

Darwin Initiative Capability & Capacity Annual Report

To be completed with reference to the “Project Reporting Information Note”:
(<https://www.darwininitiative.org.uk/resources/information-notes/>).

It is expected that this report will be a **maximum of 20 pages** in length, excluding annexes)

Submission Deadline: 30th April 2024

Submit to: BCF-Reports@niras.com including your project ref in the subject line

Darwin Initiative Project Information

Project reference	DARCC022
Project title	South-south capacity building for human-elephant conflict management
Country/ies	Tanzania, Namibia
Lead Partner	IIED
Project partner(s)	Honeyguide Foundation, IRDNC
Darwin Initiative grant value	£191,964
Start/end dates of project	
Reporting period (e.g. Apr 2023 – Mar 2024) and number (e.g. Annual Report 1, 2, 3)	Apr 2023 – Mar 2024 Annual Report 1
Project Leader name	Dilys Roe
Project website/blog/social media	https://www.iied.org/south-south-capacity-building-for-human-elephant-conflict-management
Report author(s) and date	Dilys Roe, Anita Sohal, Sam Shaba, Meleck Laizer, Finley Bell, Kateto Ollekashe, Lemuta Mengoru, John Kasaona, Josephine Kamelo, Russell Vinjevold April 2024

1. Project summary

Wildlife can pose a direct and recurring threat to the life and livelihoods of people who live with or alongside it. And these people often retaliate and kill wildlife in response – or encourage others to do so - including rare and endangered species. Elephants can be particularly problematic, having the potential to wipe out a farmer’s entire harvest in one night, as well as being responsible for the loss of many human lives. The Elephant Crisis Fund (www.elephantcrisisfund.org) highlights that human-elephant conflict (HEC) is on the rise across Africa as people and elephants compete for space. In Southern Africa, where elephant populations are high, this problem is particularly pressing. Poor rainfall has also exacerbated the problem as both humans encroach further into wildlife areas in order to meet subsistence needs, and elephants move ever closer to community water points and farmland.

In Namibia, the community-focussed NGO Integrated Rural Development and Nature Conservation (IRDNC) has previously used electric fencing and community patrolling to protect farms from elephants, but this has had limited success, and pressures are constantly increasing. By contrast, in Tanzania, another community-focussed NGO – Honeyguide – has had

extraordinary success in supporting farmers on the edges of community owned and managed Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) to deal with elephants to the extent that they have seen as much as a 90% decrease in crop destruction in the areas where their approach has been implemented (<https://www.honeyguide.org/human-wildlife-conflict-prevention/>).

Being aware of Honeyguide's success, IRDNC approached IIED (a partner of both organisations) to request support to facilitate a capacity development programme, delivered by Honeyguide to community rangers from Namibia communal conservancies, providing first-hand experience of how the Honeyguide approach works in order. IIED plans to use the training materials developed under the project to provide resources for other community-focussed conservation organisations facing similar challenges.

2. Project stakeholders/ partners

The partners in this project are IIED in the UK, Honeyguide Foundation in Tanzania and IRDNC in Namibia. The partnership stemmed from a specific request from IRDNC for support in dealing with Human-Elephant Conflict. IRDNC was aware of effective elephant deterrent methods being deployed by Honeyguide in Tanzania in similar contexts (community-managed wildlife areas). Leaders of IRDNC and Honeyguide had previously interacted with each other in various African conservation events, but discussions around this project started at the African Protected Areas Congress (APAC) in July 2022 when IIED, Honeyguide and IRDNC all participated in a community conservation "pavilion". IRDNC requested Honeyguide to provide support to develop its capacity to manage human-elephant conflict and IIED was asked to help facilitate the project and provide technical support to both organisations in managing Darwin projects. IIED has also been working on HEC both through its implementation of a Darwin Initiative project on HEC insurance and through participation in the IUCN Human Wildlife Conflict and Coexistence Taskforce and various community conservation forums in Southern Africa all of which – it is anticipated – will be useful channels through which to disseminate information about the Honeyguide approach to other community-focussed conservation organisations beyond IRDNC.

Over the first year of the project, Honeyguide and IRDNC have benefitted from three in-person interactions (two visits by Honeyguide staff to Namibia and one visit by IRDNC staff and community rangers to Tanzania). The Namibian participants who are directly benefitted from the training are individuals who have already been selected by their communities to be the focal points for dealing with human-wildlife conflict in each conservancy. The selection process for these individuals is in the hands of their respective conservancies and run according to processes that the conservancies have put in place. Additional beneficiaries are IRDNC staff who, having gone through the training, will be better equipped to pass knowledge on to additional communal conservancy rangers.

The in-person interactions have really helped cement the partnership, building friendships as well as working relationships – chasing elephants together in the dark has helped forge a bond that will take time to break! This video documents the training visit in Tanzania and gives some insights into the nature of the relationship between Honeyguide and IRDNC: [Human-elephant Conflict \(Namibia\) on Vimeo](#)



3. Project progress

3.1 Progress in carrying out project Activities

Output 1: Community rangers in Namibia have increased knowledge and skills to tackle human-elephant conflict

1.1 Scoping visit to Namibia by Honeyguide staff

The scoping visit took place between 20th and 26th June 2023 and encompassed four conservancies: Omatendeka, Ongongo, Ozondundu, and Ombuyokanguindi. The Honeyguide team would not have been able to visit all the conservancies where the Human-elephant conflict toolkit is expected to be deployed due to limited time and distance between these conservancies, but the four conservancies were chosen for logistical reasons and to represent a reasonably diverse set of contexts to assess the toolkit's suitability.



Based on their observations the Honeyguide representatives were confident that all conservancies would be able to use their toolkit with a combination of torches, air horns, chilli clouds, Roman candles, chili fences and chill bricks. As part of their visit, they conducted a number of training exercises with a total of 210 individuals trained including 25 community rangers but also additional community members from three conservancies – Omatendeka, Okangundumba and Okachanja. The training aimed to enhance their knowledge and skills in effectively mitigating HWC incidents, ensuring better coexistence between communities and wildlife in the respective areas.

The Honeyguide team also identified a number of challenges including the vastness of the area being covered (one reason for reducing the number of conservancies from five in the logframe to four), the limited resources available – in terms of personnel and vehicles to back up the community rangers if needed, and the financial constraints faced by the conservancies in paying for the toolkits. All these are issues that IRDNC will need to take into consideration over the longer term. A report of the scoping visit is available at <https://www.irdnc.org.na/pdf/Honeyguide-Scoping-Namibia-Trip-Report.pdf>

1.2 Selection of rangers for training

As highlighted under the partnership section above, the selection of rangers for training was based on those that had gone through a conservancy selection process to be the focal points for human wildlife conflict. When the Honeyguide team arrived in Namibia for the scoping visit, they discovered 25 rangers had been pre-selected. These primarily consisted of younger individuals, with only a few older members because many rangers in Namibia are young people and they do voluntary work for the conservancies.

1.3 Training of Namibian community volunteer rangers in Tanzania

The training visit to Tanzania took place from 18th to 24th July 2024. 13 participants attended from 9 Namibian conservancies, accompanied by 5 IRDNC staff. The training covered a range of topics including elephant behaviour but the main focus was the four-part “toolkit” developed by Honeyguide. The training included a strong practical element with the Namibian rangers learning how to make chili crackers and how to use flashing strobe torches and air horns. The rangers got to interact with their Tanzania counterparts - Village Crop Protection Team members (people actively and frequently involved in managing problem situations) from nearby Wildlife Management Areas. One of the highlights for the Namibian rangers was the hands-on experience of dealing with elephants including a night-time chase deploying all components of the tool kit. Further details of the training are provided in the trip report: <https://www.irdnc.org.na/pdf/NAMIBIAN-COMMUNITY-GAME-GUARDS-AND-RANGERS-EDUCATIONAL-VISIT-TO-TANZANIA.pdf> and in this video: [Human-elephant Conflict \(Namibia\) on Vimeo](#)

Number of rangers and IRDNC staff attended the HEC training in Tanzania:

NAMES	ORGANISATION/CONSERVANCY	POSITION
EBSON RIKAMBURA	Okangundumba Conservancy	Chief
KAVEKO TJIRASO	Otjiu West Conservancy	Game Guard
PINIAS MUTUEZU	Okangundumba Conservancy	Senior Traditional Councillor
KAPERUE MUKUARUZE	Ozondundu Conservancy	Game Guard
KATUEPEYANDA GEVISON MUTEZE	Ozondundu Conservancy	KEW Ranger
JUSTUS MUTINDI UAARURA MUTEZE	Ozondundu Conservancy	Chief
SAM EDWARDT KASAONA	Otuzemba Conservancy	KEW Ranger
IPAHEUA MUHENJE	Ombwajokanguindi Conservancy	Game Guard
GUSTAPH TJIUNDUKAMBA	Omatendeka Conservancy	Chaiperson – KRCCA
JATURUMANA KOZOHURA	IRDNC	Senior Facilitator

IPINGE TJIUMA	Okangundumba Conservancy	KEW Ranger
GERSON TJOZONINGA MUZUMA	Ehrovipuka Conservancy	KEW Ranger
UERIKOTOKERA KOZOHURA	Sesfontein Conservancy	KEW Ranger
EVELINE ROSA SUZE	Kunene Elephant Walk Project - IRDNC	KEW Fundraiser and Photographer
DAVID RUSSELL VINJEVOLD	IRDNC	HWC Coordinator
JOHN KENENA KASAONA	IRDNC	Executive Director
NINA MENSING	Kunene Elephant Walk (KEW) Project -IRDNC	KEW Fundraiser and Social Media Content Creator
MUKUPA TJAVARA	Ongongo Conservancy	Game Guard

Output 2: Conservancies in Namibia are equipped with effective HEC management approaches and deterrents

2.1 Equipping of Namibian conservancies with HEC Toolkits

Following the training visit to Tanzania, Honeyguide provided IRDNC will a full list of equipment required to assemble the toolkits back home in Namibia. IRDNC were able to source and order some of the items locally to assemble ten HEC toolkits. There have been some concerns that the flashlights available in Namibia are not as effective as those used in Tanzania and when the Honeyguide team visited in March 2024 they brought 10 Flashy Light flashlights, which underwent successful testing and effectively addressed community challenges related to wildlife encounters by 100%. IRDNC subsequently requested an additional 10 units and we are in the process of working out how best to transport these from Tanzania to Namibia. There are also logistical challenges in transporting other equipment such as Chill Clouds, horns, and Thunder flashes which are better quality in Tanzania than those that are available locally in Namibia. The main differences were as follows:

- Roman candles sourced in Namibia produced a dimmer and less powerful shot.
- Firecrackers sourced in Namibia were slightly smaller and without waterproof fuses.
- Flashlights had a smaller range than the ones used by Honeyguide but included a multicoloured strobe feature.
- The electric megaphone could be spoken through and used to play pre-recorded audio such as bee sounds. However, it was battery powered, so it could be less reliable.

“We were not able to find the exact tools used by rangers in Tanzania, but we will just have to be creative.” - Russel IRDNC.

To address these challenges for future tool kits, the Director of IRDNC Mr. John Kasaona is planning a trip to Tanzania to engage with the Namibian Embassy to investigate securing the required permissions to transport these essential items that are not available locally.



Elements of the toolkit being assembled

Having seen the uniforms worn by the community scouts in the Tanzanian wildlife management areas, IRDNC are also keen to explore the potential to have something similar for the community rangers in Namibia and are looking into options for getting these made. IRDNC was also fortunate to receive a donation of 15 motorbikes from Rally for Rangers, a project of the Mongol Ecology Center (MEC) and an international NGO. These motorbikes were given to the trained rangers in the Kunene Region for patrolling and attending to Human-Wildlife Conflict (HWC) crimes in their respective conservancies – addressing one of the major challenges raised in the Honeyguide scoping visit trip regarding the vastness of the area and the limited transport. This has been a major boost to the project and the ability of the Namibian rangers to effectively respond to HWC incidents.

2.2 Ongoing monitoring of HEC and toolkit deployment and effectiveness in Namibian conservancies

The Honeyguide team managed to introduce the concept of data collection to the Namibia team who currently lack a system for day-to-day data collection on Human-Wildlife Conflict (HWC) or anti-poaching efforts. Honeyguide team shared information about various tools that are used for data collection in Tanzania, such as SMART and ODK. Efforts has been made to connect the relevant IRDNC and Honeyguide counterpart staff in order for Honeyguide to continue to provide support to IRDNC in this endeavour. We are currently awaiting feedback from the IRDNC team as to the effectiveness of the approach as they begin to integrate these data collection methods into their conservation efforts – this will be reported on in the next report. IRDNC is in the process of sourcing funding to purchase SMART devices and implement the SMART system. This will dramatically improve the paper-based system currently in use. The Elephant Walk program has a Coordinator who keeps track of this and also who monitors the use and replenishment of the toolkits.

2.3 Follow up visit to Namibia by Honeyguide staff

The Honeyguide team returned to Namibia from 18-24th March 2024. The purpose of the visit was essentially to repeat the training that was done in Tanzania but in a Namibian field context.

25 community rangers were trained at Omatendeka Conservancy in Kunene, focusing on the new crop protection toolkit and emphasizing their proper usage and associated risks. A debriefing session highlighted key aspects of teamwork, discipline, and operational efficiency, with discussions centered on improving ranger fitness levels and uniform standards. Field investigations provided valuable insights into elephant movements and crop damage patterns, prompting proposed strategies such as constructing pathways and establishing communication channels for quicker response to Elephant raids. Two rangers were assigned supervisory roles to enhance overall team performance, reflecting progress in developing effective conflict mitigation strategies and deepening understanding of wildlife behavior. The trip report with full details of the training provided and challenges incurred is waiting to be uploaded on the IRDNC website.

ASSESSMENT PROGRESS VISIT TO NAMIBIA
ITINERARY




AIM

- Review of the HEC training conducted in Tanzania
- Monitoring of HEC and toolkit deployment and effectiveness in Namibian conservancies
- Training farmers/communities on how to chase elephants away from their gardens

<div style="background-color: #d9ead3; padding: 5px; text-align: center; margin-bottom: 5px;">18 MARCH 2024</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arrival at Hosea Kutako Windhoek International Airport and transfer to Windhoek • Overnight at Uzuri Guesthouse (BB) ***https://www.uzuri-namibia.com/*** • Meet & Greet with Mr. John K Kasaona 	<div style="background-color: #d9ead3; padding: 5px; text-align: center; margin-bottom: 5px;">21-22 MARCH 2024</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training and night motoring of gardens in the conservancies
<div style="background-color: #d9ead3; padding: 5px; text-align: center; margin-bottom: 5px;">19 MARCH 2024</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Travel to Omatendeka Conservancy • Introduction to the farmers and rangers • Overnight at Omatendeka - Camping 	<div style="background-color: #d9ead3; padding: 5px; text-align: center; margin-bottom: 5px;">23 MARCH 2024</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rangers' Self Management Training • Recap and way forward
<div style="background-color: #d9ead3; padding: 5px; text-align: center; margin-bottom: 5px;">20 MARCH 2024</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training commence (08:00-11:00) • Travel to other Conservancies • Familiarize with gardens and meet farmers • Overnight at Ozondundu Conservancy - Camping 	<div style="background-color: #d9ead3; padding: 5px; text-align: center; margin-bottom: 5px;">24 MARCH 2024</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Travel back to Windhoek • Overnight at Uzuri Guesthouse (BB)
<div style="background-color: #d9ead3; padding: 5px; text-align: center; margin-bottom: 5px;">25 MARCH 2024</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transfer to Hosea Kutako Windhoek International Airport for return flight • Departure time: 	<div style="background-color: #d9ead3; padding: 5px; text-align: center; margin-bottom: 5px;">25 MARCH 2024</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transfer to Hosea Kutako Windhoek International Airport for return flight • Departure time:

Output 3: Interactive training materials on HEC management are available and widely disseminated in Africa and internationally

3.1 Documentation and videoing of training experience in Tanzania

Honeyguide has documented the training provided in Tanzania and Namibia producing a series of awareness films focused on addressing Human-Elephant Conflict (HEC) management challenges. These films highlight innovative strategies and tools designed to mitigate conflicts between humans and elephants.:

- **Introductory Film:** Developed during the training visit by the Namibian team in Tanzania's Randilen Wildlife Management Area (WMA), this film provides insights into the complexities of human-wildlife conflict programs and effective mitigation strategies. <https://vimeo.com/900049081?share=copy>
- **Torch Use Film:** Demonstrates the use of torches equipped with strobe lights to deter animals from farms by irritating their eyes, particularly effective against elephants. <https://vimeo.com/909075817?share=copy>
- **Air Horn and Siren Film:** Highlights the effectiveness of using air horns and sirens to produce high-frequency sounds that elephants dislike, encouraging them to avoid farmlands. <https://vimeo.com/909076292?share=copy>
- **Chill Clouds Film:** Introduces the innovative concept of "chill clouds," a mixture of chili, sand, and firecrackers used to disperse and irritate elephants' senses, effectively deterring them from agricultural areas. <https://vimeo.com/917115355?share=copy>

A fifth film is currently under development which will integrate all the tools and techniques showcased in the previous films to present a comprehensive approach to mitigating human-wildlife conflicts, particularly those impacting agricultural activities.

3.2 Development of interactive training materials

Honeyguide is in the process of updating its Human-Wildlife Conflict (HWC) mitigation manual based on the training experience. Significant progress has been made in refining the manual's content, which now includes detailed information on the effectiveness, efficiency, usage procedures, cost-effectiveness, and geographical applicability of various tools used in HWC mitigation efforts. Additionally, the manual now encompasses insights into elephant behaviour and reactions to these tools, crucial for community members' informed decision-making. Efforts have also been made to simplify the manual for wider accessibility to community members.

3.3 Dissemination of training materials in Namibia, in Southern Africa and internationally

Training materials are currently available to the IRDNC team via the links provided in this report and a shared Google Drive:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/154iKCZRhZjdGAfuf8YwJgJ4-KR7XWo5S>

. However in Year 2 of the project IIED will be working with Honeyguide to package the videos into a format that is easy to disseminate and also to disseminate the manual. IIED's membership of the IUCN Human Wildlife Conflict and Coexistence Taskforce will be used as a key dissemination channel, as will additional networks that the partners are involved in including the African Conservation Leadership Network, the Community Leaders Network of Southern Africa and the ICCA Consortium. IIED will also organise a webinar to further disseminate the findings.

3.2 Progress towards project Outputs

Output 1: Community rangers in Namibia have increased knowledge and skills to tackle human-elephant conflict

Output 1 is achieved. The indicators for this output were that at least 12 community rangers from at least 5 conservation would have:

- Indicator 1.1 - improved knowledge of elephant behaviour
- Indicator 1.2 - improved skills to manage HEC
- Indicator 1.3 - practical experience in deploying the HEC toolkit

As highlighted in the previous sections, training, and the opportunity to put training into practice in real life situations of elephant conflict, was provided to 25 rangers (13 on the training visit to Tanzania, 25 during the Honeyguide visit to Namibia) coming from 9 different conservancies (Okangundumba, Otjiu West, Ozondundu, Otuzemba, Ombwijekanguindi, Omatendeka, Ehrovipuka, Sesfotein and Ongongo) – thus exceeding the Output targets.

The trip reports (links provided earlier) provide evidence of the coverage of issues – including elephant behaviour, how to construct and use various tools in the toolkit, how to effectively deter elephants in a real life night time situation. We also conducted a survey of the rangers before and after the training to better understand the change in their knowledge and skills. Ten of the rangers completed the survey form. In terms of improved knowledge of elephant behaviour, prior to the training 3/10 said they were either very knowledgeable or had enough knowledge to predict elephant behaviour, whereas after the training 10/10 ticked on of other of these responses. In terms of improved skills, 5 rangers had already used some of the methods in the Honeyguide toolkit whereas 5 found these completely different to anything they had tried before. After the training all respondents said they felt very confident they had the relevant skills and methods available. And in terms of practical experience, 2 rangers had no prior experience; 6 had used various methods before but not found any effective; 2 had used different methods and had some success. After the training all 10 reported they felt either confident or very confident that they had effective methods they could use. The survey results are available here: [Survey results.xlsx \(sharepoint.com\)](#)

Output 2: Conservancies in Namibia are equipped with effective HEC management approaches and deterrents

Output 2 is on track. The indicators for this output are:

- 2.1 HEC Toolkits available to at least seven conservancies in Namibia
- 2.2 Training in HEC management passed on to at least one additional community HEC responder in at least 5 conservancies by the trained volunteer rangers by end of project
- 2.3 HEC training and HEC toolkit rolled out by IRDNC to at least 2 other conservancies in Namibia (beyond those trained by Honeyguide)

As discussed earlier, ten HEC toolkits have now been assembled and distributed to Ongongo, Ombuijokanguindi, Okatjandja kozomenje; Otuzemba; Ozondundu; Okangundumba, Ehrovipuka and Omatendeka conservancies. Training in HEC management has been passed on to a 210 community members from three conservancies (see trip report from March visit of Honeyguide to Namibia) although this has happened via Honeyguide rather than via the trained rangers. Further roll out of the training and the toolkits will happen in Year 2 of the project. Overall IRDNC hopes to roll out the approach to the whole of the Kunene region and into other regions and is currently in the process of putting funding proposals together to support this. As also noted above, a monitoring system is now being put in place by IRDNC on Honeyguide's recommendation and this will help to monitor use of the toolkit going forward

Output 3: Interactive training materials on HEC management are available and widely disseminated in Africa and internationally

Output 3 is on track. The indicators for this output are:

- 3.1 At least two types of interactive training material developed
- 3.2 Training materials disseminated to all conservancies with elephants in Namibia
- 3.3 Training materials disseminated to community conservancy associations and support NGOs in at least 3 other low income Southern African countries
- 3.4 Training materials disseminated internationally to at least 500 recipients

As discussed earlier, a series of short and accessible videos have been developed documenting the training and the tools in the Honeyguide toolkit. In Year 2 these will be finalised and packaged together into a toolkit of videos. Honeyguide is also in the process of updating and simplifying a practical manual for rangers. This will also be finalised in Year 2. The videos are already available online but are not yet being actively promoted or disseminated – this will happen in Year 2 once we have the full complement available and have them packaged into a user friendly tool kit

The remaining dissemination activities – within Namibia, Southern Africa and internationally will all happen in Year 2 as per the workplan

3.3 Progress towards the project Outcome

The anticipated outcome of this project is “Improved HEC management in Namibian conservancies resulting in improved attitudes to elephants and reduced negative livelihood impacts for small farmers and their households”

The indicators of successful achievement of this outcome are:

- 0.1 At least 5 Namibian conservancies reporting they are better equipped and skilled to deal with HEC by end of project
- 0.2 At least 50% reduction in incidence of negative encounters with elephants by end of project reported by conservancies
- 0.3 At least one other country reporting plans to adopt similar approaches by end of project

Progress is being made towards the outcome as evidenced by the number of rangers reporting access to, and deployment of, improved skills, knowledge and tools. However a robust monitoring system needs to be put in place in order to determine whether or not the project achieves its ambition of a 50% reduction in negative encounters as a result of the improved capacity. Timely dissemination and promotion of the experience and the tools will also determine the likelihood of other countries reporting plans to adopt a similar approach.



3.4 Monitoring of assumptions

1. Honeyguide training programme is adaptable to HEC context in Namibia

Assumption met – the scoping visit by Honeyguide to Namibia at the start of the project concluded that the Namibian context was indeed suitable (albeit with significant challenges related to the scale of operation and availability of vehicles) and the second visit by Honeyguide actually saw the use of the tools in situ in Namibia

2. Namibian volunteer rangers are receptive to training and able to retain and then deploy new skills and knowledge

Assumption met – the training report and video and survey all document the enthusiasm of the trainees while the Honeyguide visit to Namibia in March witnessed the beginning of the deployment of the new tools

3. IRDNC are sufficiently upskilled to be able to roll out training to additional conservancies in Namibia

Assumption not yet tested. However 5 IRDNC staff participated in the training trip to Tanzania alongside the rangers and so the expectation is that this should be sufficient for them to support further training. Furthermore, based on our post-training survey of rangers, all the responding trainees reported that they felt very confident that they could train others.

4. HEC toolkit components can be easily and cheaply sourced in Namibia

Assumption partly upheld – the components are available in Namibia although the quality and fit for purpose is not as high as in Tanzania. Discussions between IRDNC and the Namibian Embassy in Tanzania may be able to find an option for components to be imported

5. Training programme lends itself to documentation in interactive formats

Assumption largely met – the training programme has been documented in a series of engaging videos which are very accessible. A practical manual will also be available. At this point in time we do not have feedback from new users to determine their thoughts on the usefulness of the materials

6. There is sufficient interest in HEC mitigation for other community-focussed organisations to utilise the training materials

Assumption not yet tested

3.5 Achievement of positive impact on biodiversity and poverty reduction

In our proposal we noted that the immediate beneficiaries of the capacity development activities would be the community rangers from Namibia who would have improved knowledge about elephant behaviour and improved skills in how to manage that behaviour in order to reduce human elephant conflict.

We know from the trip reports and the post training survey that the community rangers do indeed feel better equipped to deal with elephants and we also know from the trip reports that HEC toolkits have been deployed effectively in real life situations.

Our proposal suggested that this improved knowledge, skills and equipment would result in the trained rangers being more able to protect their conservancies in Namibia, each of which is home to between 700 and 2000 people and that there would be a significant reduction in HEC as a result. We don't yet know if this is the case. The toolkits have only recently been fully assembled and deployed and a monitoring system is being developed by IRDNC at Honeyguide's suggestion. We expect to be able to report on this in Year 2.

Assuming the new approach is effective at reducing HEC this will result in a reduction in crop destruction which will mean that, from a poverty perspective, households will be more food secure and also have more income. And from a conservation perspective it will mean that there will be less antagonism towards elephants and retaliatory killings will be reduced or, ideally, eliminated. IRDNC will collect information on this so as to be able to affirm (or not) this assumption in Year 2.

4. Project support to the Conventions, Treaties or Agreements

The project is responding directly to the Namibian Human Wildlife Conflict Management Policy 2018-2027 is based on 13 principles, one of which is specifically to empower communities and farmers to manage human wildlife conflict. Reducing human wildlife conflict is part of Target 4 of the CBD Global Biodiversity Framework. However the indicator for this is still under discussion and so it is not yet possible to know if the project will generate outcomes that support the Namibian government in reporting against this Target. The SBSTTA meeting in May 2024 may shed more light on this.

5. Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI)

Please quantify the proportion of women on the Project Board ¹ .	50% (3 out of 6 people)
Please quantify the proportion of project partners that are led by women, or which have a senior leadership team consisting of at least 50% women ² .	<p>None of the three partner organisations are led by women. IIED's senior leadership team is currently in a transition phase but should consist of at least 50% women once confirmed.</p> <p>IRDNC does not have 50% of senior leadership consisting of women, however, Kunene region – the biggest in Namibia with 35 conservancies is led by a woman as is the IRDNC Advocacy Unit in Zambezi region.</p>

¹ A Project Board has overall authority for the project, is accountable for its success or failure, and supports the senior project manager to successfully deliver the project.

² Partners that have formal governance role in the project, and a formal relationship with the project that may involve staff costs and/or budget management responsibilities.

	Honeyguide’s senior leadership team is all male but 2/7 board members are women.
--	--

GESI Scale	Description	Put X where you think your project is on the scale
Not yet sensitive	The GESI context may have been considered but the project isn’t quite meeting the requirements of a ‘sensitive’ approach	X
Sensitive	The GESI context has been considered and project activities take this into account in their design and implementation. The project addresses basic needs and vulnerabilities of women and marginalised groups and the project will not contribute to or create further inequalities.	
Empowering	The project has all the characteristics of a ‘sensitive’ approach whilst also increasing equal access to assets, resources and capabilities for women and marginalised groups	
Transformative	The project has all the characteristics of an ‘empowering’ approach whilst also addressing unequal power relationships and seeking institutional and societal change	

We have marked the project as not sensitive since the majority of rangers trained are male and the project partners have not sought to influence the selection process of the Conservancies to recruit more female rangers. This gender imbalance was noted by Honeyguide in one of their trip reports. It is possible for IRDNC to encourage the Conservancies to select more female rangers in the future, but the Conservancies are independent organisations with their own rules and processes in place and it is not possible for IRDNC to insist upon this. Furthermore the fact that the rangers are volunteers and are located in inhospitable environments has not made the role particularly attractive for women.

6. Monitoring and evaluation

Overall monitoring of project progress is based on the logframe and the indicators within the logframe. Partners have had regular video meetings or email exchanges to catch up on specific activities and check in on progress against the workplan and against the agreed outputs and indicators.

A before/after training survey was used to assess changes in ranger’s knowledge and skills. This also revealed that all the trainees felt the training was effective and all felt confident that they could pass on new skills and knowledge to others.

Progress is also monitored through the series of exchange visits – in particular because of the face to face interaction with the trainees over a period of time Honeyguide have been able to detect improvements in knowledge of elephant behaviour and in skills for deterring elephants. Trip reports are prepared after each visit and include recommendations and lessons that are shared amongst the project partners.

Day to day monitoring of elephant encounters is currently on paper based records but IRDNC hopes to be able to mobilise sufficient funding to move the monitoring system onto SMART.

7. Lessons learnt

As described in earlier sections, the training provided by Honeyguide was very well received and the trainee rangers reported positively on new knowledge and skills. The face-to-face interactions worked really well – it was hugely valuable for the Honeyguide team to visit Namibia in advance of the training and understand the context in which the tools they have developed would be deployed. It was an enlightening experience for the Namibian rangers to visit Tanzania, to see a different model of conservancy in the form of the Wildlife Management Areas, to talk with their counterparts in those areas and exchange experiences and to participate directly in an effort to chase elephants off farmland. As noted in the trip report “*The value of this exchange visit is not just confined to the objectives of the trip. The motivation factor is enormous, and the broad educational impact is very significant. The trip was an eye-opener for all and has stimulated interest and passion in most. All are keen to take what they learned back to their home environments and make a difference.*”

One of the recommendations for the future – subject to funding – was that more exchanges of this nature should happen, potentially extending to other countries and for a longer period of time (eg both Honeyguide and IRDNC have suggested that a one month exchange would be helpful).

One aspect that hasn't worked so well is the purchasing of the toolkit components locally – as discussed above, the components available in Namibia are less effective and fit for purpose than those that are available in Tanzania.

8. Actions taken in response to previous reviews (if applicable)

N/A

9. Risk Management

No new risks and no significant adaptations to project design

10. Sustainability and legacy

We have not yet started actively promoting the outcomes of the project in Namibia or disseminating the training materials. In terms of maintaining the built capacity – the skills and knowledge acquired have been put into practice and tested and as such are unlikely to be lost. However the effectiveness of the approach is dependent on the availability of the tools. While the project provided funding for 10 toolkits, IRDNC will need to find additional funds to provide more tool kits to other conservancies or to replace components of the tool kit. The kits have been designed to be as low cost as possible and Honeyguide has recommended IRDNC use the same model they use with farmers contributing a small amount of money towards the tools – an approach that has proved successful in Tanzania. IRDNC will explore this and other options in Year 2

11. Darwin Initiative identity

The Darwin logo has been used on all the project outputs (see videos, trip reports and project website). Our main communications and dissemination efforts start in Year 2 and we will continue to promote the Darwin Initiative in any social media posts or other communications activities including a planned webinar.

12. Safeguarding

Has your Safeguarding Policy been updated in the past 12 months?	No
Have any concerns been reported in the past 12 months	No
Does your project have a Safeguarding focal point?	Yes: Anita Sohal ([REDACTED])

Has the focal point attended any formal training in the last 12 months?	No
What proportion (and number) of project staff have received formal training on Safeguarding?	Past: None Planned: None
<p>Has there been any lessons learnt or challenges on Safeguarding in the past 12 months? Please ensure no sensitive data is included within responses.</p> <p>Safeguarding hasn't been an issue to date. If in future more female rangers are employed this may become a consideration especially given the remote conditions rangers are working in and the need to work at night. Nevertheless Honeyguide already work with female rangers and no issues have been reported to date</p>	
<p>Please describe any community sensitisation that has taken place over the past 12 months; include topics covered and number of participants.</p> <p>The Honeyguide visit to Namibia in March 2024 included community sensitisation around HEC, elephant behaviour and deterrents. 210 participants attended.</p>	
<p>Have there been any concerns around Health, Safety and Security of your project over the past year? If yes, please outline how this was resolved.</p> <p>No – ranger activities are inherently dangerous given the exposure to dangerous wild animals. The Honeyguide training includes attention to this including safe distances to keep, when to deploy a deterrent and then quickly move away, quick release catches on equipment that is attached to rangers, repeated safety trainings on HEC mitigation toolkits usage conducted annually and first aid trainings conducted every 2 to 3 years. IRDNC hope to introduce formal first aid training for rangers if successful in raising additional funds</p>	

13. Project expenditure

Table 1: Project expenditure during the reporting period (1 April 2023 – 31 March 2024)

Project spend (indicative) since last Annual Report	2023/24 Grant (£)	2023/24 Total Darwin Initiative Costs (£)	Variance %	Comments (please explain significant variances)
Staff costs (see below)				DRAFT
Consultancy costs				DRAFT
Overhead Costs				DRAFT
Travel and subsistence				DRAFT Original budget is for 60,048. Financial change request was submitted moving 4,466 to 24/25.
Operating Costs				DRAFT
Capital items (see below)				
Others (see below)				
TOTAL	156561	155945.38		

Project mobilised or matched funding during the reporting period (1 April 2023 – 31 March 2024)

	Secured to date	Expected by end of project	Sources
Matched funding leveraged by the partners to deliver the project (£)			In kind contributions from IRDNC and Honeyguides; unfunded staff time contributions from IIED
Total additional finance mobilised for new activities occurring outside of the project, building on evidence, best practices and the project (£)			15 Motorbikes provided by MOngol Ecology Center

14. Other comments on progress not covered elsewhere

No further comments – overall the project is on track although widespread roll out of toolkits in Namibia will require additional funding. IRDNC are actively exploring this with donors.

15. OPTIONAL: Outstanding achievements or progress of your project so far (300-400 words maximum). This section may be used for publicity purposes.

I agree for the Biodiversity Challenge Funds to edit and use the following for various promotional purposes (please leave this line in to indicate your agreement to use any material you provide here).

File Type (Image / Video / Graphic)	File Name or File Location	Caption including description, country and credit	Social media accounts and websites to be tagged (leave blank if none)	Consent of subjects received (delete as necessary)
Video	https://vimeo.com/900049081	Human-elephant Conflict exchange visit – Namibia to Tanzania, (credit Honeyguide)		Yes
Video	https://vimeo.com/909075817	Torch - Flashlights, a first tool in elephant deterrence, Tanzania, (credit Honeyguide)		Yes
Video	https://vimeo.com/909076292	Air horn Tanzania, a second tool in elephant deterrence, (credit Honeyguide)		Yes
Video	https://vimeo.com/914323950	Chili Cracker, a third tool in elephant deterrence, Tanzania, (credit Honeyguide)		Yes
Video	https://vimeo.com/917115355	Roman Candle, a fourth tool in elephant deterrence, Tanzania, (credit Honeyguide)		Yes

Annex 1: Report of progress and achievements against Indicators of Success for Financial Year 2023-2024

Project summary	Progress and Achievements April 2023 - March 2024	Actions required/planned for next period
Outcome: Improved HEC management in Namibian conservancies resulting in improved attitudes to elephants and reduced negative livelihood impacts for small farmers and their households		
Outcome indicator 0.1 0.1 At least 5 Namibian conservancies reporting they are better equipped and skilled to deal with HEC by end of project	Achieved: 10 rangers from 6 conservancies reported feeling better equipped and skilled to deal with HEC	It is anticipated that trained rangers will continue to train and upskill others
Outcome indicator 0.2, 0.2 At least 50% reduction in incidence of negative encounters with elephants by end of project reported by conservancies	Not yet assessed	Monitoring system to be effective by Year 2 and baseline created from existing conservancy reports
Outcome indicator 0.3, 0.3 At least one other country reporting plans to adopt similar approaches by end of project	No progress – communications activities not yet started	Dissemination of training materials, awareness webinar, monitoring of feedback
Output 1 Community rangers in Namibia have increased knowledge and skills to tackle human-elephant conflict		
Output indicator 1.1 1.1 At least 12 community volunteer rangers from at least 5 conservancies in Namibia have improved knowledge of elephant behaviour	Achieved: 13 rangers attended training from 9 conservancies were trained. 10 completed a before/after survey, Prior to the training 3/10 said they were either very knowledgeable or had enough knowledge to predict elephant behaviour, whereas after the training the response was 10/10	Use trained rangers to spread training to other community rangers
Output indicator 1.2, 1.2 At least 12 community volunteer rangers from at least 5 conservancies in Namibia have improved skills to manage HEC (Achieved: All 13 rangers were exposed to new skills. IN a follow up survey 5/10 responding rangers had already used some of the methods in the Honeyguide toolkit whereas 5 found these completely different to anything they had tried before. After the training all respondents said they felt very confident they had the relevant skills and methods available.	Use trained rangers to spread training to other community rangers

Output indicator 1.3 1.3 At least 12 community volunteer rangers from at least 5 conservancies in Namibia have practical experience in deploying the HEC toolkit (baseline)	Achieved: All 13 rangers participated in practical - real life – situations to deter elephants while on training. Prior to training, of 10 rangers completing a survey 2 had no prior experience; 6 had used various methods before but not found any effective; 2 had used different methods and had some success. After the training all 10 reported they felt either confident or very confident that they had effective methods they could use in a practical situation	Use trained rangers to spread training to other community rangers
Output 2. Conservancies in Namibia are equipped with effective HEC management approaches and deterrents		
Output indicator 2.1. 2.1 HEC Toolkits available to at least seven conservancies in Namibia	Achieved: Ten toolkits were assembled and distributed to nine conservancies (one conservancy which has particularly severe problems received two)	Further case studies will be assembled and distributed as and when funding allows
Output indicator 2.2. 2.2 Training in HEC management passed on to at least one additional community HEC responder in at least 5 conservancies by the trained volunteer rangers by end of project	Partly achieved: Additional training was provided to 210 community representatives from 3 conservancies during Honeyguide's second visit to Namibia in March 2024	Roll out further training to additional community rangers in at least two more conservancies
Output indicator 2.3 2.3 HEC training and HEC toolkit rolled out by IRDNC to at least 2 other conservancies in Namibia (beyond those trained by Honeyguide)	Not yet started	IRDNC to prioritise roll out in Year 2
Output 3. Interactive training materials on HEC management are available and widely disseminated in Africa and internationally		
Output indicator 3.1 3.1 At least two types of interactive training material developed	On track: 4 videos produced, one manual in process of being updated. See section 3.2 for relevant links	Honeyguide to finish videos and manual, IIED to work with Honeyguide to package videos into a toolkit
Output indicator 3.2 3.2 Training materials disseminated to all conservancies with elephants in Namibia	Not yet started	Dissemination to be led by IRDNC once training materials complete
Output indicator 3.3 3.3 Training materials disseminated to community conservancy associations and support NGOs in at	Not yet started	IIED to lead dissemination once training materials complete

least 3 other low income Southern African countries		
Output indicator 3.4 3.4 Training materials disseminated internationally to at least 500 recipients	Not yet started	IIED to lead dissemination including via the IUCN HWC Specialist Group

Annex 2: Project’s full current Indicators of Success as presented in the application form (unless changes have been agreed)

Project summary	SMART Indicators	Means of verification
<p>Outcome: Improved HEC management in Namibian conservancies resulting in improved attitudes to elephants and reduced negative livelihood impacts for small farmers and their households</p>	<p>0.1 At least 5 Namibian conservancies reporting they are better equipped and skilled to deal with HEC by end of project 0.2 At least 50% reduction in incidence of negative encounters with elephants by end of project reported by conservancies 0.3 At least one other country reporting plans to adopt similar approaches by end of project</p>	<p>0.1 Conservancy reports to IRDNC 0.2 Conservancy monthly HEC monitoring records 0.3 Requests to Honeyguide for practical training 0.4 Feedback to project partners from countries to whom training material has been disseminated</p>
<p>Output 1 Community rangers in Namibia have increased knowledge and skills to tackle human-elephant conflict</p>	<p>1.1 At least 12 community volunteer rangers from at least 5 conservancies in Namibia have improved knowledge of elephant behaviour (baseline 0) 1.2 At least 12 community volunteer rangers from at least 5 conservancies in Namibia have improved skills to manage HEC (baseline 0) 1.3 At least 12 community volunteer rangers from at least 5 conservancies in Namibia have practical experience in deploying the HEC toolkit (baseline 0)</p>	<p>Output 1 1.1 Knowledge tests before and after training 1.2 Skills tests before and after training 1.3 Trainees self-reported assessment of their knowledge and skills compared to before training 1.4 Field visit records 1.5 Reports of back-stopping/technical support requests submitted to Honeyguide</p>
<p>Output 2 Conservancies in Namibia are equipped with effective HEC management approaches and deterrents</p>	<p>2.1 HEC Toolkits available to at least seven conservancies in Namibia (baseline 0) 2.2 Training in HEC management passed on to at least one additional community HEC responder in at least 5 conservancies by the trained volunteer rangers by end of project (baseline 0) 2.3 HEC training and HEC toolkit rolled out by IRDNC to at least 2 other</p>	<p>2.1 Availability of toolkits 2.2 Community ranger reports of toolkit deployment to manage HEC incidents 2.3 Conservancies reports of numbers of trained HEC responders 2.4 Training records maintained by IRDNC</p>

	conservancies in Namibia (beyond those trained by Honeyguide)	
Output 3 Interactive training materials on HEC management are available and widely disseminated in Africa and internationally	<p>3.1 At least two types of interactive training material developed (baseline 0)</p> <p>3.2 Training materials disseminated to all conservancies with elephants in Namibia</p> <p>3.3 Training materials disseminated to community conservancy associations and support NGOs in at least 3 other low income Southern African countries</p> <p>3.4 Training materials disseminated internationally to at least 500 recipients</p>	<p>3.1 Availability of training materials online</p> <p>3.2 IRDNC dissemination records</p> <p>3.3 IIED and Honeyguide dissemination records</p> <p>3.4 IIED dissemination records; web statistics</p>
<p>Activities (each activity is numbered according to the output that it will contribute towards, for example 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3 are contributing to Output 1)</p> <p>1.1 Scoping visit to Namibia by Honeyguide staff</p> <p>1.2 Selection of rangers for training</p> <p>1.3 Training of Namibian community volunteer rangers in Tanzania</p> <p>2.1 Equipping of Namibian conservancies with HEC Toolkits</p> <p>2.2 Ongoing monitoring of HEC and toolkit deployment and effectiveness in Namibian conservancies</p> <p>2.3 Follow up visit to Namibia by Honeyguide staff</p> <p>3.1 Documentation and videoing of training experience in Tanzania</p> <p>3.2 Development of interactive training materials</p> <p>3.3 Dissemination of training materials in Namibia, in Southern Africa and internationally</p>		
<p>Important Assumptions</p> <p>1. Honeyguide training programme is adaptable to HEC context in Namibia</p> <p>2. Namibian volunteer rangers are receptive to training and able to retain and then deploy new skills and knowledge</p> <p>3. IRDNC are sufficiently upskilled to be able to roll out training to additional conservancies in Namibia</p> <p>4. HEC toolkit components can be easily and cheaply sourced in Namibia</p> <p>5. Training programme lends itself to documentation in interactive formats</p> <p>6. There is sufficient interest in HEC mitigation for other community-focussed organisations to utilise the training material</p>		

Annex 3: Standard Indicators

Table 1 Project Standard Indicators

DI Indicator number	Name of indicator	Units	Disaggregation	Year 1 Total	Year 2 Total	Year 3 Total	Total to date	Total planned during the project
DI-A01	Number of people in eligible countries who have completed structured and relevant training [Community rangers and IRDNC staff trained]	People	Men	15			15	15
DI-A01	Number of people in eligible countries who have completed structured and relevant training [Community rangers and IRDNC staff trained]	People	Women	3			3	0
DI-A03	Number of local/national organisations ⁴ with improved capability and capacity as a result of project. [Community Conservancies trained and equipped with HEC toolkits]	Number	Local	9			9	5
DI-A03	Number of local/national organisations ⁴ with improved capability and capacity as a result of project.[National NGOs trained]	Number	National	1			1	1
DI-AO4	Number of people reporting that they are applying new capabilities (skills and knowledge) 6 (or more) months after training.	People	Men	0			0	15
DI-AO4	Number of people reporting that they are applying new capabilities (skills and knowledge) 6 (or more) months after training.	People	Women	0			0	3
DI-CO1	Number of best practice guides and knowledge products ¹⁰ published and endorsed ¹¹ .	Number	Toolkit	0			0	1

Table 2 Publications

Title	Type (e.g. journals, best practice manual,	Detail (authors, year)	Gender of Lead Author	Nationality of Lead Author	Publishers (name, city)	Available from (e.g. weblink or publisher if not available online)

	blog post, online videos, podcasts, CDs)					
South-South Capacity Building for Human Elephant Conflict Management	Webpage	IIED, 2023	Female	British	IIED, London	
Training Namibian Rangers in elephant conflict management	Video	Jamal Fadhili, 2024	Male	Tanzanian	Honeyguide, Arusha	https://vimeo.com/900049081?share=copy
Torch use	Video	Jamal Fadhili, 2024	Male	Tanzanian	Honeyguide, Arusha	https://vimeo.com/909075817?share=copy
Air horn and siren use	Video	Jamal Fadhili, 2024	Male	Tanzanian	Honeyguide, Arusha	https://vimeo.com/909076292?share=copy
Chilli cloud use	Video	Jamal Fadhili, 2024	Male	Tanzanian	Honeyguide, Arusha	https://vimeo.com/917115355?share=copy

Annex 4: Onwards – supplementary material (optional but encouraged as evidence of project achievement)

No further material to add – all reports, videos and other outputs have been provided as hyperlinks in the main report

Checklist for submission

	Check
Different reporting templates have different questions, and it is important you use the correct one. Have you checked you have used the correct template (checking fund, type of report (i.e. Annual or Final), and year) and deleted the blue guidance text before submission?	X
Is the report less than 10MB? If so, please email to BCF-Reports@niras.com putting the project number in the Subject line.	X
Is your report more than 10MB? If so, please discuss with BCF-Reports@niras.com about the best way to deliver the report, putting the project number in the Subject line.	
Have you included means of verification? You should not submit every project document, but the main outputs and a selection of the others would strengthen the report.	X
If you are submitting photos for publicity purposes, do these meet the outlined requirements (see section 15)?	N/A
Have you involved your partners in preparation of the report and named the main contributors	X
Have you completed the Project Expenditure table fully?	X
Do not include claim forms or other communications with this report.	