



Illegal Wildlife Trade (IWT) Challenge Fund Half Year Report (due 31st October 2019)

Project reference:	IWT052
Project title:	Increasing capacity for anti-poaching and enhancing human-elephant coexistence
Country(ies):	Tanzania
Lead organisation:	STEP: Southern Tanzania Elephant Program
Collaborator(s):	Tanzania Wildlife Management Authority, Itigi District Council
Project leader:	<i>Trevor Jones</i>
Report date and number (e.g. HYR1):	<i>HYR2</i>
Project website/blog/social media:	<i>stzelephants.org</i>

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).

1.1 Aerial patrol missions coordinated with rapid ground response by rangers

- STEP's aerial team conducted six days of aerial patrol in collaboration with the Rapid Response Team of Rungwa Kizigo Muhesi Game Reserve (RKM GR). The mission was conducted between April 26th and May 1st 2019. The total period flown was 16 hours covering a total distance of 2,194.44 km.

[REDACTED]

- In addition, 77 hours of aerial patrol were completed in other areas of the Ruaha-Rungwa ecosystem: MBOMIPA WMA, Lunda-Mkwambi GCA, and Ruaha NP.

1.2 Rapid mapping and reporting of aerial missions and rapid response operations

- One rapid report and two maps with recommendations were shared to the RKM GR Management in May 2019. The reports included GPS coordinates of all observations. This information is crucial for monitoring by the ground patrols team deployed monthly,

1.3 Regular spatio-temporal analysis of mission outcomes and anti-poaching strategy shared and discussed with Game Reserve Managers

- Two meetings were conducted with the Tanzania Wildlife Management Authority Headquarters-Aerial patrol Department and Anti-poaching Department. The objectives of these meetings were to discuss the report on 2016-2018 wet and dry season mission analyses, specifically the results of the spatio-temporal analysis of mission outcomes and anti-poaching. The TAWA staff represented the GR Manager.

2.1 Ranger patrols throughout remote and key elephant areas

- STEP supported the RKM GR with 800L of fuel in April 2019, in response to their request put on 22nd March 2019. [REDACTED] Fuel provision for patrols is again planned for use during November 2019, when aerial patrol with the STEP aircraft will resume.

2.2 Patrol maps and reports submitted by rangers to Game Reserve Managers

- This activity is now carried out on a monthly basis in RKM GR using the adopted SMART software and system of Law Enforcement data collection.

2.3 Ongoing feedback and technical support to rangers from STEP GIS Department

- RKM GR are currently transitioning to SMART use in patrols, only using GIS for mapping when needed. Therefore STEP's GIS department has not provided technical support in this period.

3.3 Intelligence-led patrol planning based on aerial and ground patrol maps implemented

- RKM GR Rangers use aerial patrol data to conduct ground patrols in areas where the aerial team has spotted illegal activities [REDACTED]. Due to sensitivity of the anti-poaching data, STEP did not have access to the data from the GR management. However, this issue was discussed at the meeting with TAWA Head Quarters Staff in August 2019, to devise a proper channel of sharing data collected by rangers on ground patrols.

4.3 Construct beehive fences with farmers groups in two new villages

- There has been no progress on this activity due to challenges with beehive occupancy in the Rungwa ecosystem, expanded upon in section 2a below.

4.4 Train farmers groups in fence maintenance and monitoring

- STEP continues to support its two existing farmers' groups with fence maintenance and training with visits in May, June and July. STEP has not yet provided this training to new groups as no new groups have been formed.

4.5 Conduct regular monitoring and support visits to beehive fences and farmers groups

- STEP, through its local Community Liaison conducted weekly monitoring and support visits to beehive fences and farmer groups. The Community Liaison supports ongoing capacity building by reminding group members about key principles of beekeeping (as trained on), hive maintenance and supporting the group with decisions about hive movement. The HQ-based HEC Team has made three visits since April 2019.
- Although, occupancy has been a challenge, Amani Beekeeping Group have harvested their two formerly occupied hives in May 2019 and collected 20 litres of honey. The honey is semi-processed and currently the group is working with STEP to find an optimal market price.

4.7 Local elephant monitors collect elephant activity data

- Three Rungwa-based Local Elephant Monitors collect elephant activity data each month. They have recorded 53 incidents of elephant movement outside the RKM Game Reserve in the three sub-villages (Mkola, Itaga and Stesheni) since April 2019.

4.8 Train locally-based Community Liaison in HEC mitigation strategies to provide support to farmers

- During preparation of community awareness events (The "Tembo Cup" Week) held in July 2019, STEP's HQ-based HEC team trained our Community Liaison and Local Elephant Monitors extensively on HEC. We focused on explaining its causes of HEC, its impacts and some of the positive outcomes from living in proximity to elephants. Benefits focused on explaining revenue sharing from protected areas and how it has funded community projects like schools, health facilities and water services. Trainings also focused on how to stay safe around the elephants. By training the Rungwa based team, STEP increases the likelihood of knowledge dissemination as there are more chances to meet with affected farmers in the area.

4.9 Raise awareness about HEC mitigation strategies at Tembo Cup Football League

- This activity was scheduled for Q4 of Year 1 and was moved to Q2 of Year 2. It was successfully conducted with over 5000 people receiving trainings, participating in cinema nights and attending football matches.

4.10 Raise awareness and disseminate education materials and schools, markets and offices

- 395 STEP-designed and produced human-elephant conflict booklets and 495 human-elephant conflict fliers were distributed at 13 football matches, 8 villages (in village assembly attended by all members above 18 years) and student trainings in 8 primary and 1 secondary schools (reached over 3,000 students and 28 teachers).
- Cinema Nights were conducted in 8 locations and reached over 2400 villagers, enhancing learning about HEC through visual aids.

5.3 Conduct regular monitoring and support visits to VSLAs

- STEP, through its local Community Liaison conducted weekly monitoring and support visits to VSLAs. The HQ-based HEC Team has made three visits since April 2019.

5.4 Train farmers' groups in beekeeping

- STEP, through its local Community Liaison, conducted weekly monitoring and support visits to beehive fences and farmer groups. The Community Liaison supports ongoing capacity building by reminding group members about key principles of beekeeping (as trained on), hive maintenance and supporting the group with decisions about hive movement. The HQ-based

HEC Team has made three visits since April 2019, all of which have included informal training aspects.

5.5 Conduct bi-annual monitoring and refresher training for farmers' groups with professional beekeeper

- As expanded upon in 2a, STEP is reevaluating its approach to beekeeping therefore this activity is paused until a way forward on beekeeping is established. Then, targeted training can be given to best support the current model.

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.

Based on extensive and intensive monitoring of our community-facing work in Rungwa village, we have observed significant challenges to **Objective 4: 1km-long beehive fences established and managed by registered Community-Based Organizations established in four villages**. Due to seasonal vegetation and limited water availability, beehive occupancy is a challenge. In the two existing fences, occupancy is an average of 13%. Not only does this limit the value proposition of the fence for farmers by not producing honey, it may also limit the efficacy of the fence in deterring elephants. From extensive ground surveys, we know Rungwa village is the most suitable area for beehive fences in the region, therefore it is unlikely that the beehive fence model (as currently designed) will succeed as STEP expands work. In order to help groups earn more income from honey sales, STEP will support movement of hives to trees. This will require then filling 'gaps' in the beehive fences with dummy hives, possibly resulting in a hybrid beehive fence model in which groups can place hives in trees to optimize honey production. Some of the older hives originally provided in 2017 will be replaced with new hives purchased in advance for the additional planned fences. Groups will sign an agreement to manage the majority dummy-hive fence as their contribution to deterring elephants. This will give us an opportunity to study habituation to dummy hives among elephants, a less – understood aspect of the beehives fence model.

Another challenge observed is low compliance to VSLA management standards. After a successful first year of operations, despite consistent field follow up, we have seen groups continue to struggle with compliance/following rules. One hypothesis is that group members might be in other VSLAs, limiting the efficacy of the STEP VSLAs and potentially with less stringent compliance. Another hypothesis is that VSLA members lack a fundamental financial understanding related to planning and resource management. We also hoped that VSLAs would provide an infusion of capital needed to make home improvements and to explore other business opportunities. However, with the challenges of hive occupancy and due to challenges in VSLA compliance and oversight, members are understandably reluctant to proceed with their VSLA activities, affecting our entire livelihood target. With respect to VSLAs compliance failure, STEP will separate VSLAs from beehive fence management. This will be undertaken specifically in Rungwa as we suspect the low levels of beehive occupancy in our fences might be contributing to a lack of engagement in VSLAs. As alluded to previously, we also think there is a limitation to the value that VSLA's might have in already-saturated community; we need to better assess how many VSLAs are operational in Rungwa and whether we are indeed providing a unique service. We hope that by decoupling fences and VSLAs, more people can achieve bigger impact. To meet our scope of expansion into two new CBOs, STEP prefers to work with four new VSLA over the new bee hive fence in Doroto which might have potential to improve our livelihood target with wide reach to more people.

The Aerial did not complete three missions between April and September, due to pilot availability and strategic resource planning. After the aerial mission in RKM in April/May, the pilot available for the ensuing months is the pilot used for MBOMIPA WMA, Lunda-Mkwambi GCA, and Ruaha NP. Also due to the need for surveillance in these other important areas of Ruaha-Rungwa during the dry season, it was decided to focus here, where a total of 77 hours of surveillance were flown from July to September. STEP is planning to resume aerial missions in RKM GR in the wet season, when need is greatest (as agreed with RKM Management), starting in mid-November (early wet season) 2019.

As alluded to in the Annual Report for Year One, RKM GR has transitioned to SMART for patrol management. As a result, the need for technical support from STEP's GIS Department. Adaptive strategic Law Enforcement adjustments are currently under discussion in light of the above (surveillance, technical support), and a Change Request will be submitted to address this.

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: In Progress
Received confirmation of change acceptance	No

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

No Estimated underspend: £0

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?

NA

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

Please note: Any **planned** modifications to your project schedule/workplan 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 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.**

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]