

Annex C – Progress Report

1. Identification:

Partners Name: Uganda Wildlife Research and Training Institute

Budget line: BAC

POW 2014-2015 Sub-programme: African Elephant Fund

Expected Accomplishment(s):

- Identify, select and train wildlife scouts on mitigation measures for human elephant conflict
- Identify, select and train local communities on the use of chili, beehives, fire techniques and alarm bells
- Sensitize police, army and the judiciary within the project area and raise awareness among local leaders, media, training institutions, and religious leaders on elephant conservation and management strategies.
- Conduct capacity building and training for Uganda Wildlife Authority staff in modern technologies for data collection, entry and analysis and establish a data base using existing and new data on the types, extent causes and impacts of human elephant conflicts and mitigation measures for such conflicts.

Output(s):

- Trained wildlife scouts on mitigation measures for human elephant conflict
- Trained 76 community farmers on the use of chili, beehives, fire techniques and alarm bells
- Sensitized 30 representatives from the police, army and judiciary about elephant conservation strategies.
- Raised awareness about HEC mitigation measures amongst the media, local leaders, training institutions and religious leaders about elephant conservation strategies.
- Trained 30 Uganda Wildlife Authority staff in modern technologies for data collection, entry and analysis and establishing a data base using existing and new data on the types, extent causes and impacts of human elephant conflicts and mitigation measures for conflicts.

Title of the approved PRC project: Strengthening Human-Elephant Conflict Reduction in Queen Elizabeth National Park SSFA

starting date: 2nd/03/2020

Completion date: 31st/12/2020

2. Summary of Status:

Identification of wildlife scouts

The project staff identified six sub-counties with hot spots of HEC in the northern sector of Queen Elizabeth National park. Thus: Isango, Nyakiyumbu, Munkunyu, Lake Katwe, Nyamwamba Division, and Karusandara sub-counties were identified. During mobilization meetings by project staff, local leaders were asked to nominate 10 individuals to participate in the training of HEC reduction as community wildlife scouts. The project staff explained to the local leaders the mode of selection which was based on; ability to work as scouts, trustworthy, voluntary willingness to participate and their location (those living near the park were prioritized). This exercise lasted for seven days.

Selection of scouts

The lists of names identified by local leaders were forwarded to the warden community conservation of Uganda Wildlife Authority for vetting. This was based on assumption that the warden was already working with these communities to fight HEC and therefore knew the potential of the identified personnel to work as wildlife scouts. Additionally, the warden was familiar with the local community members living near the park. In line with the above background, the warden compiled a list of sixty individuals to participate in a one week's residential training.

Training of Community Wildlife Scouts

Participants reported for training on 14th/09/2020 which lasted for one week and were introduced to different modules in regard to HEC reduction.

Baseline survey

During mobilization training of the local leaders, the project facilitators were informed that most of the interventions implemented before were facing resistance by the community. They recommended that a survey should be conducted to understand community's engagement in tackling HEC.

A study was instituted to collect qualitative data from the twelve parishes located in the six sub-counties of the project area using a House-hold survey technique and came up with a conclusive report.

Training of Six Local Communities

Seven frontline farmer groups were identified and selected for training on the use of chili, beehives, fire techniques and alarm bells. These farmers were grouped into two camps one at Kanyageya Primary and another at Nyakiyumbu community hall. Resource persons moved to the two camps and trained the community members on how to manage stray elephants using the techniques mentioned above. Participants visited different sites within and outside the park for demonstrations on the above techniques.

Sensitization of the police, army and judiciary and raising awareness among the media, training institutions, religious and local leaders

The chief Warden and Park Prosecutor of Queen Elizabeth National Park were involved in selecting the high ranking officials to attend and participate in the training programme. This was because they are involved in decision making, planning and deployment of middle and lower cadres in the day to day operations on security matters.

Representatives from the above mentioned institutions were sensitized about elephant conservation strategies. A total of 30 participants successfully attended a two days' workshop that took place from 3/12/2020 to 4/12/ 2020.

This was followed by three radio talk shows whose purpose was to raise awareness about HEC mitigation strategies.

Training of Uganda Wildlife Authority staff in modern technologies for data collection, entry and analysis

A total of 30 Uganda Wildlife Authority rangers from departments of research and monitoring, Law enforcement and community conservation were selected to attend a one week's non-residential training. The participants were trained in application of remote sensing (RS) and geographic information system (GIS) in wildlife management and conservation.

Establish a data base using existing and new data on the types, extent causes and impacts of human elephant conflicts and mitigation measures for such conflicts.

During the field training, participants were taken to the elephant hotspots to collect new data for HEC data base.

The participants used **Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool (SMART)** to collect data for the data base.

Challenges

Not all participants were literate to use the GPS as a tool for collecting data on HEC. This was addressed by coaching and mentoring the few members who were trainable in GPS.

Covid -19 pandemic affected the implementation of the project activities. This was addressed by seeking permission from the district task force to allow the training be conducted under the established standard operation procedures. On inspection of the institute premises, the inspection team recommended that the Institute was not safe to handle the training. Therefore management reallocated the training venue to Virina Gardens in Kasese Town for easy monitoring and surveillance.

The expected number of UWA staff could not be trained for the two weeks, the training could affect the Park operations amidst heavy poaching and elephant crop raiding occurrences as the park is thinly staffed in ranger force. This was addressed by having a non-residential training during the day and rangers deployed for night guard duties to counteract illegal wildlife trade and crop raiding.

3. Activity delivery status

Activity	Description of work undertaken during reporting period	Deliverables	Delivery date	Status of Activity completed or not completed	Comments - brief description of implementing challenges, strategy/actions which have been adopted to address these challenges and planned actions to mitigate any identified risks
Training of Wildlife Scouts	<p>Identification and selection of community wildlife Scouts was conducted through meetings with local leaders and Warden Community Conservation in Queen Elizabeth National Park. The Community Wildlife Scouts were identified by their local leaders and vetted by the warden community conservation who later compiled a list of participants. Those who were already active and volunteering in chasing problem animals were prioritized</p> <p>A total of Sixty (60) participants (56 males and 4 females-See attached list) were nominated by Wardens and Community Conservation Rangers in Queen Elizabeth National Park to attend a basic</p>	<p>Invitation letters, lectures/ modules, attendance sheets, photos, graduation certificates, uniforms (PPEs)</p>	<p>14/9/2020-21/9/2020</p>	<p>Completed</p>	<p>The wildlife scouts agreed to voluntarily guard the elephants against crop raiding and illegal wildlife trade. The scouts agreed to form a forum called Kasese District elephant protection forum to be based in QENP.</p> <p>They agreed to improve their livelihood income through bee keeping which will also deter the elephants from entering the gardens.</p> <p>They agreed to cooperate with frontline farmers to guard together the stray elephants at night where UWA has not installed the solar electric fence and porous areas along the boundary.</p> <p>They asked UWA/UWRTI to be trained in intelligence gathering and networking to safe guard elephants in QENP.</p> <p>They agreed to regularly report to UWA crop raiding incidences.</p>

	training course in HEC Reduction. The following modules were covered:				
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	<p>Role of stakeholders in HEC Reduction, Elephant Characteristics, Behavior and Ecology of Elephants, Common Challenge and Needs of Current Elephant Policy, National Parks and Community Relations, Conflict Resolutions and Management, Communication Skills in Wildlife Conservation, Group Dynamics and Leadership Building, Monitoring and Data Collection of HEC Incidents, Human Rights and Humane Treatment of Elephants, Safety Measures against Elephants and First Aid, Major Patterns of Crop Damage and Crop Protection Methods.</p> <p>The training modules were selected and tailored to the aspects of Human Elephant Conflicts in the community. These disciplines covered wider knowledge and skills ranging from Elephant behaviour to modules such as savings and credit schemes, resource mobilization, team work and leadership building than only delivering on HEC interventions. The facilitators were drawn from UWA, private sector and UWRTI respectively as attached.</p>				
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	<p>The participants were exposed to various practical exercises in the field of HEC in and around Queen Elizabeth National Park, looking at HEC successful interventions carried by UWA management along the community-park boundary in Kasese and Rubirizi Districts.</p> <p>The participants were also exposed to feasible and practical interventions ranging from fire to electric fencing using solar power generation. For details see attached photos.</p> <p>During the graduation of the Community Wildlife Scouts.</p> <p>The graduands were tasked to do the followings;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Monitor Crop raiding incidents ➤ Monitor and report illegal activities in the buffer zone for effective management. ➤ Integrate in Installing and ongoing maintenance of beehives along buffer zones 				
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Management of wildlife trenches ➤ Monitor responses by wild animals to organic repellents ➤ Sensitize other community members on protected area conservation and management <p>Lessons Learnt</p> <p>From interactions with participants and facilitators, it was discovered that groups of wildlife scouts from the local communities monitor well the HEC incidents rather than individuals.</p> <p>It was also discovered that chili pepper in powder form works better than the red dried pepper seeds.</p> <p>What could be improved?</p> <p>The following needs to be improved to make monitoring of elephants effective.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Training on GPS and using smart phones was too short for the scouts to be familiar with the equipment. ➤ Monitoring data collection forms should be translated into the local language. ➤ There is need to train more wildlife scouts and the programme rolled to other protected areas 				
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	facing the same challenge				
Baseline survey	<p>A total of 300 questionnaires were administered on 300.</p> <p>The study gathered qualitative data from the twelve parishes located in the six sub-counties of the project area. During the survey it was realized that engaging local communities is a critical element in tackling Illegal Wildlife Trade.</p> <p>This study employed household survey technique on data collection.</p>	Questionnaire guide	17/8/2020	Completed	Data Analysis report
Training of six local communities	<p>Seven frontline farmer groups were identified and selected for training on how to use chili, fire techniques, alarm bells and beehives in managing stray elephants. These groups were selected from the six sub counties in which the project is being implemented.</p> <p>After identification, the farmer groups were divided into two camps. This training attracted a total of 76 frontline farmers</p> <p>Resource persons demonstrated how to use fire, alarm bells, chili, and bees to deter stray elephants</p>	<p>Beehives</p> <p>Alarm bells</p> <p>Chili pepper</p> <p>Fire</p>	25/11/2020-26/11/2020	Completed	<p>The farmers agreed to plant chilli pepper and other buffer crops such as simsim, onions, coffee, ginger and garlic.</p> <p>They agreed to keep bees as an alternative income generating activity.</p> <p>They agreed to form a cooperative society for their effective voice to be heard and for strategic measure to lobby and advocate for fair prices for their produce and compensation fee in case elephant damages from UWA</p> <p>Farmers asked UWA to speed up the erection of solar electric fence along their gardens.</p>

	<p>into farmer's gardens.</p> <p>These farmers were given 400 KTB beehives, 71 alarm bells and 100 kilograms of chili pepper.</p> <p>The participants were encouraged to embrace beekeeping and chilli growing for generation of income and eventually improvement in their livelihoods.</p> <p>Participants were also trained on how to make different products from honey including: propolis, jelly, wine and wax.</p>				
<p>Sensitization of the police, army, judiciary and raising awareness among media,</p>	<p>The workshop had a theme: 'Spread the Awareness' A total of 30 participants including two representatives from police (Regional Police Commander and District Police Commander), three representatives from the army (Commanding Officers of Hima Rusese and Rukoki Barracks), two representatives from the judiciary(the Resident State Attorney and the Chief Magistrate), six Community Development Officers from Local Government, two representatives from the media (News Editors), three religious leaders(the District Kadthi from Uganda Muslim Supreme Council,</p>	<p>Invitation letters, presentations, pull ups, brochures and teardrops, radio talk shows</p>	<p>3/12/2020-4/12/2020</p>	<p>Completed</p>	<p>Participants agreed to sensitize the local people about the conservation of elephants following the Uganda Action Plan on Elephant.</p> <p>The army, police and the judiciary agreed to cooperate with UWA to execute the illegal wildlife offenders and poachers.</p> <p>The media agreed to be the voice of the elephant defenders in Uganda and especially in QENP.</p> <p>The media offered UWA free airtime on local FM Radios in Kasese district to sensitize the local people on the conservation and management of elephants in Uganda.</p>

<p>Local religious leaders.</p>	<p>Diocesan Secretary for the Anglican church, and Diocesan Secretary for the Catholic Church) and ten people from training Institutions attended a two days non-residential workshop. These were sensitized about elephant conservation strategies and the new changes in the Wildlife Act 2019 in regard to compensation, offences and penalties when you commit a crime and CITES,</p> <p>These representatives were encouraged to go and speak to the people they lead about the conservation strategies.</p> <p>Some of the participants later used the media to amplify the information they had attained from the workshop. This was entirely done through radio talk shows at different prime time.</p>				<p>The Uganda Peoples Defense Forces (UPDF), police and UWA agreed to jointly work together in intelligence gathering and patrol network on the elephant illegal trade issues.</p> <p>They agreed that the new Uganda Wildlife Act 2019 be popularized over the local FM radios and barazas by UWA.</p> <p>UPDF and police to regularly offer their officers to jointly guard the crops and patrol together during the crop pick season of crop raiding occurrence.</p> <p>Judiciary agreed to strengthen the charges against penalties on offences in the new Act 2019.</p> <p>Religious leaders agreed to sensitize and mobilize their followers during worshipping days in churches and mosques and any other gatherings.</p> <p>The teachers agreed to strengthen the wildlife clubs of Uganda and form elephant working group to evangelize the HEC reduction strategies.</p>
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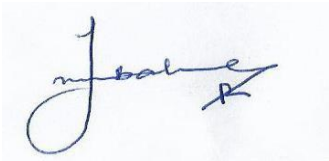
Training of Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA) Field Ranger force	<p>A total of 30 field ranger force were selected for the GIS & RS Training Modules for a one week non-residential training at UWRTI Computer Library. UWA and UWRTI sat together to critically select the required modules tailored to the rangers day to day park operations as below:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Introduction to GIS for Environmental/Biodiversity Conservation 2. QGIS Installation and installing the necessary plugins <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Installing and managing plugins ✓ Useful QGIS plugins 3. Exploring the sample data 4. Creating a Basic Map <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Working with Vector data ✓ Symbology ✓ Creating species distribution maps ✓ Creating a map layout from scratch ✓ Creating map layout using the print composer 5. Classifying Vector Data <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Attribute Data ✓ Classification of Vegetation types ✓ Land cover/ Land use Classes ✓ The Label tool 6. Vector Analysis <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Projections and Transforms ✓ Vector data Analysis 7. Rasters <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Working with Raster datasets ✓ Raster symbology 8. Geo-referencing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Geo-referencing Images with coordinate information in the areas of HEC ✓ Geo-referencing images without coordinate information 9. GPS and QGIS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Loading data to QGIS ✓ Batch data GPS data import to QGIS ✓ loading data to GPS device unit 10. Working with WFS/WMS layers in your GIS project 	<p>Invitation letters, training modules, attendance sheets, photos, graduation certificates, evaluation sheet, Kobocollect data sheet, Radio walkie Talkies, Smart phones, GPS and Camera Trap, HEC metadata</p>	<p>8th – 15th March 2021</p>	<p>Completed</p>	<p>Rangers agreed to strengthen their ability on how to use the modern technology skills acquired.</p> <p>UWA agreed to support and equip rangers to collect data on HEC reduction for data base updates.</p>
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	<p>11. Geospatial Database Concepts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Introduction to Databases ✓ Data Model implementation ✓ Adding data to the data Model ✓ Database queries <p>12. Satellite Imagery data Acquisition</p> <p>13. Field data collection for GIS System</p> <p>14. Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool (SMART) Training Modules</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Overview of SMART Application ✓ Setting Up a Conservation Area ✓ Map Navigation and GIS ✓ Patrols ✓ Data Model Management ✓ Cyber Tracker Plug-In and SMART Mobile ✓ Setting up and troubleshooting devices for Cyber Tracker and SMART mobile ✓ Analysis – Queries and Summaries ✓ Reports ✓ SMART Field data collection for law enforcement and community conservation monitoring (Human Elephant Conflicts) to create a data base. 				
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List of attached documents

1. Attendance list for participants in the training
2. Pictorial

Signature:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Baluku Robert', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Date: March 31st, 2021

Name and title of signing officer:

Baluku Robert (Director)

Pictorial/Gallery



Participants attending training sessions



Field practical sessions on the use of fire, beekeeping, alarm bells, Solar electric fence and chili pepper





Participants displaying certificates after passing out by QENP Chief Warden



Project team from UWA and UWRTI



Registration of participants and house keeping



Community farmers being taught on how fire smoke techniques made from dried elephant dung and chili powder to deter elephants from crop raiding



Community farmers demonstrating on how to use chili powdered ropes/strings mixed with engine oil along gardens known to keep elephants away.





Facilitator Kiberungi Varry demonstrating how candles can be made from Bee Wax



Community farmers being introduced to beehives donated by UWA/UWRTI as a techniques of managing stray elephants and livelihood income generation.



Chief Warden and Community Conservation Warden for Problem Animal Control (L-R) handing over bee hives, wax, uniforms, torches, alarm bells, chilli paper to community farmers as witnessed by AEF -Project Coordinator and Information Officer at UWRTI Campus

STAKEHOLDERS ENGAGEMENT WORKSHOP
at Rwenzori International Hotel from 3rd to 4th
December, 2020

THEME: "SPREAD THE AWARENESS"
AEF Project Objectives

- **Objective 1:** Reduce illegal killing of elephants and illegal trade in elephant products;
- **Objective 2:** Maintain elephant habitats and restore connectivity;
- **Objective 3:** Reduce Human Elephant Conflict (HEC)
- **Objective 4:** Increase awareness on elephant conservation and management of key stakeholders that include policy makers and local communities among other interest groups;



Kasese Resident District Commissioner giving opening remarks during the stakeholders' workshop



Participants attending a stakeholders' engagement workshop on HEC



Participants receiving meals at the Rwenzori International Hotel in Kasese Municipality



QENP Community Conservation Wardens on Messiah Radio clarifying how affected people by problem animals will be compensated as stipulated in the new Uganda Wildlife Act 2019 after the stakeholders' workshop



UWA Prosecutor and Field Coordinator of Space for Giants –Kasese Office clarifying the importance of solar electric fence and new Uganda Wildlife Act 2019 to the public after the stakeholders' workshop on Kasese Guide FM Radio





UWA staff in the field collecting data for GIS analysis



Facilitator supervising UWA Staff during HEC data entry and analysis as GIS exercise



QENP Chief Warden awarding certificates to participants upon completion of the training



Participants pose for group photo with Chief Warden in black coat as they display their certificates



QENP Chief Warden Receiving Radio Walkie Talkies from Project Coordinator as the Warden Research & Monitoring looks on



QENP Chief Warden briefing the participants during training evaluation

