PROGRESS REPORT FOR THE PROJECT: HUMAN WILDLIFE CONFLICT IN CONSERVANCIES WITHIN THE MARA ECOSYSTEM, KENYA

PROJECT ID 38544-B

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This project is being carried out in Olchoro Oiruuwa/Lemek, Isaaten, Enoonkishu and Oloisukut conservancies in Mara ecosystem. The main aim is to gather understanding of human wildlife conflicts in community owned conservation areas known as conservancies, that harbor about 70% of the wildlife. 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 andsubsequently establish effective mitigation measures local community can employ to address. This project has further set up interventions such as predator proof kraals on selected sites, implemented the "eye" painting on livestock, as measures to address livestock depredation. These measures are being monitored to test their respective effectiveness in controlling livestock depredation at night when livestock have been herded, and during the day while at grazing fields. These four conservancies are additional to the ten covered in the first and second phase of the project.

2.0 DATA COLLECTION

To comprehensively capture information on human wildlife conflict a blend of instruments methods has been utilized, as follows:

a) **Questionnaires:**342structured questionnaires have been administered to selected landowners in the conservancies to obtain information on conflict types, wild animals involved, causes of human-wildlife conflict (HWC), and mitigation measures.
b) **Key informant interviews:** key informant interviews involving personnel from 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 conducted between September and December 2023. Data collected is yet to be analyzed.
d) **Monitoring:** day to day monitoring of Human-Wildlife Conflict incidences is ongoing. This is to be completed in August 2024. It involves recording conflict type, animals involved, location of conflict occurrence, action taken and the resultant impact.

3.0 ACCOMPLISHED AND ON-GOING PROJECT ACTIVITIES

3.1 Accomplished project activities

3.1.1 Setting up Chain-Linked Predator Proof Kraal (boma)

Four predator proof Kraal/Bomaswere set up for monitoring the efficiency in preventing livestock attack by wild animals. Meetings with community members were held before

construction commenced, this was to gather information on the most appropriate sites for establishing the predator proof Kraal (bomas). The building/setting up of the Kraals was to act as models for preventing livestock depredation incidences in the conservancies.

3.1.2 Setting up of Solar Flashlight Kraals

Four Traditional Kraals per conservancy have been installed with Solar Flashlight to monitor the effectiveness in mitigating livestock depredation cases. The data collected is entered in the general monitoring for human-wildlife conflict cases.

3.2 On-going activities

a) **Eye-Mark Painting**: this started in July 2023 and ended in June 2024. Painting is done twice a month. The marked cattle are monitored daily. In case of any attack incident, it is recorded in the monitoring forms. The data collected for eye mark painting entails: herd name, date of marking, date of depredation, Sex of cattle, GPS coordinates and coat colour.

b) Data Collection through day-to-day monitoring of livestock depredation cases started in July and is still ongoing. So far, we have recorded over 130cases in the four conservancy areas covered under the current project phase.

c) Data entry is continuing for the already reported cases. Monitoring of the incidences will continue up to August 2024 to cover the proposed12 months to depict seasonality.

d) 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. 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), and type of wildlife involved, number of lived killed/injured, status of the predator (Speared, Poisonedescaped or Unknown). This activity will end inAugust 2024.

Eye Painting Mark on some cattle.

Distribution of solar lamps to the local community to curb livestock depredation incidences.

Eye Painting exercise on the hides of cattle to mitigate attack by wild animals.

Distribution of solar lamps to the local community to curb livestock depredation incidences.


Focus Group Discussion with the local community members of Isaaten Conservancy.

NOTE:

Data collection started three months late (July 2023) due to a delay in release of research funds by the University; however, it is now running smoothly despite the day. Data collection will end in August 2024