



Illegal Wildlife Trade (IWT) Challenge Fund Half Year Report

(due 31st October 2018)

Project reference:

Project title: Increasing Capacity for Anti-Poaching and Enhancing Human-Elephant Coexistence

Country(ies): Tanzania

Lead organisation: Southern Tanzania Elephant Program (STEP)

Collaborator(s): TAWA, Itigi District Council

Project leader: Trevor Jones

**Report date and number
(e.g. HYR1):**

Project website/blog/social media: Website: <http://www.stzelephants.org/>
FB: @Southern Tanzania Elephant Program;
Twitter: STEP (@STzElephants)

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

Report for Jul-Sep i.e. Quarter 2 – organise and summarise by Strengthening Law Enforcement (outputs 1-3) and Enhancing human-elephant coexistence (outputs 4-5)

Aim 1 - Strengthen law enforcement capacity

1. *Aerial surveillance*
2. *Ground patrol support*
3. *Ranger training in GPS, GIS and data analysis*

Aim 2 - Enhance human-elephant coexistence

To strengthen support to community activities promoting human-elephant coexistence in Rungwa, STEP conducted interviews in September to employ a Community Liaison, whose primary role will be to support farmer's groups and provide feedback to the STEP team to ensure stronger monitoring and technical support for the project to continue successfully. After five days of practical training, one final candidate was selected and employed. The Community Liaison has already been instrumental in supporting the groups and providing timely feedback to STEP on various small issues that enable the project to continue to improve.

1. *Beehive-fence support and expansion*

STEP works with two established farmer's groups: *Mkola Beehive fence (Maendeleo Farmers Group)* and *Itaga beehive fence (Amani Beekeeping Group)*. STEP and the Community Liaison attended one of

their weekly beehive fence inspection sessions and noted some challenges and improvements to be made to improve occupancy of bees. Currently Mkola beehive fence only has 2 hives of 120, and Itaga beehive fence 2 hives occupied out of 54 hives. The farmers were advised to introduce new queens apply beeswax to attract bees and improve occupancy. Also noted for the weekly monitoring was more care needed of hives for cleaning and removal of insects such as termites that prevent bee occupancy, and to ensure that hives are under adequate shade, as well as to provision with more water / sugar water, since this area is arid. The Community Liaison has already started to oversee these improvements and STEP, via a loan scheme, has granted Maendeleo Farmer's group a loan of TZS [REDACTED] to enable them to carry out the recommended improvements to their beehive fences. This shows the commitment to their activities, and this loan was part of a 50:50 cost share (the other TZS [REDACTED] coming from their own beekeeping group account). In addition, because of the successful establishment of the farmer's groups, the Maendeleo Farmers Group was the only recipient of a local government loan of [REDACTED] TZS, used to expand and improve livelihoods. The success of the group's management of the beehive fence project demonstrated their capability to use, manage and repay the loan to the government. The group have made a financial plan that each member contributes [REDACTED] TZS per month to repay the government loan.

Expansion of two more beehive fence projects will depend on the outcome of ground surveys in October 2018, where two priority villages (based on STEP 2016 surveys) will be surveyed for locations experiencing negative human-elephant interactions, such as crop raiding of farms, damage to food stores, or use of (shared) water resources. Based on these results and assessment of the environmental context, sites will be selected and reported in the annual report.

2. VSLAs for farmer's groups

To help buffer farmers financially from crop losses to elephants, STEP encourages farmers' groups to run community-based loans and insurance disbursement programs known as Village Savings and Loans Associations (VSLAs). This allows for diversified incomes, which enhances food and income security, buffers against crop losses and promotes more tolerance towards elephants. The two Village Savings and Loans Associations STEP helped farmers groups establish continue to operate well. Maendeleo Farmers Group currently has [REDACTED] TZS, and Amani Farmers Group already conducted their end of cycle share-out in August 2018 and will start a new cycle at the beginning of October 2018. The table below provides a summary of activities, with loans being used for chicken farming, small restaurants, tailoring, sunflower farming, maize farming.

Summary of status of Rungwa VSLAs supported by STEP

	<i>Mkola VSLA</i>	<i>Itaga VSLA</i>
Start date (first cycles)	9/12/2017(new cycle)	1/06/2017 (first cycle)
Number of members	30	30
No. weeks	34	48
Capital in September 2018	2,689,000/=	3,586,000/=
Social fund in September 2018	230,000/=	220,000/=
Total shares in September 2018	2689	3586
Total Loans issued in September 2018	54	3
Total loans value in September 2018	9,520,000/=	440,000/=
Total Interest in September 2018	980,000/=	28,200/=

3. Awareness raising events

In September, STEP started to develop activity profiles for five components of the education and awareness-raising events to be held in Rungwa in early 2019. Each profile is structured to think about the impact and changes we want to achieve via these events, as well as the target audience to be engaged and the most appropriate means to do that, numbers of people to be reached, particular local context issues to consider when developing the event, as well as timing, logistics and equipment considerations. Rungwa is a remote area, about 16 hours drive from STEP's office in Iringa and careful planning is needed to ensure maximum impact is had for the resources used.

Events planned are a community leaders' workshop, community awareness raising events, a Tembo ("elephant") football cup competition and school's awareness events. Educational materials will be developed in consideration of all these events and differences in audience participation. Interviews with the Rungwa GR Community Officer, Village leaders and school teachers were used to develop the content of the materials and ensure that topics are appropriate for the rural community being targeted.

We will use a variety of material types to disseminate the information, including the use of booklets, flyers, and posters. Emphasis will be put on providing visual graphics as much as possible, bearing in mind illiteracy levels may be higher in these remote areas than in urban hubs. Booklets can be used for village leaders, teachers and students, whilst fliers and posters can be used at community events across a large audience. We have already started to meet with some graphic designers to obtain their input in how best to present the information, as well as obtaining quotes for size, quantity and color of the various material types.

Changes we are hoping to achieve in the project area by dissemination of the materials at the various planned events are as follows:

- Reduction in the negative impacts caused by elephants (crop losses, food store breakage, people injury/death and sharing water resources);
- Zero retaliatory or PAC killing of elephants;
- Zero human deaths and injury to elephants;
- Greater understanding about elephant conservation and its contribution to National income;
- Empowered people who can manage and mitigate the impacts of elephants on their livelihoods

As we want to monitor impacts of our awareness-raising events, as well as any new interventions, baseline household surveys were designed by an external consultant in September for 6 villages, interviewing 30 households in each (total 240 interviews). This will consist of 4 treatment villages (2 with interventions by STEP already but without awareness raising events and 2 treatment villages that STEP have yet to engage with). To compare the impacts of STEP interventions over time, we included 2 control villages. These interviews are scheduled for October and together with ground surveys to assess locations for new beehive fences. A summary report will be compiled in November and presented in the annual report.

4. *Elephant data monitors*

STEP continues to work with three local elephant monitors in three locations of elephant crop raiding near Rungwa villages. They record data on crop raiding activities, damage to food stores, impacts of the beehive fences. These data are collected and sent to STEP monthly. The new Community Liaison will also provide support to these local monitors. Below the photos demonstrate the destruction that can be done to mud food stores – strengthened food stores is one of the models STEP is considering to reduce food loss and insecurity.



Food store destroyed by elephant in Rungwa village (L) Roofing removed from house by elephants, Rungwa village(R)

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.

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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: Yes/No

Formal change request submitted: Yes/No

Received confirmation of change acceptance Yes/No

3a. Do you currently expect to have any significant (e.g. 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. 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, 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.

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

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 R4 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 send your **completed report by email** to Victoria Pinion 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 e.g. Subject: IWT001 Half Year Report.**