

## **Project Update: July 2021**

### **Natural Forest Regeneration Distribution and Diversity: Gombe Lessons**

During the period under review, I managed to organise and conduct the meetings with village leaders of Mwamgongo, Mtanga, Mgaraganza, Bubango, and Chankele to inform them about the project and discuss the benefits and challenges of the village land forest reserves. I also managed to perform the vegetation plot surveys in the village land forest reserves of Mtanga, Mgaraganza, Chankele, Bitale, and Bubango villages.

In this survey, I used high-resolution satellite images to randomly select the locations for setting out the vegetation plots. I obtained high-resolution satellite imagery from the Jane-Goodall Institute (JGI). I then used the randomly selected locations to guide the research team on where to set the vegetation plots.

During the survey and with the permission of the village government authorities, I placed the tree tags for each of the plots established. The plan here is to generate the permanent vegetation plots for monitoring purposes. The location and tree tag numbers will be shared with each village as soon as I finish the data collection. In the meetings, I requested village leaders to educate and sensitise the villagers not to remove the tree tags because they are very important for accurate identification of the same vegetation plots in the future critical for monitoring purposes.



Village leaders of Chankele village during project introduction meeting.

To enhance the collaboration and participation of the vegetation survey activity, I requested each village government to appoint three villagers who will join the research team to perform vegetation plot surveys in their respective villages. In each village, I was given two members from the village land use plan committee, and a Forest Monitor who is a village member volunteered to perform patrols and monitoring activities in the reserves.

I am currently working on a few logistics to 1) perform the vegetation plot survey at Mwamgongo village and 2) to hold a meeting with research assistants who will help me to perform the questionnaire survey at Mwamgongo, Mtanga, Mgaraganza, Bubango, and Chankele villages.



Village leaders of Mgaraganza village during project introduction meeting.





Research assistants at Chankele village and Mgaraganza village. The team is ready for going to the field to perform the vegetation plot survey at the Chankele village land forest reserve and Mgaraganza forest reserve.