated interest and passion in most. All are keen to take what they learned back to their home environments and make a difference."

The visit by Honeyguide to Namibia was also extremely valuable enabling the trainers to see their training put into practice, to understand the specific site contexts and to provide advice on further improvements.

One of the recommendations for the future – subject to funding – was that more exchanges of this nature should happen, potentially extending to other countries and for a longer period of time (eg both Honeyguide and IRDNC have suggested that a one month exchange would be helpful).

One thing that was clear from the respondents to the post training survey, however, was that regardless of how good the training was, more resources are needed to effectively deter elephants. Survey respondents repeatedly mentioned the need for better transport (conservancies are vast areas and one ranger is limited in ability to respond quickly to elephant encounters without motorised transport), for electricity, for elephant water points – to keep them away from farms – and for more tool kits. IRDNC were able to raise funding for 15 motorbikes but to roll out the use of the toolkits further would require funding for more transport and more tools.

Making training materials available online was clearly possible and we tried to make these as interesting and engaging as possible by using a mixture of video and written information. However it is not possible to know how sufficient this material would be and whether it could ever completely replace in-person training. We could have included a deliberate end user survey to explore this but didn't factor this into our plans.

Again, with more resources but probably beyond the resources of a C&C grant, it would have been useful to have been able to hold a regional event at Honeyguide's site with representatives from community organisations from multiple countries to provide some wider exposure to the tools and the toolkit before then following up with the online materials in order to facilitate understanding and uptake.

7 Actions taken in response to Annual Report reviews

The reviewer of our year 1 annual report raised concerns about the risks associated with handling some of the elephant deterrent tools including fireworks. At the time we received this report the in person training by Honeyguide had already been completed so we were not able to adapt the training to address this but the Honeyguide training does already include safety training. In addition, we made sure to include a clear statement in the online training materials highlighting that both the tools AND elephants could be dangerous and that extreme caution was required.

The reviewer noted the challenge of meeting our targets for regional and international dissemination. We capitalised on links with regional organisations for regional dissemination – particularly the Community Leaders Network of Southern Africa and the Elephant Protection Initiative. However we have no direct way of measuring the uptake and reach as a result of these efforts.

The reviewer also noted the need to ensure we reported against quantified indicators for outputs 1 and 2 which we have done in this report and also to improve the response rate of our surveys. The second survey we conducted had responses from all but two of the rangers we contacted.

8 Sustainability and legacy

As mentioned above, the Namibian government has been impressed with the toolkits and asked IRDNC to provide them with details so that they can roll out similar tools to their own rangers. We have no written evidence of this as this was a verbal exchange during the annual conservancy planning meeting.

IRDNC have continued to try to raise awareness about human elephant conflict and efforts to mitigate it. The Elephant Rangers organized and participated in a Big Walk from Windhoek to Swakopmund, covering over 360 km in just six days. The event gained widespread media attention and sparked significant discussion on social media. While much of the coverage is in the vernacular, this https://www.namibian.com.na/elephant-rangers-walk-362-kilometers-from-windhoek-to-swakopmund-to-show-their-determination/ from a local newspaper provides further details.

At the moment, the Elephant Rangers are direct staff of the conservancies. The conservancy system is well-positioned to continue as a sustainable institutional framework. It is also envisioned that, as communities become more tolerant of elephants and derive benefits from elephant tourism, they will be able to invest their own resources in mitigation measures to reduce conflicts. The grant period has allowed for a highly intense level of work and engagement with farmers and communities. IRDNC has secured funding to cover the costs associated with the Elephant Rangers until December 2025. Efforts are also underway to secure additional funding beyond that date.

9 Darwin Initiative identity

The Darwin logo has been used on all the project outputs (see videos, trip reports, training manual and project website). We have also tagged Darwin and/or BCF in Linked In posts about the project.

10 Risk Management

We acknowledge the risk highlighted by the reviewer of our year 1 annual report. Although the project only had a short time to run from when we received this review and the main work at this point was compiling the online resources, we made efforts to reflect the risk of tackling dangerous animals and using tools such as firecrackers in our online resources.

Other than this no new risks materialised and no adaptions to project design were made.

11 Safeguarding



12 Finance and administration

12.1Project expenditure

Project spend (indicative) since last Annual Report	2024/25 Grant (£)	2024/25 Total actual Darwin Initiative Costs (£)	Variance %	Comments (please explain significant variances)
Staff costs (see below)				
Consultancy costs				

Overhead Costs		
Overnead Costs		
Travel and subsistence		
Operating Costs		
Capital items (see below)		
Others (see below)		
Audit costs		
TOTAL	35,404.00 35,224.81	
	, ,	
	employed	Cost
	and position)	(£)
Dilys Roe, IIED Project Lead		
Anita Sohal, IIED Project Mana		
Anne Schulthess, IIED Comms	;	
Matt Wright, IIED Comms		
Sam Shaba, Honeyguide Prog		
John Kasaona, IRDNC Directo	r	
TOTAL		
04-14-		0
Capital Ite	ms – description	Capital items – cost (£)
TOTAL		
TOTAL		
Other iter	ns – description	Other items – cost (£)
TOTAL		

12.2 Additional funds or in-kind contributions secured

Matched funding leveraged by the partners to deliver the project	Total (£)
In kind contributions from IRDNC and Honeyguides; unfunded staff time contributions from IIED	
TOTAL	

Total additional finance mobilised for new activities occurring outside of the project, building on evidence, best practices and the project	Total (£)
15 Motorbikes provided by MOngol Ecology Center	
TOTAL	

12.3 Value for Money

ECONOMY: The majority (79%) of the funding was allocated to small organisations in the Global South. IIED staff rates are high compared to partners and so IIED staff time was kept to a minimum. The capacity development activities were delivered by one of these small organisations and accommodation was provided for trainees in a low-cost format (camping). The overall cost of the training was thus low. It was expensive to have a training programme that involved travel from one country to another but it was important for the Namibian trainees to see effective HEC management in action.

EFFICIENCY: Training of trainers is recognised as an efficient way to scale up dissemination of knowledge and skills beyond immediate trainees. The tools in the toolkit were designed to either be purchased cheaply or constructed cheaply. Development of interactive training materials was intended to help increase the spread of knowledge without the need for in-person training at a remote location.

EFFECTIVENESS: The HEC management approach and tools had already been tried and tested and proven to be effective in Tanzania and the scoping visit at the start of the project was intended to allow Honeyguide to experience the Namibian context and use their expert judgement that the tools would also be effective there too. The South-South learning also helped ensure the training was as relevant as possible for the trainees.

EQUITY: Although the lead organisation, IIED played a supporting role in this project thus ensuring the bulk of funding was directed to partner organisations. IIED also provided mentoring to the two Southern partner organisations to increase their capacity to manage, monitor and report on future Darwin projects

13 Other comments on progress not covered elsewhere

No further comments other than to note the severity of the problem of human elephant conflict and the significant investment that would be required to tackle this – way beyond the resources of this project. The respondents to our survey point to the need for transport, electricity, waterpoints, elephant trenches etc etc. The tools in our toolkit are probably touching the tip of the iceberg!

14 OPTIONAL: Outstanding achievements of your project (300-400 words maximum). This section may be used for publicity purposes

I agree for the Biodiversity Challenge Funds Secretariat to publish the content of this section (please leave this line in to indicate your agreement to use any material you provide here).

This project really shows the strength and value of South-South learning. For the Namibian rangers to visit Tanzania and learn from peers, and for the Tanzanian rangers in Wildlife Management Areas to share their knowledge and to see that it was valued was enlightening on all sides. For IIED as the international partner it was great to be in the back seat and to see this great interaction with no need for an intermediary to be in charge! This is how more conservation and development projects should work - recognising that expertise lies in the South and not the North when it comes to addressing issues in the South.

[Any of the videos and images used in the online toolkit webpage including the manual can be used alongside this text]

File Type (Image / Video / Graphic)	File Name or File Location	Caption including description, country and credit	Social media accounts and websites to be tagged (leave blank if none)	Consent of subjects received (delete as necessary)
Video	https://vimeo.com/900049081	Human-elephant Conflict exchange visit – Namibia to Tanzania, (credit Honeyguide)		Yes
Video	https://vimeo.com/909075817	Torch - Flashlights, a first tool in elephant deterrence, Tanzania, (credit Honeyguide)		Yes
Video	https://vimeo.com/909076292	Air horn Tanzania, a second tool in elephant deterrence, (credit Honeyguide)		Yes
Video	https://vimeo.com/914323950	Chili Cracker, a third tool in elephant deterrence, Tanzania, (credit Honeyguide)		Yes

Video	https://vimeo.com/917115355	Roman Candle, a fourth tool in elephant deterrence, Tanzania, (credit Honeyguide)	Yes
GRAPHIC			

Annex 1 Report of progress and achievements against final project indicators of success for the life of the project

Project summary	Progress and Achievements
Outcome: Improved HEC management in Namibian conservancies resulting impacts for small farmers and their households	g in improved attitudes to elephants and reduced negative livelihood
Outcome indicator 0.1 0.1 At least 5 Namibian conservancies reporting they are better equipped and skilled to deal with HEC by end of project	Exceeded: 16 conservancies have reported that they are better equipped and better skilled to deal with human-elephant conflict.
Outcome indicator 0.2, 0.2 At least 50% reduction in incidence of negative encounters with elephants by end of project reported by conservancies	Partially achieved: Farmers are now feeling confident enough to replant crops destroyed by elephants because they are confident the elephants will not return. However, data has not been collected to assess the overall level of decrease in negative encounters.
Outcome indicator 0.3, 0.3 At least one other country reporting plans to adopt similar approaches by end of project	Not achieved: despite disseminating the materials and raising awareness about the training with other African countries we have not had any specific requests for an extension of the training to other countries.
Output 1 Community rangers in Namibia have increased knowledge and sk	ills to tackle human-elephant conflict
Output indicator 1.1 1.1 At least 12 community volunteer rangers from at least 5 conservancies in Namibia have improved knowledge of elephant behaviour	Achieved: Of 37 rangers/game guards from 16 conservancies 22 reported that their knowledge for elephant ecology and behaviour had improved while 14 said it had stayed the same and one failed to respond
Output indicator 1.2, 1.2 At least 12 community volunteer rangers from at least 5 conservancies in Namibia have improved skills to manage HEC (Achieved: 36 rangers from 16 conservancies reported improvements in their knowledge of and access to effective elephant deterrents and that they were now either confident or very confident that they had tools they could use and that would work

Output indicator 1.3 1.3 At least 12 community volunteer rangers from at least 5 conservancies in Namibia have practical experience in deploying the HEC toolkit (baseline	Achieved: 37 rangers from 16 conservancies reported that they were confident or very confident in deploying the HEC toolkit and using the tools in the correct order.
Output 2. Conservancies in Namibia are equipped with effective HEC mana	agement approaches and deterrents
Output indicator 2.1.	Achieved: Toolkits are available in 16 conservancies
2.1 HEC Toolkits available to at least seven conservancies in Namibia Output indicator 2.2. 2.2 Training in HEC management passed on to at least one additional community HEC responder in at least 5 conservancies by the trained volunteer rangers by end of project	Achieved: Additional training was provided to 25 rangers from 9 conservancies
Output indicator 2.3 2.3 HEC training and HEC toolkit rolled out by IRDNC to at least 2 other conservancies in Namibia (beyond those trained by Honeyguide)	Achieved: Additional training was provided by the trained rangers and IRDNC during its annual conservancy planning meeting in July 2024. 16 conservancies in the Kunene region now have a toolkit and more than 20 conservancies have trained Elephant ranger/community game guard
Output 3. Interactive training materials on HEC management are available	and widely disseminated in Africa and internationally
Output indicator 3.1 3.1 At least two types of interactive training material developed	Achieved: One set of videos and one user-friendly written manual developed and made available online.
Output indicator 3.2 3.2 Training materials disseminated to all conservancies with elephants in Namibia	Achieved: The tools and training materials have been promoted to all conservancies during the conservancy annual planning meeting.
Output indicator 3.3 3.3 Training materials disseminated to community conservancy associations and support NGOs in at least 3 other low income Southern African countries	Achieved: Disseminated via Elephant Protection Initiative (27 member countries) and via Community Leaders' Network of Southern Africa to CBOs in Namibia, Botswana, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Malawi.

Output indicator 3.4	Achieved: over 1100 impressions and 700 individuals reached via
3.4 Training materials disseminated internationally to at least 500 recipients	project leader's personal LinkedIn account; 2700 recipients of IIED's Biodiversity Newsletter; 660 views and 250 downloads from the toolkit webpage on IIED website

Annex 2 Project's full current indicators of success as presented in the application form (unless changes have been agreed)

Project summary	SMART Indicators	Means of verification
Outcome: Improved HEC management in Namibian conservancies resulting in improved attitudes to elephants and reduced negative livelihood impacts for small farmers and their households	0.1 At least 5 Namibian conservancies reporting they are better equipped and skilled to deal with HEC by end of project 0.2 At least 50% reduction in incidence of negative encounters with elephants by end of project reported by conservancies 0.3 At least one other country reporting plans to adopt similar approaches by end of project	0.1 Conservancy reports to IRDNC 0.2 Conservancy monthly HEC monitoring records 0.3 Requests to Honeyguide for practical training 0.4 Feedback to project partners from countries to whom training material has been disseminated
Output 1 Community rangers in Namibia have increased knowledge and skills to tackle human-elephant conflict	1.1 At least 12 community volunteer rangers from at least 5 conservancies in Namibia have improved knowledge of elephant behaviour (baseline 0) 1.2 At least 12 community volunteer rangers from at least 5 conservancies in Namibia have improved skills to manage HEC (baseline 0) 1.3 At least 12 community volunteer rangers from at least 5 conservancies in Namibia have practical experience in deploying the HEC toolkit (baseline 0)	Output 1 1.1 Knowledge tests before and after training 1.2 Skills tests before and after training 1.3 Trainees self-reported assessment of their knowledge and skills compared to before training 1.4 Field visit records 1.5 Reports of back-stopping/technical support requests submitted to Honeyguide
Output 2 Conservancies in Namibia are equipped with effective HEC management approaches and deterrents	2.1 HEC Toolkits available to at least seven conservancies in Namibia (baseline 0) 2.2 Training in HEC management passed on to at least one additional community HEC responder in at least	2.1 Availability of toolkits 2.2 Community ranger reports of toolkit deployment to manage HEC incidents 2.3 Conservancies reports of numbers of trained HEC responders

	5 conservancies by the trained volunteer rangers by end of project (baseline 0) 2.3 HEC training and HEC toolkit rolled out by IRDNC to at least 2 other conservancies in Namibia (beyond those trained by Honeyguide)	2.4 Training records maintained by IRDNC
Output 3 Interactive training materials on HEC management are available and widely disseminated in Africa and internationally	3.1 At least two types of interactive training material developed (baseline 0) 3.2 Training materials disseminated to all conservancies with elephants in Namibia 3.3 Training materials disseminated to community conservancy associations and support NGOs in at least 3 other low income Southern African countries 3.4 Training materials disseminated internationally to at least 500 recipients	3.1 Availability of training materials online 3.2 IRDNC dissemination records 3.3 IIED and Honeyguide dissemination records 3.4 IIED dissemination records; web statistics

Activities (each activity is numbered according to the output that it will contribute towards, for example 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3 are contributing to Output 1)

- 1.1 Scoping visit to Namibia by Honeyguide staff
- 1.2 Selection of rangers for training
- 1.3 Training of Namibian community volunteer rangers in Tanzania
- 2.1 Equipping of Namibian conservancies with HEC Toolkits
- 2.2 Ongoing monitoring of HEC and toolkit deployment and effectiveness in Namibian conservancies
- 2.3 Follow up visit to Nambia by Honeyguide staff
- 3.1 Documentation and videoing of training experience in Tanzania
- 3.2 Development of interactive training materials
- 3.3 Dissemination of training materials in Namibia, in Southern Africa and internationally

Important Assumptions

- 1. Honeyguide training programme is adaptable to HEC context in Namibia
- 2. Namibian volunteer rangers are receptive to training and able to retain and then deploy new skills and knowledge
- 3. IRDNC are sufficiently upskilled to be able to roll out training to additional conservancies in Namibia

- 4. HEC toolkit components can be easily and cheaply sourced in Namibia5. Training programme lends itself to documentation in interactive formats6. There is sufficient interest in HEC mitigation for other community-focussed organisations to utilise the training material

Annex 3 Standard Indicators

Table 1 Project Standard Indicators

DI Indicator number	Name of indicator	Units	Disaggregation	Year 1 Total	Year 2 Total	Year 3 Total	Total achieved	Total planned
DI-A01	Number of people in eligible countries who have completed structured and relevant training [Community rangers and IRDNC staff trained]	People	Men	15	25		25	15
DI-A01	Number of people in eligible countries who have completed structured and relevant training [Community rangers and IRDNC staff trained]	People	Women	3	3		3	0
DI-A03	Number of local/national organisations4 with improved capability and capacity as a result of project. [Community Conservancies trained and equipped with HEC toolkits]	Number	Local	9	16		16	5
DI-A03	Number of local/national organisations4 with improved capability and capacity as a result of project.[National NGOs trained]	Number	National	1	1		1	1
DI-AO4	Number of people reporting that they are applying new capabilities (skills and knowledge) 6 (or more) months after training.	People	Men	0	33		0	15
DI-AO4	Number of people reporting that they are applying new capabilities (skills and knowledge) 6 (or more) months after training.	People	Women	0	3		0	3
DI-CO1	Number of best practice guides and knowledge products10 published and endorsed11.	Number	Toolkit	0	1		0	1

Table 2 Publications

Title	Туре	Detail	Gender of	Nationality of	Publishers	Available from
	(e.g. journals, best practice manual, blog post, online videos, podcasts, CDs)	(authors, year)	Lead Author	Lead Author	(name, city)	(e.g. weblink or publisher if not available online)
South-South Capacity Building for Human Elephant Conflict Management	Webpage	IIED, 2023	Female	British	IIED, London	
Training Namibian Rangers in elephant conflict management	Video	Jamal Fadhili, 2024	Male	Tanzanian	Honeyguide, Arusha	https://vimeo.com/900049081?share=copy
Torch use	Video	Jamal Fadhili, 2024	Male	Tanzanian	Honeyguide, Arusha	https://vimeo.com/909075817?share=copy
Air horn and siren use	Video	Jamal Fadhili, 2024	Male	Tanzanian	Honeyguide, Arusha	https://vimeo.com/909076292?share=copy
Chilli cloud use	Video	Jamal Fadhili, 2024	Male	Tanzanian	Honeyguide, Arusha	https://vimeo.com/917115355?share=copy
Human elephant conflict handbook	Manual	Honeyguide 2024	Male	Tanzanian	Honeyguide, Arusha	https://www.iied.org/22606g

Checklist for submission

	Check
Different reporting templates have different questions, and it is important you use the correct one. Have you checked you have used the correct template (checking fund, type of report (i.e. Annual or Final), and year) and deleted the blue guidance text before submission?	X
Is the report less than 10MB? If so, please email to BCF-Reports@niras.com putting the project number in the Subject line.	Х
Is your report more than 10MB? If so, please discuss with BCF-Reports@niras.com about the best way to deliver the report, putting the project number in the Subject line. All supporting material should be submitted in a way that can be accessed and downloaded as one complete package.	Х
If you are submitting photos for publicity purposes, do these meet the outlined requirements (see section 14)?	n/a
Have you included means of verification? You should not submit every project document, but the main outputs and a selection of the others would strengthen the report.	X
Have you involved your partners in preparation of the report and named the main contributors?	Х
Have you completed the Project Expenditure table fully?	Х
Do not include claim forms or other communications with this report.	•