

Project Update: November 2012

The project started well and, as planned, at the beginning of the dry season (July 2012). For the red colobus research component, data collection was conducted in two forests, Mwanihana and Magombera, respectively a sub-montane to montane evergreen forest and a small lowland, ground water forest. Primate census data have been collected systematically through line-transects, and approximately 200 group observations were counted. Collection of faecal samples were instead taken opportunistically but also successfully conducted in both forests. After having walked line transects to assess primate abundance through distance sampling, ground-based vegetation samplings were also achieved by measuring and identifying trees above 10 cm of diameter. Ground-based “disturbance transects” were concurrently carried out.

The second component (enhancing the park-wide ecological monitoring) also begun as planned, with a participatory review of the current arrangements that was done with the Ecology Department of the Udzungwa Mountains National Park. This allowed to review and better identify the personnel required, and design a more complete set of transects than previously achieved. At the beginning of September 2012, a 1-day workshop was organized to review data collection, data summary and GIS visualization of results. Field data collection begun in the fall and is currently on-going. Next step will be an interim workshop which is planned for early 2013.

