



INTERIM 6 MONTH PROGRESS REPORT, JULY 2017

Project Title: Logistical Support for the Nsama Community Scout anti-poaching unit for Nsumbu National park.

Principle Investigator

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Project Interim Report

Conservation needs addressed

Elephant populations and ranges are being reduced through much of Africa, this project seeks to ensure the African elephant population in Nsumbu National Park (NNP) continues growing and its range in and around Nsumbu National Park remains secure.

This project addresses these conservation needs in situ as follows:

- By providing security against all illegal activities through law enforcement support in NNP.
- To increase the safe range of elephants in NNP and adjacent areas such as Tondwa GMA through various means.

Specifically, this project seeks to address the shortfall of support towards rangers conducting law enforcement in NNP by providing all necessary requirements for both WPOs and community scouts to carry out effective anti-poaching patrols throughout NNP.

Project Goals and Objectives:

Project Goal: to ensure a growing elephant population and range in and around Nsumbu National Park

The project goal is being met overall as judged by the high number of young elephants sighted and the increasing range elephants are present in.

Project objective: To provide all requirements for the Nsama Community Scout unit to effectively conduct a minimum of 180 patrol man days per month of anti-poaching patrols in Nsumbu National Park for a period of 1 year.

This project objective was met throughout the reporting period. A total of 10 CS are employed directly by CLT and are dedicated to anti-poaching operations in NNP. With the target of a minimum of 20 days per month achieved or exceeded throughout this reporting period the objective was met. An additional 20 CS are employed by the community resource board (CRB) who work mostly in the adjoining Tondwa GMA. These 20 CS are paid erratically and often not supervised adequately. During this reporting period CLT increased support to these additional CS and also successfully advocated for an integrated approach to anti-poaching between NNP and Tondwa GMA. This has meant anti-poaching patrols are coordinated between areas and also that all CS, including the 10 primary CS employed by CLT are conducting patrols throughout the operational area which now includes the GMA and NP.

Activities and actions carried out

Anti-poaching operations are planned by DNPW in conjunction with CLT. All officers are deployed on 10 day patrols running concurrently at all times. Patrol teams consist of a mix of CS and government WPOs and generally a minimum of 4 people in each patrol team. As described above an integrated approach towards law enforcement in the GMA and NP became the norm during this reporting period. The main reasons for this were to improve the security of the GMA along with the NP, it was becoming clear that many poaching activities were being carried out in both areas by the same poaching groups, elephants are roaming into the GMA frequently and manpower was not being adequately supervised in the GMA. Along with this integrated approach to planning was an increase in the provision of support to law enforcement activities and personnel in the GMA. This has now resulted in targeting to have at least 4 patrol teams on long patrol at all times, interspersed with additional short patrols of 1-3 days.

Most activities proposed are in relation to patrol requirements and were carried out as follows to meet the proposal:

1) Provision of patrol rations.

Patrol rations are purchased in bulk and stored securely at CLT offices in Nsumbu township. Dry goods are purchased in Kitwe and transported to Nsumbu intermittently as needed, fresh goods such as dried fish and vegetables are generally purchased immediately prior to patrol deployment. All patrols are issued a ration "pack" consisting of agreed amounts of rations and based on the number of officers in each patrol group and the length of patrol. Early 2017 saw the introduction of "ambush rations" consisting of high energy foods that

do not need much cooking. This is to reduce the time and effort of patrol teams preparing food when on ambushes. All patrols during the reporting period were issued with adequate rations.

2) Provision of Diesel for deployment.

Diesel is purchased in bulk drums and stored. All deployments, withdrawals and fuel support of patrol teams are conducted within known distances from the park HQ in Nsumbu township. Diesel is issued according to the destination and accounted for accurately in this manner. There was adequate provision of diesel throughout the reporting period.

3) Provision of petrol and oils for the patrol boat.

Petrol is similarly purchased in bulk and stored. Marine patrol teams are typically issued with 100 ltrs of petrol per patrol. This is increased depending on patrol plans and any incidents during patrol that may require increased boat travel. Petrol was adequately provided throughout the patrol period.

4) Provision of Field equipment and uniforms.

CLT aims to provide a full patrol pack to each supported officer every 2 years. This includes backpack, sleeping mat and bag, ammunition pouch, trousers and shirt, raincoat, tent, socks, boots, etc. Despite a delay from the supplier this activity was achieved during the period and a total of 32 new patrol packs were issued.

5) Data Collection and Analysis.

All patrol leaders are required to fill out patrol data forms at the end of each patrol. Data is collected during patrol using notebooks and GPS, this data is then summarized in hard copy on paper during debriefing in the control operations room. The CLT CEO then enters all relevant data in a database and on google earth. This process is encouraged and linked through patrol bonus systems. This was well achieved throughout the report period.

6) Provision of Wages

Wages are provided by CLT to 10 CS in Nsumbu as well as a limited number of project staff and casuals. A lack of banking facilities has meant the use of cash continues. There were no problems encountered in this process and wages were provided to all CS as per project proposal. Additionally, there were small cash payments made to CS from Tondwa GMA who met patrol requirements as laid out.

7) Vehicle and boat maintenance.

Vehicle and boat maintenance is carried out in accordance with manufacturer specifications or as needed. In terms of support to the DNPW vehicle this requires a set of tyres every 6 months on average, and normal servicing. This was supported by CLT throughout the project period. The patrol boat and engine is maintained exclusively by CLT, the outboard engine is given a standard service every 100 hours of operation and boat repairs are done as needed. This was successfully conducted throughout this period.

Conservation Outcomes

The biggest conservation outcome this project contributed towards is the conservation of African elephants and their habitat, and by proxy all species occurring in NNP. Whilst it remains impossible to determine the population of elephants in Nsumbu accurately, the increase in herd sizes, health of individuals, increased frequency of sightings and increased range of elephant sightings all suggest that the elephant population is healthy and in the absence of high poaching it is growing. Elephants are now permanently present in more remote areas of the park, where 5 years ago they were rarely seen. Signs and sightings of elephants in the fringes of Tondwa GMA are now regular.



Figure 1: A high prevalence of young animals indicates the elephant population is breeding well.



Figure 2: Large number of elephants seen in daylight are now a common occurrence.

In addition to the actual elephant population this project supports law enforcement efforts throughout the protected area. These patrols target all illegal activities regardless of target species. Small mammals such as puku, bushbuck and warthogs have increased in number hugely since the initiation of this project. This is assumed to be as a direct consequence of reduced poaching in core areas of the park. Large mammals such as hippo and buffalo are also

presumed to be increasing judged by the lack of detected poaching incidents of these species and that poachers and poaching methods targeted by this project towards elephant conservation are the same perpetrators of elephant poaching.

NNP has large stands of the endemic Sumbu-Itigi thickets. These forests are extremely dense vegetation and are dependent on megaherbivores to create openings and reduce density. Aerial flights conducted in NNP recently clearly show a different structure to the Itigi forests in the core of the NP where elephants and other large species are prevalent compared to other remote Itigi forest stands where elephants are not present. The maintenance of habitat structure, grazing areas and reducing encroachment of woodlands into plain is a crucial habitat service provided by elephants and enhanced by this project.

The major community benefits from this project are through the creation of direct jobs in wildlife careers, in this case a career path in law enforcement and/or wildlife management provided through employment under CLT. At a larger scale this project contributes significantly to the preservation of elephants as an iconic species with the tourism attraction. Surrounding communities rely on the small tourism industry for employment and market for local goods such as vegetables and in turn the growth of the tourism industry in NNP will greatly benefit from the presence of elephants in the NP, especially the sight of them along the lake shore, providing a unique attraction.

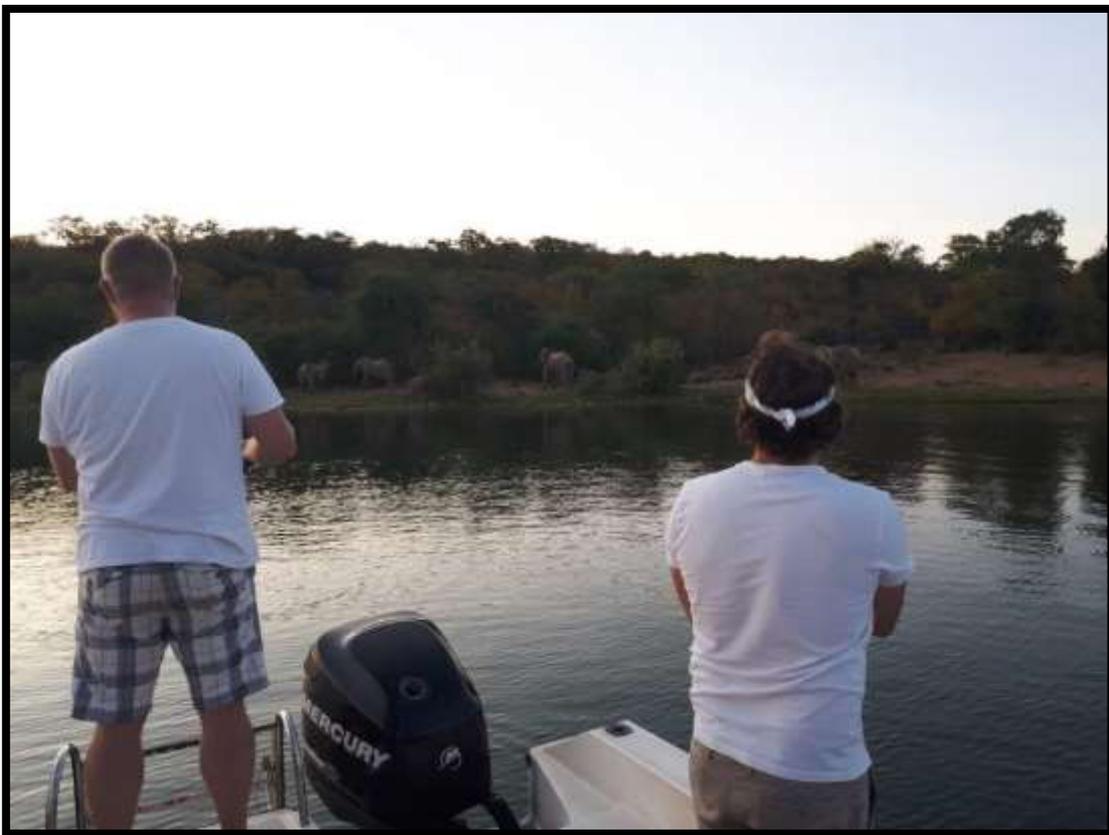


Figure 3: A prevalence of approachable elephants is key for the tourism industry and long-term sustainability of NNP.

For this reporting period CLT and DNPW have made significant accomplishments in regards to achieving the project goals. Major accomplishments include:

- Law enforcement direct results for period January 1st to June 30th:

Firearms	Amuntion Snares	Terrestrial Arrests	Marine arrests
21	48	828	18

- Total of 81 anti-poaching patrols conducted

- 32 scouts issued with patrol kits



Figure 4: Part of 32 sets of complete patrol kits being handed over for disbursement

In 2016 CLT set up an Investigation and Intelligence Unit (IIU) in and around NNP. Whilst not part of this project, the Nsama CS unit has provided manpower for search operations, ambushes and direct apprehensions in response to intelligence and information. Through the IIU and supported by the Nsama CS unit during this report period, significantly there was the:

- Apprehension, arrest and conviction (5 years) of notorious elephant poacher, along with confiscation of a well-maintained AK-47 rifle.
- Confiscation of a .375 heavy caliber rifle known to be used for big game poaching.
- Arrest of 6 suspects attempting to sell ivory from NNP.
- Confiscation and arrest of a further 5 poachers and 8 firearms.



Figure 5: Notorious elephant poacher apprehended, convicted and sentenced along with the recovery of an AK47.



Figure 6: This ivory was recovered in an intelligence led operation and is suspected to be from NNP.

This project directly affects the entire elephant population of the greater Nsumbu-Mweru ecosystem, an isolated elephant population estimated to be around 150 – 200 animals.

Problems encountered during period.

There were no problems encountered in the execution of this project.

However, the threat from poaching remains high in most areas of the park and wire snares continue posing a risk to the elephant population as does targeted elephant poaching using firearms.

Evaluation of project

This project aims to provide all necessary requirements for the Nsama CS unit operating in Nsumbu to achieve 180 patrol man days per month. Improved training, encouragement and incentives along with field support has successfully meant all CS under CLT are achieving their agreed 20 days of patrol per month, meaning at least 200 patrol man days provided by the CS unit.

The recovery of continued high numbers of illegal items is indicative of 2 things about the project:

- Poaching remains a significant threat to all wildlife in Nsumbu NP, especially elephant's due to their slow growth and breeding rates.
- Anti-poaching operations are having a significant effect on limiting the level and impact of poaching in NNP. Whilst poaching levels remain unacceptably high, the expected impact of over 800 snares and 21 firearms remaining in circulation would be devastating to wildlife populations.
- The manner in which the 2 elephant poaching cases were executed shows significant development in the overall law enforcement strategy in NNP. Neither case would have been discovered even 2 years ago.

Project outlook

This project continues supporting the concept of direct law enforcement activities being the most successful method of protecting elephants in Nsumbu. It is anticipated that the use of Community Scouts will continue to be crucial in providing manpower and the role of NGOs like CLT will be pivotal in raising funds for elephant conservation and executing projects efficiently.

CLT is in the process of building a larger conservation project in the region, this will continue with the strategy around which this project is built on, therefore it is expected that this project will expand significantly in the near future.

500 Word summary

Nsumbu National Park on the shores of Lake Tanganyika in Zambia's far north was renowned for its vast numbers of wildlife and especially elephants. Part of the wider Nsumbu-Mweru ecosystem that once sprawled across the top of Zambia as a protected wildlife refuge, its remote location and proximity to the troubled Democratic Republic of Congo all contributed to long term decline in the wildlife numbers due to inadequate protection. By 2012 the last core area of wildlife in Nsumbu NP was under siege and the remaining 100 or so elephants were being hunted for meat and ivory. Conservation Lake Tanganyika was formed by local stakeholder in response to this crisis to support the authorities in providing adequate manpower and logistical resources to protect what was left.

CLT continues working in Nsumbu today with a focus on law enforcement support to the Department of National Parks and Wildlife to achieve their mandate of wildlife protection. Since 2012 this support has expanded to include the recruitment, training and employment of young, fit and enthusiastic young Zambians to undertake the difficult task of law enforcement. Members of the Nsama Community Scout unit are now the most crucial component of anti-poaching teams in Nsumbu and regularly conduct long anti-poaching patrols for over 20 days every month.

The International Elephant Foundation came on board in 2016 with logistical and field equipment support of this Nsama VS unit and contributes towards CLT ensuring there are no less than 3 anti-poaching patrol teams on the ground at all times in the core elephant range in Nsumbu NP. Improvements in strategic support, including of a full-time patrol boat, new patrol uniforms and equipment, improved field monitoring and planning and unlimited field support to anti-poaching teams have all been supported by the IEF in Nsumbu and contributed positively to elephant conservation.

Poaching remains a significant threat to all wildlife in NNP, elephants included. 2017 has seen almost 1,000 snares removed from the park along with scores of arrests and firearms. However, despite the ongoing pressure, this project has had a positive effect on the elephant population in Nsumbu. Elephants are more widely roaming than in decades. Elephants are regularly seen in the GMA and in daylight hours, and elephant herds have a high prevalence of young animals and are breeding well.

Efforts to expand the project of supporting the Nsama Community Scout Unit to operate and protect elephants in NNP will continue to grow and remain a core component of the strategy to protect one of the most isolated and important elephant populations in Africa and contribute towards ensuring elephants persevere on the shores of Lake Tanganyika for the future.

50 Word summary

The support provided by the IEF towards law enforcement in Nsumbu National Park in Zambia through the Nsama community Scout Unit has been proven a success and is crucial for Nsumbu's elephants.

Associated organisations with project

Department of National Parks and Wildlife (formerly Zambia Wildlife Authority).

The DNPW is the government department tasked with managing all national parks and wildlife in Zambia. In Nsumbu there is an office of the Park Ranger who is in charge of all aspects of the national park. Wildlife Police Officers conduct all anti-poaching patrols in the NP. Whilst Community Scouts are officially employed by the Nsama CRB (see below) scouts are supervised by WPOs and the office of the PR. All anti-poaching patrols are led by a WPO. CLT directs its support towards assisting the DNPW carrying out its mandate and that includes this project. Patrol planning, deployments etc. are carried out in conjunction with CLT, however it remains under the direct supervision of the DNPW and its personnel.

The Nsama Community Resource Board

Community Resource Boards are elected bodies from communities surrounding national parks and Game Management Areas (GMAs). They are recognised by government as the official community representation and as partners in wildlife management, also sharing in income generation activities. The Nsama CRB is the organisation formed from communities in the wider Nsumbu area. All community scouts in Zambia are employed officially by the CRBs and this is no exception. In Nsumbu NP, CLT has an agreement in place to provide the salaries of 10 community scouts with the understanding that these community scouts are attached to Nsumbu National park specifically and under the supervision of CLT and the office of the PR. This projects provides support to these 10 community scouts specifically.

The Frankfurt Zoological Society

The Frankfurt Zoological Society (FZS) has partnered with CLT to create the Nsumbu Tanganyika Conservation Project (NTCP). This project has Craig Zytkow as project leader and aims to restore the entire Nsumbu-Mweru ecosystem, an area of over 10,000km² of wilderness area with Nsumbu NP as its core. The NTCP will continue with elephant conservation as its primary activity and help scale up all activities and processes to ensure a recovery of the habitat and elephant populations towards a wider range.