

## Supplementary Material

### Interview questions (in English and Kiswahili; translated by JvdW and IG)

1. What is your current age? *Umri wako?*
2. How many active honey-hunters are there in this village (defined as any person that has collected wild honey at least once this year)? *Je, kunawarina asali wangapi katika kijiji hichi (Jibu kama mtu ambae amerina asali ata mwituni ata mara moja kwa mwaka huu)?*
3. What motivates you to go honey-hunting? *Kuna nini inakuchochea uende kubangua asali?*
4. How important is selling honey and/or wax for you as a source of income in the honey-hunting high-season? *Je, kuuza asali inaumuhimu gani kwako binafsi katika mapato ya hela?*
5. From whom did you learn to honey-hunt? *Ulijifunza kuwinda asali kutoka nani?*
6. When (which months) is the best time for honey hunting in the year? *Muda gani ni nzuri kawaida kuwinda asali na kupata asali nyingi?*
7. What is the name of the bird that guides you to honey? *Ni nani jina la ndege anaye kuonyesha asali?*
8. How often do you rely on honeyguides to find bees' nests for harvesting? *Je, hutegemea hii ndege mara ngapi kama unenda ku bangua asali?*
9. How many days per month do you honey-hunt in the honey-hunting high season? *Una bangua nyuki marangapi kwa mwezi kwenya msimu wa asali nyingi?*
10. Do you leave anything for the birds after the harvest and why? *Baada yakubangua unaacha chakula (inta) chochote kwa ndege?*
11. Has the practice of honey-hunting changed over the past generations? *Je wafahamu kama urinaji wa asali unabadilika kutoka msimu kwa msimu?*
12. Have you ever been guided to something else than bees? If so, what? How often does it happen? What do you interpret from that? *Umewai pelekwa kwenye kitu aambayo sio nyuki? Nini? Inatokea mara ngapi? Kwanini?*
13. What sounds do you use to attract honeyguides? Are there separate calls used to attract honeyguides, and calls used to follow honeyguides? *Wewe unatumia sauti kuwaita ndege? Je, sauti ambazo unatumia kumita ni sawa na sauti ya kumfuatisha?*
14. From whom did you learn these honey hunting call(s)? *Ulijifunza sauti hii kutoka nani?*

15. What is the average time it takes to attract a honeyguide (from the moment you start making sounds to the moment the honeyguide arrives)? *Unachukua muda gani kumfwatisha au kumpata ndege kutoka muda ambao unanza kumwita wewe?*
16. From the moment you start following the bird, how long does it take (on average) until you find a bees' nest? *Kutoka mudua amboa unanza kumfwatisha ndege, inachukua muda gani kwa kawaida mpaka unawaona nyuki?*
17. When you harvest a bees' nest, do you normally climb or cut-down the tree? *Kawaida unavio bangua nyuki, unapanda juu ya mti au mnakata mti wote chini?*
18. What methods to subdue bees do you use? *Je unatumia njia gani kuwatuliza nyuki wakati unarina asali?*

### Interview answers

Summarised short answers as given by the six honey-hunters interviewed in the study. Translated from Kiswahili or Kisomali to English by IG.

N.B. Interviewee names and their village are omitted from this database. Interviewees 3, 4 and 5 were from the same village, and interviewees 1, 2 and 6 are from three different villages.

<b>Question:</b>	<b>Interviewee 1</b>	<b>Interviewee 2</b>	<b>Interviewee 3</b>	<b>Interviewee 4</b>	<b>Interviewee 5</b>	<b>Interviewee 6</b>
<b>1. What is your current age?</b>	54	25	65	37	33	52
<b>2. How many active honey-hunters are there in this village</b>	15+	~30	15–20	~20	15	8
<b>3. What motivates you to go honey-hunting?</b>	For food, and to trade and sell. Wax with brood eaten is eaten by children. Wax not sold but we have been trained in the past to make candles/soap.	To eat (honey and wax), and I trade and sell.	Food (honey and wax/brood), trade, sell.	Food (honey and wax with brood for children), trade, sell.	Food, trade, sell, wax with brood eaten by children. Wishes to sell wax but there is no market.	Food, trade and sell. 1000 Kenyan Shillings for 1 L of honeybee honey, 1500 Kenyan shillings for 1 L of stingless bee honey.
<b>4. How important is selling honey and/or wax for you as a source of income in the honey-hunting high-season?</b>	Very important	Very important	Very important	Very important	Very important	Very important

<b>5. From whom did you learn to honey-hunt?</b>	Father mostly	Father	Father	Father and elders in village	Father	As a child, father
<b>6. When is the best time for honey hunting in the year?</b>	During the dry periods months i.e. August, July, September, February, March	All the dry months are good for honey-hunting, i.e. August–September–October to December.	Generally, the dry months are very good for honey hunting e.g. August–September– October to December. When there are rains bees eat the honey as they do not want very cold temperature.	August–September–October to December.	August–September–October to December.	This month, and also the dry season. Basically, until the next rains.
<b>7. What is the name of the bird that guides you to honey?</b>	Miris. Two types: Male: Bateh Female: Tumuji Female is slightly more active (calls more), but both sexes are equally good at guiding.	Miris. Two types: Male: Bateh Female: Tumuji	Miris – awer (Two types: a male – bateh, female Tumuji). Can be differentiated by sound and size, the male is bigger size and makes big and loud sound and has red bill.	Miris – awer (Two types a male – bateh, female Tumuji) they can told apart by sound and size, the male is bigger size and makes big and loud sound and has red bill.	Miris	Miris. Male: Bateh Female: Tumuji
<b>8. How often do you rely on honeyguides to find bees' nests for harvesting?</b>	Always want to, but sometimes don't find: love to meet the bird every time but sometimes we miss it.	Always.	We want to rely 100% because the probability is high of finding the nest with honeyguides, but the bird is not always found. Sometimes	Always.	Always want to, but I don't always meet the bird.	Not always, but great if it's there.

			when there is no bird, we find bees' nests by looking in all possible trees within sight, and if we see the bees collecting the flowers- we follow them back to their nest. In certain seasons the queen bee comes out to celebrate during the day from 3pm to 5pm, at this moment we also follow them to spot the nest.			
<b>9. How many days per month do you honey-hunt in the honey-hunting high season?</b>	7 days in a month. This also depends on the family's economic situation: if it's not good there is a greater need to hunt honey.	10 days in a month in the honey-hunting high season.	10 days in a month in the honey-hunting high season.	10 days in a month in the honey-hunting high season.	4 days in a month in the honey-hunting high season.	7 days: once a week.
<b>10. Do you leave anything for the birds after the harvest and why?</b>	No. Otherwise it will be silent next time.	I give most of the time: I don't believe in the theory of the bird not cooperating again once fed.	No, we bury the remains. We believe the bird once fed will not cooperate again. This also means when the bird eats the remains, they will	No, we bury the remains. The bird once fed will not cooperate again.	No, I bury the remains. Once the bird is fed it will not show the next tree.	No. If the bird eats, it will be full and not lead again.

		There are so many miris out there, if you feed one, another hungry one comes.	stay silent until the next season, when the rains comes and they vomit what they have eaten.			
<b>11. Has the practice of honey-hunting changed over the past generations?</b>	The bees have reduced so have honey hunting activities. Also currently majority of people do other activities such as farming. But in the past honey was plenty due to good climatic conditions.	The bees have reduced, so have honey hunting activities.	The bees have reduced. In the past they did not sell the honey, it was purely eaten as a food.	The bees have reduced.	Yes a lot, the youth for example are now for the majority in school, and others are farming.	I don't do honey hunting for business but it helps me get personal effects (flour, etc.). There was more wild honey in the past than there is now. Drought now.
<b>12. Have you ever been guided to something else than bees?</b>	Sometimes animals, e.g. lions.	Sometimes animals, e.g. lions.	On rare occasions sometimes the honeyguide will show you animals e.g. big snakes, but my belief is that the bird is not intentionally taking us to the wildlife: the bird may pass over the area with animals. But when we follow the honeyguide we follow cautiously.	On rare occasions sometimes it will show you animals e.g. big snakes.	On rare occasions sometimes it will show you animals e.g. lions, buffalos, snakes.	Yes; a big snake, and a lion with prey.

<b>13. A. What sounds do you use to attract honeyguides? [Attracting call]?</b>	Fuuj Fuuj Fuuj or whistling on snail shell.	Fuuj Fuuj Fuuj or whistling on snail shell.	Fuuj Fuuj Fuuj or whistling on snail shell.	Fuuj Fuuj Fuuj or whistling on snail shell.	Fuuj Fuuj Fuuj or whistling on snail shell.	Fuuj Fuuj Fuuj or whistling on snail shell.
<b>B. What call do you use when following honeyguides [Guiding call]?</b>	Once you meet one need not to whistle again but say iiigeeh, hah, haah, haah – to say take me.	Once you meet one need not to whistle again but say iiigeeh, hah, haah, haah – to say take me.	Once you meet one need not to whistle again but say iiigeeh, hah, haah, haah – to say take me.	Once you meet one need not to whistle again but say iiigeeh, hah, haah, haah – to say take me.	Once you meet one need not to whistle again but say iiigeeh, hah, haah, haah – to say take me.	Hah-hah-heh-heh
<b>14. From who did you learn these calls?</b>	Father and other village elders.	Father and other village elders.	Father and other village elders.	Father and other village elders.	Father.	Father.
<b>15. What is the average time it takes to attract a honeyguide?</b>	Depends; sometimes 1 hour, and sometimes a whole day.	Sometimes 1 hour, sometimes 5 minutes, sometimes whole day and sometimes I don't find the bird at all.	Sometimes 1 hour, sometimes 5 minutes and sometimes whole day and sometime we do not find it altogether.	It's sheer luck, sometimes immediately when you leave the villages, sometimes it takes 30 minutes, sometimes the whole day.	It's purely sheer luck, sometimes immediately when you leave the village, sometimes it takes 30 minutes, sometimes the whole day.	<i>Question not asked</i>
<b>16. From the moment you start following the bird, how long does it take (on average) until</b>	30 min.	Once you meet the bird, in most cases it takes less time to find the bees' nest.	Once you meet the bird it takes less time finding the bees' nest. The bird stays around the tree area.	Once you meet the bird it takes less time finding the bees' nest.	Once you meet the bird it takes between 15–30 minutes. The bird normally stays within a distance of the	<i>Question not asked</i>

<b>you find a bees' nest?</b>					tree with the bees' nest.	
<b>17. When you harvest a bees' nest, do you normally climb or cut-down the tree?</b>	Most of the times the bees' nest is located within reach, but when it's a tall tree we climb the tree.	Most of the times the bees' nest is located within reach, but in the case of tall trees and/or hard to climb trees, we cut them down. So far this year I've cut down 5 trees.	Most of the times the bees' nest is located within reach, but in the case of tall trees and/or hard to climb trees, we cut them down. So far this year I've cut down 2 trees.	Sometimes we climb to where the nest is located and sometimes it's within reach when you stand, but when no one can climb then we cut down the whole tree and this year I have cut down 6 big trees.	Sometimes we climb to where the nest is located and sometimes it's within reach when you stand, but when no one can climb then we cut down the whole tree and this year I have cut down 6 big trees.	Others cut, I always climb.
<b>18. What methods to subdue bees do you use?</b>	Smoke.	Smoke.	Smoke.	Smoke.	Smoke.	Smoke.