



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

Project reference	DIR 25S2
Project title	Enhancing Tanzania human – wildlife coexistence through corridor restoration and livelihood projects
Country(ies)/territory(ies)	Tanzania
Lead organisation	Southern Tanzania Elephant Program
Partner(s)	Morogoro Regional Administration, National Land Use Planning Commission, Tanzania Forestry Services, Reforest Africa, Associazione Mazingira
Project leader	Dr. Trevor Jones
Report date and number (e.g. HYR3)	HYR2
Project website/blog/social media	http://www.stzelephants.or.tz/ Facebook: @Southern Tanzania Elephant Program Instagram: @southerntanzaniaelephant Twitter: @STzElephants

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: Beehive fences established and operational and managed independently by registered farmers’ cooperatives in four new villages: STEP has continued to support farmers’ groups in the Kilombero valley despite COVID-19 with weekly visits from the Kilombero-based Human Elephant Coexistence (HEC) Team. These include the groups established in four new villages: Katurukila Beekeeping Group, Ujasiri Beekeeping Group, Kanyenja Beekeeping Group and Udzungwa Tembo Wa Sole (UTEWASO Group) in Sole Village established in September 2020. Key Informant Discussions and Gender Focus Groups were held with members of existing farmers’ groups to learn about how we can continue to make our group structures as equitable as people for female members before conducting community meetings that began the process of group establishment and CBO registration. As UTEWASO Group was established in September 2020, the HEC Team is still providing very close follow up and training. While waiting for permission from Udzungwa Mountains National Park to establish a beehive fence within the park boundary (an area identified through ground surveys and in part to funnel elephants through the Kilombero Elephant Corridor), the group has constructed a beehive hut to attract bee colonies and begin honey production. STEP will begin a more dynamic sales program during Year 2 of the project to try and move inventory more rapidly. There is also an opportunity to manage expectations better with farmers’ groups, speaking more openly about the challenges of marketing and access. As part of Output 1, STEP also trains local elephant monitors (LEMs) to record elephant activity and crop damage in each village. STEP currently works with 7 LEMs (including a recently hired LEM in Sole Village and a second LEM to cover the large Kanyenja Village to collect data for a minimum of ten days per month. STEP’s Research Officers meet with each local monitor to collect data and provide performance feedback.

Output 2: Establishment and development of sustainable and gender equitable income-generating opportunities for local people increase outcomes for 220 people through beekeeping, VSLAs and coexistence tourism: As part of this output, STEP has continued to provide informal refresher beekeeping and Village Savings and Loan (VSLA) trainings for existing farmers’ groups through the HEC Team’s weekly support visits. For the newly established UTEWASO Group, the HEC

Team helped to set up a Village Savings and Loan Association (VSLA), providing the relevant training and oversight during initial critical meetings. Activities related to the National Elections at the end of October have delayed the in-depth, multi-part Foundational Beekeeping Training for UTEWASO Group. This will be conducted in early November. This training will include best practices for monitoring beehive occupancy, hive condition, assessing harvest readiness and best practices for harvest, processing, storage and sales. STEP continues to provide this guidance for its existing beekeeping groups. So far there are 497 beehives across the seven beekeeping groups that STEP has established in the Kilombero Valley. Occupancy has fluctuated between an average of 9%-48% due in part to an extremely heavy rainy season which continued into May. Over this period, farmers' groups supported by STEP have harvested 48 litres of honey and have sold 117.5 litres (some of which was harvested in 2019). As expanded in 2b, COVID-19 has severely impacted STEP's work on coexistence tourism. Since March, we have had zero visitors to our visiting fence (co-managed by Njokomoni Farmers' Group). The uncertainty of the future of tourism in the near future has limited our planning for future coexistence development.

Output 3: Restoration and community-managed protection of Udzungwa-Selous wildlife corridor.

Sensitization and discussion meetings in corridor villages (Output 3.1) continued despite COVID-19, with adaptation to small group and one-on-one meetings (see also article in DI newsletter, September 2020). A total of 31 formal recorded meetings with community members were held, plus numerous informal meetings. During September 2020, field valuation of farms for compensation by Government Valuers was carried out, with analysis due to be completed in October 2020. Ongoing and positive Government stakeholder consultations included meetings with the Morogoro Regional Commissioner and Security Committee, Director-General of the National Land Use Planning Commission, and the Director of Wildlife, who also visited the Kilombero Elephant Underpass which is now completed, the first of its kind in Tanzania. STEP CEO Dr. Trevor Jones also completed a Government assignment to lead development of Tanzania's first National Human-Wildlife Conflict Management Strategy, which was launched in October by the Minister of Natural Resources and Tourism, and also features the Kilombero Elephant Corridor and Underpass as examples for the country.

Community agroforestry has been initiated in the corridor area (Output 3.5) and is ongoing, led by project partner Associazione Mazingira. Monitoring of corridor use by elephants and other wildlife (Output 3.9) was carried out in Apr-Sept 2020 through ground monitoring of elephant movements in the corridor area by STEP's Research Officer and Local Elephant Monitors; as well as through camera trapping at corridor endpoints. Monitoring of elephant use of corridor endpoints (Mwanihana Forest, Udzungwa and Magombera Forest, Selous) (Output 3.10) was also ongoing through monthly dung transects. Surveillance and patrolling of corridor for habitat and wildlife protection (Output 3.8) by Village Game Scouts is currently limited to the forest edges at either end of the Corridor, until the JLUP is completed and the corridor physically demarcated.

Output 4: Increased knowledge and research on human-wildlife coexistence (HWC) and ecological connectivity at local and national level.

Outputs 4.1 through 4.4 were not timetabled for April-September 2020. We have ongoing research collaborations with University of Newcastle and University of Kent (Output 4.5). Planned publications include: predictors of elephant crop damage hotspots in the Kilombero Valley; analysis of farmers yields, welfare and elephant crop damage pre- and post- corridor restoration; predictors of community tolerance for elephants in the Kilombero Valley. The technical IT consultant continues to prepare the upgrading of the Tanzania Wildlife Corridors website to reflect the findings of the upcoming National Wildlife Corridors and Assessment and Action Plan (Output 4.6), pending an MoU between STEP and TAWIRI which is in the process of being finalized.

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 availability of necessary government officials (from the District and Regional Administrations) for sensitisation, valuation and compensation activities has continued to be challenging due to other government commitments or workload on their schedule. However, although this regularly causes delays to our programme, it does not require any changes to budget or timetable at this point.

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.

As elaborated above, the key challenges to our project have been related to the drop in tourism which has directly impacted our plans to establish coexistence tourism related to beehive fences and the corridor. The lack of international visitors has also led to a decrease in premium honey sales (as much as 50% of honey sales have been made from visitors at the beehive fence). In 2019, STEP hosted 49 visitors to the beehive fence and honey sales were made at almost 100% of those visits. In addition, the prohibition caused by COVID-19 of all activities requiring mass gatherings was led to considerable delays in the process towards the Joint Land Use plan and Valuation of farms for compensation under the wildlife corridor project. We have adjusted our Logframe to account for all of these challenges.

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 (submitted in Aug 2020)
Received confirmation of change acceptance	Not yet, in process

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?

N/A

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 Darwin-Projects@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: 25-001 Darwin Half Year Report**