

Annex D – Interim Progress Report

1. Identification:

Partners Name: Lewa Wildlife Conservancy

Budget line: BAC USD 42,725

POW 2019-2020 Sub-programme:

Expected Accomplishment(s):

- To reduce Human-Elephants' conflicts in Ntalaban Community that neighbors Lewa Wildlife Conservancy to the north during and beyond Covid-19
- To contribute to sustainable food security of the people around the conservancy particularly Ntalaban village
- To protect elephants and other wildlife and encourage peaceful co-existence and tolerance for wildlife by humans

Output(s):

- Community awareness meetings held to secure approval and agreement on project and fence alignment
- Community approval for the project acquired
- Acquisition of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) license
- 5.5 km of solar-powered electric fencing constructed
- Voltage of fence maintained at >6000 volts daily

Title of the approved PRC project: Managing Human-Wildlife Conflict Amid the COVID-19 Pandemic in Agro-Pastoral Communities Neighboring the Lewa Wildlife Conservancy, Kenya

SSFA starting date: 01/05/2022

Reporting period: from 01/05/2022 to 10/08/2022

2. Summary of Status:

Lewa Wildlife Conservancy (LWC) is a UNESCO World Heritage Site, Man & Biosphere Reserve, and an award-winning International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Green Listed Area that works as a catalyst for the community conservation movement and ecosystem protection across northern Kenya. Run by Kenyans for Kenyans, Lewa provides a secure habitat for some of Africa's most threatened species through locally-led wildlife and community development programs. Lewa received a generous grant of \$42,725 from the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to support the construction of a 5.5km electric fence in Ntalaban village with the aim of reducing the Human-Elephants conflict (HEC) in that area. Ntalaban village neighbors LWC to the north and is within Leparua community conservancy, thus, the proneness to Human-Wildlife Conflicts (HWC), which mostly involves elephants. This support has ensured the protection of vital farmlands of the widely agro-pastoral community and would restore the much-needed peaceful coexistence between humans and wildlife in the landscape. According to the Northern Rangeland Trust 2019 Elephant Mortality report, there has been a steep increase of ~141% in Human-Elephant Conflict since 2016.

The construction of fences such as this forms part of the wider objective to reduce human-wildlife conflict (HWC) within the conservation that has been complemented with the creation of a 5-person HWC team on Lewa. The team works closely with Community Liaison Officers to respond to HWC cases within communities adjacent to the Lewa-Borana conservation landscape. As a result, the mitigation of HWC was reduced significantly from 104 to 45 in 2020 and 2021 respectively. So far in 2022, only 32 HWC cases have been reported with zero wildlife deaths. The advent of the 5.5 km fence line project provides a significant opportunity to further reduce HWC cases within the Ntalaban community and ensure a peaceful practice of agro-pastoral activities by the local community. These efforts are major progress that stands to support the realization of the SSAF's objective of reducing HEC in Ntalaban village which neighbors LWC to the north.

The approach of closer involvement of the local community through targeted engagement meetings paid off significantly with the project receiving remarkable support from all the stakeholders within the implementation locality. The project was able to realize all its planned activities due to the support offered by all the stakeholders involved including the local community members, local administration, Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS), and other partners. LWC was able to construct a combination of short and high wildlife protection fences in Ntalaban within Leparua conservancy, a 5.5 km stretch aimed at reducing the cases of elephant intrusion into the residential areas in the neighborhood of LWC.

The success of the project was hinged on the local community's understanding of the importance of the fence line and the progressive responsibility of ensuring the fence line is properly maintained. As prioritized, the local community approved the project's objective within the stipulated timeline by endorsing the alignment that had been demarcated at the project inception stage. Second, an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) was successfully done and completed in June through an expert. The EIA helped in the development of an Environmental Management Plan (EMP) that would continue to inform the emerging issues that need to be addressed in regard to the project. The project implementing team remains cognizant of the changing aspects of HEC and would continue to use subsequent environmental audits and subsequent impact assessments to ensure the project realizes its original objectives.

The contractor identified through a competitive tendering process completed the construction of the 5.5 km solar-powered electric fence by working alongside the community members, thus furthering the objective of community ownership of the project. The contractor was part of 3 of the 5 meetings held within the community during the harmonization and implementation stage. The casual labor forces were drawn from the community with an agreed formula of selection from within the various clusters to ensure fair and equitable short-term employment opportunities. This also offered a pathway for the community to benefit directly from the project. The process was led by LWC Community Liaison Officers (CLOs) in cooperation with the contractor, village elders, and community members. The engagement meetings were central to LWC's strategic goal of fostering Public-Private Community partnership (PPCP) when it brought together various stakeholders including the local administration through the chief, KWS, community leadership, and the community.

This project is particularly important to the agro-pastoral community because consistent HEC cases would jeopardize their sources of livelihood. Floods and prolonged droughts are equally increasing due to climate change, significantly affecting agricultural production and increasing competition over natural resources between humans and wildlife. Interventions such as these, alongside Lewa's other community-based initiatives empowering 60,000 annually, climate-change mitigation projects, and hydrology studies collectively aim to ensure the socio-economic well-being of our communities and protect Kenya's most threatened species. The impact will be seen in more depth over the next few years, as Lewa monitors levels of human-wildlife conflict and sustainable agriculture in this area.

3. Activity delivery status

Activity	Description of work undertaken during reporting period	Deliverables	Delivery date	Status of Activity (complete/ on-going/ delayed)	Comments - brief description of implementing challenges, strategy/actions which have been adopted to address these challenges and planned actions to mitigate any identified risks
Activity 1 – Conduct community awareness meetings to secure the Ntalaban community’s approval on the project and fence alignment	5 separate meetings were held with members of the community	5 public meetings were held to secure approval and agreement on the project and fence alignment, and endorsement of the HEC project	May-June	Completed	The fifth meeting was held post-inspection of the fence line and to hand over the project to the community. The community appreciated the efforts taken by Lewa and UNEP in taking the initiative to intervene in the HEC menace.
Activity 2- Undertake an EIA and Develop an Environmental Management plan to mitigate the	A NEMA-registered EIA firm undertook the EIA in compliance with the Environmental Management and Coordination Act (2015). The contractor used, among other methods, a stakeholder consultation questionnaire during the EIA process.	EIA license acquired	June 2022	Completed	NEMA EIA License issued and used as a guide towards ensuring the success of the project

negative impacts of the proposed project					
Activity 3- Construct a combination of “short” and “high” wildlife protection fences in Ntalaban within Leparua Conservancy	The contractor identified began and completed the 5.5km solar-powered electric fence.	5.5 km of solar-powered electric fence constructed	Aug 2022	Completed	The Lewa fencing team and the CLOs worked closely with the contractor to ensure the successful completion of the project.
Activity 4- Perform daily repairs and maintenance on the fence	1 voltmeter and 2 pairs of PPEs/uniforms were purchased to be used for maintenance; 1 worker was hired for a year and trained on fence repairs and maintenance	Purchase 1 voltmeter; 2 pairs of uniforms/PPEs; hire a worker for fence maintenance; purchase equipment for monthly repairs; provide transport for monthly supervision	Aug	Ongoing	The necessary equipment to be used for maintenance was purchased. Maintenance of the fence to be carried out on ad hoc basis. 2 morans were identified by the community and would be trained on fence maintenance

4. List of attached documents

- Project hand-over meeting minutes
- Environmental Impact Assessment License
- Captioned photographs of the fence

A handwritten signature in purple ink, consisting of a stylized, cursive script that is difficult to decipher. It appears to be a name with a surname and a first name, possibly 'Dominic Maringa'.

Signature:

Date: 15/08/2022

Name and title of signing officer: Dominic Maringa; Head of Conservation