

## **Excellent Development: 'Creating sustainable lives for people and wildlife in the northern rangelands, in Kenya' (MYG029.15)**

### **Summary of End of Year 2 Report**

#### **Summary**

Excellent Development is working in partnership with the Africa Sand Dam Foundation to construct sand dams in Laikipia County, within the Northern Rangelands of Kenya.

The primary achievement of the project in the second year was the construction of a sand dam that also incorporated a road crossing, allowing vehicles, people and animals to cross the riverbed. The sand dam replenishes groundwater levels, which contributes significantly to replenishing the water sources of the surrounding area and supporting the 're-greening' of nearby vegetation. Prior to the construction of the dam, local people would sometimes have to walk up to 7km. The furthest distance they now have to travel is 2km, with some walking just 500m to get water.

Additionally, a rainwater harvesting tank has been constructed at Sieko Primary School in the region. The tank provides a sustainable source of water for the school's 150 students and 9 staff.

Data collection for the project has been thorough and shows that since the commencement of activities the average amount of water consumed per person has increased from 4.5 to 5.4 litres per person. Elephant sightings have increased by 28% and zebras by 31%.

#### **Challenges**

Scarcity of water has often led to conflict in this region, both between communities and between humans and wildlife. The project has previously suffered delays due to insecurity, however communities are already reporting reduced tension due to the increased availability of water.

The charity's partner organisation, the Northern Rangelands Trust, have advised that creating more sand dams in the Lekurruki Conservancy may create a 'honey pot' where surrounding communities are encouraged to move into the conservancy area to access the new water sources, which could increase tensions between communities. The charity has therefore proposed the transfer of some project activities into the neighbouring Oldonyiro and Laisamis Conservancies to reduce this risk.

These two conservancies have been recommended by the local partner organisation for a number of reasons. Both have communities that have expressed the desire and motivation to construct sand dams. Oldonyiro neighbours Lekurruki, and much of the conflict in this area is due to people moving from Oldonyiro into Lekurruki in search of water and pasture; therefore scaling up this programme into Oldonyiro and improving water availability and pasture here, will reduce the number of people moving into Lekurruki. Laisamis is further north, but, by scaling up the programme into this area, it will reduce the risk of creating "honey pots" of water and pasture in one area, and therefore spread the benefits more evenly throughout the vast northern rangelands area.

### **Activities to take place in Year 3**

- Construction of nine additional sand dams
- Programme identification, design and planning in 2 new conservancies (Laisamis and Oldonyiro)
- Pasture development – development of a community pasture plot
- Climate-smart agriculture workshops, training and support

### **Budget Summary**

The project remains on budget despite receiving less funding from other sources than was originally anticipated. Savings have been made in the UK Programme Management and Monitoring and Evaluation budget lines. The Sand Dams budget line is significantly underspent at present as the bulk of sand dam construction is due to take place in the third year of the project.