

## **Project Update: December 2016**

It took me a long time to get a research permit due to the fact that the Chief Tourism Officer who has to sign for my research permit was in Europe for some weeks in addition to the bureaucracy here in Rwanda where a request stays in the office for months and months. So, I could not start implementing my research project without a permit as my research will be conducted in a protected area.

Luckily, I was called by the Chief Tourism Officer's assistant last Friday telling me that my research permit has been signed. I went there immediately and today I started pilot study. Means this is the first day of my pilot study.

I am excited to see Gisovu chimpanzees as it is my first time to conduct research on this group! But as this group is being habituated, it's quite difficult to see chimps closely because when I try to approach them, they run away. So, I am watching them at a significant distance and use my binoculars and maximal zoom of my camera. Today, I am looking for their behaviour and group size then since tomorrow I will be looking on other items including their diet, vegetation and home range.

I can't wait to share with you some updates during this pilot study that I started today. And further for research implementation as the pilot study will be for one week and after I will start field data collection.

Here attached are some pictures that can serve as cover photo of my research on Rufford website or other purpose. I will share with you more and update on data collection as well.

My heartfelt apologies to the Rufford Foundation team. Normally I am a hard-worker and enthusiastic primatologist except this challenge that happened but since I got my research permit, I am going to move fast even though I will have a short delay in reporting but I promise you maximal quality of this research findings.

Thank you so much for your consideration, your tireless collaboration and support. It is really encouraging.

