

Project Update: August 2022

Project activities conducted from June to August 2022

June 2022- Permit processing and field preparation

As per our schedule of activities, the team travelled to Zanzibar on 10th June 2022 and immediately started to process research permit from The Office of Second Vice President of Zanzibar. The permit was approved on end of July 2022.

While waiting for the permit, the team started necessary field preparations including visiting stakeholders in Zanzibar such as State University of Zanzibar (SUZA), Zanzibar University (ZU), Department of Forest, and Wildlife Conservation Society. Other activities were purchasing of necessary field gears and equipment as well as recruiting and training of field assistants.

July to August 2022- Social survey and field visit in Vundwe Island

The team conducted a baseline survey with the community surrounding Vundwe Island. The survey included groups such as fishermen, farmers, tree loggers, fish vendors and local government officials. The goal of this survey was to collect information on the presence of *P. kirkii* in the island. Also, the team collected essential information on perception of the surrounding local communities towards *P. kirkii* and assessed potential threats such as ongoing human activities that may affect the conservation of *P. kirkii* in Vundwe and the nearby Uzi Island.

Preliminary findings

Vundwe is totally uninhabited Island, however, it's being visited mainly by fishermen, firewood collectors and tree loggers who live on nearby island called Uzi. Most respondents who have currently visited Vundwe responded that they have seen *P. kirkii* in the forest areas within Vunder Island. Some of them declared to have known the species by the local name 'Punju', however, they were not much aware of its conservation status as an endemic species and its contribution in the tourism industry in Zanzibar.

During our field survey in the forest, we encountered two separate groups of *P. kirkii*. The groups were shy and run whenever they noticed our presence (Fig 1 & 2). More of the findings will be reported after a detailed analysis of the collected data on awareness and perception of local community towards *P. kirkii*.

Human activities observed in the project area

During preliminary field survey, the team found signs of human activities such as charcoal making (Fig 6) which may affect the conservation of *P. kirkii* in the island. Also, the team encountered fishermen (Fig 3), illegal fishing gear (Fig 4), bundles of firewood (Fig 5), traditional cookers (Fig 7), tree logs (Fig 8), temporary living hut (Fig 9), water well (Fig 10), etc., showing that people visit the Island regularly to carry out these activities.

Ongoing project activities and future plan

The researchers are now surveying Vundwe Island Forest as well as training selected research assistants before starting the actual data collection on the assessment of population size of Zanzibar red colobus monkey which is expected to begin on 29th August 2022.



Fig 1 & 2: Zanzibar red colobus monkeys foraging in Vundwe Island Forest, Zanzibar.



Fig 3. Fisherman holding illegal fishing gears and octopus.



Fig 4. Local fishing gears



Fig 5. Firewood



Fig 6. Charcoal kiln



Fig 7. Traditional cooker



Fig 8. Tree logs



Fig 9. Temporary hut



Fig 10. Water well