



Conservation Leadership Programme - Internship Report



Title of the Internship

Developing the communication, monitoring, evaluation and learning skills of an early-career Ugandan Conservationist.

Host country and dates of the internship

The internship took place in Uganda, from the months of February 2021 - August 2021.

Sponsoring institutions

Wildlife Conservation Society, Fauna and Flora International and Birdlife International

Aim

To increase the visibility of Wildlife Conservation Society both nationally and internationally through communication.

Names

Clinton Mwebaze

Supervisor(s)

Louisa Kiggwe the Communications Manager, WCS and Richard Oluka MEL Manager WCS

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Executive summary

The internship aimed at increasing the visibility of the Wildlife Conservation Society-Uganda Program both nationally and internationally, through communication and by supporting evidence-based programming using creative solutions to document and publish program strategies, activities and successes.

I worked with the Wildlife Conservation Society team to schedule interviews with Wildlife Conservation Society project staff to prepare and edit video content to captures and showcases the work of the Wildlife Conservation Society. We have produced a number of short documentaries. One of them is the video about elephant monitoring in Murchison Falls National Park, Uganda. I also captured wonderful pictures of wildlife that have helped to drive traffic to our social media platforms.

Introduction

The internship programme ensures that young conservationists come on board to conserve wildlife, introducing the intern to the world of saving wildlife and wild places who most times are just watching from the sidelines. The internship makes sure new ideas are brought into conservation by young, passionate conservationists and also enable them to learn from the people already in the industry. The internship was successful and the goals were met. I was able to understand how species interact within their ecosystem, and how they are affected by the environment and human influences.

Aim and Objectives

Aim

The aim is to increase the visibility of Wildlife Conservation Society both nationally and internationally through communication.

Objectives

- 1) Support and promote Wildlife Conservation Society, Uganda conservation programs, projects and activities through creative communications, including managing of website content; online communications and social media accounts such as Facebook, WhatsApp and twitter, posts and reviews; work closely with the communications manager to organize and manage communication-related activities during meetings, workshops, conferences and seminars involving our partners and the general public.
- 2) Support the Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) manager to implement MEL plans for our projects, including participation in field data collection to support compilation of communication and learning products.



Activities and Methodology

One of the important activities I did was shooting the elephant monitoring video in Murchison Falls National Park. Since elephants are very wild animals, I could not get close enough to capture wonderful shots but I still managed to get good shots.

I shot as close as I could, and later in the editing room I added digital zoom to some clips to bring the animals much closer.

While shooting, I used a canon 6D mark ii, with a 70mm-300mm, 4.5 f/stop lens and 50mm 1.8 f/stop lens for interviews. While editing, I used Adobe premiere pro, Adobe after effects, Adobe photoshop and Adobe illustrator. Limited gear has been a hindrance to a number of project during the internship. In addition , the current Canon 6D mark ii that WCS has is not made for wildlife photography and video.

Achievements and impacts

Working with one of my supervisors Richard (MEL Manager), I was able to learn about Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning. During one of the field trips, we collected data from the communities using a participatory rural appraisal technique to assess the effectiveness of the different human-wildlife mitigation interventions. This achievement was fun for the members involved but also a learning process for me, as it opened my mind to how monitoring, evaluation and learning is conducted.

Under Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning, I was able to capture and produce a short documentary for the USAID/Uganda Combating Wildlife Crime (CWC) Activity, titled “Field Annual Data Collection Exercise” for year one of the project.

There was elephant monitoring in Murchison Falls National Park, Uganda, which I participated in and produced a documentary explaining the importances of elephants in the wild and our need to continue protecting them.

The long-term impact of this internship has been the content it has created for the organisation. Amazing pictures and videos that have been shot can be shared and understood by both scientists and laymen. The short impact has been the increased awareness of the Wildlife Conservation Society activities on social media.



These impacts go well with the objective of the internship that is to increase visibility of Wildlife Conservation Society through creative communication. As a young film maker, this internship has allowed to improve my skills and conservation knowledge.

This internship has laid a foundation that will allow me to advance my career as a film maker and lawyer. During this internship, I have been able to improve my shooting skills of videos and photography. With the work involved in conservation and film making, I have had to question my passion for both works as to whether it is the work I see myself doing long-term.

Demanding as the work is, I am glad that after six months I still have a burning desire to conserve wildlife and document it in a such a way that the world especially young people are inspired to do the same too. Now I see myself as a full- time wildlife film-maker, who also uses his legal skills to influence policies that protect wildlife and wild places.

The last six months have been great. I worked with different project managers documenting their works as they fight to protect wildlife in different ways. I would not asked for another way of becoming a true conservationist. Learning that posting hastags# in the modern conservation fight is just the start.

This planet is beautiful. Our country is amazing and the need to conservation wildlife has never been great.

Acknowledgements

Special thanks to the Wildlife Conservation Society team for creating a good working place for young conservationist like myself to express my skills. To the project managers and my two supervisor(s) Louisa and Richard thanks for guiding me through my internship programme.