

## Project Update May 2024

We're thrilled to report significant progress in our efforts to mitigate Human-Elephant Conflicts (HEC) in communities surrounding Mkomazi National Park. Here's a summary of our activities thus far:



From Insecurities to Co-Existence Project Team

### **Project activity: Formal Familiarization of study area and reconnaissance**

Update: We've successfully established connections with key personnel at the study site. Additionally, during this phase we pretested our survey and interview questions to ensure their effectiveness.

### **Data Collection on Causes and Temporal Patterns of HEC**

We've commenced gathering information from well-informed individuals regarding HEC. Our questionnaire (currently self-administered questionnaires to DGOs) has been tailored to elicit comprehensive responses from various stakeholders. We intend to do field observation in early May 2024.

Mapping Conflict Hotspots: Utilizing data from District Game Officers, we've identified and mapped areas prone to HEC. This spatial analysis will guide our subsequent interventions for human elephant co-existence.

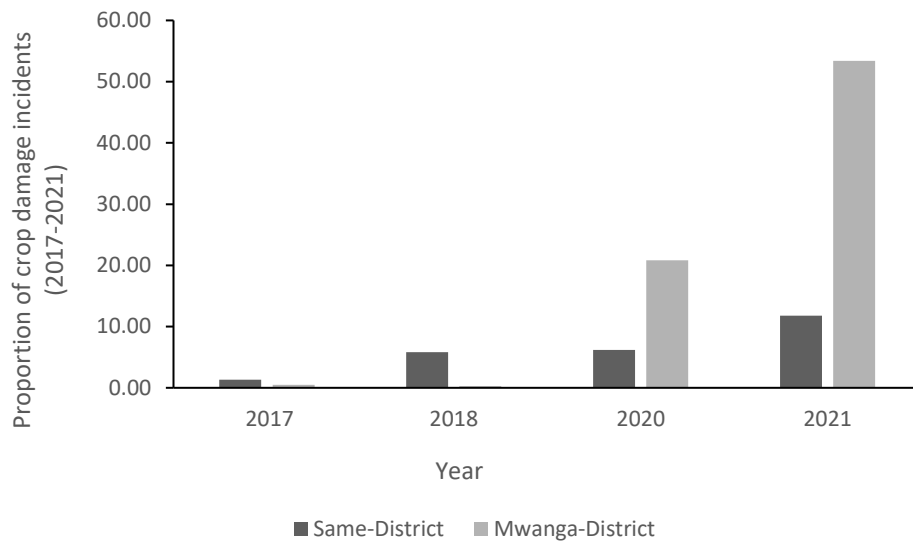


## Data Entry and Analysis

We're currently processing gathered data to discern causes, temporal patterns, and conflict hotspots. R software version 4.2.1 is our primary analytical tool, facilitating in-depth exploration of HEC dynamics.

## Preliminary results:

One of our primary goals was to identify HEC hotspots in the Mkomazi National Park. We successfully collected detailed information on the types and severity of HEC in the surrounding districts, with a focus on crop damage incidents. Data collected from district game officers in the Same and Mwanga districts show a significant increase in crop damage incidents over time. In the Same district, crop damage incidents increased from 1.3% in 2017 to 11.8% in 2021. Similarly, incidents in Mwanga district rose dramatically from 0.5% in 2017 to 53.4% in 2021. This data highlights the increasing severity of human-elephant conflicts in these areas, emphasising the critical need for effective mitigation strategies.



### Developing Conservation Education Materials

Leveraging insights from our analysis, we're crafting educational materials to raise conservation awareness and enhance local capacity. These materials will empower community members to coexist harmoniously with elephants.



Our team remains dedicated to this vital initiative, aiming to foster sustainable solutions that benefit both humans and wildlife. Stay tuned for further updates on our progress!