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Gambella Children and Community  
Development Organization



We stand for to serve the vulnerable people in the marginalized region

## **Gambella Children and Community Development Organization (GCCDO) Quarter (October–December 2017) Pilot Project Report on Wild Life Crime Prevention in Gambella.**

### **I. Executive Summary**

This report summary the project activities implemented by Gambella Children and Community Development Organization on wildlife crime prevention. It gives high light on the progress, challenges and the way forwards which the organization thought to be remarkable for further intervention. The report also shows samples of the recent Human conflict committed against wildlife by Gambella communities. In order to implement the project, HoA-REC, donated Fifty Thousands Euro (€**50,000.00**) for the period of three Months.

### **II. Organizational Overview.**

Gambella Children and Community Development Organization (GCCDO) is a community based organization operating in Gambella Region since its establishment in August 2008. The organization aims contributing to national development initiative and enhances the living standards of the most vulnerable and disadvantaged communities in Gambella. It was regional registered under the Regional Justice Bureau but currently has its Federal Registration Certificate with Registration No **3508** as the Ethiopian Resident Charity.

Gambella Children and Community Development Organization's (GCCDO) vision aspires to see that children, youth and women are protected from any form of violence and ensure that the most disadvantaged and marginalized groups' basic needs are met. Whereas it's mission statement is to empower and render developmental services to the marginalized and disadvantaged communities and enable them to improve their living standards in Gambella Regional State. The basic driving force for the establishment of this organization is to contribute to the national development initiative and improve the living condition of the most vulnerable Women, children and youth in Gambella Region.

The organization is one of the indigenous civil societies formed by the elites of Gambella community in 2008. The chief purpose for the formation of Gambella Children and Community Development Organization was to closely fill the development and humanitarian gaps that the region was not able to reach due to the financial constraint.

The thematic priorities of the organization include: Child Protection and Human Trafficking; Livelihood and Women Economic Empowerment; HIV/AIDS Prevention and Controlling and MCHC Program; Girls and Boys Education Program; Youth Empowerment Program; Water and Sanitation Program and Environment Protection with emphasis on community awareness.

The organization implemented various projects based on its thematic areas. One of its first project implemented was HIV/AIDS Prevention and controlling program which was supported by Gambella Regional HAPCO. The sub-sequence projects were supported by various nationals and international organizations. The organization partnered with Save the Children formerly called (Save the Children Sweden), American Embassy in Ethiopia, Civil Society Support Program (CSSP) under British Council, Center for Development Initiative (CDI), Consortium of Christians Relief and Development Association (CCRDA) and UNICEF Office in Gambella with focus on maternal Health and child mortality. With efforts and thorough consultations, the organization entered into agreement with the Horn of African, Regional Environment Center (HoA-REC) on a project that aimed to combat wildlife crime around Gambella National Park. This project was implemented in collaboration with Gambella Regional Park Office and Gambella Regional Culture and Tourism Bureau.

This project has been implemented in three selected Woredas located around Gambella National Park. This include: Jor, Wanthoa and Makukey Woredas which are located the peripheries of Gambella and are known of committing wildlife crimes.

### **III. Project Objectives and Goals.**

The major purpose of the project is to increase and catalyze the community's awareness to effectively prevent and combat Wildlife Crime around National Park in Gambella Regional State. This objective was to fulfill the chief purpose of the Ethiopian Federal Wildlife Conservation Authority and HoA-WLCP in the Country.

#### **3.1 Specific Objectives of the project**

The specific objective of the project included:

- To prevent illegal Tran-boundary activities on wildlife products such as ivory, hide and alike.
- To combat illegal trade that is being performed on wildlife products by the local people in Gambella.
- To prevent Wildlife poaching and hunting activity carried by the local community around national park.
- Work to reduce human wildlife conflict by introducing the values wild animal to economics status of the target community.

- Ecologically values wild animals such as ecological balance and effect on climatic change.

#### **IV. Methodology and approaches used**

The implementation methodologies used by the organization employed participatory community approaches to ensure effectiveness and efficiency. The target local residents; Kebele representatives, religious leaders; woreda administration, zonal and regional leaders were all consulted to ensure mutual consensus, participation and accountability. This approach was used to create mutual understanding on the severity of the challenge faced on wildlife crime prevention in Gambella Regional State.

The organization shared important project documents with Gambella National Park office and Cultural and Tourism Bureau. The target communities were encouraged to discuss on how they built mutual understandings and improve changes of behaviors to reduce wildlife crime among the local communities. Thus the frame work document of the project was shared to build accountability and transparency at woredas, zonal and Regional level.

The participants invited to the trainings were selected by the Kebele leadership in collaboration with the Woredas' Cultural and Truism sector offices. The nominated participants were all highly respected people who were enthusiastic to disseminate message to other people from where they live. This was a method used through the trainings at different Woredas. All project activities were implemented through and in consultation with Gambella National Park Office and Cultural and Tourism Bureau.

#### **V. Major Activities implemented**

##### **4.1 Signing of the project agreement**

The first activity implemented was the project agreement which was signed between Gambella Children and Community Development Organization and HoA-REC to implement wildlife crime prevention around Gambella National Park. The project duration covering the period from August 2017 to December 2017. The purpose of the project was to create awareness among the target community on how to combat wildlife crime around Gambella National Park. Soon after the signing of the project agreement, the implementer organization began to consult the target community and the government authority.

##### **4.2 Recruitment of the project coordinator.**

The organization recruited technical expert to work as the project coordinator for the period of 6 Months. The person assigned as the coordinator graduated from Wildlife and Eco-Tourism Management at Mekele University. As the contract was only 6 Months, the person assigned begun to work and implement the project activity based on the project document.

### **4.3 Community Consultation.**

After the recruitment of the project coordinator, the organization in collaboration with Gambella National Park, Cultural and Tourism Bureau consulted the target three woredas and introduced the taking over of the project by Gambella Children and Community. This consultation process was carried out in three Woredas to enable the target host community to familiarize with the local organization that took over the project from the HoA-REC in Gambella. The Woredas' community scouts and the woredas administrations were brought together for discussion and reflection.

Duration the community consultation, Kebeles administrators, religious and community leaders were involved to create mutual understandings on how to reduce wildlife crime around Gambella National Park. Brief discussion was made on how to protect and preserve wildlife existing in region. It was noted that there were many wildlife species in the region which would have motivated Tourists to the country. However, lack of proper protection and preservation of wildlife enabled thousands of wildlife species to escape at Gambella National Park to the neighboring countries.

Here are some of the community consultation photos attached.

### **4.4 Community Awareness at three woredas**

The organization conducted awareness trainings to the target three woredas( namely Jor, Makuey and Wanthoa) around Gambella National Park. The training provided was to enhance the awareness of the local communities to develop mutual understandings on the issue of wildlife poaching and trafficking perform around Gambella National Park.

The community awareness creation was importance to the local community because it enabled them to know the value of wild animals existing in the area. They were aware of the preservation and protection of the wildlife so as to foster the economics revenue of the Region. The puprose of the training was to ehcnace the community's knowledge on management, protection and reduce human wildlife conflict which was prequently practiced among the local community in Gambella.

The participants of the community awarenessinvolved community and religious leaders, woredas and sector office representatives, youth, and women were all involved during the training in three Woredas. In each woreda 100 participants was trained and sensitized for two days. For instance, in Jore Woreda, the total participants was 100. 77 of them were men and 23 of them were female counterparts. Whereas in Makuey woreda, 14 were females and 86 were men. In Wanthoa 79 of them were men and 21 females.

The organizaiton invited expertes from Gambella National Park and Culutre and Tourism Bureau at the Region. For the effectiveness of the project activity impementation, the organizaiton hired a voluntary consultant namedDr.Gatluak Gatkuoth, the former manager of EWCA in Gambella. He faciliated community dialougue and dicussion on

how to protect and preserve wildlife in order to booth future econcomics of the region. The faciliator made remarkable presentation on how wildlife would be considered as important because they are part of the creatures. He encouraged and urged the participants to play active role in the community's involment on wildlife crime prevention and preservation so that the generations to come would be able to find species of wildlife at Gambella National Park. Here are some of the sample photos.



**Makuey participants**



**Jor partipants**



**Wanthoa participants**

In Makuey woreda, training was conducted on December 4-5, 2017 and in Wanthoa Woreda it was conducted on December 02-3, 2017. Whereas in Jor Woreda, training was conducted on December 7-8, 2017.

#### **4.5 Community Scouts and EWCA scouts Training.**

The integration of community Scouts and EWCA Scouts was conducted by Gambella Children and Community Development Organization in three Woredas namely Jor, Makuey and Wanthoa. The purpose of the training was to increase the knowledge of the Scouts on wildlife protection, management and conservation at Gambella National Park. The training was facilitated by the similar consultant. In Makuey and Wanthoa woredas, was conducted on December 21-22, 2017. Both Wanthoa and Makuey scouts were brought together. A total of 24 Scouts were trained in two Woredas. It was noted that among the participants, only three of them were females' community scouts and 2 were staff from Cultural and Tourisms sector office at Woredas levels.

Whereas in Jor, 23 scouts were trained in which 4 of them were females and 19 were men counterparts. Both the community and EWCA scouts were trained in following topics:

- The meaning and definition of wildlife hunting and poaching.
- Identification of species at the National Park.
- Types of species found in Gambella National Park
- General behavior of scouts and their relationship.
- Plan and program in prevention of crime to wildlife

Here is the sample of the community scouts and EWCA scouts training in Gambella.



#### **4.6 Procurement and handover of the Motor Cycles.**

Through the fund donated from HoA-REC Office in Addis, the organization purchased two motor cycles for the two Woredas. These Motor cycles were purchased to have been used by the Culture and Tourism Sector office at Woredas in order to support the work of the community scouts. As per the project agreement, three Motors were supposed to have been purchased. However, at the first tranche installment, only some of the budget was transferred to the organization. The two Motor purchased were distributed to the two Woredas, Jor and Makuey. The remaining shall be purchased in the second installment tranche.

After Motors were purchased, the organization informed the target Woredas for the ceremony of the Motor bike handover.



Motor bike and camera handover in makuey woreda.

#### **4.7 Procurement of the community scouts' Materials**

Gambella children and community development organization has purchased community scouts' shoes, uniforms and water canes. Materials were purchased from Addis and distributed to materials that helped community scouts work in a wildlife crime prevention. These included: three cameras, eighteen raincoats, 18 shoes in which 13 were given to men and 5 for women and 18 uniforms. All of these materials were distributed to the three selected woredas.



**Makuey Woreda**



**Wanthoa Woreda**



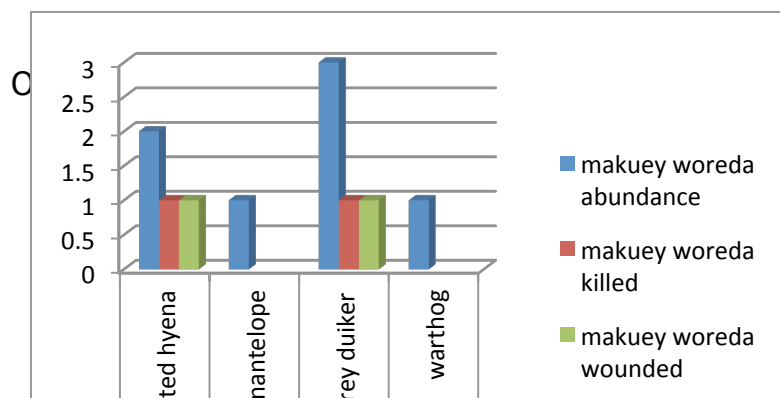
**Jor Woreda**

#### 4.8 Monitoring of the project activities at the Woreda levels.

The organization's Wildlife crime project coordinator monitored the project activities in three Woredas. He travelled to confirm report of the wildlife crime committed around Gambella National Park. He supervised and monitored the activities and reports of the community scouts. Local community scouts educated their community on how to protect and warmly keep animals around Gambella National Park. They also reported crimes committed and human wildlife conflicts being practiced at the Woredas levels.

The scouts made records of human incidents committed against wildlife and reported some of the animals killed unintentionally by the community as the result of the interaction. The Scouts also reported data they have collected based on wildlife hunting, poaching, trade on wildlife product and level of human-wildlife conflict that took place within the community around Gambella National Park. Hence the data are presented by graph. It shows abundance, wounded and killed animals in the sample Woredas. After having collected the data, they shared with the Woredas' concern sector office and then reported the data to Gambella Children and Community Development Organization Office. This in turn enabled the project coordinator to travel to the site to monitor the reality of the situation at ground.

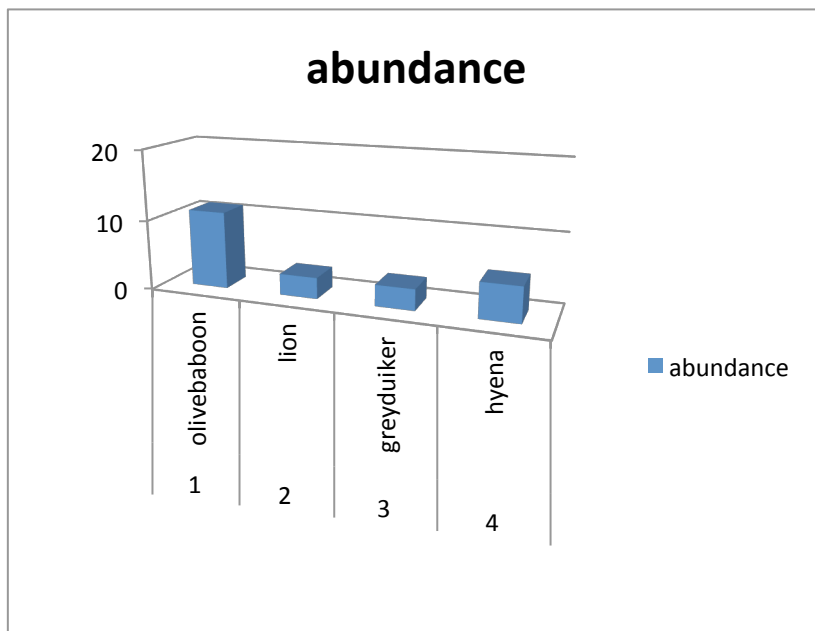
This graph shows the number of Animal seen in Makuey woreda on October 2017



Graph 1

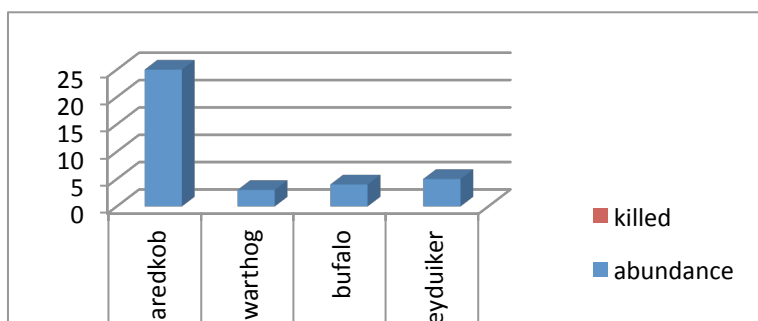
As shown in the graph, wild animals are suffering for different reasons. For example, the death of grey duiker was investigated by local community scouts and the reason was car accident on 20 October 2017 GC. Spotted hyena was killed from Bildak village on 21 October for the reason of predation on domestic animals.

**Abundance seen on November from makuey**



Graph 2

**Wildlife seen in Makuey Woreda on December 20, 2017.**

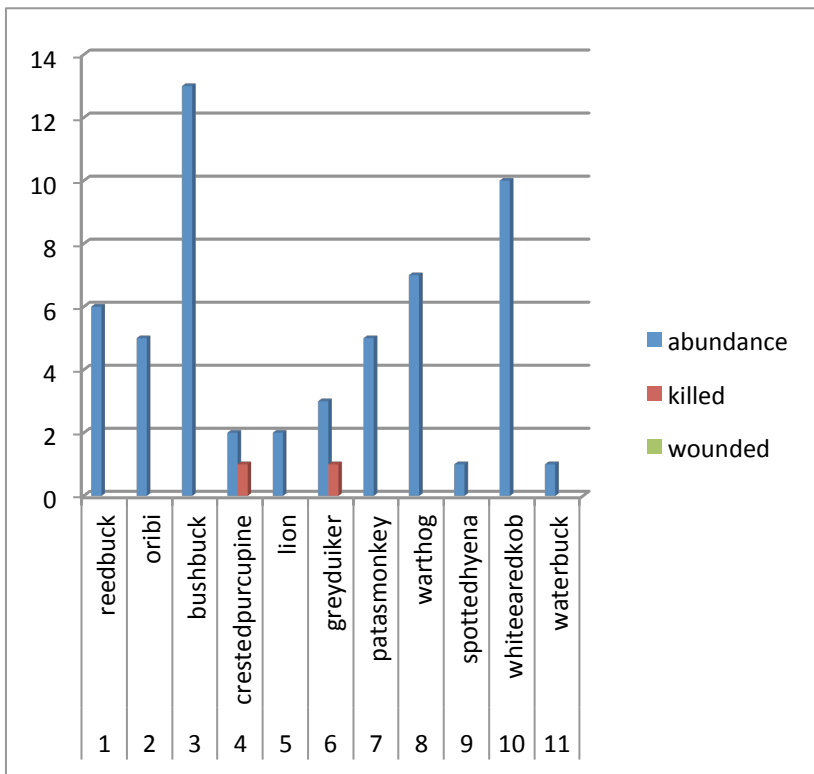




### Graph 3

From makuey woreda 8 species were identified in a field trip taken by community scouts under super vision of coordinator.

#### *JorWoreda*

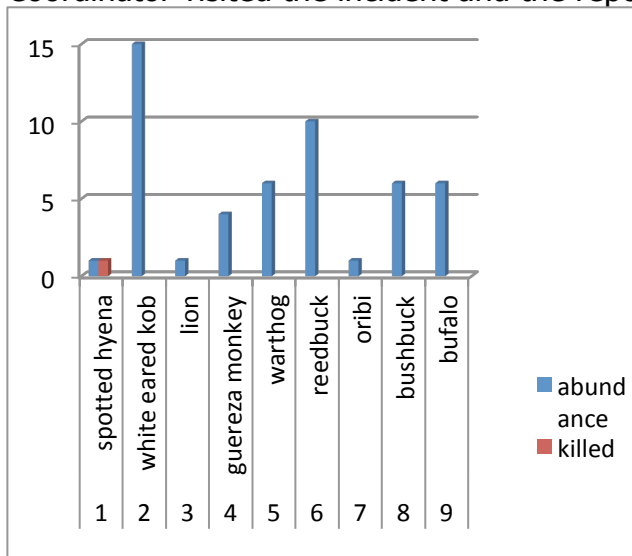


### Graph 4

Two species were reported dead and their dead bodies were investigated by the local community. It was found out that died of car accident on 12 October for crested porcupine. Another 22 died for Dreyduiker.

### Wild animals seen in November from Jor Woreda

The following wildlife species were killed in Jor Woreda in November 2107. Similarly, the project Coordinator visited the incident and the report witnessed the atrocity made against the animals.

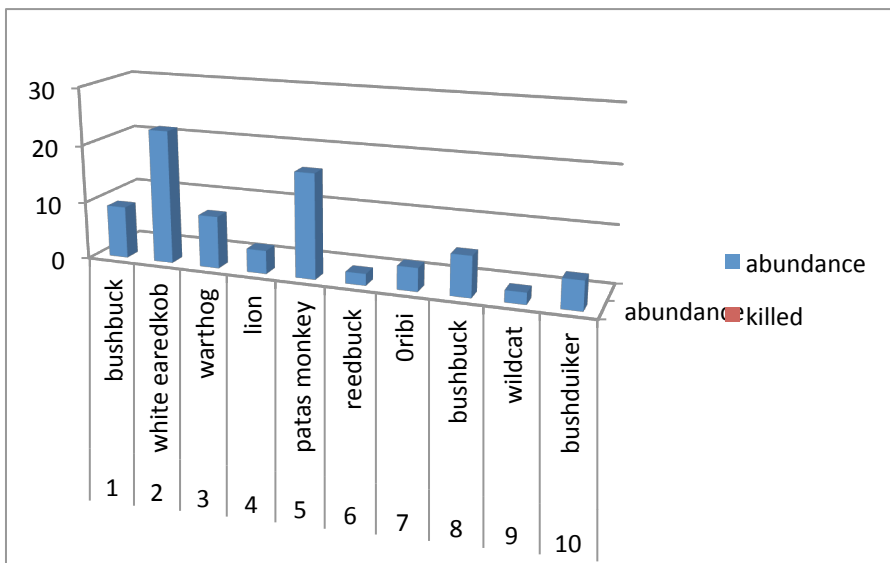


Graph 5



Hyena killed by Car accident in Jor, November 2017

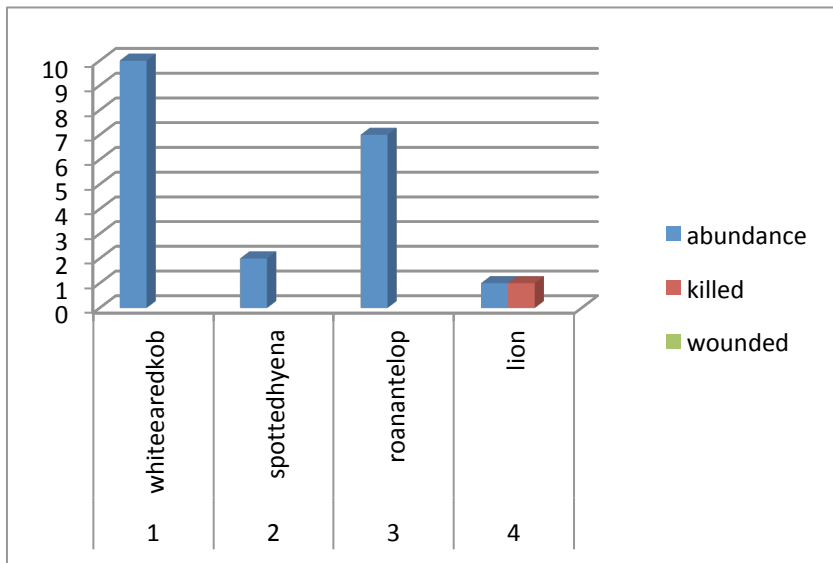
Spotted hyena was killed by car that passed from Pinyudo to Jor administrative town. This incident Occurred on 15 November 2017. The accident took place as the spot hyena was crossing the road While the car was coming nearby. Report was made by the team.  
graph 6



### ***Wild animals abundance Animals seen from jor Woreda on December***

In general, in Jor land escape, 16 species of mammals' animals were identified with in three month. Being killed from October-December of 2017. In Gambella National Park, many species migrated to seek for better protection from the nearby Country in Africa due to the mistreated of wildlife in Ga

## Animal seen from Wanthoa Woreda on October



Graph 7

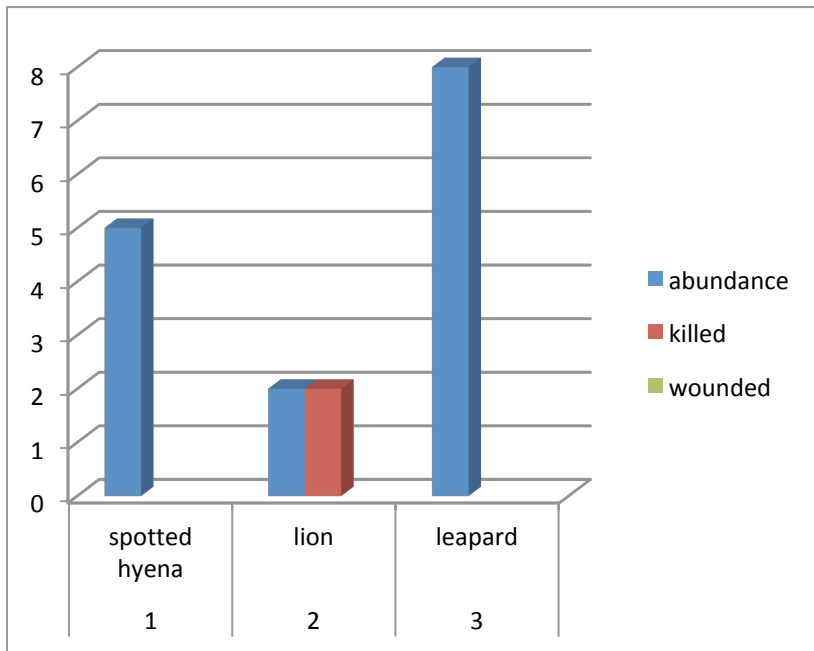
Spotted hyena lion are common in Wanthoa land escape. They moved from village to village during animals

Disappeared in the area. Therefore, these predators came to attack live stock in the village.

On 13 October one lion was reported by community a scout that was found dead.

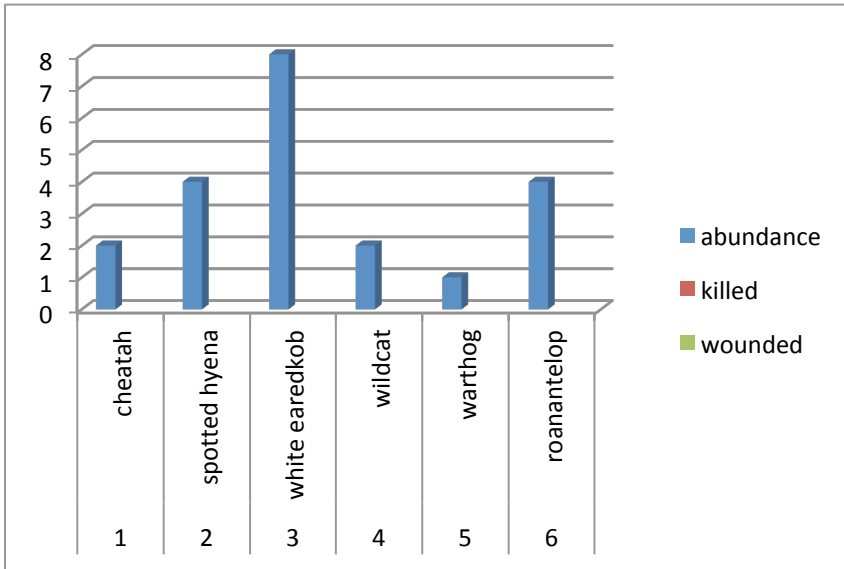
Community scout suspect the nearby community as killer of the animals.

## November from Wanthoa Woreda



Two lions were poached on November 29 from Wanthoa Woreda. Hence see the picture below ur Local community around Gambella National Park do not have tolerance for wild animals to live wit

## Incident of December from Wanthoa woreda



### Graph 9

Local community have a negative attitude toward animals that destroyed their properties especially community scouts to detect new event against wild animals, they take patrol with in community ar were identified by the community scouts.

## VI. Human-Wildlife conflict in Gambella.

The local community in Gambella practiced harmful traditions around Gambella National Park. They committed severe conflict with wild animal due to predation of wildlife on their domestic animals. On the other, local people rear their animals in the same habitat with the wild animals. They also hunt wild animals for their consumption. For instance, in Makuey Woreda, one Buffalo was killed by group of fishery men settling in the National Park on the 18<sup>th</sup> November 2017. Since then, the local government of Makuey Woreda took patrol to the area and withdrew the people located at the National Park.

Hence is the sample of Buffalo killed and its meat was dry by the hunter. This shows that the persistent practice made against wildlife by the local community in Gambella.



The hoofs of buffalo found killed by group of fishery men in Makuey Woreda. The carcass of lions that were killed on 29<sup>th</sup> November 2017 at Wanthoa Woreda

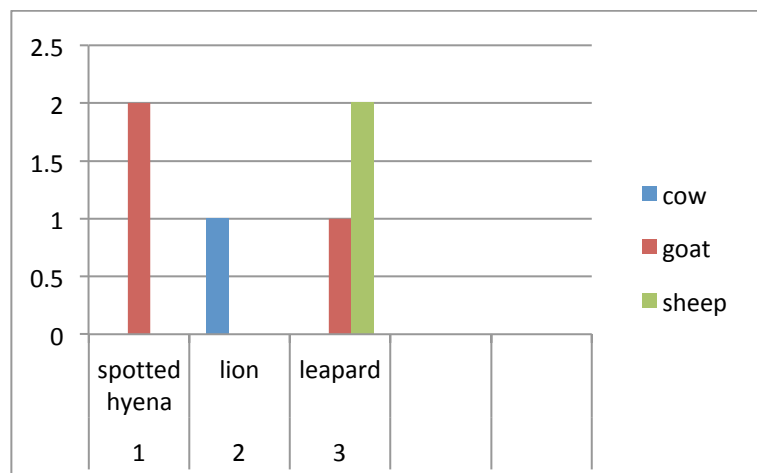


**Carcasses of two female lion(lionesses)Picture 5**

These lioness were killed from Wanthoa Woreda at local administrative town known as Matar. These people killed the lions because they entered into the town at night and stayed at dawn until 6 o'clock in the morning. Then people perceived that

the lions were predators to domestic animals. The elevation in which the lion was killed was 402 m above sea level and the coordinates N:08.36104° E 033.44070°.

## WILD ANIMALS AND DOMESTIC ANIMALS



Graph 10

Corresponding of wild animals with domestic animals is the main issue that escalated the conflict between human and wildlife. As shown in the graph above, on 12<sup>th</sup> November 2017, a lion ate a cow from Chamjiokgany Kebele (village). Investigation was found by community scouts in their patrol and reported the case to Woreda Culture and Tourism Office. They also reported the case to the organization. On 26<sup>th</sup> October, the death of one woman and two children was reported by acting chief administrator and chief security of Wanthoa Woreda. The lion was suspected as the animal for the death of these people. A woman from Tore village and children from Gade village.

On 25 October, the lion was accused for its entrance into the village then it caught one woman and one cow, reported by Nyininyang administrative government during the first meeting with GCCDO. On 21<sup>st</sup> December, the death of one person was reported by Nyininyang intelligence officer and government that the lion was the suspected wild animal.

During a meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> October, a local government of Jor Woreda reported that a lion injured one child from Angele village. Then in general for human-wildlife conflict issues, four species are found dead from three project selected areas around Gambella National Park from October-December. Among these species, three lions were found dead from Wanthoa Woreda, spotted hyena, crested porcupine, and duiker were found from Jor Woreda, and spotted hyena and grey duiker were found from Makuey Woreda.

## VII. Project outcomes/Results Attained

The following outcomes/results of the project activities were attained after the first phase implementation.



- Commitment from community scouts at the target woredas
- Change of behavior was observed as the result of the project activity.
- Commitment from the leadership at all levels.
- Religious and community leaders began to address members and followers on how to combat wildlife crime in Gambella.
- Commitment scouts began to disseminate information to the concerned bodies.
- Increase of the awareness among the local community at the target.

### **VIII. Lessons learned during the implementation phase.**

The organization learned the following lessons during the implementation period.

- Collaboration and networking is important for the effectiveness of the project work.
- Promotion of community's participation at all levels increases project performance.
- Commitment from the high level leadership is vital for project implementation.
- Involvement of religious leaders during the implementation phase.
- Strengthening and encouraging community capacity on wildlife crime prevention in Gambella workers' development ownership sensitivity.

### **IX. Opportunities**

During the period of the implementation, we have observed the following opportunities.

- Strengthening on the community based approach was important.
- Commitment developed from the high leadership at Woreda levels was important.
- Willingness and commitment from the government to implement project activity addressing issue of wild crime in Gambella.
- Existing conducive government policy to enable civil society organizations to collaboratively work together for the development of the nation.

### **X. Challenges Encountered during the implementation**

The following challenges were encountered during the first phase of the pilot project.

- 🚧 Transportation means to reach where information is heard.
- 🚧 Confrontation of the local community with the wildlife at Gambella National Park.
- 🚧 Inaccessibility of some locations around the National Park.
- 🚧 Inadequate awareness among the local community regarding the protection and preservation of wildlife.
- 🚧 Lack of commitment from the local government to ensure the safeguards of the wildlife in the area.
- 🚧 Lack of education to protect and preserve wildlife by the local community.

- ✚ Increase burning of forest for charcoals. For instance, many local people engaged themselves cutting trees for charcoals and construction materials. Here is good example.
- ✚ Wider area to cover wildlife crime and environmental protection in Gambella



## **XI. Conclusion Remark and the way forwards.**

Combating wildlife crime in Gambella is challenging because the local community has limited knowledge on how to prevent and conserve wildlife in the region. This requires greater efforts from all the stakeholders working in the region. As indicated in the report, it was clear that any move or initiation made by the local organization, can also contribute towards achieving the desired goal. However, collaboration of stakeholders is important which requires commitment of working together. Though the challenges prevailed during the implementation phases, Gambella Children and Community Organization (GCCDO) made an attempt to implement the project addressing wildlife crime prevention.

The effort to change the status conceptual behavior of the uneducated community requires collaboration and consultation of the stakeholders. The desired impact cannot be attained by single institution such government alone though it has made tremendous attitudinal changes. It is remarkable that the participation of the community was important to booth the project implementation and therefore, any attempt to be made must consider the involvement of grassroots community for sustainable and effectiveness.

Hence the organization believes that continual awareness building and community coaching towards wildlife prevention and conservation, enhances the target community's knowledge to effectively work on Wildlife crime project. It is recommended that the attempt to fight against wildlife crime prevention must be taken seriously by the government and other key stakeholders in the region. Recommendation was made to increase community awareness at all Woredas so that human wildlife conflict would be ceased and wildlife shall be considered as friends instead as enemies.

## Wildlife crime project locations in Gambella National park

Wildlife crime project is located in three Woredas in Gambella National park  
Namely: Makuey in north of Gambella National park,

Wanthoa in Northwest of Gambella National Park and Jor south of Gambella National  
Park.

