

## **Project Update: August 2021**

### **INTRODUCTION**

This project is being carried out in Olkinyei, Naboisho, Olare Orok and Nashulai conservancies in Mara ecosystem. The key objective is to examine extent of human wildlife conflict (HWC), with a view to better understand conflict trends in conservancies in terms of forms and causes seasonality of occurrence and subsequently establish effective mitigation measures local community can employ to address. These four conservancies are additional to the six covered in the first phase of the project.

### **Data collection**

To comprehensively capture information on human wildlife conflict a blend of instruments methods has been utilised, namely:

- a) Questionnaires:** 129 structured questionnaires have been administered to selected members of the conservancies to obtain information on conflict types, wild animals involved, causes of human-wildlife conflict, and mitigation measures to understand the historical events and settings in the selected conservancies.
- b) Key informant interviews:** key informant interviews involving personnel from the Kenya Wildlife Service, Narok County Government and conservancy staff were conducted to gather in-depth information about human-wildlife conflicts in the conservancies to support information collected by questionnaires.
- c) Focus group discussions** involving community members within each conservancy. A total of eight focus group discussions have been held so far. These meetings were initiated from May 2021 (Plate 6). Data entry has already been done yet to be analysed.

## **Accomplished and on-going project activities**

### **Accomplished project activities**

#### **Setting up predator proof Kraal (boma)**

Acquisition of materials and setting up predator proof kraal/boma to monitoring its efficiency in preventing livestock attack has been carried out (Plate 1 and 2). A meeting with community members was held before commencement of construction to agree on most appropriate sites for establishing the predator proof kraal (boma). The setup is to act as a model for preventing livestock depredation incidences in the conservancy. So far one boma has been set up in Siana Conservancy which was chosen by community members in the planning meeting

#### **On-going activities**

- a)** Data collection through day-to-day monitoring of human-wildlife conflict cases started in May 2021 and is still ongoing. So far, we have recorded over 250 cases in the four conservancies covered under the current project phase.
- b)** Data entry is ongoing for the already reported cases. Monitoring of the incidences will continue up to December 2021 to cover the proposed 8 months to depict seasonality.

- c) Monitoring effectiveness of predator-proof kraal in preventing livestock attack is also on-going and conducted on daily basis with the assistance of recruited research assistants. The data collected in monitoring include date, time of attack (day or night), GPS coordinates, location (inside traditional boma, outside boma, grazing field, inside predator proof boma), type of wildlife involved, number of lived killed/injured, status of the predator (speared, poisoned, escaped or unknown). This activity will also carry out up to December 2021.



**Plate 1:** Construction of predator proof Kraal/Boma in Siana conservancy



**Plate 2:** A completed predator proof Kraal/Boma in Siana conservancy



**Photo 3:** Focus Group Discussion in Naibosho Conservancy