

Colorado State University Libraries
Center for Collaborative Conservation
Seminar and Discussion Series

Transcription of Reaching across cultures: comparing local community perceptions toward a national park in Colorado and Tanzania, 1/29/2013

Collection: Spring 2013

Title: Reaching across cultures: comparing local community perceptions toward a national park in Colorado and Tanzania

Date: 1/29/2013

File Name: CCC_2013_Spring_Wilkins.mp4

Date Transcribed: November 2024

Transcription Platform: Konch AI

BEGIN TRANSCRIPTION

[00:00 - 02:23] Moderator: Thank you, Kim, for that introduction. And thank you all for coming here today. Like Kim said, I'm going to be discussing research that I actually collaborated with Gloria Sumay, who just finished her Masters in Ecology here at Colorado State, and her Masters project was actually part of this project. So she was looking more at the interaction of distances of people from the park and then also their perceptions of wildlife management and using more GIS work. But then we incorporated those interviews into this comparison study that we did. So, yeah. Some of the background on this. We were interested in local community perceptions of wildlife management and the relationships that these national parks have with their neighbors, and I had started this as part of a project, in a pre-existing project with Great Sand Dunes National Park. I was a [unintelligible] intern for a short period of time, and as part of that internship, I was asked to look at community perceptions specifically towards Elk management because they were getting ready to implement and EIS for their Elk in the valley, and so they wanted, some community input on their perceptions of Elk. And also, I had been reading about some other studies, at the time that were comparing different wildlife management strategies between US parks and African parks. And so I thought it might be interesting, once I met Gloria and heard about the project that she was doing, I thought it might be interesting to look at comparing the community attitudes and perceptions of those parks. So some of our objectives were to compare local community perceptions of wildlife management, as well as the perceptions of the relationship that those communities had with the parks, as well as to improve the dialogue between the park staff and local communities. And this has become, looking at communities that live near national parks around the world, has become a really important research

or has become really important, specifically because a lot of times there's, you know, these set boundaries where the, that are designated as conservation areas, but then within those boundaries, you have animals that are kind of moving fluidly through different areas that also are, you know, into these neighbouring areas where people are living.

[02:23 - 04:06] Moderator: And so you need to kind of be able to see how these communities are dealing with any issues that might arise from that, and also if they're being, if these communities are being incorporated into any sort of management plans that these conservation areas are making. So a little information about Great Sand Dunes National Park. It was established in 2004, and previously it was a monument. And it being able to gain or attain national park status was really important because there's a lot of endemic species there. There's one particular beetle, that it's a tiger beetle, that is endemic to that area. And it was also just a very aesthetically pleasing area, as national parks in the United States tend to be. And so people were really concerned about making sure that it had a longer lasting conservation status, because as a national monument, the President can take that away without any act of Congress, whereas if it's a park, it has to go through this whole other process to be taken, to have that designation taken away. So that happened in 2004 and the area, it's about 604km², or about 150,000 acres. And CSU's campus is about 5,000 acres. So if you think about that it's quite a large area, and it used to be somewhat smaller, but they recently were able to purchase some Forest Service lands, as well as wildlife refuge property to incorporate into the park. And in terms of funding, it gets mainly government funding. There's actually a pool of money that all of the national parks around the United States are able to pull from each year, and I think it's in the range of about \$30 billion.

[04:06 - 06:02] Moderator: And so, as needed, each park will apply for funding for different projects. And they also get some money from tourism. But I think the, you know, the entrance fee to Great Sand Dunes is something like \$5 per day or something really inexpensive like that. So they don't get a lot of money from tourism. It's mostly from the government. So in comparison Tarangire National Park was established in 1970. So it's a much older conservation area. And they actually used the word gazettelement, which I had to look up in a multitude of different areas, because I was looking at some of the dialogue of when this became a part. And they're like the gazettelement of Tarangire. So before that, it was sort of a protected area. But it officially, gazettelement means like it officially became a conservation area in 1970, and it's about 2600 km². So that's about four Great Sand Dunes. It's enormous, an enormous amount of area for the managers. And their funding sources, mainly from tourism and game drives. So they don't get any government funding. They actually generate funding for the government. So they're required to give part of their funds to the government. And that just creates an interesting dynamic in terms of, you know, our local people

going into these parks. And a lot of times they're not a lot of, it's more European tourists and American tourists that are going to these areas. And for Tarangire National Park, I don't remember how much it cost to get in there. But as an example of the Tanzanian Park Service in general, we went to Ngorongoro National Park and for the intern that was helping us. So this guy named Connor, that was actually a CSU student that just graduated. We went to Ngorongoro, and for us it cost 200 American dollars to get in.

[06:02 - 08:10] Moderator: And for Gloria, who was from Tanzania, and her family, I think it costs them the equivalent of about 1 to 2 USD to get in. So they generate a lot of money from people wanting to come and do game drives through these areas. So more specifically, the study areas that we were looking at in Colorado, we were looking at we were in Saguache County, which is about five hours south of here, and specifically Moffat, Crestone and Hooper. Most of the interviews actually took place in Crestone and, a few in Moffat, and I think only maybe 1 or 2 in Hooper, and Moffat and Hooper are primarily agricultural communities, whereas, oh, and this is Great Sand Dunes National Park right here. And another interesting thing to note is that in this area, there's a plethora of government agencies and government lands. So a lot of these communities are flanked not only by the national park, but also by the US Forest Service, National Wildlife Refuges and BLM. And so it was just interesting in some of the interviews, sometimes people didn't know exactly which government agency they were talking about when bringing up certain issues. But anyway, so Crestone, the community, this was actually the community that the park was mainly interested in getting information from in the beginning, because they're directly adjacent to the park. And Crestone is this really interesting, somewhat eclectic community of different religions that was established in the 1970s. This woman named Hannah Strom actually bought this swath of land in this area just because she thought it was really beautiful and she didn't know what to do with it. So she sent out in a message to different religious leaders around the world that she somehow knew and was able to get them to come here. And she said that they they would get a free parcel of land if they could live in harmony with other religions in the area.

[08:10 - 10:06] Moderator: And this is a Buddhist Stupa that's there, and this is actually a Carmelite Monastery. So that's just kind of an example of the diversity of people that are kind of living in this area. And there's people from all around the world that live here. And that really contrasts with some of the surrounding areas. So Moffat and Hooper, like I said, are more primarily agricultural. And it's people that have lived in the Valley for almost their entire lives, whereas the people in Crestone have maybe lived there, you know, 20 to 30 years. And it's kind of an older community. But anyway. So in Africa, we were also looking at kind of three different areas, but three villages that are primarily Maasai agro-pastoralists. So they're doing a mixture of agriculture as well as herding with their

cattle. And so we looked at Terrat and Emboreet and Narakauwo. I might be mispronouncing that, but, yeah. And all, in these, within these communities, many of the people or most of the people have been living there all their lives. So, Tanzania and the Simanjiro Plains, more specifically, that's where those communities were located. And it's located at the eastern border of Tarangire National Park. The three villages, all the things that just said. So now going on to wildlife, um, both of these areas have populations of ungulates that have somewhat become overpopulated in the past few years. And can, some issues can arise with those, with those overpopulation. This is actually a pronghorn in Colorado and wildebeest in Africa. So for Great Sand Dunes, their primary concern was managing elk.

[10:06 - 12:14] Moderator: And the elk population is at about 4 to 5,000. I'm not, this was from a study that was done in 2010. So that could have fluctuated somewhat between now and then. But there's concern for the elk becoming overpopulated, primarily, primarily because they're devastating riparian areas that are important for other species, as well as kind of creating some, or impacting the deer and bighorn sheep populations because they're kind of taking over other areas and maybe getting more resources than they should be able to. Whereas in Tarangire, with the migratory animals, there's about 9,000 wildebeest and 15,000 zebra that are migrating through these areas, every year. And the primary concern there, or there, they are an important tourist attraction. However, there's a lot of issues, especially with the fact that these people are living off the land and they're agro-pastoralists. So issues with the wildebeest and zebra spreading diseases, as well as raiding some of the crops in these areas. And some of those diseases include Malignant Catarrhal Fever, which is a type of herpes virus that wildebeest actually carry; all can carry all their lives, but they're not affected by it. But in the Simanjiro plains, they're not only migrating through there for grazing purposes, but also they use a lot of these areas for calving, and that particular disease is passed through the placental fluid. And so when they're giving birth in these areas that the cattle are coming through, the cattle can become susceptible to this and die. And there's also another tick borne disease called East Coast fever that is spread by both zebra and wildebeest to cattle through ticks. So we wanted to look at these communities, and we used a mixture of interviews and a method called Photovoice. And so for Photovoice, it's actually used in a lot of qualitative participatory research.

[12:14 - 14:10] Moderator: And it just means that, I'm sorry about that. That the participants are photographing different issues that are of concern to them. So we basically gave people in these communities, cameras to go out, and our main question was, what are your interactions with wildlife on a daily basis? So then you're getting the perspective of the communities as opposed to, you know, a set amount of pre-existing questions that have come from you, the researcher. It's enabling

them to tell you what their main issues are and their perceptions of the area. And a lot, this has been done. This says it's a study by Adam Bay that was done in 2011, in Kenya to look at kind of similar communities and their interactions and perceptions of wildlife and wildlife conflicts in that area of Kenya. So for, we used a mixture, like I said, of interviews and photo voice, and the interviews were mainly open ended questions. So it wasn't, we weren't doing surveys with a Likert scale of like 1 to 10, say how good or bad you think wildlife is. It was just more asking questions and then, you know, getting more in-depth, rich answers from the people. And so for Great Sand Dunes National Park, we interviewed about 21 people in the valley, and there were only five photo voice participants. Whereas in Tarangire National Park, there was actually two different seasons that we looked at. So it was the wet season and the dry season, and then 20 people were interviewed in each village, and there were 12 photo voice participants per village. And we actually only interviewed people in the wet season. And then the photo voice actually took place in both the wet and dry season. So some of the themes from those interviews that we did.

[14:11 - 16:01] Moderator: For Great Sand Dunes, the a lot of people, you know, mentioned the fact that they thought that the elk herd was too large and they specifically, they- it wasn't necessarily that they were associating that negatively. They just said that they noticed that it was too large and that they noticed that some areas in riparian zones where they were hiking, seemed to be heavily browsed and whatnot. And when talking about or discussing culling, they had different ideas about it. And most of them recognized the fact that the elk herd needed to be coddled in some sense, but they would prefer local hunters to be able to go in and take down elk, and then also be able to use that meat or use all of the meat or they were less, I guess they had, they, they seem less enthused about the idea of, you know, the division of wildlife coming in and doing kind of a mass culling effort because they felt as though a lot of the meat went to waste with that. And there's actually different issues associated with just allowing local hunters to cull elk, because that doesn't actually call enough of the herd. This was in other conversations that I had with people from the Division of Wildlife, but,, the most of the community members thought that local hunters should just be able to come in and not have the government, you know, do this kind of massive taking out of the elk. And then they also specified that they had pretty good communication with the park, and that could be due to different things. There's, you know, newspapers in the area that the park is constantly publishing and there's radio stations that the park puts out announcements on. And there's also a park liaison that goes to these communities every now and then and discusses different issues with them.

[16:01 - 17:48] Moderator: So a lot of people, kind of mentioned some of these aspects and said that they felt as though there was a lot of open communication with the park. Whereas with Tarangire,

some of the main issues were disease transmission from wildlife to the cattle. And that was, you know, a recurring theme that just kept coming up in every discussion that we had, as well as crop raiding for certain areas. And also they discussed that there was little to no support or communication from the park. So there's actually, I think, 45 villages that border Tarangire. And we were only looking at three of them, and they're actually funds that these villages can apply for, to do certain community projects. So building their schools or building troughs or watering areas for their cattle. But a lot of these communities either didn't know about that fund or just felt completely cut off from the cut off from the park or had applied for funding and been denied. So that was one of the issues that came up in some of our discussions. So those were the some of what came out of the interviews. And then for photovoice from Great Sand Dunes. This is one of the pictures taken by one of the participants when he was just out on a walk. And a lot of times. So when doing the photovoice, we actually have the people write, either write or describe what, why they took this picture or what's going on in the picture. And so a lot of the words that describe this were, you know, like majestic elk and was on this wonderful hike and happened to see them. And this- he was very exuberant about having taken this photo and gotten the chance to see these two bull elk, you know, kind of going at it.

[17:48 - 19:30] Moderator: And then this is another picture of elk taken by a woman that lives down in the down in the valley. And she said that this was right outside of her backyard, and she was kind of getting a little teary eyed when she was talking about it because she was just, you know, she understands that, that there's an ecological impact that these elk are having if they become overpopulated. But then when she was kind of discussing the fact that they might need to be culled, that might need to be culled, she kind of got a little bit more emotional about it and showed me this picture, and was just so excited that she had the opportunity opportunity to see these. And then this is actually one of the managers of a ranch down there. And this was during hunting season and this was on one of the- he manages two different ranches, but this was on one of them, and he was able to get this particular bull elk. And, you know, he had a lot of the words that he used. He had a lot of respect for this elk. And, you know, being able to have the opportunity to not only, you know, get- I guess that's important for his hunting purposes, but he, you could just tell he was really excited about it. Whereas with the photovoice in Tarangire, more more of the disease aspects and crop rating came up. So this is actually taken by, I think, one of the female community members that we interviewed. And it's a cow that has one of the tick-borne diseases; so the East Coast fever. And this photo is actually some of the grazing land that they run the cattle on, and there's zebra that are mixing in there with them.

[19:30 - 21:28] Moderator: There's also, there were also some pictures of wildebeest doing the same. And this is an example of wildebeest out on some of the croplands that are out there and grazing. So this person was just concerned with the fact that, you know, how do you keep them off of these areas that are really important to their livelihoods or important to the villagers' livelihoods? And so we also hosted a community meetings between the people that participated in the photovoice and the parks. So a Great Sand Dunes National Park- it was a much smaller group of people. Like I said, we didn't have a ton of photovoice participants. So we also invited some of the other community members to just come and talk about, you know, their perceptions and any questions they had with the park. And it was a really lively discussion and, you know, very friendly. And most of the people already knew each other and had known each other for, you know, had grown up together. So that was really interesting to see because they were talking about old high school stories and whatnot. Whereas with Tarangire, a lot, there was a much larger group of people, but a lot of the people in Tarangire had never even been to the park before. So these villages, even though they're right next to the park, they've never physically been inside of it. And this meeting seemed to be, in Tarangire, seemed to be much more helpful in terms of the different community members learning about, you know, access to different funding that they had. And then also, you know, what they could do to either keep wildebeests off their lands or getting compensated for that and just building, you know, more of a rapport with the park and the park staff. So some of the comparisons which we're still working on, but villages, villagers and Tarangire were definitely much more concerned with the different wildlife posing threats to their actual livelihood.

[21:28 - 23:15] Moderator: Whereas in Crestone, in some areas it was more, you know, their, people talked more about how important these wildlife were, ecologically speaking and from an aesthetic standpoint. And it's not to say the, the villagers also living near Tarangire were very respectful of the wildlife. It's not like they had any ideas about, you know, wanting to just wantonly kill wildlife that were affecting their cattle or crops. They also had this, you know, inherent respect for them. It was just that they're having more daily, you know, interactions and conflicts than a lot of the people in the Crestone community that aren't relying on the land for their livelihood. And, um, Great Sand Dunes. Actually, a lot of the people cited them as being extremely community communicative with the community. And whereas in Tarangire, you know, there was just kind of this disconnect and that could be due to a lot of different factors. I mean, there's 45 villages that are around Tarangire, so many more people that the park would have to be talking to and interacting with, as well as the fact that, you know, there's not a lot of infrastructure for things like radio or newspapers in these areas. So information might not be able to be disseminated quite as easily. And then there were actually a lot more, which, you know, is not shocking, but there were more similarities and responses from the agricultural communities living near Great Sand Dunes and responses from people in Tarangire,

because the agricultural community is much more reliant upon the land. However, we were unable; that kind of came in at later on in the project, I had the interview with the guy that was holding the elk because somebody said that I should talk to him, and then he kind of was like, well, why aren't you talking to agricultural communities?

[23:15 - 25:01] Moderator: And it was kind of like, yeah, obviously. Why not? But the park initially just wanted to talk to Crestone. So it was like, okay, cool, we're going to get this going. And then, you know, you look at, if you look at actually a satellite imagery of the San Luis Valley, it's just entire like red with like center pivot agriculture. And, you know, we weren't even, that community wasn't even being considered. So, yeah that was incorporated later. And it actually be nice to look at more of that in the future. So some challenges that, you know, are inherent with any research project. For Great Sand Dunes, it was mainly photovoice, which I thought was interesting because a lot of these people had cameras of their own, but it was more about motivating people, to either share those photos because people thought that I was going to somehow be using them for commercial purposes and making money off of it, and which was not true. But anyway. So there was not, you know, it was really hard to get people motivated to participate in that aspect, and which is why we only got about five participants for that. And participation in general, it was just kind of difficult. The valley is somewhat remote and people are kind of spread out from each other and I don't know, being able to call people or get in contact with them, especially in the Crestone community, there's a lot of people, or not a lot, but some of the people that I talked to that would go like, lived in hermitages of some sort. And so they'd go into these, I'm not sure the proper term for them, but like basically silence rooms. So they would just like not talk to anybody or do anything for a month and months on end.

[25:01 - 26:38] Moderator: And so I'd have talked to these people in February and try to follow up with them again at the end of the month. And it was like, oh, you know, their message machine is like, I'm in silence for a month. And it was like, okay, so can't talk to you. Anyway, so yeah. So that was kind of one of the challenges, as well as the fact that one of the employees at Great Sand Dunes was indicted on embezzlement charges in the middle of this whole project. And the superintendent that I had been working with that was super supportive and gung ho about it, actually got reassigned to an office in Denver because of this whole scandal. And I just remember getting a call from him and he's like, you know, telling me about this stuff. And it didn't even dawn on me with my project. I was just kind of talking to him and making sure that he was okay and, you know, seeing what happened. And then he was like, "And you're going to have to put everything on hold for a while." And I was like, "Oh, my project. [laughs] Like, no." So, yeah. It took a really long time to get the community meeting with the park and the community members, just because the park was busy trying to deal with this, as well as the fact I had to rewrite a lot of my IRB information. So like redoing

consent forms to get approval because the park kept coming, they, they just became kind of on edge about everything and making sure they were, you know, really vigilant about everything that was going on at the park because this happened. So, yeah. She embezzled over \$750,000 from the park, but, and it was a woman that I talked to on a daily basis too.

[26:38 - 28:14] Moderator: So that was kind of weird. I was like, and she had all my, you know, information, like my checking account stuff, I think. So that was awesome. Anyway, so that was, you know, one of the completely unforeseen challenges. Challenges at Tarangire, a little bit different. A lot of the people when we would go to these villages would ask for money to participate in the study and they would just become really kind of, some of, some of the people would become irate when we would come. And that was I think a factor of previous researchers that had gone in and just taken advantage of them. And so their only perspective of research was, you know, not actually getting anything back and just being taken from, which is really unfortunate. And it was, Gloria actually told us that she didn't have any trouble when it was just her going there, and that when Connor and I joined her, that's when people were more like, okay, well, maybe we can get some money. And that did not happen frequently, but when it did, it was like, it became a big deal. And then, you know, this entire area that we were trying to interview people would just shut down and they'd be like, no. And then we'd have to do a lot of convincing and like, hang around longer. And that, that could have also been a factor on our part where we had just gotten there. And so we didn't know the community well enough and they didn't know us. And so that was kind of one of the challenges as well as transportation. So this is one of the roads here that we had to drive on for 3.5 hours to get to the villages that we were going to.

[28:14 - 29:45] Moderator: And it's literally, like, you can't see anything ever, when you're driving and it's a washboard like dirt road that would probably take, you know, maybe an hour to drive on. But you're just like having to go really slowly and, you know, jostling around. But anyway. So that was interesting. And we were driving in an extremely old, I think it was a 30 year old Land Rover truck of some sort that also broke down a lot. So this is this is our vehicle. And I guess we can't complain too much because we were riding comfortably in here. And then there's like 20 people riding up here on the same road that we were driving on. So, yeah. Kudos to those guys. They're a lot more resilient than we were. But, anyway, so our drive shaft broke down at one point and I don't really know what that means, but [laughs] but it did. And there's this guy on a bike and he's like, "Oh, I know a guy who owns a motorcycle. I'll go bike and get him." And we're like, "Okay. Well, I don't think we can all fit on a motorcycle." And he's like, "No, no, no, no, it's going to be fun." So we like biked into town. God knows how far away that was. It took a while and came back. And this guy is like on his peely peely like motorcycle. And he's like, "Give me the part. I'll take it into town and get it fixed." And we

were kind of like, "Okay." [laughs] So we give him, you know, the part that had been dismantled by these other guys. He went into town, it got welded. They came back, put it back on. You know, we're sitting out there for 3 or 4 hours.

[29:46 - 31:14] Moderator: And these guys were all offering to give us rides to. So there's plenty of people coming by that it wasn't that big of a deal, but it got, you know, quickly repaired. So we still couldn't use all the functions of like the shifting or four wheel drive. But we still decided that it was a really good idea to take a back road through Tarangire National Park. This was at the end of everything too, so we had finished all the interviews, everything. We're like, you know, we're homeward bound and we're like, "Oh, let's take a nice little drive through the back roads of Tarangire National Park in the middle of the wet season." And it was really cool, actually, because upon entering; so we actually stopped at the ranger station, we signed in, we had a cell phone. We said if we didn't call by a certain point to send people to come look for us, he's like, "Yeah, yeah, cool." And so we drive in and the first thing we see when we come in was this guy. It was awesome. So we see this lion, he's like right next to the road, right next to our car. And we're just like snapping photos. And we're like, "Yeah." And then we kind of drive off and we're all talking about how exciting the lion was. And literally five minutes later it was like a truck truck truck. And we just got stuck in this huge mud pit. And, you know, we're trying to like, poor Connor was driving to. So we're trying to like back out, drive forward. We can't do anything at all. And I'm sitting there, I'm like, but we told the ranger to come get us, so he'll send people, right? And Gloria just looked at me and she was like, "Yeah."

[31:14 - 33:00] Moderator: So we spent the night [laughs] and we built a little fire to keep the wild things away. And, you know, got up, you know, somewhat rejuvenated the next morning. Oh, in the middle of the night, too I woke up to use the restroom and literally, as I was, like, getting ready to get out of the car, Connor, like, grabbed my arm and I was like, "What?" And he was like, "Look." And the two lions, or there were actually two lions. I just had a photo of one. But these two lions, like, walked by the car because they like to walk on the roads at night because it's easier to travel through. And I was just kind of like, "That's awesome and frightening." So anyway. But it was still it was a really cool experience, and we managed to get the car out the next day. There's all these, we actually built these ramps. We would walk out into the savannah to collect, you know, whatever branches and stuff we could find. And, anyway, I don't think the lions were that interested in us either. So, yeah. Next steps for this research. I would like to actually interview more of the, uh, agricultural communities near Great Sand Dunes, but that's kind of somewhat limited by funding and time. But it would be great to, you know, get more data from them, in general. And then also still looking for ways to or finding the best ways to statistically compare the responses from these two communities. And if anybody has a lot of experience with doing qualitative research, you should

come talk to me. Maybe we could be a co-author on a paper, if you know you're interested because I don't have a ton of experience with that. But it would be really interesting to see. So acknowledgements- I'd like to thank the CCC for the opportunity to, you know, be able to do this project and, and as well as the Park Service for, you know, cooperating with us and as well as the Tanzanian Park Service and my advisors, Gillian and John, as well as Gloria, who's already back in Africa, and I hope she comes back to do a PhD. But we'll see. As well as Connor, who was our student intern, and he's actually doing research in Kenya right now, for he was able to get his Master or he's in a Master's program in Canada, right? Yeah. And he got some sort of crazy fellowship. I don't know if it was a Boren fellowship or Fulbright. Yeah. Thanks, Bo. So, yeah. He's doing research in Kenya and as well as Gloria's family, they hosted us for a lot of the time that we were down there, and they were just so gracious and wonderful, and this wouldn't have been possible without them. So, yeah, that's all. Questions? [applause] Sarah.

[34:09 - 34:17] Sarah: [inaudible] A different photo of boys [inaudible] like older, younger male female. Pretty true. But what were the [inaudible]-

[34:18 - 36:24] Moderator: So for the community members in, living near Tarangire, we tried to get a mixture or as as even of a mixture of male and female participants. And most of them, they I mean, they all had to be over the age of 18. And so a lot of there was this interesting kind of age gap where there was either a lot of children or, you know, people between the ages of like 20 to 40. And that's a rough estimate. But so a lot of them were kind of within the 20 to 30 age range, but it was somewhat difficult to get women to participate because a lot of times, you know, they just felt like they shouldn't or they had other duties to do. So they were too busy to participate. And we actually, I should have mentioned that on the challenges. But one of the challenges we had, which I wouldn't have known because I don't speak Swahili very well. But Gloria was telling us that the person that we had translating, because we had to translate from the- I don't remember the name of the language, but from the language native to those villages to Swahili and then from Swahili to English for us. And so but Gloria knew some of that language. And so she was telling us that the interviewer was actually kind of bullying some of the women sometimes, when we were trying to interview them. And so, like, they would say something and then he'd be like, no, that's not what you mean. That's not what you mean. And she was like, "Oh, well, maybe it's this way." And that was with a few. And we actually didn't end up, I think, using those because and so Gloria had to talk to this guy and be like, listen, if we're going to be because we were paying him. And so we're like, if we're going to be paying you to do this, we can find somebody else. And so that was yeah, one of the challenges. And then on the Great Sand Dunes, it was pretty evenly split split between men and women. And most of the people

that participated were between like 30 and 50 years old. So it was a much, it was kind of an older demographic. Good question. Ashley, did you have a question?

[36:24 - 36:25] Ashley: Yeah. How did you [inaudible]?

[36:28 - 37:35] Moderator: So some of it was from what the park had previously, for for Great Sand Dunes at least, it was from what the park had previously, kind of initial discussions that somebody else had done with community members, some of the items that they noticed that they were like, okay, "Well, these are some questions that we noticed that were coming up within the community. So these might be good to ask." And then after, you know, I myself had some initial interviews or just like meetings with community members and kind of talking to them about the project and things that they were interested in, that's where some of those questions came from. With Gloria and her project, I can't say exactly. I just know that I don't know if those were necessarily generated by the park and Gloria, because she was also a Park Service employee. But I think she also did a lot of, like, background research in terms of reading papers about wildlife conflicts. And so she was kind of generating her questions from previous research that had been done. So, yeah. Jenny.

[37:36 - 37:43] Jenny: Yeah. So based on what you learned from this round. Do you have an opinion on what the parks could do to help, you know [unintelligible] some of the [unintelligible]?

[37:49 - 37:51] Moderator: In both parks or?

[37:51 - 37:51] Jenny: Yeah. Both [unintelligible].

[37:53 - 39:37] Moderator: Yeah. So I think that that would be hard to say. In terms of Great Sand Dunes, there's not a lot of conflict that needs to be ameliorated or whatnot. Besides some of the agricultural communities that complained about crop raiding, there wasn't as much issue that they raised with like disease and whatnot. I think in those instances, it could just be better communication, because a lot of times right now, the park is going into the Crestone community and doing a really good job of communicating, because that's more centralized and there's a concentrated amount of people in one area, whereas with the agricultural communities, I think they have maybe more difficulty getting a lot of that information out there. So just, I think, better disseminate dissemination of information to some of those communities and with Tarangire, I mean, this is just somewhat speculation, but I think it would actually be better for them to have more than one person that's focused on being a community liaison, because right now there's just one person in charge of that, for 45 different villages. And that's really, I mean, I imagine that that's incredibly difficult. And so maybe trying to hire more people on, to be able to talk to some of those

communities. And the other thing, that was actually cool, that was going on there at the Terrat community; they were setting up a radio station for local community members to be able to come in and voice their opinions that would then be broadcast throughout the area, as well as to Tarangire National Park. But having kind of trying to maybe build some more of that communication infrastructure, so that you have access to that kind of immediate information. So, yeah.

[39:41 - 39:50] Speaker 1: You mentioned earlier that it's another study or studies that were comparing. National parks in Staffordshire [unintelligible] Us parks?

[39:50 - 39:50] Moderator: Yeah.

[39:50 - 40:01] Speaker 1: Did you see anything with the preliminary kind of comparison with [unintelligible] parallel similarities between your cases and other studies are stark differences that, that you noticed?

[40:04 - 40:38] Moderator: Well, those, so those studies were actually looking more specifically at comparing the actual wildlife management practices. So not looking at perceptions, right? And so it would probably, and that's another thing, it would probably be really good if, you know, this were to get ready for publication or something to do kind of that preliminary like comparing how they're managing the wildlife in general and then, you know, talking about community attitudes and perceptions. So in terms of that, yeah. Couldn't really compare the two. Yeah.

[40:42 - 41:12] Speaker 2: I was wondering if there were more general themes that have emerged from experience of those communities that you might, that might, might converge on some things that are [inaudible] the issues that evolved in those communities. And how those themes or the answers to specific questions might shape the questions that you we'll be asking [inaudible].

[41:12 - 41:17] Moderator: Okay. Can you maybe clarify that? [laughs]

[41:17 - 41:19] Speaker 2: I guess you go to a general broad level.

[41:20 - 41:20] Moderator: Right.

[41:21 - 41:25] Speaker 2: Are there themes that come up that you see in common? So you mentioned like communication-

[41:26 - 41:27] Moderator: Right. Right.

[41:40 - 41:40] Speaker 2: You know, and then will these-, do you think these will help shape [inaudible].

[41:40 - 42:50] Moderator: Right. So yeah. Some of the, I think communication- what you just said is a huge theme. And I mean, I discussed some of the main themes that came out of, out of each one, but I'm not sure, I'm not sure if it would, cause to, I think to be able to incorporate the agricultural like doing more of the interviews with the agricultural community. I would kind of use some of the same questions because I need to get more, just more interviews from them in general, and to be able to make it comparable to what we just did would need to ask some of the same questions. But as a next, next step I definitely think that we would use, try or at least try to maybe ask more about the conflict, because at least for the Great Sand Dunes, we were talking more about their relationship with wildlife and conflict didn't really come up, but we were, when we were in Africa, I think we were more specifically asking about conflicts. So maybe trying to do that with some of the agricultural communities, in the future in Great Sand Dunes. Yeah.

[42:50 - 42:50] Speaker 3: How was [inaudible]?

[42:56 - 42:56] Moderator: Mm-hmm.

[42:56 - 42:56] Speaker 3: [inaudible].

[43:00 - 43:56] Moderator: Basically. So it was actually really interesting because that that meeting that we held between the communities and the park staff was the first meeting of that kind that ever happened between all of these communities, and, you know, a lot of the park staff, other than that, it is just that person trying to go to one other person that lives in those communities, as opposed to a lot of people getting together to have that discussion; that this person from the park would go and have that main contact point within each village because there are so many villages to be managed. Whereas in Great Sand Dunes, they have tons of public forums and whatnot, all the time that they're inviting people to to come, you know, voice their opinions, talk about things and whatnot. And there could be some of that in Tanzania as well that, you know, maybe, we weren't aware of, but it didn't seem that apparent. Yeah.

[43:58 - 44:15] Speaker 4: I guess I'm curious you said that in Tanzania they didn't meet much. But the meeting was a lot bigger. I'm just wondering if, and the reason is because they have- I mean public forums and things like that [unintelligible].

[44:19 - 45:33] Moderator: Yeah. No, I think that's that's a great point. And that's, you know, kind of our meeting was taking place really and really close to another really big meeting that was going to be happening between a lot of the communities there, and the park, and other government agencies. So I think the park, the Fish and Wildlife Service, BLM and Forest Service were all getting like hosting this joint meeting of some sort, where the community was going to be invited to come. So I was getting emails back from people, like thinking that my meeting was part of this meeting, and I was like, "No, no, this is for, remember that project?" And and it had been a while since I had interviewed some of these people because of that whole embezzlement scandal. And they were like, "Oh, yeah, yeah, maybe. But I'm going to be going to this other meeting. So what's your meeting and what?" And I was just like, okay, if you can go, it's just so you can have a one on more like, you know, interpersonal interaction with the park. But yeah, that's a great point that, because there's more discussion I think that, yeah. Less participation for mine. [pauses] Any other question. Okay. Thank you guys so much. Yeah. [applause]

END TRANSCRIPTION