

Illegal Wildlife Trade (IWT) Challenge Fund Half Year Report (due 31st October 2020)

Project reference	IWT052
Project title	Increasing capacity for anti-poaching and enhancing human-elephant coexistence
Country(ies)	Tanzania
Lead organisation	Southern Tanzania Elephant Program
Partners(s)	Tanzania Wildlife Management Authority, Itigi District Council
Project leader	Trevor Jones
Report date and number (e.g. HYR1)	HYR3
Project website/blog/social media	https://stzelephants.or.tz/

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

- In August, 2020, a six-day aerial patrol mission was completed in Rungwa, Kizigo and Muhesi GR covering 4,390 km over 21.5 hours of both surveillance and refuelling.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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

- All aerial mission data collected in Rungwa Kizigo and Muhesi Game Reserve during this performance period were analysed, mapped and reported to the management immediately after the mission was completed. One mission report and three maps showing Illegal activities and wildlife were submitted to the management. In the field the pilot team provided daily updates to the management.

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

- Along with the reports, submitted recommendations on how to use the data for future patrol strategically and use them as a tool in making informed decisions on patrols resource allocation. Regular patrol and monitoring were recommended to areas with [REDACTED]

2.1 Ranger patrols throughout remote and key elephant areas

- [REDACTED] Covid-19 impacted the tourism and hunting sector in terms of revenue collection. STEP continued to support ground patrol through fuel support. 658L of Diesel was disbursed for ground

patrol for RKM GR whereby 2,826 km were covered in three different ground patrols. During these patrols, the rangers successfully [REDACTED]

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

- All patrol data collected by rangers are downloaded into SMART at HQ each month, from which monthly patrol maps are generated. RKM Game Reserves have moved away from independent reporting and mapping of patrols in GIS to use of SMART software for their law enforcement monitoring

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

- During the August aerial mission the few remaining trained aerial observers were not available to support the mission, the pilot took the available rangers on aerial data collection protocol as well as waypointing and track logging during the surveillance mission.

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

- The aerial report and maps submitted to the Management in August were expected to be used in planning follow-up patrols to areas where [REDACTED]

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

- Weekly monitoring visits: trained Local Elephant Monitors and the Community Liaison participate in weekly monitoring of dummy hive fences and beekeeping trials in Rungwa. They collect and share data on elephant movements around the fences, monitor camera trap conditions (check battery levels, change SD (memory) cards and download photos to the designated computer and external hard drive). They also collect data on hive occupancy, abandonment and cleanness of hives among supported local beekeepers in both Rungwa and Doroto villages.
- HEC Coordinator Visits: between April and September 2020, the Rungwa HEC Coordinator made three field trips to Rungwa, met with farmers' groups and monitored their respective fences. More information about support provided to Village Savings and Loan Institutions (VSLAs) is below in 5.3.

4.7 Local elephant monitors collect elephant activity data

- Elephant Damage Update: Between April and September 2020, we have worked with our current three LEMs in Rungwa and three new LEMs hired in and around Doroto Village in July 2020. These new LEMs were also trained on data collection, 1:1 farmer engagement and VSLA basics. All LEMs walk around their areas, meet with farmers, collect elephant movement incidence data, provide key safety training and share collected data with the HEC head office for data management. On average, each monitor has spent 10 days a month for data collection. We have also trained our three monitors in Rungwa on Online Data Collection, using Smartphones. We plan to extend this training to our monitors in Doroto in the next three months of operation.

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

- Within the last six months, Local Elephant Monitors and the Community Liaison have begun a concerted effort to train primary school students in project villages. The focus has been on five schools located in the peripheral areas of Rungwa and Majojoro villages. LEMs visit the school, discuss with teachers and get permission to use normal classes to train students on safety around elephants, elephant behavior and ecology. The lessons aim to foster love, knowledge and respect for elephants, preparing students as future decision makers regarding land uses choices with the goal of reducing negative interaction with elephants.
- Local Elephant Monitors have also increased efforts to conduct individual training with farmers (what we refer to as 1:1 training) during elephant incidence data collection. Between February and October 2020, our monitors followed up with 728 farmers and trained 719 (there were some farmers who were unable to spend time receiving training) around Rungwa village specifically in Itaga, Stesheni, Mkola and Kudema sub-villages. The training structure includes questions to understand the nature of the incident (frequency, observation), questions to determine the farmer's baseline understanding about elephants, working towards a discussion of the causes of interactions between elephants and people, their impacts, ways to stay safe and how to protect their property such farms, food stores and houses.

5.3 Conduct regular monitoring and support visits to Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs)

- Support of existing VSLAs: STEP's LEMs conduct weekly follow-up during VSLA meetings: providing guidance on share selling, loan procedures and recording keeping. All information is shared with the STEP head office and filled in on the dashboard (via Google Drive) that is used as a monitoring tool.
- Establishment of new VSLAs: Two new VSLAs (Mkombozi VSLA with 29 members [34% women] and Mlandizi VSLA with 30 members [40% women]) have been established in Doroto village. The HEC Coordinator conducted training on VSLA guidelines during a field visit in September 2020. The VSLAs are currently in the process of registration at District level, a process delayed by the upcoming National Elections. Both groups are currently in the second

week of share buying for their first cycle. STEP is working closely with new LEMs in Ipunguli and Darabetaa who are making weekly follow-up during Share Meetings.

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

- STEP worked with the Itigi District Beekeeping Officer (Mr J. Mboya) to prepare and conduct training in late June 2020. The training was held in Doroto and engaged 16 (out of 20 beekeepers) participating STEP's modern beehive trial. The training sought to improve practices such as hive monitoring, cleaning and removal of pests and other insects, wax application, harvesting procedures and extraction of honey from honeycombs. Currently, STEP LEMs are visiting beekeepers, collecting data on occupancy, abandonment of hives and harvesting records that are used to assess the potential of modern beehives.

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.

- For the Human-Elephant Coexistence Team, heavy rainfall in the 2019-2020 rainy season has impacted honey production and beekeeping, affecting flowering timelines for trees and limiting honey production. We delayed our large scale education and awareness-raising activities (the Tembo Cup football and netball tournament) to avoid complications from the COVID-19 pandemic and the impacts of campaigning for local and national election activities. The Tembo Cup Tournaments have been rescheduled for November 2020.
- We have now completed 20 hours of aerial surveys in Year 3, and so 40 hours remain to be completed. It was announced last week that international travel restrictions are due to be lifted in South Africa starting a month from now. This may change and the situation is unpredictable, but if so and our engineer is able to travel by November, we may be able to exceed 60 hours before the end of March 2021. Given the time lost, 120 hours is probably still unrealistic, but we hope to fly between 60 and 100 hours.

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

Formal change request submitted: Yes

Received confirmation of change acceptance Yes

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: £ 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. Please DO NOT send these in the same email as your report.

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.**