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Tracking the Elephant (*Lexodonta Africana*) Corridor and the Human-Wildlife Conflict in Selela Village

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Oral Presentation O7.3

**TRACKING THE ELEPHANT (*LEXODONTA AFRICANA*)
CORRIDOR AND THE HUMAN-WILDLIFE CONFLICT
IN SELELA VILLAGE**

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The beastly journey of long-distance migration for the African Elephant (*Lexodonta Africana*) is important for upholding their connections between diminishing protected areas in northeastern Tanzania. Human development is encroaching into these migratory corridors which can negatively affect both humans and elephants. This study focused on exploring the hypothesized human-elephant conflict on the Selela corridor, specifically through opportunistic interviews in Selela village, as well as GPS mapping evidence (dung, tracks, browsing, scratching, and wallowing) of elephant travel along the projected corridor connecting Ngorongoro Conservation Area (NCA), through Selela Forest Reserve (SFR), to Manyara Ranch. We support our hypothesis that elephants currently travel during the rainy season from NCA to SFR and from Manyara Ranch to Losimangori Mountains (LM), and possibly from LM to SFR, but there was not enough elephant evidence to confirm this. There is problematic human-elephant conflict in Selela village, where elephants kill humans and destroy farmland. Elephants might travel to the SFR to escape ants in NCA, eat crops, and for high phosphorous levels in SFR for lactating females. We hope that this study can be used to help conserve this vital elephant corridor and assist in resolving the human-elephant conflict in Selela village in the wake of increasing human development.