



## **PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT**

**PROJECT TITLE; MEATU'S ELEPHANTS MARAUDING MITIGATION**

**PLACE: MEATU DISTRICT, SIMIYU REGION**

**DURATION- 2020- 2021**

**SUBMITTED BY;**

**BATRO NAKOLI NGILANGWA**

**PROGRAM COORDINATOR**

**PAMOJA MAZINGIRA MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION-PAMAO**

EMAIL; [bngilangwa@gmail.com](mailto:bngilangwa@gmail.com)

**SUBMITTED TO**

**JANA ROBEYST TRUST FUND**

EMAIL; [info@janatrustfund.org](mailto:info@janatrustfund.org)

## **Acknowledgement:**

I would like to take this chance to give our sincerely thanks to the board and review committee of JANA ROBEYST TRUST FUND for their financial support towards complementation of this project. The support has been a potential tool towards mitigating human-elephants conflict in Meatu district. Moreover, the support has provided a sustainable micro enterprise for youth especially women in the district. Your support is still required due to the fact that we only recovered two villages with modern hives and we still have more ten villages with serious problem of human-elephant conflict daily. Also local communities require regularly deep conservation education, hence we need more and more support.

## **INTRODUCTION**

Meatu District Council which is within Simiyu region Tanzania hold vital elephant's habitat in the areas set side aside as Protected areas namely; Maswa Game Reserve, Southern part Serengeti National Park, Ngorongoro Conservation Area, Mwiba Wildlife Ranch and Makao Wildlife Management. In Meatu Districts, The African elephant are recognised as charismatic, intelligent, social, long-lived, strong and very large mammals, displays a complex relationship with humans. While the elephants are used as a flagship species to gain public sympathy for species and habitat conservation, their associated deleterious impacts evokes negative emotions among subsistence farmers and pastoralists as they depicts them as threats to people's livelihoods and their lives. Due to nocturnal nature of crop raiding elephants its surpass traditional control measures used by villagers, and therefore considerable crop damage keeps mounting up to prevail. In Meatu Districts The traditional elephants raid's controls measure such as fire and noise has become ineffective as elephants become habituated, and they are usually done in, uncoordinated way by the villagers. Therefore, in order to minimize human-elephants conflicts, comprehensive conservation strategies that take into account both conservation

and people-focused perspectives and that goes in line with the current Tanzanian wildlife policy need to be implemented. Improving capacity building of the local community on how to handle marauding elephants as centrepiece of this project is envisaged as a primary way to mitigate the prevailing human-elephant conflicts.

In Meatu district, over 75% of the elephant's home range lies totally outside the core protected area network, therefore human-elephant encounters are common experience. Having elephants' home range overlapping with village land, necessitate them to share land resources and interact with rural communities and hence maximize possibilities for human-elephant conflicts. In Meatu District people and elephants interact directly in a number of ways, causing impacts to both elephants and humans. Elephants usually cause damage to properties, kill and wound people and compete with humans for water and forage resources. While people on the other hand, kill elephants for their ivory, meat and sometimes in retaliation especially when elephants have killed someone or destroyed their properties. As a solution to this prevailing situation, The Tanzanian Wildlife Policy of 2007 has highlighted the necessity of assist rural communities that have not yet developed capabilities to manage problem animal like elephants. Taking that into account, controlling and management of elephants is becoming a complex matter. If elephants are to survive outside of the strictly protected parks and reserves, they can no longer be viewed in isolation from the people with whom they share much of their range.

### **Project aims**

There is shortage of knowledge or technical capacity for the local community to apply for mitigating human elephant conflicts. Improving capacity building with a focus on advanced and modern mitigation strategies is envisaged as a primary way to fight the prevailing human-elephants conflict and as such constitutes the centerpiece of the proposed project. Taking into account the application of traditional mitigation which became ineffective on addressing the issue it is

paramount to explore and introduce other technical solutions for more robust intervention on managing problems caused by elephants.

The proposed project will contribute to the achievement of the win-win situation by offering the protection support of their lives and properties while on the other side will increase vigilance and resilience of the local communities towards the crop-raiding elephants.

Provision of education and training activities which are key components of the project, will be centred on; disseminating innovative techniques, building local capacity in conflict prevention and resolution and increasing public understanding of Human-elephants conflict. Educating villagers will equip them with practical skills that will help them to deal with elephants by developing new strategies and tools for defending their lives, their crops and livestock.

### **Project Objectives**

This project had the following objective;

#### **Overall Objective**

- To ensure sustainable and long-term conservation of elephants and strengthen food security in all villages adjacent to protected areas by the end of 2021.

#### **Specific Objectives**

- To enhance capacity building to villages to combat elephant crop-raiding by adopting different mitigation techniques by the end of 2021.
- To minimize elephant-related damages on villagers' agricultural fields by the end of 2021.

## **PROJECT ACTIONS RESULTED**

### **1. MEETINGS WITH THE CILLAGE OFFICIALS AND INFLUENCIAL PEOPLE**

From March, 2020 up to July, 2020, we conducted village meetings with the village officials (village chairman and village executive officer) as well as village influential people.

The meeting aimed at introducing the project as well as explanation of the importance of mitigating human-elephant conflicts by balancing between wildlife and people.



Project coordinator providing conservation education on human-elephant conflicts.

## **2. Purchasing and fixing modern beehives**

One of the key activities of this project was to purchase modern beehives and making a fence along side the village farms nearby Maswa game reserve.

The project generated a total of 90 beehives, 15 modern hives and the rest are semi modern hives. A total of six farms were selected to make hives fence. These farms are directly bordering Maswa game reserve.



Modern beehives set along farm land



semi modern beehives ready to send to the farm land



Hives fence along farmland



Setting hives along farmland

### 3. Training on Human-elephant conflict mitigation

We had in deep community conservation training. The training concerned

- Mitigating human-elephant conflicts.
- Promote agroforestry and sustainable agriculture practices.
- Maximize honey production and productivity for subsistence and commercial purposes
- How to make block chill and oil fences.
- Training on how to report to the district game department on elephant conflict.



#### **4. MAKING OIL FENCES AND CHILL BLOCKS**

During the project we managed to make oil fences and thirty chill blocks that was placed along farms bordering Maswa game reserve.



Making oil fence along farmland near wildlife reserve



Making oil fence along farmland near wildlife reserve



Making demo of chill blocks ready to the farmland



Training on chill blocks

## 5. CONSERVATION TRAINING

The project managed to train a total of 350 people in all twelve villages. A total of fifteen days of workshops training was conducted. We trained in deep capacity building in resolving incidents of elephants crops raiding was provided.

Farmers within all villages were trained on how to protect their farms as well as proactive reporting of elephants raiding.

## **UNFORESEEN CHALLENGES AROSE DURING THE PROJECT**

The following challenges arose during the project

- Covid-19, this was the main challenges arose during the project that mad our implementation very difficulties. Our project activities was mainly focused on meetings, worships and group trainings. During the COVID-19 when erupt in our country on February, 2020 the government burned public meetings, hence we also had a break on implementing our project of training and other issues that involve public. However finally we managed to finish the project activities. This is why we are very late on submitting the report as most of the project activities were completed on February 2022. We are very sorry for this.

## **FUTURE PLANS**

We will continue to find funds to promote sustainable elephant conservation. We are planning to solicit fund for developing another project for mitigating human-elephant conflict, which is cost effective to the community.

We will continue to support and monitor local activities on human-elephant conflicts to ensure sustainable elephants conservation activities.

We are working hand in hand with villages conservationist and raising awareness to educate and raise awareness on crop raiding incidents.

***Thank you for your support***