



Darwin Initiative/Darwin Plus Projects Half Year Report (due 31st October 2021)

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
Partner(s)	Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS); Tsavo Trust (TT); Wildlife Works (WW); Five Talents (5T)
Project leader	Rebecca Sennett Day (currently on maternity leave). Temporary project leader: Ana Pinto
Report date and number (e.g. HYR1)	31 st October 2021, (HYR3)
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: Four KWS-Community outreach meetings took place, three in Mang'elele and one in Kamungi. The first took place in May in Mang'elele, and to maintain social distancing two meetings were held for 139 community participants. The KWS Education Warden led discussions on wildlife user rights, wildlife crimes and human-wildlife conflict (HWC) compensation. The meeting ended with feedback from the community, featuring suggestions of education bursaries, community trips into the park and employment for young people (Annex 1.1). A meeting was also held in Kamungi with 50 community participants covering the same agenda points. The community also presented the following agendas: progress on the elephant exclusion fence, rationale for ZSL's focus on human-carnivore conflict (HCC) mitigation during a time of acute human-elephant conflict (HEC) and misinformation spread about the Kamungi Conservancy (Annex 1.2). The final meeting took place in September in Mang'elele and had 106 community participants. Community members highlighted the impact of baboons on livestock and crops, the perceived persecution of Kamba people found collecting natural resources from the Park and the threat of a rogue elephant in the community. The meeting ended with conservation awareness by the KWS Education Officer (Annex 1.3).

To support the fostering of human-wildlife coexistence, two bus tours to Tsavo West National Park (TWNP) were organised for 95 community members. Participants saw elephants, buffalos, zebras, giraffe among other animals. KWS staff accompanied the tour and shared information on wildlife and conservation with participants. Participants gave very positive feedback and showed interest in more trips so other community members could benefit and realise the importance of conservation (Annex 1.4).

Activity 1.2: During these six months, partner 5T delivered training to the ZSL community team, with further training planned for Y3Q3, covering VSLA savings and loan activities. This enhanced the capacity of the team to mentor VSLAs in loaning, manage loan applications and loan repayments as well as managing group cohesiveness and dynamics (Annex 1.5).

Activity 1.3: Complete; *Activity 1.4:* Not relevant for this project period.

Activity 1.5: The 13 VSLAs have been visited regularly throughout the past six months, whilst observing COVID-19 protocols. From meetings, it has been noticed that recent inflation resulting from COVID-19 has greatly impacted these communities and shares bought by groups decreased temporarily. The community team are monitoring this closely and supporting groups throughout these difficulties (Annex 1.6, 1.7, 1.8, 1.9).

Output 2 *Activity 2.1:* Not relevant for this project period;

Activity 2.2: Complete; *Activity 2.3:* Complete.

Activity 2.4: The 10 predator-proof bomas built in Y2 are still 100% effective in deterring predation. As part of the M&E for the efficacy of these bomas, households were given data forms to record HCC incidents (including sightings). These forms were also issued with booklets detailing different carnivore species – including photos for visual identification of the animal, as well as their spoor and scat. During this period, over 50 incidents of livestock predation occurred within hotspot areas, however none happened at the predator-proof bomas (Annex 2.1).

ZSL have also organised a second carnivore trap to be donated to partner KWS in October following on from discussions during the stakeholder meeting. KWS currently have one carnivore trap deployed in the communities (carnivores are trapped and translocated away into TWNP).

Output 3 *Activity 3.1:* Complete.

Activity 3.2: To complement training undertaken in Y2, clusters received further support on the enterprise model and husbandry and farm-based practical trainings. So far, 139 members (39 clusters) from nine different VSLAs have participated in trainings (Annex 3.1, 3.2).

Activity 3.3: To date, 22 clusters have received their start-up stocks totalling 880 chickens. In these clusters, there are 85 VSLA members who are currently implementing the livelihood intervention (49 from Kamungi and 36 from Mang'elete, 79% of which are women). 17 clusters are expecting start-up stock, with training planned for Y3Q3 for the remaining 13 (Annex 3.3). Additionally, the project has identified three active members from VSLAs, based on their performance, commitment and literacy, to be trained for the role of 'Paravets' by a local farmer. Paravets will also be trained in facilitation skills so they can effectively train others; cascading the knowledge to the wider community as the project develops and becomes self-sustaining.

Activity 3.4: The first clusters received stock mid-July and recent groups received stock mid-September, with a mortality rate of 17% (within expected range). 9 of the clusters have reported eggs being laid, and have sold 1020 eggs (Annex 3.3). The community team will continue to monitor progress and report on mortality, production and sales. ZSL have also received requests from non-VSLA members to be trained in coop construction and husbandry, highlighting the importance of training Paravets so implementations can be replicated beyond project participants. VSLA members have also begun replicating coops in their own homes.

Output 4 *Activity 4.1:* Complete.

Activity 4.2: During this period, Kamungi Scouts covered a total of 526km by vehicle and 835km by foot. TT's Tembo 3 anti-poaching team conducted frequent patrols, covering 14,834km by vehicle and 672km by foot. TT's Tembo 5 team conducted patrols in northern TWNP and in this period covered 15,195km by vehicle and 973km by foot. In total, the three teams covered 30,555km by vehicle and 2,480km by foot. Whilst on patrols, teams recovered 282 snares (238 for small game, 44 for medium game). This represents an 80% increase in snares collected during this period compared to this period in 2020. Additionally, teams made 11 arrests (10 bushmeat poachers, one hardwood poacher), recovering 144kg of bushmeat. This represents a 60% increase in arrests compared to the corresponding period in 2020 (Annex 4.1, 4.2).

Activity 4.3: TT conducted regular anti-poaching aerial reconnaissance patrols and during this reporting period have completed 156 hours of low-level aerial surveillance (26 hours per month), covering a total of 17,790km (an average of 2,965km per month) (Annex 4.1, 4.3).

Activity 4.4: With the support of ZSL, TT has continued to produce quarterly reports including patrol maps to help further inform patrol strategy (Annex 4.4, 4.5).

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.

The project has faced higher costs of fuel and project materials resulting from increasing inflation rates in Kenya. We have reallocated budget from underspent lines such as international travel (which is unfeasible in Y3), towards budget lines affected, to ensure project activities remain unaffected. The project has seen a temporary decrease in VSLA savings over the past two months, linked with loss of livelihoods at a national level and high inflation rates. The team is supporting the groups towards increasing their savings again, and will continue to monitor this closely.

The project has also faced some challenges in cluster group dynamics in Mang'etele, with a few members dropping out of clusters but remaining in VSLAs, driven by different expectations regarding members' own financial contribution towards livelihood activity start-up. The team encouraged these people to remain in VSLAs, and use livelihood trainings they had received so far, and apply this knowledge and skills to their own livelihoods and households.

In the last six months, there has been significant HEC in Kamungi, however, in July it was announced that the elephant exclusion fence extending 20km would be constructed in Kamungi before November 2021. The project will continue to monitor HEC in both communities, and it is hoped that this electric fence will significantly reduce HEC incidences in Kamungi (Annex 4.1). Meanwhile, the project's HWC mitigation techniques will continue to focus on HCC as a priority identified with the communities.

The project has also implemented quarterly stakeholder forums, creating an opportunity to get feedback, give updates, maintain synergies and suggest areas of improvements. Two of these meetings have taken place during this reporting period (Annex 5.1, 5.2).

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.

The ZSL Community Team is now vaccinated, and ensure that all community interactions follow COVID-19 protocols, including splitting activities into smaller groups (50 or less).

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: 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:

3b. If yes, then you need to consider your project budget needs carefully.

4. Are there any other issues you wish to raise relating to the project or to Darwin's management, monitoring, or financial procedures?

No