

Project Update: October 2022

This report covers three activities (raising kipunji and *Paragalago* species awareness to conservation in local communities; training and initiating small income-generating activities; and sensitising and supporting local people to use energy-efficient stoves) which were conducted from April to October 2022. Since *Paragalago* sp. is a poorly known species, we carried out education campaigns to inform local people about its presence and conservation initiatives. We educated people about the importance of *Paragalago* sp., for instance, its role in promoting tourism activities in Mt. Rungwe Nature Forest Reserve (MRNFR). Therefore, they were urged to collaborate in protecting the MRNFR and its biodiversity to ensure their sustainable livelihoods. The conservation education campaigns were conducted in villages adjacent to MRFNR. Additionally, during village meetings, local people were educated on the importance of using energy-efficient stoves in reducing deforestation and degradation, thus supporting the protection of the MRNFR, kipunji, *Paragalago* sp, and other species in the reserve. All village meetings were summoned by the village chairman in each village. At least 50 households received education on free energy-efficient stoves and their use. The villages covered were Ilolo, Nditu, Bujingijira, Marambo, Mkukwa, Mpata, Ngalikali, Kibisi, Mbeghele, Syukula, Ndaga, and. Some of the education components are shown in Table 1.

Table 1: Education components covered during the project

Part of education offered	Facilitators
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Importance of MRNFR on ecosystem services and communities' sustainable livelihoods • The importance of protecting <i>Paragalago</i> sp. and <i>R. kipunji</i> • Contribution of <i>Paragalago</i> sp. and <i>R. kipunji</i> towards - sustainable livelihoods of communities • Importance of protecting environment • Advantages of environmental conservation 	Mr. Kazumari Mkwavila (TFS) Dr Fredrick Ojija (MUST) Mr. Lusekelo Silabi (MUST) Miss Leticia Lutambi (MUST)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meaning of biodiversity and its importance to local communities • List of animals found in MRNFR • Negative impact of human activities e.g. environmental degradation on <i>Paragalago</i> sp., <i>R. kipunji</i>, ecosystem services, and communities' livelihoods 	Dr Fredrick Ojija (MUST) Miss Fatuma Mwasamboma (MUST) Mr. Lusekelo Silabi (MUST)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion on human activities that contributes to the environmental degradation of the reserve. 	Dr Fredrick Ojija (MUST) Mr. Lusekelo Silabi (MUST) Mr. Kazumari Mkwavila (TFS) Miss Fatuma Mwasamboma (MUST) Mr. Zawadi N. Humbo

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responsibilities of villagers in conserving MRNFR, <i>Paragalago</i> sp., and <i>R. kipunji</i> • Discussion about the factor threatening survival of <i>Paragalago</i> sp., and <i>R. kipunji</i> population • Conservation importance of <i>Paragalago</i> sp., and <i>R. kipunji</i> • Challenges facing communities surrounding MRNFR. 	<p>Mr. Mazao A. Fungo,</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Educating, sensitising, and supporting local people to use energy-efficient stoves • Training about beekeeping and its role in environmental management and protecting the forest 	<p>Dr Fredrick Ojija (MUST) Mr. Zawadi N. Humbo (local people/assistant) Mr. Mazao A. Fungo (local people/assistant) Mr. Kazumari Mkwavila (TFS)</p>

Below are some pictures showing training sessions conducted in different villages





Furthermore, in order to reduce the dependency of local people on forest resources, which threatens the Kipunji and *Paragalago* species population in MRFNR, local communities neighbouring the MRNFR were trained about beekeeping and how it can improve their livelihoods, i.e., income. A total of hundreds of beehives were given to different beekeeping groups to start the beekeeping project. We invited the village chairman to open the training sessions and hand over the beehives to the beekeeping groups. It was agreed that the day-to-day monitoring and technical assistance would be done by the project leader, beekeeping project leaders, and officers from MRFNR/TFS.





Training about environment management and beekeeping.







Pictures showing handling beehives to beekeeping groups.

Ongoing activities

- (i) Rungwecebus kipunji and *Paragalago* sp. population survey
- (ii) Restoration of degraded habitats in MRFNR

