

Project Update: December 2015

On 15th November 2015, a camera trap survey started though there were some delays due to camera traps borrowing logistics. The team had a meeting with MBOMIPA Wildlife Management Area (WMA) officers and Village Game Scouts (VGS). After that setting of camera traps started while recording animal signs like footprints, scats/ dung/pellets, digging holes, etc. During the exercise animals such as zebra, elephant, jackals, dwarf mongoose, water buck, impala, warthog, dikdik, giraffe and buffalo were seen. Finally, 32 cameras were set, four VGS and two local research assistants were trained and involved in the implementation. VGS know areas where bat-eared fox, black backed jackels and mongoose are seen several times and this information were helpfully to the project. The project future plan was to initiate conservation awareness program to 21 local villages surrounding Ruaha area on the ecological, social and economic importance of small carnivores.



Left: Small carnivore project research assistant and village game scouts setting camera trap after being trained. Right: Forest can be part of small carnivore's habitat.



Left: PI crawling in front of camera trap to see if it works well while village game scout watching. Right: Project investigator explaining to village game scouts how camera traps work.