

Illegal Wildlife Trade: Half Year Report

(due 31 October)

Project Ref No

IWT026

Project Title Connecting enhanced livelihoods to elephant and rhino protection

Country(ies): Kenya

Lead Organisation Northern Rangeland Trust

Collaborator(s) : 18 Community Conservancies in northern Kenya.

Project Leader Mike Harrison

Report date and number (eg HYR1): 30th September 2017/HYR2

Project website <http://www.nrt-kenya.org/conservancies>

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).

This report provides an overview of progress and activities of the project that seeks to strengthen community livelihoods that are linked to elephant and rhino protection in northern Kenya for the period April to September 2017. Since the signing of the agreement in April 2016 (funds disbursed July 2016), the process of planning, coordinating and implementing the community livelihoods projects under this fund is well under way. The process involved announcing calls for proposals from all the NRT-affiliated community conservancies, reviewing proposals that had been prioritised and approved by the communities, and then awarding sub-grants to successful projects. These were projects that provided clear evidence of directly linking improved community livelihoods to protection of elephants within core elephant population range in northern Kenya. During the period, 13 additional community development projects (GBP £) in 12 conservancies have been initiated and are under implementation compared to 4 projects in three (3) conservancies in the previous period. A total of 16 projects in 15 conservancies are now under implementation; tourism development (5), education infrastructure (4), water infrastructure (3), microfinance (1), rangelands (1), clean energy (1), and forestry (1). Additional 18,925 people are expected to benefit from these projects compared to 1,650 recorded the previous period. All infrastructure projects were subjected to an environmental impact assessment (EIA) to comply with government environment regulations and thereafter a competitive tendering process that resulted in the award of construction tenders to qualified construction companies based on their technical and financial evaluations. Subsequently, NRT has just completed a joint planning process with all the 35 community conservancy managers for the next round funding of community development projects. The projects upon completion are expected to have high impact in

stabilizing elephant and rhino populations through reduction in poaching. This will curtail illegal wildlife trade by acting as an incentive to communities in conserving wildlife and habitat management. NRT recorded a proportion of illegally killed elephants (PIKE) of 28% for the period April to September 2017 compared to 55% recorded during the same period in 2016. This represents a 27% reduction in elephant poaching. No rhino was poached within the Sera Rhino Sanctuary, the first community-owned rhino sanctuary in East Africa. Since re-introduction of 10 black rhinos in May 2015, the number has grown to 12 after births of two (2) new calves in June 2016 and May 2017 respectively. This represents a 10% average increase per year.

Year/Sector	Total Request to NRT (GBP)	Sum of Request to NRT (%)	No of Projects/Cys	Sum of Beneficiaries
Tourism		44.61%	5	
Education		19.12%	4	
Water		16.09%	3	
Microfinance		10.62%	1	
Rangelands		6.37%	1	
Energy		2.66%	1	
Forestry		0.53%	1	
Grand Total		100.00%	16	

Water Projects

- Community water project in Il Ngwesi Community Conservancy intended to provide additional water and improve existing water supply system to the community, livestock, wildlife and the tourism lodge. Environmental Impact Assessment is underway to pave way for project implementation.
- Kalama Community water project intended to provide water to lodge to promote and increase tourism incomes as well as provide water to the community, rangers and wildlife.
- Rehabilitation of water pipeline to Songa conservancy headquarters in Marsabit County to improve access of clean and safe water to the conservancy rangers.
- Community water project in Ngare Ndare Community intended to provide access to clean and safe drinking water to the community. The project was completed and officially handed over to the community on 19th October 2017 and expected to benefit 1000 households living in Ngare Ndare.

Education

- Construction and equipping of two (2) classrooms in Ltungai Conservancy (Longewan Primary School) with EIA having been conducted, necessary government approvals for

civil works obtained, and tender awarded and construction works started.

- Construction and furnishing of girls dormitory in Sera at Sereolipi Mixed Secondary School almost complete. The project is expected to improve enrolment and retention of girls in secondary school. EIA has been conducted, necessary government approvals for civil works obtained, tender awarded and construction works on-going.

Rangelands

- Biological Control of opuntia sticta in Naibunga Community intended to eradicate the invasive opuntia sticta using cochineal infection and thereby improve rangelands. The project is under implementation with seven (7) greenhouses already established to rear and propagate the cochineal (dudu) which are then applied across the affected areas. The conservancy management is now monitoring the effectiveness of the biological control of the upuntia for long lasting impact.

Tourism Development

- Construction of tourism accommodation units (bandas) and a swimming pool in Sera Community Conservancy intended to improve social economic status of the community through increased commercial revenue from tourism and increased employment opportunities. The project is at the initial stages of implementation.
- Construction of three (3) room tourist campsite at Ol Choro along Merille River in Melako conservancy. The project is expected to increase tourism income for Melako conservancy as well as create employment opportunities.

Clean Energy

- Procurement and distribution of 20 biogas units and 85 energy saving cooking stoves (jikos) units in Ngare Ndare Forest in Meru county on 19th September 2017 and expected to benefit 510 people in 85 households.

Forestry

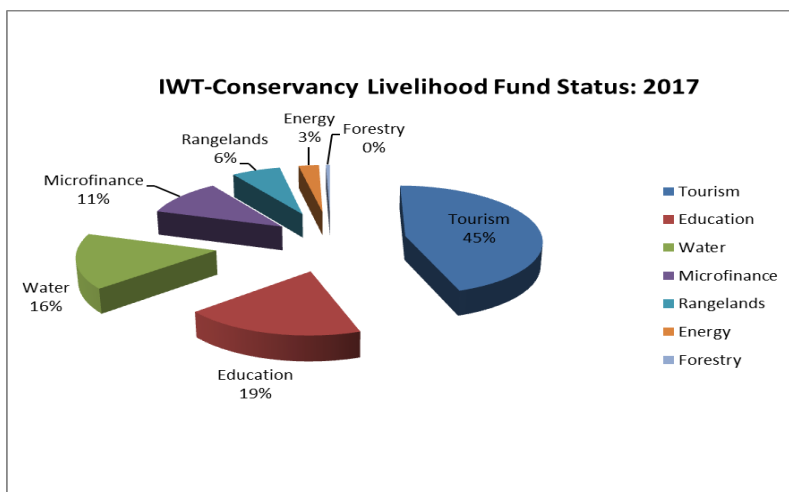
- 5,000 exotic seedlings were purchased from community nurseries at Ngare Ndare Forest Trust. A total of 70,000 tree seedlings are now available for planting. The project is expected to increase the forest Cover within Ngare Ndare Forest Trust.

Micro-finance

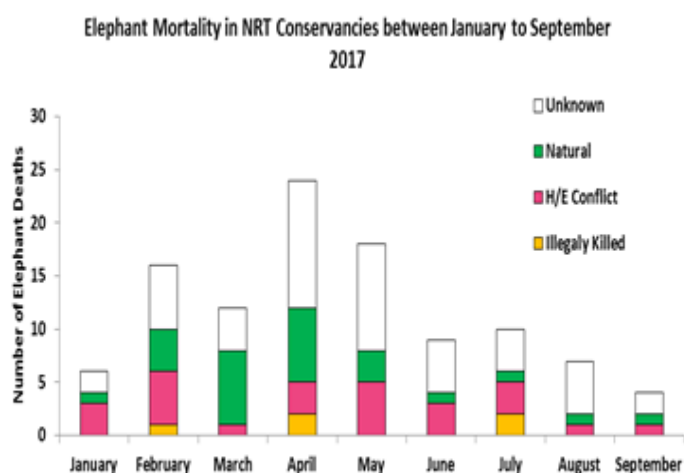
- Women microfinance program in Nasuulu Community Conservancy expected to improve household income of women from the community. The project has not kicked off as it awaits selection and formation of women and youth groups, training on

microenterprises before eventually rolling out saving and credit facilities to the women and youth groups.

In all the projects, the communities continue to provide full support as they look forward to achieving positive socio-economic impacts on their lives. These projects were prioritised through their Conservancy Boards, as part of their overall Conservancy Management and Community Development Plans. Furthermore our teams who are in charge of these projects are closely monitoring the projects with the conservancy management teams to ensure effective implementation besides providing regular updates on project progress. Though NRT recorded a 29% average Proportion of Illegally Killed Elephants (PIKE) within NRT conservancies for the 6-



month period from April to September 2017 compared to 55% recorded in 2016 the same period, the rate is expected to decline as we close the year in December 2017.



As mentioned earlier, there was no poaching of rhino during the reporting period. On the other hand, Sera Community Conservancy which is the first community to own rhino sanctuary in East Africa, has seen the number of initially trans-located 10 black rhinos in May 2015 increase to 12 after the birth of the rhino calf in June 2016 and May 2017. The ultimate goal is to protect and conserve black rhino while promoting

the rhino sanctuary as a tourism destination to increase commercial income to support conservancy operation, community development projects and create employment opportunities.

2a. 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.

There were no notable challenges on the project during the reporting period. NRT does not expect any roll-over of funds to the next financial year beginning April 2018.

2b. Have any of these issues been discussed with LTS International and if so, have changes been made to the original agreement?

Discussed with LTS: No

Formal change request submitted: No

Received confirmation of change acceptance No

3a. Do you currently expect to have any significant (eg more than £5,000) underspend in your budget for this year?

Yes No Estimated underspend:

3b. If yes, then you need to consider your project budget needs carefully as it is unlikely that any requests to carry forward funds will be approved this year. Please remember that any funds agreed for this financial year are only available to the project in this financial year.

If you anticipate a significant underspend because of justifiable changes within the project and would like to talk to someone about the options available this year, please indicate below when you think you might be in a position to do this and what the reasons might be:

NRT's spend down on this grant is 89% and is expected to reach 100% by the end of the project on 31st March 2018. No funds will be rolled over to the next IWT's financial year Apr 2018 – Mar 2019. The project cycle management for these funds fits within the overall NRT Conservancy Livelihoods Fund process, with proposals, review, awards and implementation following a systematic process. All funds will be consumed within the allocated timetable.

4. Are there any other issues you wish to raise relating to the project or to IWT challenge Fund management, monitoring, or financial procedures?

Not at the moment.

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 send your **completed report by email** to Joanne Gordon at IWT-Fund@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 eg Subject: 001 IWT Half Year Report**