

Final Evaluation Report

Your Details	
Full Name	Richard Muvunyi
Project Title	Conserving the Endangered Golden Monkeys Perpetuating Crop Raiding in Farmlands adjacent to the Volcanoes National Park through Promoting Community Conservation
Application ID	27558-1
Grant Amount	£4,990
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Date of this Report	2 nd April 2020

1. Indicate the level of achievement of the project's original objectives and include any relevant comments on factors affecting this.

Objective	Not achieved	Partially achieved	Fully achieved	Comments
Conduct a household survey to assess human-golden monkey conflict around Volcanoes National Park.				We conducted a structured questionnaire survey involving 100 local farmers with fields located within 100 m of the forest asking their opinions and experiences of monkeys and their crop-raiding. The questionnaire indicated that 95% of participant farmers had visits from golden monkeys with 86% of them experiencing raids.
Gathering community knowledge and perceptions about Golden money conservation				This was fully achieved through survey questionnaire, awareness and community workshops in the first term of the project implementation. Reduced crop productivity, injuries and death were identified as the main negative effects of the conflict for farmers. It was also highlighted that family development is undermined by the time and money that farmers must allocate to reducing the conflict instead of focusing on other projects that can benefit their families. Children school dropouts were also highlighted as a consequence of being sometimes involved in guarding fields.
Mapping and monitoring of golden monkey conflict hotspots and estimating of population				All conflict hotspots around Volcanoes National Park was GPS mapped and monitored. Group number counting was done on quarterly basis in order to estimate the population sizes of golden monkey in each area around the park.

Organize training for Park rangers to amplify their knowledge, attitude, behaviour and practices on Golden Monkey monitoring			The project undertook also a training of selected park field staff (rangers) whereby a considerable amount of time was reserved for monitoring golden monkey sightings within the park. We focused on the type of information needed and how the information collected by the ranger monitoring system is very important in informing management decision for the species (golden monkey conservation).
Work with stakeholder agencies to protect and promote Golden Monkey conservation			This project was implemented in collaboration and support of different stakeholders. We are grateful for their participation. We acknowledge the role of RDB Volcanoes National Park management in this project as well as other key NGOs like Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund International, Gorilla Doctors and International Gorilla Conservation Program, not forgetting the involvement of the local government and the community.

2. Please explain any unforeseen difficulties that arose during the project and how these were tackled.

The most challenge we met during the implementation of our project was the Ebola disease outbreak. The Ebola outbreak that happened in early May to December 2019 in Eastern DRC, Goma town, which is close to Volcanoes National Park in Rwanda. Since the area of the Ebola outbreak was close to the park, the Government of Rwanda took several measures to prevent any contamination and spread of the disease in both humans and non-human primates. The measures included closure of borders with DRC and increased monitoring of movements of people around the park and other adjacent areas. These measures interrupted our project plans as the country was in the crisis trying to prevent the disease from entering into the country. However, we managed to conduct much of our planned activities during this hard situation and these changed the original timeline of the project.

3. Briefly describe the three most important outcomes of your project.

- Through this project, we were able to conduct a survey study where we learnt

and understood much on the human wildlife conflicts around Volcanoes National Park and we were able to identify some mitigation measures in response to these conflicts.

- Through community education and awareness, two community groups were formed to volunteer as guardians and be informants to the park management.
- Through this project, we managed to map (a map was produced) all conflict hotspots around the park.

4. Briefly describe the involvement of local communities and how they have benefitted from the project.

Communities have benefited from this project through learning from each other, sharing experience, learning new methods that are conservation friendly for guarding their properties and crops. Different community workshops and awareness have been a learning platform for the communities. Communities have been involved in monitoring and reporting of golden monkeys where seen outside the park. Also, the community members have been on the frontline spreading the good news and educating other people. The communities have understood the importance of golden monkey conservation and pledged/committed to be volunteers for guarding their crops.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes, we have plans to continue this work, especially evaluating the effectiveness of the new preventive measures that were preferred and highlighted from the community themselves and assist the volunteer program to work through forming teams/clubs. In continuing this project, we will be able to reach a big mass of community as well as adding more other sites that were not covered in the previous project.

6. How do you plan to share the results of your work with others?

Seminar presentations at University of Rwanda through the centre of excellence in biodiversity, partners like Gorilla Doctors and Diana Fossey Gorilla Fund International. Plans for drafting a research paper for online publication.

We plan to produce a big poster presentation that will be stationed at the park head offices for public reading.

7. Timescale: Over what period was the grant used? How does this compare to the anticipated or actual length of the project?

The project took almost 13 months, instead of the proposed 12. This delay was due to the Ebola outbreak that happened in early May to December 2019 in Eastern, DRC in the town of Goma close to Volcanoes National Park in Rwanda as described above.

8. **Budget:** Provide a breakdown of budgeted versus actual expenditure and the reasons for any differences. All figures should be in £ sterling, indicating the local exchange rate used. It is important that you retain the management accounts and all paid invoices relating to the project for at least 2 years as these may be required for inspection at our discretion.

Item	Budgeted Amount	Actual Amount	Difference	Comments
Project stakeholder engagement and presentation costs	150	150		Done as it was budgeted
Mapping conflict hotspots costs	400	380	-20	We had some discounts on the GIS soft.
Reporting costs	100	50	-50	We reduced this cost to use it have on other items like Camera.
End of project evaluation survey costs	100	100		Done as it was budgeted
Daily allowance for the project assistant to follow up project activities	300	300		Done as it was budgeted
Daily allowance for the project PI to follow up project activities implementation	350	350		Done as it was budgeted
Hiring public address system to use in the education /training workshops (4times @ 85 each)	150	200	+50	Equipment were quite expensive than it was budgeted
Hiring a projector for use in education/training workshops (4 times) @ 50 per day	200	165	-35	Got the project on low cost and the balance was topped up to other items.
Refreshments for the 4 workshop participants (sodas & water)	150	184	+34	We had to add more of refreshments as participants were spending much long than planned
Transport for Crop rangers to attend their workshop (20 Crop rangers @ 5 pounds each)	100	105	+5	Slightly increased as it was budgeted
Transport for the 3 workshop participants (30 local leaders, CBCEV, cooperative leaders, farmer groups leaders per workshop @ 5 pounds each)	450	445	-5	

Designing and Printing of education/ education materials e.g. t-shirts, caps/ banners/flyers	500	455	-45	We had a discount in printing the materials
Hiring Venuefor the 4 education /training workshops @ 80	320	322	+2	
Car hire for Transport during the Survey @ 50 pounds per day*10 working days	500	493	-7	
Wages for the Survey assistants (3 assistants paid 30 per day) * 15 working days	450	450		As it was budgeted
Designing and Printing questionnaires for the Survey	200	189	-11	Had more copies printed
Fees for processing the permit to implement the project around Volcanoes NP	100	98	-2	As it was budgeted
GPS and Camera batteries costs (2 pairs each@ 5£ per pair) x 4 pairs	20	40	+20	We decided to buy more pairs of batteries
1 Digital Camera (Nikon)	250	280	+30	Was a bit expensive than we budgeted
1 GPS Unit (Garmin)	200	198	-2	As it was budgeted
Bank charges		40	+40	Was not budgeted from the proposal and come as mandatory.
Total	4990	4994	+4	Exchange Rate: 1 British Pound = 1113 Rwandan Francs

9. Looking ahead, what do you feel are the important next steps?

- To evaluate the effectiveness of the new preventive measures that preferred and highlighted from the community themselves.
- To assist in setting up community-based volunteer teams that will be helping in monitoring of golden monkeys whenever they come out of the park.
- To Conduct a systematic population survey of golden monkey in Volcanoes and Gishwati –Mukura National Parks in Rwanda
- Continued sensitisation of local leaders and other stakeholders, this will create a sustainable conservation approach and will enhance the community ownership of golden monkey conservation.
- Further studies on behavior and conservation of golden monkey are needed as

they will help in generating useful information for the conservation of these primate species.

10. Did you use The Rufford Foundation logo in any materials produced in relation to this project? Did the Foundation receive any publicity during the course of your work?

Yes, we used the Rufford Foundation logo on t-shirts, leaflets, banners and on questionnaires we used during the project implementation. The logo will also be used wherever we present this work.

11. Please provide a full list of all the members of your team and briefly what was their role in the project.

Dr Richard MUVUNYI: Myself, the principal investigator and much involved in coordinating project activities, giving talks, field visits and data collection and reporting to our stakeholders.

Mr. Richard Karangwa (Gatema): He conducted field work, overseeing the community survey and administering questionnaire, data analysis, mapping of conflict hotspots, taking photos, and community outreach.

12. Any other comments?

Although several biodiversity surveys have so far been conducted in the Virunga massif where the VNP is located. it is important to recognise that population of golden monkey in the VNP has been not systematically counted. Current estimates of golden monkey population ranging in the park have been made based on the ranger-based monitoring (RBM) program method which is a tool that enables the gathering of extensive information on illegal activities, key species of fauna and flora, and habituated and non- habituated groups of gorillas.

Currently the most commonly used measure to reduce monkey raiding around the VNP, was thought by participants to be the most effective crop-raiding mitigation method (although it has its limitations) and further use of co-operatives along with potential government support of these was suggested as a way forward. As golden monkeys challenge the existing measures, participants argued that novel methods need to be tested to reduce crop-raiding, and an unpalatable cash crop buffer zone was favoured. Views of conservation stakeholders are key in designing effective HWC mitigation measures (Treves, Wallace, & White, 2009) and workshop feedback was very positive. One important outcome of the workshop has been to provide information which is helping to guide the development of a conservation action plan for golden monkeys.

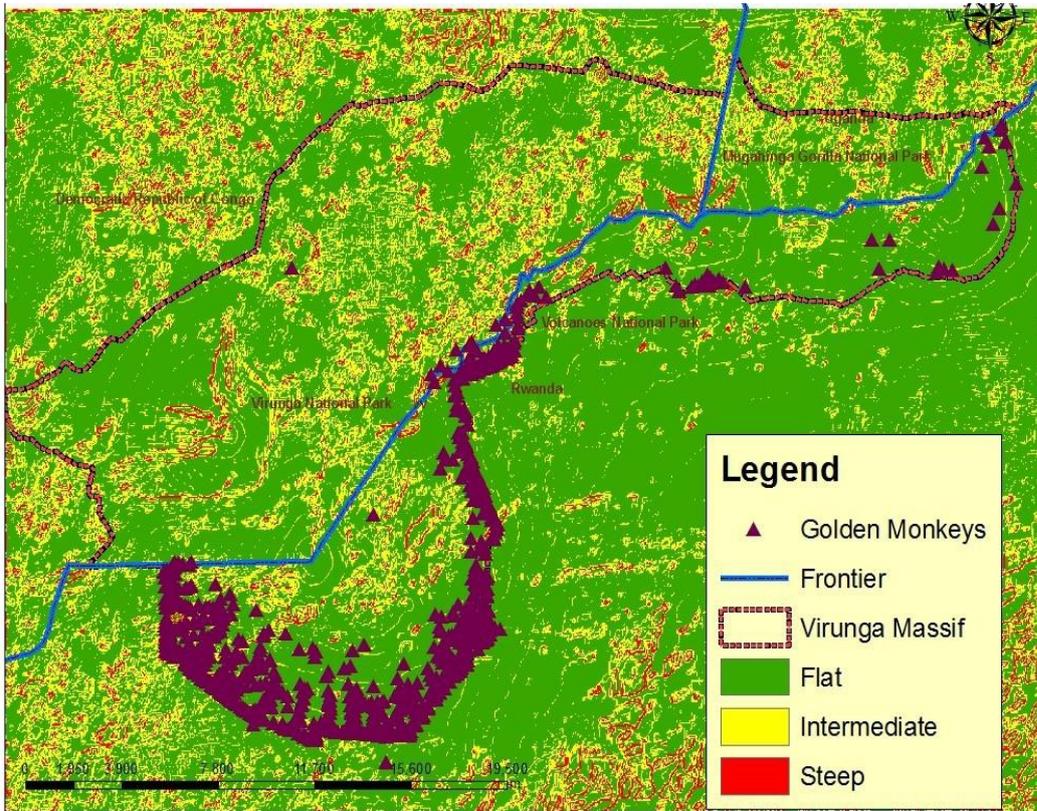


Fig 1: Golden Monkeys Distribution in 2019



Physical barriers like Masks

Organization of community workshop to amplify their knowledge, attitude, behaviour and practices on golden monkey conservation.

Two awareness workshops were done to touch base with communities. For each session, the project and its objectives explained to the participants. This was done so that the sessions could begin when the community member were aware of what was going to be discussed and educated on. To ascertain the community knowledge and understanding on golden monkeys.



A Community member talking about Golden Monkeys around VNP



PI with a team of Rangers during field monitoring in VNP.

Word summary

The implementation of this project focusing on raising awareness of communities around Volcanoes National Park on golden monkey conservation was vital to ensure that the tireless efforts of the communities that live in close proximity to this national park and co-exist with golden monkey were involved in contributing to the existing species conservation efforts. The skills and knowledge that the community members gained through this project will be well applied in conservation of golden monkey. Specifically, community members promised to be good ambassadors that will carry the message to their fellow community members and make them aware that golden monkeys are also important since most of them only knew that gorillas are more important than any other animal in the park.

Some photos of Golden Monkey during our Monitoring



