

Project Update: May 2018

Project Update for Activity 2: Preventing Future Habitat Loss

This activity carefully built on the key messages from the sensitisation campaign of our first project. It highlighted how individual and collective behaviour affected bat ecology and what mitigation actions can/should be taken to ensure the community thrives with minimal impact on bat survival. The major activities were training of farmers on livelihood activities with the aim of giving them better approaches to climate-smart agriculture as well alternative sources of income that will curb cutting of trees to sell as firewood.

Methodology

A task force from the Bat Conservation Club and 10 specialist volunteers were given hands-on training to train 300 farmers in bee farming, 300 farmers on pellets production the two groups of 600 farmers on climate smart agriculture. The aim of this was to strengthen the capacity and resilience of farmers to explore alternative sources of income that would reduce reliance on earning money from selling firewood as well as be in a position of better crop yield. With these activities, the project took advantage of the fact that each farmer in this community plants a minimum of three hectares of corn twice per year. While the flowering of the corn plants provides a source of nectar for bees, the post-harvest residue from corn would be widely available for production of pellets.



Left: Task force viewing video for training on pellets production. Right: Task force getting training on climate smart agriculture practices.



Left: Task force with training equipment to train farmers on bee farming. Right: One of hundreds of hives created for bee farming.



Left: Farmer gets ready for inspection of bee hives. Right: A farmer inspecting his hive and beaming with joy for the first honey harvest.



Left: A close-up photo of a hive filled with honeycomb ready for harvest. Right: Farmers display honeycomb with bee wax.