





Final Report for SSFA/2019/1669



Establishment of an efficient, effective and reliable communication network to support wildlife enforcement operations throughout Queen Elizabeth Protected Area, Uganda.







Introduction:

All deliverables for the project have now been completed, providing UWA with a considerable 'step change' in their ability to undertake protected area management and community conservation throughout Queen Elizabeth Protected Area (QEPA).

It has been critical for the foundations of protected area management to be installed into QEPA for over five decades. Communication is one of the most critical pillars. The systems now in place enable to UWA to communicate with over 80% of the parks land areas, to teams involved in all aspects of operations. Previously communications covered a mere 5% of the park.

The change in operational capacity inevitably comes with a considerable organisational change management requirement, in systems, processes and skill requirements. This element goes well beyond the AEF grant, and will require on-going capacity building and strong mentoring programmes.

The Joint Operations Command Centre (JOCC) brings together various departments into a purpose built building, providing the integration of systems and processes, with the necessary decision makers and departments. The building integrates communications and information management, operational leadership, intelligence, investigation, prosecution and the ranger force, across all functional areas.

Systems installed include EarthRanger for protected area management and operations, Semantic for intelligence works such as network analytics and the offender management database. Communications include the hotline, the phone closed network group and the digital radio network, providing communications and data movement to all critical user groups, including law enforcement, community conservation, tourism and the general public.

Various areas of capacity building were built into the project, including engaging the communities into the system. This has been done and required UCF and UWA to re-establish Park Community Committees across the whole park – developing the formal structure and having communities elect their representatives. 34 PCC's have now been re-established providing the formal park – community structures for all future development to be routed through and managed.

As part of the development of the 34 PCCs, UCF brought each PCC to QEPA for a training course with UWA, which included meeting the senior staff of UWA and a game drive. This provided the opportunity to restore relations and set expectations regarding systems to communicate and operate with UWA regarding wildlife conflict, providing information and everyday communications.

Senior management, and operations staff have undergone EarthRanger, Semantic and Voice Procedure training, and this will continue. All UWA operational staff across all relevant departments go through UWA Junior and Senior Leadership training, in which the systems and processes are included.

The partners in the Recovery of QEPA programme (UWA & UCF) would like to thank AEF for their support during the programme. Despite the changes within AEF, the demands of procurement systems changing from AEF to UNEP policies, as well as the impacts of COVID, not to mention insecurity and elections, the project has been completed and is a huge success. Thank you for helping to ensure this was the case.







Annex 5 – Interim-Final Progress Report

1. Identification:

Partners Name: Uganda Wildlife Authority / Uganda Conservation Foundation
Expected Accomplishment(s): Construction of the Joint Operations Command Centre (JOCC) and

installation of the Digital Radio system

Output(s): Establishment and Equipping of the Control room at QEPA, Katunguru Head Quarters,

Procurement and installation of a Digital Communication Network and Integration of the Community

Monitoring processes into the communication system.

Title of the approved PRC project: Establishment of an efficient, Effective and Reliable Communications Network to Support Wildlife Law Enforcement Operations throughout Queen Elizabeth Protected Area (QEPA), Uganda

SSFA starting date: *March 20, 2018* Completion date: *March 31, 2022*

2. Summary of Status:

On March 20, 2018, Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA) received a confirmation from the African Elephant Fund Steering Committee of the award of USD 140,000 to support the proposal submitted by UWA/UCF.

This project was intended to be carried out in 2 phases of 6 months' duration each starting thereafter. UWA and UCF signed the Collaboration Memorandum of Understanding to allow the flow funds to conduct the project activities.

Initial work was carried out to provide the detailed communications strategy for QEPA. Once done the plan was drawn up and implemented.

It was agreed that UWA undertakes the procurement for the construction of the Joint Operations Command Centre at her QEPA, Katunguru Head Quarters which was co funded by a similar grant from European Union through CITES MIKES. The procurement was initially done through the approved Government of Uganda PPDA Guidelines that had been reviewed and sanctioned by AEF prior to the awarding of the grant. Several bidders were invited and Mutoni Construction emerged as the most successful bidder as per the set criteria. This was put on halt following UNEP (the procurement arm of the European Union) disapproval of the procurement process used following rules and thresholds that were imposed during the project implementation.

UCF confirmed with AEF that the procurement process could follow the same UNEP policy lines as CITES MIKES, providing the necessary procurement compliance. All procurements by UCF now have AEF procurement approval.

Once again, Mutoni Construction emerged the most successful bidder and the construction commenced thereafter. Due the nature of funding for the construction, a Tri-party legal agreement was formally drawn up signed between UWA, UCF and Mutoni Construction to carry out the project.







Project implementation was hampered by the outbreak of the Covid 19 global pandemic.

Lockdowns and strict movement restrictions were put in place by the Government of Uganda to minimize the spread of the virus. This meant that no activities would be implemented in the 1^{st} to the 3^{rd} quarter of 2020 when Uganda was under total lockdown. The impact of COVID restricted construction teams operating fully, stopped people undertaking critical training, and hampered supply chains (which is still the case with technology – globally).

UCF has implemented all the project deliverables which includes the construction of the JOCC, the formation of Park Community Committees, procurement and installation of the radio towers, power and IT, and the purchase of digital radios and the TRBOnet licenses required to integrate the radios into the EarthRanger system.

Site visits were carried out to all sites with UWA on the 15th March, 2022. The JOCC has been completed. The two towers concrete slabs have been set, and the towers are being erected as we speak, completing the project. A process of continual training and mentoring is carrying on by UCF beyond the deliverables of the programme.

Challenges

The release of funds from AEF delayed project progress. This was due to AEF team changes resulting in and further funds for release being 'paused' so the new team could review and management accounts as required.

Change in procurement policy use: to UNEP, from the previously approved system caused a delay. Fortunately, UCF was well placed to operate with the UNEP policy and system due to working with CITES MIKES, whose funds are routed similarly.

Despite all the challenges mentioned above, the project has been completed and is a success.







3. Activity delivery status

Activity	Description of work undertaken during reporting period	Deliverables	Delivery date	Status of Activity (completed or not completed	If activity not completed, please describe the reason why and indicate mitigation actions that were taken.
Activity 1 – QEPA Wildlife Law Enforcement Patrol and Control Room Established and Operationalized	Design, procurement, construction and installation of equipment done. Initial training done, computers provided and EarthRanger live.	JOCC Construction	March 2022	Completed	
Activity 2 – Establish an Effective Digital Radio Communication Network throughout QEPA	Communications strategy and plan completed. Procurement and installation of 50m Kalinzu and JOCC tower, provision of fabricated housing for power system and repeater. Towers are being erected in March 2022. Procurement of 10 digital radios Procurement of 20 black view phone Introduction of an Airtel Closed User Group (CUG) facility where subscribers can call each other for free (subsidized price)	Communications & Signal plan for digital radios to cover QEPA Procurement of Digital Radios Installations of the two key towers and associated infrastructure and equipment Procurement of CUG system with UWA / Airtel & Blackview phones EarthRanger System live. SOP for Operations Room and Radio Comms signed off.	March 2022	10 have been ordered through the accredited supplier Kinetic Six 20 Black view phones procured and distributed ER system fully operation	Procurement of radios is complete. There is however a worldwide delay on technology, especially digital radio components delaying the delivery of the ten radios. Purchase was made through Kinetic 6. Shipment of all other system parts has been made and installation will happen in April by Kinetic 6. The system will be fully operational due to existing handsets in QEPA. The additional radios will be added once they arrive. Towers are being erected and will be complete within the next week, completing this deliverable.







Activity 3 –	Integration of radio and	Workshops	March	Complete.	There will be on-going training
Mitigation of	comms use into	and training	2022		and mentorship as this is the
Human Wildlife	EarthRanger	conducted			largest operational change
Conflicts through	operational system –				management piece UWA has
Prompt responses	complete	Park			undergone in its history.
via the		Community			
Communications	Awareness training for	Committees			
Network	senior management to	established,			
	system complete.	training visits			
		carried out			
	Operations room	to the park			
	training for managing	with UWA.			
	communications and				
	triaging communication	Ranger and			
	for management	community			
	carried out	scout			
		training			
	Training of UWA	carried out			
	Community				
	Conservation Rangers	Radio comms			
	and scouts completed.	training			
		integrated			
	Creation of Park	into formal			
	Community Committees	UWA Ranger			
	through which all	/ Warden			
	continued development	Junior &			
	is channeled, including	Senior			
	awareness and training	Leadership			
	in the communications	training			
	system, towards more	carried out			
	responsiveness to HWC.	by the UK &			
		US Military			
		training			
		teams (all			
		soft skills).			







4. List of attached documents

Example 1: Minutes from UWA / UCF Grant Management Meeting: 4th October, 2021







Meeting held at JWA FQ.

4th October, 2021

In attendance

Charles Tumwesigve — Deputy Director Field Operations, Uganda Wildlife Authority Michael Kelgylin MBE — Project Lead, Uganda Conservation Foundation Martin Ssesanga — Finance & Administration Manager, Uganda Conservation Foundation

Apologies:

Pontious Ezuma – Chief Werden, Queen Elizabeth National Park

- 1. Confirmation of JWA expenditure
- 2. Confirmation of UCF expenditure
 - a. See Annex 1. UCF AEF Expenditure October 4th, 2021.
 - b. See Annex 2. UWA AEF Expenditure
- Scheduling of on-going activities:

Time ine: Deadline of project 31" 2021 - including reporting.

- a. JOCC Confirmation of Approval by AEF / UNEP Procurement (Joyce Jelagat 14th Sept, 2021)
- DOCC confirmation of Approval by CITES MIKES / UNE? Procurement (project co-finance partner) 3th Sept. 2021)
- c. Tower & Power Procurement Documentation sent AEF for approval. CT requests letter to ED to ensure existing funds held at LIWA are sent, and directed to the Output 2.2 – procurement of radio & solar power equipment, and any other output line – to the tune of \$2,000.
- d. Purchase of phones completed.
- Reporting of expenditure / commitment necessary to ensure next tranche of \$28,000 is released –
 critical for Output 2 and 3. Final tranche of \$7000 (5%) covers monitoring and evaluation.
- Learning from MFPA UWA & Warden Leadership training and mentoring is a success factor to occrations

Charles Turnwesigve Deputy Director Field Operations Uganda Wilclife Authority Michael Keigwin Project Lead LCF

Martin Ssesanga Finance & Administration Manager







Example 2: Attendance planning meeting & training for UWA Senior Staff in QEPA, 22nd Oct, 2022.



QECASENIOR STAFF MEETING WITH DDFO HELD ON 22ND OCTOBER, 2021 AT MWEYA

Attendance list

No	Name	Title	Contact	Se	ex		Age		Signature
				м	F	Below 35	Between 36-60	Above 60	
21	Charles Tumweriege	DDFO	0772461908	1			V		drugge,
02	Oxume dans	Sola	M43(8289	V			V	-	
03	Engy Bre. m	RWV	6782476117	V			1/		Croff
94	Baiah Boire	SWIC	0705450312	V			V		I'ME SA
05	M assure Johna	WIC	0783482298	V			~		Strintin
06	Edith Kunihim	AA	0772619685		-		~		MAN 9
57	Apques beofrey	AWA	6782242441	V			~		DOL
08	Selevest Masereka	AWDAC	0772634206	V			V		Em.
09	QUACHRILL AMAZIAH PATRICK	OC-CTTPO	0701536981	~			~		DENSING THE MER
10	Julian Obwara	whit	0772673421	V			~		1 Dun A
Н	Lubrama David	Witc	0752658404	/			/		10-
12	Brian Kaala	ANA	0785 355530	~		~			Tribation .
h	Abitegela Gerald	AW LE	172341214				V	-	Absolu
14.	JUNEMAKHA DEWBERT	Awac	0782972816	1			1		Theyer -
15		AWT	0974121416	V			V		Muunugadi

QECASENIOR STAFF MEETING WITH DDFO HELD ON 22^{ND} OCTOBER, 2021 AT MWEYA

Attendance list

No	Name	Title	Contact	Se	ex.		Age		Signature
	1700p0000010			м	F	Below 35	Between 36-60	Above 60	×00
16	DAVID AGEOTA	AWT	0392950013	14			~		
17	Cankosala Callies	AWIEM	0782504244	2			V	4	
18	ABAHO NOEL	ANLE	0392 840312	V			V		Homehod
14	OGIK EMMAHUEL	AWINTEL	0774546313	2		V			CHI
20	Opolet Joseph	AW	0772924959	1			/		175
2)	NEW PLUNDS ALE	ure	D772511087		V		1		\$
20	Kaitesi Swall in	Coolectical T.A	0779549125	1			V		Storad
23		4(WO/UCP-TL		×				×	2.1
21	MICHAEL KEIGHIN	uce	0775714200	/			V		MB.
25	Pontions Ezyma	an	0772438323	V	1		V		25 W.
				-	-			-	
				-				-	
				-				-	







Example 3: Community Scout training – 21st Oct 2022

	NAME	SEX	CONTACT	SIGNATURE
	MWIJUME SALIM	m	0701543799	100-501
	MUSINGULI MICHEAL	m	0753 88544	Minus
	KENTIGISHA EVELYNE	F	0705847548	Brocherie
	ALKASABA CLEMENTINIA	F	0756575371	Mr
	MPORPHEL HAPORT	F	07006389II	magbas)
	BIIRA Janet	T	0785940885	BT
	Makiweya Diam C	F	0759690224	Magaz.
	MARGURY SULAT	M	0754695920	Male
	KABURITO JONIA	F	078886583	2 Kalayaus
0	Brambale barid	M	0755193218	Diniel
1	Patience Joan	5	0706171114	PERO
2	Assimul Julius	m	PP12888214	ale
3	OWORD CEORGIE	m	075388552	Tursualt
4	BESIZH ABBHEY	M	0782113345	Ball
5 .	TAISHA MISSA	m	070029019	Fy
6	MICHAEL SPIGE	M	037612612	b An
7	TUMWINE MIBERT	M	0779086881	- January
8	MUHOOZI LANDUS	M	075361116	- PANIE
9	KAGEZI ADAM	M	0755960501	
0	Omandi Denis	M	090(668337	1
	Valley Swallow	m	OHOSIANS	s those
2	MICHAEL KEIGWIN	n	077571420	o Milly







Example 4: Tri-party legal agreement was put together by UCF for the construction of the Joint Operations Command Centre. It was done to provide professionalism and clarity between the partners and different fund sources.



- The Contractor shall upon and subject to the terms of this Agreement carry out and complete the works shown upon the contract drawings and described by or referred to in the Bills of Quantities and forther described in the contract signed with UWA, in every respect to the satisfaction of UWA and UCF.

- 4.3 The contract sum shall be jointly met by UWA and UCF in proportions as follows:
 - 4.3.1 UWA has already disbursed it's contribution of UGX 153,573,554/= (One Hundred Fifty Three Million Five Hundred Seventy Three Thousand Five Hundred Seventy Three Thousand Five Hundred Fifty Four Shillings only) to the Contractor from the AEF Grant; and

By signing this Agreement, the Contractor hereby acknowledges receipt of UGX 153,573,554/= (One Hundred Fifty Three Million Five Hundred Seventy Three





tion Agreement ("this Agreement") is made on the ... L. day of ... October ... 2021 UGANDA WILDLIFEAUTHORITY of P.O. Box 3530 Kampala (bereinafter referred to as "UWA"). UGANDA CONSERVATION(U) LIMITED of P.O. Box 34020Kampula (bereina to as "UCF"). MUTONI CONSTRUCTION (U) LIMITED of P.O. Box23972 Kampala (hereinafter referred to as "the Contractor). Likewise, UCF received funding from CITES MIKES part of which, is to be applied towards the construction of the said JOCC; ontractor emerged the best evaluated bidder for the award of the contract for the tection of the JOCC following the procusement process conducted by UWA through een Elizabeth Conservation Area Management on behalf of the parties;

- - S.2.1 UGX 125,900,399/= will be paid by the UCF to the Contractor in three separate institutemen based on centilizates of work done approved by UNA within the period of this segrement.
 S.2.2 UGX 14, 703,55/= recentions to be paid to the Contractor upon completion of the works to the satisfaction of UWA an UCF and upon handover of the JOCC free from my defects.

- The Contractor shall execute the works under this Agreement, using the Contractor's best skill and attention.

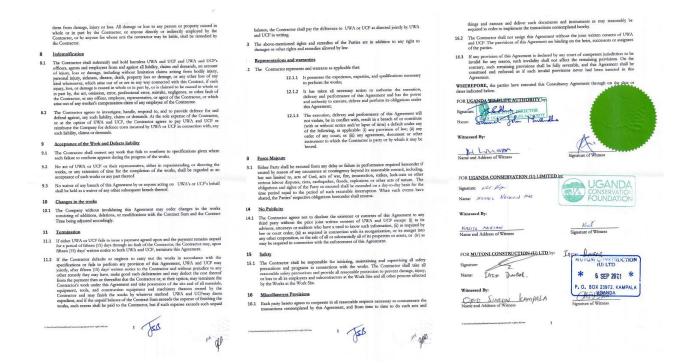
- The Contractor shall be responsible for the acts and omissions of all Contractor's employees and agents and all other persons performing any of the works under contract with the Contractor.

Protection of persons and property









Example 4: 34 Park Community Committees have been reformed, elected and engaged, including awareness into the new operational system that will support UWAs response time to human wildlife conflict. Screenshot is the front cover report from just one of the areas.

A total of 162 PCC members from seven (7) districts adjacent the QECA were brought to Mweya for the above purpose, including; Kanungu District (12 members), Rukungiri District (12 members), Mitooma District (18 members), Rubirizi District (30 members), Ibanda District (6 members), Kitagwenda District (18 members) and Kasese District (66 members).

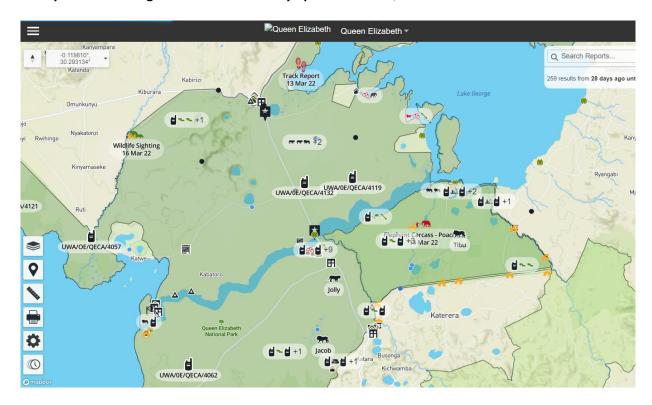








Example 5: EarthRanger & Semantic are fully operational in QEPA



EarthRanger is fully operational in QEPA integrating Law Enforcement & Operations, Ecological Monitoring and Community Conservation requirements.



Semantic Training in the JOCC. Feb 2022.







Signature: M. Kag

Date: 27th March, 2022

Name and title of signing officer: Michael Keigwin MBE, Founder Trustee & Project Lead