Project Update: October 2018

The first phase of the project took place from March to April 2018. During this phase the pilot study was conducted to determine the actual sites for the project implementations and introduction to the community. During this phase the main task was to involve local people on the project so as to create awareness about the project, this is because local people coexisted with wildlife for the long time so they know much about areas and areas with high, moderate and light grazing pressure.

Left: Site selection with village leader. Right: Researcher introduction and discussion on the site for project implementation.

The second and third phase of the project were carried out from May to August 2018 interchangeably. The main task here was assessment of vigilance behaviour when domestic herbivores forage together with wild herbivores or wild herbivore-only herds. Behaviour activities measured include feeding, time spent resting, and ruminating, grooming, moving, looking with head up (vigilance) and others which we encountered during field work. The assessment of vigilance behaviour was to determine the positive effects of livestock when foraging together or vicinity to wildlife.

The third phase was quantification of grass regrowth. Quantification of grass regrowth was for determination of an optimal grazing regime which can enhance vegetation quantity in Ngorongoro Conservation Area and took place from May to July 2018. The time of grass growth / regrowth, which is quite a defined time within the year, while maturing and ageing / wilting of the plant, happens in the months from August. The

data obtained are gathering the baseline data to a Livestock Grazing Management plan. The data that obtained include grass height and grass cover, which is a rough proxy on productivity.

Left: Moveable cages construction together with villagers. Right: Observation of animal's behaviour.