

Project Update: December 2018

Species composition, relative completeness and natural state of the Ramogi Hills

Community biophysical assessment of Ramogi Hill forest

Our second and third biophysical assessment of the forest was done from 13th to 17th June 2018 by the project team and four community members. We were able to identify a total of 43 local species from 19 families. The characteristic species are *Acacia seyal*, *Sapium ellipticum*, *Commiphora* sp and *Rhus nataliensis*. Areas of land that are lying fallow at present but which were evidently cultivated or cleared up to a few years ago have a dense scrubby association of *Acacia*, *Tamarindus* and *Euphorbia*. Conspicuous for its absence on the forest is any member of the family Comreteca.

We were able to conclude that the vegetation in Bondo has been considerably

Workshop for local community and forest working group.

The team organised a series of meetings with the community which later culminated to the Annual Got Ramogi Festival where both social, environmental and political issues in the community were discussed. The event enabled the team to meet other stakeholders in different fields. Rufford Small Grants was also recognised as one of the funders and the logo was included in the official banner for the event.

Assessment of traditional ethno-ecological knowledge

During one of focused group discussions we were able to discuss and obtain a lot of local ethno-ecological knowledge especially with regards to medicinal plants and traditional conservation initiatives that was practiced in the past 40 years that has since been abandoned. We found out that if programmes can be initiated and properly executed we can combine these knowledge and current conservation initiatives to help.



Official banner for the annual Got Ramogi Event. Rufford Foundation was recognized as one of the partners through the funding of our environmental activities.



Left: Transportation of charcoal to Bondo market. Selling of charcoal has been rampant in the forest amid increased awareness and policing. Right: Project team carrying out community focused group discussion at Ramogi Forest.



Left: School nature club patron visiting Got Ramogi with the project team. Right: World Environmental day event hosted at Got Ramogi Primary school.



Left: School children having a school day trip at Got Ramogi. Right: Ibrahim (project team member) with the Ramogi forest guards.

