

Project Update: April 2020

1.0 Background

Primate populations (particularly chimpanzees) are dramatically declining across Africa primarily due to human disturbance in their habitats. Ntakata Forest, an important primate habitat in western Tanzania, has been reported to experience threats from the increasing pressures of human disturbance resulting in human encroachment into the forest, forest loss and environmental degradation. The increasing pressures from human activities have threatened the biodiversity in the area. Therefore, this project focused to assess the socio-economic status of people living around Ntakata Forest and the extent of their losses caused by wild animals with emphasis on primates, and to identify factors affecting attitudes of local communities toward forest and primate conservation. In general, the project intended to assess attitudes of local communities towards primate conservation, to quantify human-primate conflict, to identify human threats to primates and their habitat, to educate people in the local communities and raise their conservation awareness.

2.0 Data Collection

To meet the project purposes, we conducted a social survey in four villages bordering to Ntakata Forest (Mgambazi, Ikubulu, Lubalisi and Lugonesi). We collected data through questionnaires and key informant interviews (in form of a group discussion). We submitted questionnaires to households and considered each household as a sampling unit. For each household, we restricted the interview to one respondent, preferably the head or the oldest person. Questionnaires collected information on households' demographics (age, sex and education level) and socio-economic characteristics (e.g., land ownership, socio-economic activities, attitudes, perceptions, conflicts, threats to forest, conservation understanding, economic losses associated with primates, products they extract from the forest, costs they incur, etc.). In each village we submitted questionnaires to at least 5% of the village's total population. In the key informant interview, only knowledgeable people living in the villages participated. We discussed with village leaders, village game scouts working in the forest, and people involved in conservation activities in the villages.

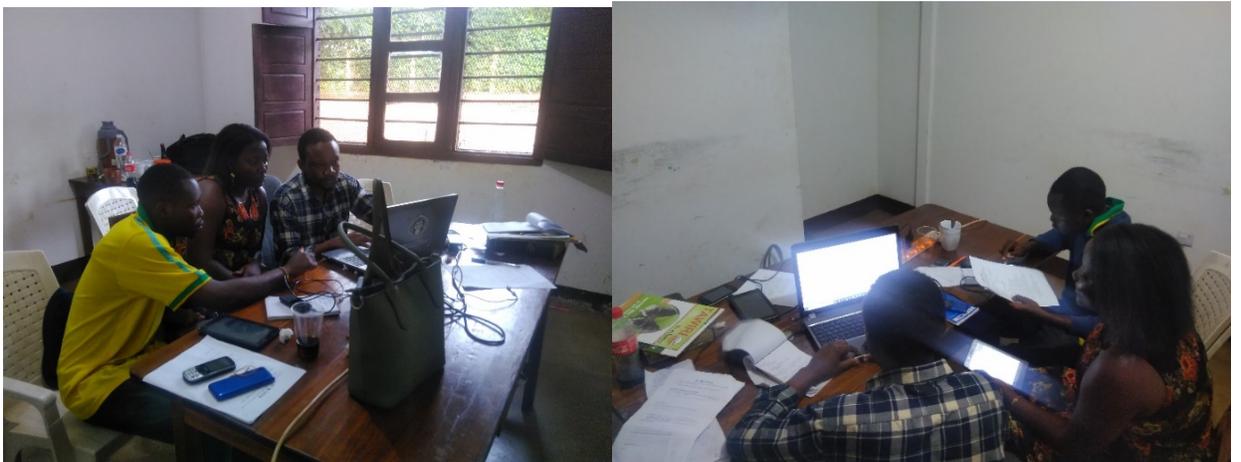




Some of the field pictures taken during data collection in different villages under the study.



The left picture was taken during the key informant interview at Lugonesi Village. The right picture is a picture of the project member, the village leaders and village game scouts who participated in the key informant interview at Lugonesi Village.



Pictures of the project team during data entry, organisation, cleaning and preliminary data analysis.

3.0 Survey Summary

3.1 Summary of the surveyed villages and number of respondents

We conducted a survey in four villages. A total number of 170 households were reached and 170 people interviewed.

Village Name	Number of Female and Male Interviewed		Number of Individuals Interviewed	Percentage of individuals Interviewed
	Female	Male		
Ikubulu	32	9	41	24.12
Lubalisi	15	10	25	14.71
Lugonesi	28	6	34	20.00
Mgambazi	41	29	70	41.18
Grand Total	116.00	54.00	170.00	100.00

3.2 Respondent characteristics (Age-sex distribution and Education level)

The age class of the most interviewed respondents ranged from 25-34 years followed by 35-44. Female were interviewed more than men as they were mostly found in the households.

Age Distribution	Respondent Number/Sex		Total number/ Character	Total Percentage / Character
	Female	Male		
15 to 24	27	1	28	16.5
25 to 34	44	18	62	36.5
35 to 44	23	17	40	23.5
45 to 54	12	10	22	12.9
55 and Above	10	8	18	10.6
Grand Total	116	54	170	100.0

The education level of the most respondents was a primary education (67.6%)

Education Level	Respondent Number/Sex		Total number/ Character	Total Percentage / Character
	Female	Male		
No formal Education	31	10	41	24.1
Primary Education	78	37	115	67.6
Secondary Education	6	7	13	7.6
Tertiary Education	1	0	1	0.6
Grand Total	116	54	170	100.0

3.3 Socio-economic activities carried out in the villages

People living in the villages adjacent to Ntakata Forest are engaging in various socio-economic activities. Based on the collected data, about 68% of people are depending on agriculture as the main economic activities for their livelihoods.

Respondent occupation	Number of Male and Female		Total number / occupation	Total percentage / occupation
	Female	Male		
Business	41	10	51	22.87
Casual Work	0	1	1	0.45
Farmer	98	53	151	67.7
Fishmonger	6	0	6	2.69
Carpenter	0	2	2	0.9
Government Worker	1	0	1	0.45
Livestock keeper	3	5	8	3.59
Mason	0	3	3	1.35

3.4 Reasons for people to migrate to the villages adjoining Ntakata Forest

The results indicate that there are a large number of people moving into the villages around Ntakata Forest for the purpose of obtaining areas for cultivation. The need for area for cultivation has made more people move into these villages. About 47% of the interviewed respondents were not born in these villages but rather they moved there to conduct agricultural activities and establish settlement. Thus, this poses a threat to the forest conservation as people keep increasing in number and expanding their farms. Further, the results indicate that marriage is another factor drawing people into these areas.

Respondent Migration Reason	Number of Male and Female		Total number per reason	Total percentage per reason
	Female	Male		
Business	6	1	7	9.21
Employment	0	5	5	6.58
Farming Land	13	23	36	47.37
Marriage	34	0	34	44.74
Marriage	3	1	4	5.26
Area for Grazing	0	1	1	1.32

4.0 Reaching schools for awareness raising

We conducted outreach activities and reached schools located in the villages where a social survey was conducted. The aim of the outreach activities was to discuss with students conservation issues and raise their awareness about wildlife conservation.

5.0 Next plans

- To carry out a thorough data analysis to understand:
 - Local communities' attitudes towards primates.
 - The extent of human-primate conflict.
 - Human threats to primates and their habitat.
 - The level of local community's conservation awareness.

- To prepare a detailed final report incorporating all aspects of the questionnaires and details obtained from the key informant interview.



Some of the pictures taken at Ikubulu Primary School during conservation awareness raising

6.0 The project team

All the project participants participated effectively in the project



A picture of the project team. From left is Baraka Naftal, Maria Mbogo and Mr. Nyundo.