



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

Project reference	26-007
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	Trevor Jones
Report date and number (e.g. HYR1)	October 2021 (HYR3)
Project website/blog/social media	<i>stzelephants.or.tz</i>

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 from start up to end September).

1.6 Monitoring and maintenance of beehive fence by farmers' groups

- STEP Local team conducted 24 visits in the past six months which included monitoring and maintenance of the beehive fence projects.
- STEP HEC Coordinator conducted six visits in the last six months lasting between three to four weeks to monitor project progress.

1.7 Monitoring elephant crop damage

- Six Local Elephant Monitors and one STEP Officer continued to monitor elephant visits to farms and crop damage. Between April and September 2021, >400 crop damage incidents were recorded.

2.3-2.4 Monitoring beehive occupancy, hive condition and honey yields, Harvesting, processing and selling of honey

- The STEP local team continued to support farmers' groups to ensure an increase in beehive occupancy and honey yields.
- Honey yields from April - September 2021 were 212.5L, a 50% increase from all of 2020. While this is largely due to more normal rain patterns, more focus on occupancy continues to have an impact.
- Average beehive occupancy in the last six months has been 26.67%. Average beehive fence occupancy is 19.67%. Average beehive hut occupancy is 44.15%.
- Honey sales over the last six months have been entirely through the local market. A total of 66.25L have been sold (31% of harvest).

2.7-2.8 Developing and marketing coexistence tourism package in collaboration with tour operators

- As forecasted in the Year Two Report, this activity continues to be off track due to impacts of COVID-19. As international travel restrictions begin to lift towards the end of 2021, we hope to begin receiving more visitors. As tourism picks up, we will revisit

coexistence tourism development with local operators.

3.2 Formation of Corridor Management Committee involving all stakeholders

- Completed during this period, with official inauguration of Kilombero Elephant Corridor Management Committee (KECMC) by Regional Commissioner of Morogoro covered by national media.

3.3 Preparation, finalization and approval by all stakeholders of technical corridor implementation plan

- Corridor Implementation Plan developed and officially validated by KECMC.

3.4 Physical demarcation and legal gazettement of corridor

- District valuation team working on the ground in corridor villages during October 2021 to complete valuation and land compensation process with farm owners.

3.5 Agroforestry initiated in corridor area

- Association Mazingira planted a 10-acre woodlot (12,000 seedlings) with a farmer's group in Kanyenya village (60 farmers), one of the key corridor villages.

3.6 Habitat restoration activities

- Corridor habitat restoration plan is under development (by Reforest Africa), and nurturing of indigenous saplings in local tree nurseries is ongoing, awaiting completion of corridor gazettement.

3.8 Surveillance and patrolling of corridor for habitat and wildlife protection

- Patrols of Magombera forest interior and edge by Village Game Scouts are ongoing.

3.9 Monitoring of corridor use by elephants and other wildlife

- Monitoring of elephant use of the planned corridor was done via regular ground transects along the corridor route as well as ground truthing and track-logging attempted elephant movements along the corridor in response to information received from Local Elephant Monitors.
- We continued to operate camera traps at corridor endpoints to monitor elephants and to detect other wildlife species (primarily mammals) present in the corridor area.

3.10 Monitoring of elephant use of corridor endpoints (Mwanihana Forest, Udzungwa and Magombera Forest, Selous via quarterly dung surveys)

- Monitoring of elephant use of corridor endpoints continued as planned via camera traps (up to 18 camera traps operational) and monthly dung transects.
- A Tanzanian MSc student was engaged and trained to identify individual elephants from camera trap photos to establish a baseline estimate of the number of elephants present in the corridor area.

4.2 Environmental education in 10 schools

- 9 primary schools and 3 secondary schools taught three modules (Module 1: human elephant behaviour ecology and biology, Module 2: human-elephant coexistence, Module 3: wildlife connectivity and how to stay safe around elephants). 1,215 students reached through Module 1, 1,199 students reached through Module 2 and 1,141 students reached through Module 3. 1,215 *Tembo na Watu* booklets (addressing human-elephant coexistence, written by STEP) distributed
- 50 students and 12 teachers visited Udzungwa Mountains National Park as part of an educational experience to learn more about conservation and connect with nature.

4.2 Monitoring and evaluation of environmental knowledge in 10 schools

- Knowledge retention has been assessed throughout the project period. For the first of three modules, 96.5% of primary students demonstrated retention of key knowledge concepts. After training, positive attitudes towards elephants in Tanzania increased by 7%. For the first of three modules, 93.52% of secondary students demonstrated retention of key knowledge concepts. After training, positive attitudes towards elephants in Tanzania increased by 9%. There is still a need to push on clarifying larger elephant population trends in the country over the last half century.

4.5 Research, writing and publication of academic and popular articles

An article with lessons learned about the corridor restoration process is in the final stages of preparation. In addition, with Dr. Marion Pfeifer at Newcastle University, we submitted a paper to the journal *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society B* exploring the possible impacts of tree restoration on human-wildlife conflict.

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.

An unexpected new president caused new Regional and District Leadership to be appointed, costing the corridor restoration project several months in implementation and progress towards gazettelement. This has resulted in delays towards several corridor-related outputs and outcomes, including habitat restoration and full gazettelement.

There has been a substantial increase in elephant activity in the project area during the project period relative to the pre-project baseline. Our long term research work in the area provides evidence that elephant use of both forests at the end of the planned corridor endpoints has increased and elephants regularly attempt to cross the corridor. With delays in the implementation of the corridor, elephant movements have not been managed to the extent anticipated. As such, we do not expect to see the originally-estimated scale of reduction in crop damage incidents by the end of Year 3.

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.

COVID-19 continues to impact the tourism industry in Tanzania. We have been unable to make progress on further developing our coexistence tourism package due to the lack of tourists and the instability of the industry in general. This has also affected our high end honey sales (this market is oriented towards tourists).

COVID-19 has also resulted in a more challenging funding landscape, affecting our ability to raise anticipated matched funding toward personnel salaries.

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 No.

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?

None at present.

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**