

Project Update: May 2023.

Conservation Education Outreach, Identification of stakeholders and First community stakeholders meeting.

We have completed the first three activities of the project including conservation education outreach to communities, identification of stakeholders and first community and stakeholders' meetings held between February and May 2023. The research team organised a series of meetings between 1st March and 8th April 2023 to plan the research assessment process, review existing information, and discuss stakeholder analysis and selection process. Facilitators (members of the research team) were also trained in the process involved in the collection of the positive and negative social outcomes during visits to communities as well as to be familiar with the SAPA tool.

Communities were then identified and mapped out prior to our visit. We had 18 communities identified that are critical to the Yankari Game Reserve for conservation education, community stakeholder meetings and for the establishment of the Conservation Site Support Groups (CSSGs). These communities include Mainamaji, Yelwan Duguri, Bakin Dutse, Dagudi, Gaji, Gaji Gamu, Duguri, Rimi, Mansur, Gale, Sarkin Yaki Malla, Yalo, Garin Kweri, Jada, Maiari, Kwala, Pali and Kuka.

Rapport building and mobilisation of communities was the next activity carried out between 12th March and 8th April 2023. We visited all 18 communities to inform them of our planned visit and activities. We solicited their consent and cooperation to participate in the project execution. The point of call for all the communities were the village heads' palaces. The communities received us gladly with enthusiasm and expressed their readiness to fully participate in the exercise.

The first community and stakeholders meeting were held between the 24th April and 1st May 2023. The focal group discussion interaction was participatory by the greater number of participants. The participants included youths, adult men and women, elders of the communities, physically challenged persons and group leaders, etc. (see photo gallery showing cross sections of activities during the conservation education and first community workshop).

Conservation education and first community and stakeholders meeting visit to the communities were carried out as follows:

S/N	Date	Communities	Remarks
1	24 th April, 2023	Maina Maji	
2	25 th April, 2023	Kafi, Gaji and Gaji Gamu	
3	26 th April, 2023	Dagudi, Yelwan Duguri	
4	27 th April, 2023	Bakin Dutse, Kuka	
5	28 th April, 2023	Pali, Kwala	
6	29 th April, 2023	Mai Ari, Jada, Garin Kweri	
7	30 th April, 2023	Yalo, Gale	
8	1 st May, 2023	Sarkin Malla	

However, Mansurand Rimi communities were not visited during the conservation education and first stakeholder's workshops due to security advice. There were reports of banditry where members of the communities were attacked by unknown gunmen. The two communities are located in the remotest areas when compared with other communities adjoining the Yankari Game Reserve. Efforts will be made to visit the two communities under security threat when we learn that it is safe to be visited.

Generally, the community members who participated in the first community workshop accorded us the highest cooperation. They provided both the positive and negative social impacts including possible local solutions to the negative impacts.

In addition to these, Conservation Site Support Groups (CSSGs) were established in each community, they will validate the outcome of the first community stakeholders meeting and serve as 'ambassadors' to the Yankari Game Reserve.

The next aspect of the project is analyses of the first community stakeholders meeting and production of questionnaires in line with the social impact outcomes from the first community workshops. We have attached some of our pictures for your information and documentation (see below).

We thank the management and community members for their support and cooperation with this project. As gatekeepers, we appreciate the village heads for availing us access to their communities for this exercise. We also appreciate immensely the A.P. Leventis Ornithological Research Institute (APLORI) for their critical role in this project.



A cross section of pictures after community workshop at Dagudi.



Conservation Education Session.



Exchange of pleasantries between the research team and the community members (photo taken at Bakin Dutse Village).



First Community Stakeholder Workshop for men at Yelwan Duguri.



First Community Stakeholder Workshop for women at Kuka Community.



First Community Stakeholder workshop for men at Yalo community.



Project Team Members (From Right; Longtong Turshak, Fati Ramzy & Naziru Zakare).