

Project Title	HEC mitigation through community managed Tongis (look out points) in fringe of Kaziranga NP, India.	
Report Type	2 nd Interim Report (Dec 2020)	
Principal Investigator	Name & Title:	Dr Naveen Pandey (Deputy Director)
	Institution:	The Corbett Foundation
	Institution Address:	Bochagaon, Kaziranga, Assam, INDIA 785609
	Phone, Fax, email:	+91 99543 75058 naveen.vet@gmail.com, www.corbettfoundation.org
Co-investigator	Name & Title:	Mr Sumanta Kundu (Senior Programme Officer)
	Phone, Fax, email:	91-9456190747/9163033224 sumanta1979@gmail.com
Other Team Members	<i>Name</i>	<i>Designation</i>
	Dibyajyoti Saikia	Community Mobilizer
	Jadumoni Goswami	Outreach coordinator
	Pankaj Rajguru	Field Assistant
	Rupan Saikia	Field Assistant
Project Start Date:	Jan 2020	
Project End Date:	Apr 2021	

2. The conservation needs this project addressed: and summarize the progress and results.

Kaziranga National Park (KNP) is located in Assam, a state in the northeastern region of India, and refers to a vast forest area spreading across five districts: Golaghat, Nagaon, Karbi-Anglong, Biswanath Chariyali and Sonitpur. It is a 'World Heritage Site' with two-thirds of the world's one horned rhinoceroses and hosts a very highly dense tiger population. KNP is part of Kaziranga Karbi Anglong Elephant Reserve (KKER) with an area of 3270 km² with population of 1940 elephants and connected to two other important Elephant Reserve such as Dhansiri-Lungding (Assam) and Intanki ER (Nagaland) combinedly covering an area of 2942 km² with 305 elephants. KNP is core area of KKER and act as source population of elephants in the landscape.

Human Elephant conflict (HEC) is a major obstacle for community living around Kaziranga National Park (KNP) and frequent depredation of crops causes considerable hardship for the community. The Corbett Foundation (TCF) always put emphasis on making community as an equal partner in all mitigation and conservation initiatives.

IEF have extended their support to community members living of the fringe of KNP to construct 90 "Tongis" (improvised look out points for crop guarding) for protection of crops and deter crop raiding elephants in an invasive way to reduce HEC in the project site and improve the financial condition of community and as well made the community members more interested in conservation and protection of wild elephants.

3. Summary of the Project progress and results (Till Dec 2020):

- ✓ 78 Tongis had been constructed in two phases
- ✓ Number of villages covered so far – 11
- ✓ Number of families involved – 314
- ✓ Approx number of people impacted – 1570 (average 5 person per family)

- ✓ Number of village meeting – 150
- ✓ Standing crop of 644 acres worth USD 111035.00 was protected through this project
- ✓ Procurement of materials for Tongis completed – 80 units
- ✓ Procurement of Torch completed – 90 units

Initially the project activities suffered badly due pandemic situation caused by COVID-19 and subsequent nationwide lockdown in India. But as soon as, restrictions were lifted gradually, the team also started their activities more rigorously maintaining all necessary guideline of Covid-19. But, again, the work got seriously hampered due to three waves of severe floods in the study area in the months of June, July and August.

4. Summary of the goals and objectives:

This IEF project is a field-based implementation of community managed HEC mitigation initiative. The goals and objectives of the project are mentioned below:

Goal: Mitigate HEC in fringe villages of Kaziranga National Park, Assam, India through community participation and strengthen conservation of endangered Asian Elephant in the landscape.

Project Objective 1:

To reduce HEC through installation of community managed Tongies and promotion of community based rotational crop guarding

Changes: No Change

Project Objective 2:

Sensitize community about conservation and protection needs of Elephants and reduction of HEC community education program

Changes: No Change

Project Objective 3:

Monitoring efficacy of HEC mitigation strategy and perception of people about elephants and HEC

Changes: No Change

Objective	Specific actions taken
To reduce HEC through installation of community managed Tongies and promotion of community based rotational crop guarding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Materials for 80 Tongis procured ✓ 90 Torches had been procured. ✓ Information on elephant conflict prone sites determined through field visits ✓ 78 Tongis had been constructed already.

Installation of Tongi	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Green	Green	White	White
Interim report	White	White	White	White	White	White	White	White	White	White	White	White	White	White	White	White	White
Awareness and sensitizing	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Green	Green	Green	Green
Monitoring & evaluation	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Green	Green	Green	Green
Final Report preparation & Submission	White	White	White	White	White	White	White	White	White	White	White	White	White	White	White	White	Green

6. Describe the conservation outcomes for elephants, other wildlife, habitat and human communities, and list major findings and accomplishments to date.

Presently, all these 78 Tongis were used for protection of paddy from elephants and other herbivores. All the beneficiaries informed the team that, installation of these Tongis and powerful torches were very effective and instrumental in deterring elephants and other crop raiding mega herbivores such rhinos and wild buffaloes from their paddy fields. As these Tongis have been aligned accordingly as per wildlife movement pattern, it provided more protection of crops as the farmers could detect the crop raiding animals as soon as they enter the crop field. During rice cultivation, at initial stage elephant raids are more common in nursery sites and less attack on the fields. Later, elephant raids become more intense in as soon as milking stage of rice sets in. The Tongis provided support in effective crop protection in both nursery and fields, thus resulted in more yields which provide more financial support.

**7. Approximately how many humans/communities are/were impacted by your project?
Approximately how many elephants are/were impacted by your project?**

At the, 1st Stage, the team had successfully constructed 24 Tongis. Team In the 2nd stage, the team completed construction of another 53 Tongis and the total tally reached to 78 Tongi units by the end of Dec 2020. The team will construct remaining 13 Tongis within the month of Feb 2021. Through these 78 Tongis, the team had connected about 1570 people from 314 families of 11 different villages. Through support of these 78 Tongis, it is estimated the standing crop of 644 acres worth USD 111035.00 was protected through this project.

8. Describe any problems discovered or that occurred during this grant period.

The team face two major problems during implementation of project; Covid-19 and Assam Floods.

Covid-19 Situation: Due to outbreak of Covid-19 pandemic, nationwide lockdown was imposed in India beginning from the middle of March 2020, which completely restricted the movement and field work of the team. As soon as relaxation granted by the authority, the team initiated the field activities in the study site.

Assam Floods: Unfortunately, the project site as all suffered three consecutive huge waves of floods within a span of thirty days in between June 2020 to July 2020. These flood waves had rendered displacement of many villagers from their home, submerging of crop fields, disruption of road connectivity in the proposed project site. In some places, rice sapling nursery also got completely damaged by floods which have made villagers to postpone cultivation of rice for this crop cycle.

9. Was your project successful? State short and long-term goals that you are using to evaluate your accomplishments.

The crop guarding through use of Tongi and powerful torchlight had already proved to be successful model. The support from IEF would surely increase the viability of the model in the landscape. Till date, all the Tongi beneficiary supported by IEF have informed that, through use of the Tongis and Torches and rotational crop guarding has resulted nearly zero damaged to the rice sapling nursery by elephants and other herbivores.

The Short-Term Goal is to reduce HEC in conflict prone areas with support from the community which was achieved through effective crop guarding with support from Tongis provided by IEF.

The long-term goal is to promote the model at landscape level and enhance the conservation of initiative of wild Asian elephants and the team hope that the effectiveness of these Tongis would reduce the antagonistic attitude towards wild elephants and elephant conservation among the members of beneficiary families.

10. Based on this Project, what is the “next step” for this project and does it have implications for future conservation actions?

The implementation of the project had suffered tremendously due to pandemic situation caused by Covid-19 and flood condition in Assam. The team had completed installation of 77 Tongis and the immediate “next step” is to complete the installation of the remaining 13 Tongis at the earliest and complete the other activities such as sensitizing programmes, monitoring and evaluation, perception survey etc after completion of one or two crop cycles in the study site. The other future aim is to replicate this IEF project in other HEC conflict zones of Assam or elsewhere in India and promote this IEF project as a most cost effective, non-invasive community managed HEC mitigation strategy.

11. Provide at least one human interest story.

This would be incorporated in the final report.

12. List all organizations associated with this project and their roles in the project:

Not Applicable.

13. Include an itemized financial report of IEF funds spent as a separate page of the report.

Included at the end of this report (**last page**)

14. Submit at least five high resolution digital images:

Attached with the email.

15. Submit at least one video clip least 2 minutes in length for each 6 month and final report.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ICbZzdbI8rc>

(this film is not to be treated for film competition. We will submit a better version before the deadline)

16. Do you intend to publish and/or present your findings at a conference or symposia?
Please provide us information about the journal/conference/symposia and a timeframe.

Yes. It will be planned towards the end of the project. We hope that conferences are organized once COVID 19 eases out, otherwise the findings of the project could be shared on a virtual conference platform.

17. Has your project received any media coverage? If so, provide copies of the articles, videos, etc complete with web links if the coverage was online.

Yes.

18. Please list all websites, blogs, social media accounts, etc associated with the project, its investigators, and organizations (this includes Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc)

Will be provided with the final report.

Complete list of 78 Tongis

	Village	Crop	No of Family	Total area covered under Tongi	Expected Yield in quintal	Value of Crop in USD
1	Rangajan	Paddy	4	8.33	125	1785.714
2	Rangajan	Paddy	4	6.33	95	1357.143
3	Rangajan	Paddy	4	8.33	125	1785.714
4	Rangajan	Paddy	3	6.67	100	1428.571
5	Rangajan	Paddy	4	6.67	100	1428.571
6	Rangajan	Paddy	4	8.00	120	1714.286
7	Rangajan	Paddy	3	5.67	85	1214.286
8	Rangajan	Paddy	3	6.50	97.5	1392.857
9	Rangajan	Paddy	4	7.50	112.5	1607.143
10	Rangajan	Paddy	3	3.67	55	785.7143
11	Bihdiya,Diffloopathar	Paddy	5	11.67	175	2500
12	Bihdiya,Diffloopathar	Paddy	4	11.33	170	2428.571
13	Sonarigaon,Diffloopathar	Paddy	5	14.50	217.5	3107.143
14	Sonarigaon,Diffloopathar	Paddy	5	12.17	182.5	2607.143
15	Sonarigaon,Diffloopathar	Paddy	4	11.00	165	2357.143
16	Dergayanpam,Japoripathar	Paddy	3	9.17	137.5	1964.286
17	Dergayanpam,Japoripathar	Paddy	3	8.33	125	1785.714
18	Dergayanpam,Japoripathar	Paddy	4	8.33	125	1785.714
19	Goshanibar	Paddy	5	8.00	120	1714.286
20	Goshanibar	Paddy	5	6.83	102.5	1464.286
21	Goshanibar	Paddy	5	8.83	132.5	1892.857
22	Goshanibar	Paddy	5	8.17	122.5	1750
23	Goshanibar	Paddy	5	9.17	137.5	1964.286
24	Goshanibar	Paddy	5	9.50	28.5	1425
25	Goshanibar	Paddy	5	10.00	150	2142.857
26	Goshanibar	Paddy	5	11.33	34	1700
27	Goshanibar	Paddy	5	10.00	30	1500
28	Goshanibar	Paddy	5	10.67	160	2285.714
29	Siljuri,Billpar	Paddy	5	8.33	125	1785.714
30	Siljuri,Billpar	Paddy	5	9.00	27	1350
31	Siljuri,Billpar	Paddy	5	7.50	22.5	1125

32	Siljuri,Billpar	Paddy	5	8.33	25	1250
33	Siljuri,Billpar	Paddy	5	8.83	26.5	1325
34	Siljuri,Billpar	Paddy	4	7.33	22	1100
35	Siljuri,Billpar	Paddy	4	6.00	18	900
36	Aamlakhi,Barbheta gaon	Paddy	5	12.67	38	1900
37	Aamlakhi,Barbheta gaon	Paddy	5	10.00	30	1500
38	Aamlakhi,Barbheta gaon	Paddy	6	13.67	41	2050
39	Aamlakhi,Barbheta gaon	Paddy	6	13.67	41	2050
40	Lukhurakhania	Paddy	4	8.67	26	1300
41	Lukhurakhania	Paddy	3	6.67	20	1000
42	Lukhurakhania	Paddy	3	7.00	21	1050
43	Lukhurakhania	Paddy	4	8.33	25	1250
44	Lukhurakhania	Paddy	5	8.00	24	1200
45	Lukhurakhania	Paddy	6	13.33	40	2000
46	Lukhurakhania	Paddy	5	10.33	31	1550
47	Lukhurakhania	Paddy	3	9.00	27	1350
48	Lukhurakhania	Paddy	3	10.67	32	1600
49	Lukhurakhania	Paddy	5	10.00	30	1500
50	Lukhurakhania	Paddy	5	13.33	40	2000
51	Bochagaon	Paddy	4	5.00	15	750
52	Bochagaon	Paddy	4	7.00	21	1050
53	Bejgaon	Paddy	4	8.33	25	1250
54	Bejgaon	Paddy	3	7.00	21	1050
55	Bejgaon	Paddy	3	6.00	18	900
56	Bejgaon	Paddy	3	6.00	18	900
57	Bejgaon	Paddy	4	7.67	23	1150
58	Bejgaon	Paddy	3	6.33	19	950
59	Bejgaon	Paddy	3	7.00	21	1050
60	Bejgaon	Paddy	3	5.00	15	750
61	Bejgaon	Paddy	4	8.67	26	1300
62	Bejgaon	Paddy	4	7.33	22	1100
63	Bejgaon	Paddy	3	6.00	18	900
64	Bejgaon	Paddy	3	5.33	16	800
65	Bejgaon	Paddy	3	6.00	18	900
66	Bejgaon	Paddy	3	7.00	21	1050
67	Bejgaon	Paddy	4	8.00	24	1200
68	Bejgaon	Paddy	3	5.67	17	850
69	Bejgaon	Paddy	3	6.00	18	900
70	Bejgaon	Paddy	3	6.00	18	900
71	Bejgaon	Paddy	3	6.00	18	900

72	Bejgaon	Paddy	3	7.00	21	1050
73	Bejgaon	Paddy	3	7.00	21	1050
74	Bejgaon	Paddy	3	7.17	21.5	1075
75	Bejgaon	Paddy	5	9.00	27	1350
76	Mahpara	Paddy	4	6.33	19	950
77	Mahpara	Paddy	3	5.67	17	850
78	Mahpara	Paddy	3	7.33	22	1100
			314	644.17	4622.5	111035.7

Financial Statement

FINANCIAL STATEMENT AS ON 31/12/2020		
Particular	INR	USD
First grant part		4846
Grant on dtd. 25th August 2020		4847
Total grant fund		9693
Total received fund (as reflected in bank)	6,99,528	9582
Expenses:		
Awareness/monitoring/ Vol. networking	31339	429.3
Goods carriage charges & Fuel	45307	620.6
Impact assessment & reporting	22488	308.1
Labour Charges/Conveyance	5500	75.3
Mobilisation meeting	28613	392.0
Raw material	313551	4295.2
Resource person/ Surveillance	30038	411.5
Torchlights	124301	1702.8
Total Exps	601137	8234.8
Balance amount as on 31.12.2020	98,391	1347.8