

## Marafiki wa Tembo Initiative

### Strengthening Community Based Conservation of African Elephants in Selous Game Reserve, Tanzania

#### Implementation Report Phase 2- May 2018 - January 2019

By Evodius Waziri Rutta, Project Team Leader

During this phase of the project, the use of print, digital and social media was prioritized to increase the project impact particularly on educating more community members neighboring Selous Game Reserve and other protected areas in Tanzania regarding conservation of Elephants. On print media, more copies of a project hand book titled *Marafiki wa TEMBO Tanzania (Friends of Elephants Tanzania)* were published and provided to 80 village youths (45 Female & 35 Male) and adult community members in Ngarambe Magharibi and Ngarambe Mashariki villages. The updated version of the book covered several topics related to Elephants Conservation including *Elephants and their behaviour, Elephants Needs and their benefits to local/national economy, Major threats for Elephants survival* and *Youth role towards zero poaching of African Elephants in Selous and beyond*. Likewise, a project Facebook page **@marafikiwatembo** was created and is currently active, with regular posts and updates regarding conservation of Elephants in and outside Tanzania.

More importantly, radio and TV appearances were done by project team members to discuss project activities to wider Tanzanian community particularly rural community members that are adjacent to Selous and other protected areas. Project team members Evodius Rutta and Omary Pandisha were invited in the national television Tanzania Broadcasting Corporation (TBC1) on its prime morning talk show **JAMBO TANZANIA**. The project team half an hour talk at TBC1 studios covered wide range of issues such concerning conservation of Elephants in Tanzania as how to resolve elephant-human conflicts, youth-role towards zero poaching in Tanzania and environmental and economic significance of Elephants and other wildlife in Tanzania. TBC1 Management was very impressed with project activities and congratulated project team efforts targeting village youth neighboring Selous. Given the poaching crisis in Tanzania that left half of Elephants in Selous killed, Elephants conservation and controlling poaching remains Tanzania's top priority of the government and we are happy to contribute in these efforts especially in remote places like Selous. (A video clip of project team interview at TBC1 will be attached in this report). Furthermore, the project team did three Radio interviews, one radio interview was done with EBONY FM based in Iringa region, in the southern highlands of Tanzania and two radio interviews with TBC1 FM based in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania's commercial capital. The two stations have wider coverage in Tanzania reaching millions of Tanzanians particularly those in rural areas such as villages in Rufiji district, regions of Southern highlands of Tanzania and most of part of south Tanzania.

#### CONCLUSION

As a small youth-led initiative we are grateful for funding support from Jana Robeyst Trust Fund for supporting this project in both phases. The support from Jana Roberty Trust has also opened opportunities for partnerships and conservation support from other conservation organizations. For example, in August 2019 project team member Evodius Rutta was awarded small grant by National Geographic Society to expand project activities to more villages neighboring Selous Game Reserve that was severely affected by poaching crisis in Tanzania. We are currently implementing conservation activities in six villages found less than 20km from Selous Game Reserve. It is through the support from Jana Roberty Trust we were able to secure conservation support from other partners and we are very grateful for that.

## Annex 1: Project Implementation Photos



Evodius Rutta delivering conservation education to village youths in Selous



Evodius Rutta facilitating community dialogue about tackling poaching in Selous



Some of the Project Youth Beneficiaries



Project Team Members: Evodius and Pandisha at TBC1 FM studios for talk on Elephant Conservation