



Darwin Initiative/Darwin Plus Projects Half Year Report (due 31st October 2020)

Project reference	26-006
Project title	Conserving Tsavo's wildlife by building community resilience and fostering coexistence.
Country(ies)/territory(ies)	Kenya
Lead organisation	Zoological Society of London (ZSL)
Partner(s)	Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS); Tsavo Trust (TT); Wildlife Works (WW); Five Talents (5T)
Project leader	Rebecca Sennett Day
Report date and number	HYR2 31 st October 2020
Project website/blog/social media	https://www.zsl.org/conservation/regions/africa/kenya-conservation-work Twitter: @ZSLAfrica

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 end September).

Output 1 Activity 1.1: Quarterly KWS community meetings were not possible over the 6 months due to COVID. On 13th March, the Kenyan Government banned all public gatherings, followed by a county lockdown on 6th April, with travel restrictions and social distancing measures in place. In August, public gatherings were allowed but only for very small groups, which would not be appropriate for a community meeting. In September, rules relaxed to enable larger gatherings with social distancing, which enabled our team to plan and hold two meetings in October, which we will report on in Y2 report. LTS were informed of delays over email.

Activity 1.2: completed in Y1

Activity 1.3: In the last 6 months, the ZSL community team has established 5 additional VSLA groups, bringing the total to 9 across the 2 communities (6 in Mangaleta; 3 in Kamungi). There is now a total of 164 members (134 females, 30 males). The total number of shares purchased so far is 2,247 with a total value of 203,650KES (Annex 1.1). The 4 VSLA groups that were set up in Year 1 have continued to save throughout the pandemic, however, the loan training provided by our team was delayed due to the lockdown. The team was able to begin this in August, however, the groups have not been able to take any loans as yet.

Activity 1.4: Socio-economic surveys for the new VSLAs established over the last 6 months have been delayed due to lockdown restrictions. However, the team has started the surveys again this month and we will report on the analysis of these in our Y2 report. We have also developed a COVID-19 impact survey (Annex 1.2) for VSLAs and have completed 61 so far. Some initial analysis has shown almost 2/3 of respondents lost their job in the past 6 months as a result of COVID-19 and almost 75% of people had lost income (97% of which described this loss as severe). 100% of respondents reported that COVID had impacted their livelihoods and almost 80% reported not having enough food following job loss and income reduction. We will report on the full results in our Y2 report but expect the pandemic will have a long-term impact on the financial resilience of our target communities, making this project even more critical.

Activity 1.5: Monthly meetings with the VSLA groups were not feasible during lockdown and therefore our community team regularly kept in touch with members on the phone from April to August, which enabled collection of metrics such as share purchases each month. After the

relaxation of COVID-19 measures at the end of August, VSLA groups began meeting again but in smaller groups, with strict social distancing and hygiene practices.

Output 2 Activity 2.1 (same as 1.4)

Activity 2.2: The HWC workshops to map hotspots and agree mitigation have been delayed due to COVID-19 restrictions for public gatherings. In addition to this, the facilitator we had previously secured is based in Tanzania and travel across the border is currently not permitted. Therefore, since the relaxation of restrictions in August, we have managed to secure an alternative facilitator and have now planned to hold these workshops over the next 3 weeks. In the meantime, the TT community team have continued to collect HWC data in Kamungi. From April-September, 233 incidents of HWC were recorded (173 HEC; 38 HCC) (Annex 2.1).

Activity 2.3: As a result of Activity 2.2 being delayed, the mitigation training course could not go ahead. We plan to conduct this training in Q4Y2 depending on the strategies agreed in 2.2 (assuming COVID-19 restrictions in Kenya do not increase again).

Activity 2.4 (not in this timeframe)

Output 3 Activity 3.1: Workshops to identify livelihood opportunities were originally planned for March but were delayed due to COVID-19. Following the lifting of restrictions on group meetings in August and the approval of the Assistant County Commissioner and Area Chiefs, these four workshops were able to take place from 22nd - 25th September. The participatory workshops, facilitated by WW, were attended by the 7 VSLAs established at the time, totalling 115 VSLA members (Annex 3.1, 3.2, 3.3). COVID risk mitigation was in place through temperature checks, provision of PPE, handwashing stations and maintaining social distancing (Annex 3.4, 3.5). During the workshops, both communities identified HWC as the main issue impacting communities and their development, with low income raised second. Small livestock production (mainly chickens and goats) consistently ranked first in the preferred livelihood option across both communities (Annex 3.6). Other high-ranking interventions included business enterprise and ponds for water harvesting. WW is completing business plans for training.

Activity 3.2: As a result of Activity 3.1 being delayed, the training workshops could not go ahead. We plan to conduct this training in Q4Y2 (assuming restrictions do not increase).

Activity 3.3 and 3.4 (not in this timeframe)

Output 4 Activity 4.1 (complete); Activity 4.2: TT community scouts continued to conduct daily anti-poaching patrols alongside KWS using SMART. From April-September, the TT Kamungi Scouts covered 160km by vehicle and 1,465km by foot (Annex 4.1). The TT Tembo 3 anti-poaching team has frequently patrolled the Mangaleta border, covering 13,352km by vehicle and 1,431km by foot (Annex 4.2).

During the period a total of 151 snares (131 for small game, 6 medium game, 12 large game and 2 bird snares) were recovered from 6 villages inside/neighbouring Kamungi, along Mtitu River and Mangaleta border (Annex 4.3). In addition, 6 arrests of bushmeat poachers were made (Annex 4.4). COVID-19 has had a noticeable “knock-on effect” towards wildlife security. TT have seen an upsurge in bushmeat poaching (1,231kg off bushmeat recovered during the reporting period and 1,410kg recovered in the first 9 months of 2020) and more snares were recovered from Kamungi in April 2020 than in the last 2 years (Annex 4.3).

Activity 4.3: TT continues to conduct regular anti-poaching aerial reconnaissance patrols over the TCA in conjunction with KWS, working in tandem with ground teams. During the reporting period, a total of 6 hours of low-level aerial surveillance was conducted over Mangaleta and approx. 40 hours over Kamungi. An average of 2,931km/month of aerial patrol coverage was maintained over the northern sector (Annex 4.4). Since the pandemic, TT has reduced total monthly aerial operations from 70 hours to 50 hours due to funding shortfalls.

Activity 4.4: With the support of ZSL, TT has begun to produce quarterly reports with patrol maps to help inform patrol strategy (Annex 4.5, 4.6 for Apr-Jun and Jul-Sep).

2a. Give details of any notable problems or unexpected developments/lessons learnt that the project has encountered over the last 6 months (for Covid-19 specific delays/problems, please use 2b). Explain what impact these could have on the project and whether the changes will affect the budget and timetable of project activities.

We have not encountered additional problems to those due to COVID-19.

2b. Please outline any specific issues which your project has encountered as a result of Covid-19. Where you have adapted your project activities in response to the pandemic, please briefly outline how you have done so here. Explain what residual impact there may be on your project and whether the changes will affect the budget and timetable of project activities.

On 13th March, the Kenyan Government released a statement banning all public gatherings due to the COVID-19 pandemic, followed by a county lockdown on 6th April and travel restrictions and social distancing measures in place. This meant that most activities could not move forward – VSLA meetings and trainings, KWS meetings, livelihood and HWC workshops. During this time, our community team kept in touch with all existing VSLA groups over the phone whilst they were unable to meet. ZSL also supported the Subcounty COVID-19 Response Committee under the project and distributed 1102 masks, 501 soaps and hand washing facilities to all VSLA members and the most vulnerable households in the target communities as identified by the Chiefs (Annex 5.1, 5.2, 5.3, 5.4, 5.5). We also supported the Committee to print posters and leaflets with Ministry of Health guidelines on how to reduce the spread of the virus and typical symptoms (Annex 5.6, 5.7, 5.8, 5.9). On 6th July, the Government released another statement that lifted the county lockdown. In August, public gatherings were allowed for small groups following social distancing measures and in September, the number allowed to meet increased. This enabled the delayed livelihood workshops to take place at the end of September. These workshops (and upcoming HWC workshops) were adapted to include temperature checks, social distancing, provision of PPE and handwashing stations, COVID-19 compliant caterers and recording details of participants to facilitate contact tracing. These issues are likely to affect the project timetable and budget with regards to piloting of livelihood initiatives and HWC mitigation following the delayed training workshops planned for Q4Y2. As a result, implementation may carry over into Q1Y3.

2c. 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: No

Received confirmation of change acceptance N/A

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. 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 Darwin's management, monitoring, or financial procedures?

No