

## Final Evaluation Report

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Your Details	
<b>Full Name</b>	ZABLON FATAELY
<b>Project Title</b>	Reducing tradition elephant killing by Barabaig Pastoralist Community: A case study of South-Eastern Ruaha National Park, Tanzania
<b>Application ID</b>	40176-1
<b>Date of this Report</b>	16 September 2024

**1. Indicate the level of achievement of the project's original objectives and include any relevant comments on factors affecting this.**

Objective	Not achieved	Partially achieved	Fully achieved	Comments
Gather baseline information/data on the extent of traditional elephant hunting and uses of elephant derivatives				Valuable insight into the scale of hunting and uses of elephant parts was captured
Increase community awareness and participation in conservation efforts				The involvement of the Barabaig community in conservation activities increases their participation and raises their awareness towards conservation.
Reducing traditional elephant's killings by the Barabaig				Though it has not been eliminated, the project has successfully engaged the community in traditional dances helping to shape their minds that killing elephants will not only help them get women during their traditional ceremonies. The challenge was the cultural significance of elephant hunting.
Develop alternative livelihoods for the Barabaig community				Due to resource constraints, the project failed to develop alternative livelihoods for the community
Collaborate with ant-poaching agencies to enhance elephant protection				The project succeeded in collaborating with anti-poaching conservation non-governmental organizations including (Wildlife Connection) and joint efforts

				in monitoring and protecting elephant corridors.
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**2. Describe the three most important outcomes of your project.**

i. Baseline data and conservation strategies

The project achieved to generate baseline data on the extent of traditional elephant hunting, the uses of the elephant's derivatives and the social and cultural factors that influence these communities to engage in these practices. However, the plan is to publish the data to the peer-reviewed journal which then will contribute to the global body of knowledge on community-based conservation.

ii. Increased community awareness and Participation

The community has now become aware of the detrimental effects of traditional elephant hunting. Including the local community as enumerators and field assistants facilitates data collection and ensure the project is grounded in the local context, increasing community trust in the conservation efforts.

iii. Reduction in traditional elephant's killings

The involvement of the Key community members (Youth) in the research and the targeted outreach programs fostered the understanding of the ecological importance of elephants and the long-term consequences of their decline. All the efforts led to a measurable decrease in the number of elephants hunted for traditional purposes. Through the collaboration with other local stakeholders, we agreed to implement more effective monitoring and protection, including increased patrols and community-led surveillance initiatives.

**3. Explain any unforeseen difficulties that arose during the project and how these were tackled.**

i. Data collection delay

Data collection took longer time than anticipated due to difficulties to scheduling interviews with Key informants and the need for the thorough transcription and analysis of records interviews.

The project team extended the data collection and analysis period to allow more in-depth interviews and focus group discussions to overcome this delay.

ii. Logistics challenge in remote areas

During the rainy season, it was challenging to access the remote villages or sub-villages bordering the Ruaha National Park as we received more rain than usual, and many roads were impassable. The project schedule i.e. data collection was affected, and it also reduced the ability to conduct scheduled community meetings.

**4. Describe the involvement of local communities and how they have benefited from the project.**

- Active participation during data collection: The local enumerators were hired to assist with conducting interviews, Focus groups, and surveys. This helped them develop their skills and also provided them with temporary employment opportunities.
- Elders and cultural leaders were engaged in discussions to find culturally appropriate ways to reduce elephant hunting, i.e., developing alternative rites of passage. This helped to preserve the cultural identity of the Barabaig people while encouraging conservation-friendly practices. It also fostered a sense of ownership and pride in being part of a conservation effort that respects and values their traditions.
- The Barabaig community acquired knowledge and skills during the meetings, workshops and informal discussions which helped them to raise their awareness of conservation issues. Gaining a better understanding of the long-term ecological impacts of hunting elephants, fosters a shift in their attitudes towards wildlife conservation and more sustainable practices.

## **5. Are there any plans to continue this work?**

Yes! The plan is to continue this work as follows;

- The project team plans to continue working closely with community leaders and members to further reduce traditional elephant killings. This will be through extending educational programs and increasing efforts to introduce alternative rites of passage to the Barabaig community.
- Initiating alternative livelihood programs suitable for these communities BUT also friendly to conservation policies. Will develop this with consideration of gender balances so that all genders in the community will have an equal chance to participate in these alternative livelihood programs.
- The project team is committed to publishing the research findings in peer-reviewed journals and presenting them at conferences. This will be best practice with the global conservation community. Furthermore, the project team will actively seek additional funding from conservation organizations including Rufford to sustain and expand the efforts initiated by this project.
- The project team also intends to monitor the effectiveness of the implemented mitigation strategies over the next few years through regular check-ins with the anti-poaching agencies and local stakeholders to assess the progress and make the necessary adjustments.

## **6. How do you plan to share the results of your work with others?**

The plan is to share the results through submission to peer-reviewed journals since the manuscript is in preparation and while the publication process can be lengthy and uncertain this will remain a priority to share the findings with the global conservation community.

Furthermore, project findings will be disseminated with other conservation organizations operating in Ruaha landscapes and beyond particularly those dealing with human-elephant co-existence. The plan is to have a joint publication or Shared workshop with other stakeholders.

The findings also will be presented at relevant national and international conservation conferences. Presenting at these forums will allow for the exchange of ideas with other researchers and conservationists.

## **7. Looking ahead, what do you feel are the important next steps?**

- To establish a robust monitoring and evaluation framework that includes regular surveys and community feedback. Continuous monitoring to assess whether the project's interventions are having the desired effects on reducing elephant killings and improving community well-being.
- Starting piloting programs for alternative livelihoods in partnership with local NGOs and community members. The introduction of these alternative livelihoods is critical for the long-term success of the projects.
- Continue with regular meetings and workshops with community leaders and members to ensure their voices are heard and integrated into future conservation plans. It is essential to keep building the relationship established during the initial stage of the project.
- Furthermore, the next step is to expand research to include more in-depth studies on the socio-economic factors driving elephant hunting as well as the ecological effects of reduced hunting pressure on other species.

## **8. Did you use The Rufford Foundation logo in any materials produced in relation to this project? Did the Foundation receive any publicity during the course of your work?**

- Yes, the Rufford Foundation logo was used in several materials produced during the project like community outreach materials e.g. flyers and posters brochures and T-shirts.  
Also, the logo was included in all presentation slides used during workshops and meetings. The project team plans to do the same thing when presenting the findings at the national and international scientific conservation conferences.
- The foundation received local publicity as during the project the Rufford Foundation was mentioned in community meetings and workshops as the Key funder.  
Not only that but we anticipate the foundation to receive national and international publicity during the presentation of project findings at national and international conferences. Will make sure to acknowledge the support and this will bring exposure to a broader audience of conservationists and researcher

**9. Provide a full list of all the members of your team and their role in the project.**

**Zablon Fataely** – Project leader

**Dr. Rose Kicheleri**- project supervisor

**Dr. Sayuni Marik**- Project Supervisor

**Ferrick Msigwa**- Research Assistant

**Darem Philipo**- local coordinator from the Barabaig Community (facilitating other enumerators during data collection)

**10. Any other comments?**

No comments