

**REPORTS ON THREE DAY TRAINING ON METHODS OF MITIGATING ELEPHANT CROP DAMAGE
IN FARMS FRINGING MOLE NATIONAL PARK**

PROGRAM

DATE: 20/08/2016

NO.	ITEM	TIME
1	Arrival of participants	8:00am
2	Opening prayer (Alhaji Yakubu Ibrahim)	8:30am
3	Introduction of participants	8:35am
4	Welcome address by the Park Manager	8:40am
5	Presentation by Mr. Dramani D. Jaward	9:00am
6	Snack	10:00am
7	Presentation by Mr. Ali Mahama	10:20am
8	Field practical	11:30am
9	Lunch/Zuhur prayers	2:00pm
10	Discussion	2:30pm
11	Closing remarks by Mr. Ali Mahama	3:40pm
12	Closing prayer (Mallam Alhassan Bondo)	4:00pm
13	Departure	4:10pm
DAY TWO (2) FIELD PRACTICALS		
DAY THREE (3) FIELD PRATICALS		

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

NO.	NAME	OCCUPATION	COMMUNITY
1.	MallamAlhassanBondo	Farmer	Larabanga
2.	AlhajiYakubu Ibrahim	Farmer	Larabanga
3.	AbuduSeidu	Farmer	Larabanga
4.	AsumaniZakaria	Farmer	Larabanga
5.	AlhassanHaruna	Farmer	Larabanga
6.	MallamYusifIddrisu	Farmer	Larabanga
7.	MahamaSadique	Farmer	Larabanga
8.	Yahaya Adams	Farmer	Jang
9.	AbukariKojani	Farmer	Jang
10.	Joseph Kipo T.	Farmer	Jang

11.	YahayaAlhassan	Farmer	Kananto
12.	SeiduNatomah	Farmer	Kananto
13.	AlhajiAbubakariSeidu	Farmer	Iarabanga
14.	Mahama Ibrahim Ebro	Farmer	Larabanga
15.	NyamariMahama	Farmer	Murugu
16.	LukmanEwuntomah	Farmer	Murugu
17.	MumuniNuhu	Farmer	Mognori
18.	NyamariAkalaya	Farmer	Murugu
19.	MbisambaKpanape	Farmer	Murugu
20.	TumedaAbukari	Farmer	Murugu
21.	Adam Kara	Farmer	Mognori
22.	PasibaTindana	Farmer	Murugu
23.	Gaawe Prosper	Farmer	Mognori
24.	DekumweniKojo	Farmer	Mognori
25.	AmiduSeidu	Farmer	Larabanga
26.	YidanaKisima	Farmer	Murugu
27.	MumuniYusif	Farmer	Kananto
28.	YahayaAma	Farmer	Kananto
29.	YakubuYussif	Farmer	Larabanga
30.	Abdul-karimMashood	Farmer	Larabanga
31.	AlenkaniMunaba	Farmer	Murugu
32.	ParsorHawawu	Farmer	Mognori
33.	KassimFatawu	Farmer	Mognori
34.	DramaniAbdulai	Farmer	Iarabanga
35.	FridausHudu	Farmer	Iarabanga
36.	VugKipo	Farmer	Jang
37.	DokoronYusif	Farmer	Larabanga
38.	Anibokayala	Farmer	Murugu
39.	SalifuBukari	Farmer	Laribanga
40.	Kala Salia	Farmer	Jang



OPENING PRAYER

The opening prayer was said by Alhaji Yakubu Ibrahim from Larabanga.

INTRODUCTION

Mr. Ali Mahama welcomed the participants on behalf of the Park Manager. He said the aim of the training was to introduce to some the various methods of controlling elephants from crop raiding. He said one main challenge of the Park in addition to poaching was human-wildlife conflict that mainly focuses on elephant crop raiding. He added that there were several approaches of handling elephant crop raiding issues but the most effective ones at Mole which this training will focus on was chili pepper and canister blasting methods. He said the training was going to be in two folds; presentations and practical field demonstration. Mr. Ali urged all participants to be active and contribute positively to make the training a success. He disclosed to participants the training was funded by United Nation Environment fund under the small scale funding agreement.

He said the Human Elephant Conflict training was one component of the priority objectives of the elephant conservation through Law Enforcement in the Mole National Park and its corridors.

PRESENTATION ON HEC AROUND MOLE NATIONAL PARK

Mr. Dramani Dawdan Jaward made the first presentation on the general over view of human-wildlife conflict in Mole National Park.

He gave the following background to his presentation;

The greatest threat to wildlife in Ghana is not through over exploitation by hunting but by the ongoing conversion of habitat used by wildlife. Wildlife and environmental security in Ghana is threatened as people clear land and convert habitat for agricultural activities or often just to

secure tenure over land for some future use. The attitude is that un-cleared land is unused land. It has no value and cannot be secured by the individual until it is cleared. This results in limited habitat for wildlife in off-reserve areas and hence creates conflicts through crop raiding, livestock attack, attack on humans and property. Wildlife for most farmers is considered a pest that in many cases is directly competing with their agricultural activities.

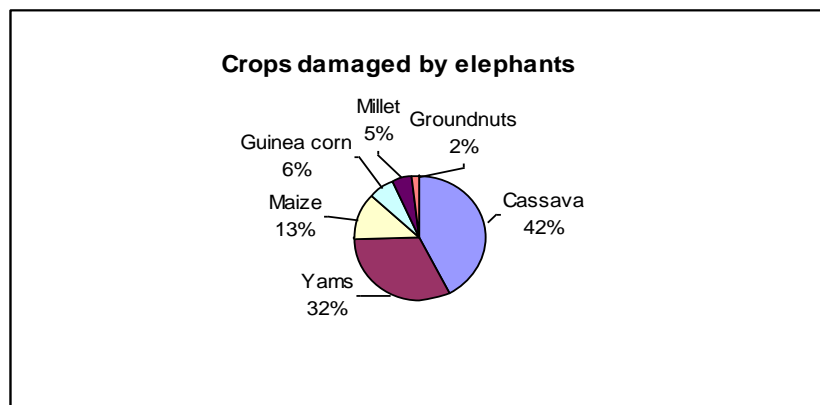
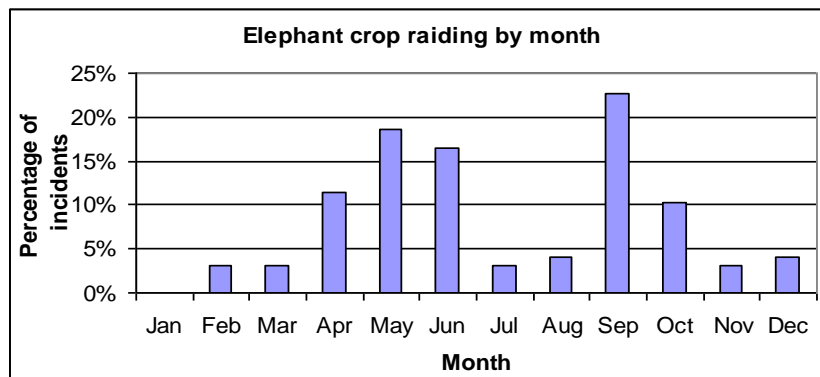
According to him, the park has put in a system of reporting human wildlife conflicts in and around the park to create a data base and improve management of the conflict. The farmers and individuals were encouraged to report wildlife attack on crops, property and life to the nearest wildlife post. Wildlife posts includes; Samole (PHQ), Jang range, Bawena range, Ducie range, Kananto camp and Kparia camp.

Mr. Jaward stressed that there are 33 fringe communities fringing the park and each of the communities is a key stakeholder in the management of the park and insisted that no community should think that they are the most disadvantaged. He tasked the communities to use mole as a advantage to better their livelihoods.

He used the map of mole to show participants the fringe communities and the relative proximity to the park boundary

Elephant	134	Night
Baboon	3	Day
Patas monkey	1	Day
Hyena	6	Night

Mr. Jaward also presented Elephant crop raiding by months and cautioned farmers to study the trend and protect the farms accordingly. He added the preferred crops by elephants and tasked farmers not to plant such crops close to the boundary of the park



He told the participants, the government of Ghana (Africa) does not accept responsibility or liability for damage caused by wild animals and therefore does not pay compensation for such damage.

MANAGING HUMAN WILDLIFE CONFLICT (HEC)

Mr Ali Mahama made a second presentation on the above topic.

He outlined the following objectives to be achieved by the end of the training:

- Participants should understand the various methods used to mitigate HEC
- Practically demonstrate the methods used in the mitigation of HEC

In his presentation, he posed a question, 'why is crop raiding a problem' and participants contributed the following answers.

Damage crops

Create fear and panic

Destroy property like livestock (sheep, goat)

Injure or kill people

Compete for water and food

Destroy property such as fences

Mr. Ali also discussed with participants some of the traditional methods of controlling elephants from raiding crops and the following were listed;

- Beating drums
- Shouting
- Burning fires
- Shooting/killing of elephants
- Cracking whips

He stressed that the problem of the above methods is that elephants get used to such tactics and learn to ignore them once they realize that they will not be hurt.

MODERN METHODS OF PROTECTION

The following methods was listed as the modern method of protecting elephants from raiding farms but it was made clear that the chilli pepper and canister blaster/gun powder methods were the only methods that the training was going to focus. He explained the various methods to the Participants.

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Electric fencing | 4. Chilli pepper method |
| 2. Bee hives | 5. Pepper/dung |
| 3. Canister blasters/gun powder | 6. Alarm bell |

WHY IS CHILLI PEPPER USED

Mr Ali discussed with trainees the following reasons to why chilli pepper is used.

- Chilli peppers create a hot burning sensation in the nose and eyes
- Elephants have a very sensitive sense of smell and so chilli causes the elephants pain
- Chilli causes pain to elephants, so they cannot get used to it as they do with other deterrents

PRACTICALS

The team visited one the farms frequently raided by elephants at Larabanga-Mognori road to have a practical demonstration of how to use the two methods discussed during the presentations. The pictures below indicate the processes of the field practical.



PROVISION OF MATERIALS

DAY TWO

Participants were taken to a farm near Kananto community where they applied the skills learnt.

DAY THREE

Participants were taken to Murugu where they visited a farm to apply the skills learnt.

Participants were supplied with the necessary materials after the training to be able to put into practice knowledge and skills acquired during the training. The following materials were provided;

1. Gunpowder
2. Chilli pepper
3. Grease/engine oil
4. Rags

CONCLUSION

Farmers were encouraged to report to the park all elephant raiding issues and to put into practice the skills acquired. They were cautioned that revenge killing is never the solution to elephant crop raiding and should not be practiced.

Pictures of training and supply of Logistics to Farmers to mitigate crop raids



