

Project Update: April 2019

Socio-economic surveys are still underway and 107 households have been interviewed in Chizela Chiefdom (south of West Lunga National Park) thus far. The project is now focussing only on miombo woodlands and mainly in Chizela Chiefdom for the baseline data collection phase as the future development of a beekeeping project (in partnership with Nature's Nectar) in the area and the designation of a community protected forest area here will benefit from the research and baseline research is needed before these developments are underway.

The paper submitted to the African Journal of Ecology ("Insights into the impacts of traditional honey hunting in Zambia") was accepted for publication.

Floral observations have been conducted on *Julbernardia paniculata* flowers over May (the first flowering season of the year). *Julbernardia paniculata* is a ubiquitous species common in miombo woodland and is thought to be an important 'honey' tree.



Figure 1: Fred, a local from North-Western Province has been trained to conduct socio-economic surveys in the areas surrounding southern West Lunga National Park (A). The socio-economic surveys have been collecting data on the intrinsic and monetary value of forest products in the area, some of the most important of these being honey, mushrooms, and edible caterpillars which are currently abundant on their host trees (B-E).



Figure 2: There are a number of threats contributing to deforestation in the North-Western Province, which are being captured by the socio-economic survey in the hopes of developing mitigation measures for these: charcoal production (A); traditional hive construction (B-C); logging (D); harvesting edible caterpillars (E). Current methods of edible caterpillar harvesting by semi-commercial and informal traders are destructive, with harvesters felling trees for more rapid collection, unlike traditional methods where trees are not felled.



Figure 3: Floral observations were conducted on flowering *Julbernardia paniculata* trees (A). A number of insect groups were observed visiting flowers of *J. Paniculata*, including this flower moth (B) and native, wild honeybees *Apis mellifera scutellata* (C, D).