

Final Evaluation Report

Your Details	
Full Name	Filemon Elisante Mbwambo
Project Title	Promoting the conservation of Zanzibar red colobus monkey (<i>Piliocolobus kirkii</i>) through conservation education and public awareness in Vundwe Island in Zanzibar
Application ID	37284-1
Date of this Report	30/05/2023

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
To assess and identify potential threats such as ongoing human activities that may affect the conservation of <i>P. kirkii</i> in Vundwe island.				Increased uncontrolled human activities continue to shrink the island which is used by <i>P. kirkii</i> as refuge habitat. Urgent action to restore this habitat is necessary to maintain the population of this endemic species.
To assess the population size and distribution of the <i>P. kirkii</i> in Vundwe island.				The team recorded very few individuals of <i>P. kirkii</i> which still visit Vundwe island. This could be due to reduced vegetation composition essential for provision of food and cover for the <i>P. kirkii</i> . The same reason was reported by villagers who were asked about the presence of <i>P. kirkii</i> in Vundwe island compared to 5 years ago. However, there is a need to assess their population outside Vundwe especially in the forest areas adjacent farmers' crop fields and plan for appropriate community-based conservation.
To evaluate the perception and awareness of the surrounding communities towards conservation of <i>P. kirkii</i> .				The objective was achieved through focus group discussions and personal interviews in Uzi and Uzi Ng'ambwa villages.
To create awareness of the surrounding communities towards conservation of the endangered <i>P. kirkii</i> .				The objective was achieved through provision of conservation education to the surrounding communities including secondary school students, youths and elders.

2. Describe the three most important outcomes of your project.

a). Increased awareness of the surrounding local communities on conservation of *P. kirkii* and their importance in the ecosystem and tourism industry of Zanzibar. The project managed to provide conservation education to number of secondary school students, fishermen, farmers, firewood collectors and other villagers who visit Vundwe island for various activities.



Figures 1-4: Creating awareness of secondary school students and villagers on conservation of *P. kirkii*.

b). Documentation of the potential threats to *P. kirkii* population. The project has managed to identify and document list of human activities which continue to degrade the natural habitat and thus threatening the population of *P. kirkii* in the island.





Figures 5-10: Human activities which degrade the natural habitat and thus threatening the population of *P. kirkii* in Vundwe island.

c). Documentation of the current population size and distribution of *P. kirkii* in Vundwe island. The project managed to assess the population size, habitat quality and distribution of *P. kirkii* in Vundwe island. During assessment, the team observed very few groups of *P. kirkii* which visited Vundwe island. On average, two to three groups of *P. kirkii* were recorded in the island per day but a total of four different groups were recorded during the assessment. The encountered groups had relatively few individuals ranging from 4 to 10 members unlike the typical family of a monkey species which can range from 20 to 50 individuals. It was also found that the groups spend relatively equal time between mangroves (in Uzi) and thickets (in Vundwe) in the early morning and late evening for feeding. They also use mangroves for cover and as resting sites especially during afternoon when the level of disturbance is high in Vundwe since most people visit the island around this time. Also, two more groups which were not recorded in Vundwe island were encountered outside the natural forests and particularly in the crop fields raiding on banana, pawpaw, cassava and cereal crops. This shows that there may be other groups of *P. kirkii* which spend their time only in mangroves of Uzi Island and crop

fields and there should be a community-based conservation strategy to protect them when they are outside their natural habitats.

Generally, low population size of *P. kirkii* has been due to increased uncontrolled human activities particularly deforestation which degrade their natural habitat. Only few full matured plants were found to have fruits in Vundwe, so the monkeys do not spend much of their time in the island and rather in farmers' fields in the nearby Uzi Island searching for food. The groups move between Vundwe and Uzi islands through an extended rock corridor but only during low tide.



Figures 11-14: Project team assessing the population size of *P. kirkii* in the project site.



Figures 15 &16: *P. kirkii* individuals foraging in Vundwe island forest.

3. Explain any unforeseen difficulties that arose during the project and how these were tackled.

a). At the beginning it was a challenge to extract some information from villagers who are engaging in illegal harvesting of natural resources in Vundwe island. Because of that we decided to hire two more local research assistants who belong to the surrounding community. Since they know each other, it became easy for the team to convince the villagers that we are not working for the government instead we are just doing research and conservation activities. Also, we assured them that we were there to support conservation of *P. kirkii* as well as enhancing their knowledge on potential threats to conservation of *P. kirkii* and their importance in tourism industry of Zanzibar.

b). During our training activities and meetings with various stakeholders of the project, some people were not willing to be recorded either through audio, photos or videos. However, the team understand that information is more important than recording so in situation like this we extracted the intended information through interview but we're unable to capture neither photo nor video.

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

Apart from 100 villagers who were interviewed and trained later by the team, more village members benefitted as they received conservation education of *P. kirkii* through focus group discussion, village meetings and educational videos. Also, all village leaders from the surrounding communities and two local research assistants involved directly from the beginning to the end of the project. We are confident that the awareness of members of the surrounding communities was enhanced and for now they know better about conservation of *P. kirkii* and their importance in tourism industry of Zanzibar when compared to before implementation of this project.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes, the current project has identified potential threats that need immediate actions to save the *P. kirkii* population in Vundwe island. The thickets which were used by the *P. kirkii* for food and resting site have been damaged due to various uncontrolled human activities. Moreover, tree species which used to provide fruits and cover throughout the year have been cleared mainly for timber, building poles, firewood and charcoal making. Because of the reduced food resource in the natural forests, the monkeys are now forced to raid farmers' crop fields where they are killed by villagers through still hunting and poisoning. Also, there is a need to assess their population outside Vundwe especially in the forest areas adjacent farmers' crop fields to get a broad picture of their population size and change to plan for appropriate community-based conservation approach.

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

a). Report- copies of the compiled final report will be delivered to various stakeholders including the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation, Natural Resources and Livestock of Zanzibar, The Second Vice President Office, Wildlife Conservation Society and local government authority in the project area.

b). Publication- 1 manuscript is being prepared and it will be submitted to a peer-reviewed journal to be considered for publication.

c) Conference- The findings of this project will further be presented at Tanzania Wildlife Research Institute 14th Scientific Conference to be held in December 2023, Arusha, Tanzania.

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

Based on project assessments and findings, the next step should be restoration of the degraded habitat through reforestation as well as enhancement of the habitat to increase its capacity to preserve the current population of *P. kirkii*. The thickets in Vundwe island which used to provide cover and fruits throughout the year continue to be cleared mainly for timber, firewood, building poles and charcoal making. Also, there is a need to increase conservation education activities to the local

communities living adjacent to other non-protected areas in Zanzibar which host *P. kirkii* but were not covered by this project. The findings indicated that the large group of villagers were unaware of the conservation status of this endemic species, but the evidence shows that their awareness was enhanced after conservation education. Instalment of signposts with conservation messages would also help to remind the visitors of Vundwe island on the importance of conserving *P. kirkii* in the area.

8. 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, the project printed several t-shirts and fliers with Rufford logo which were given to village leaders, secondary school students, conservationists and other stakeholders. Also, prior to commencement of any project activity such as training and meetings with project stakeholders, the leading team member had to introduce the project and The Rufford Foundation as a project funder. Additionally, the project member also had to explain what Rufford, and the support is the foundation is providing to conserve the biodiversity of this word. The Rufford logo was also displayed in the first slide and last slide when conducting conservation education and stakeholders' meetings.

9. Provide a full list of all the members of your team and their role in the project.

Filemon Elisante Mbwambo - Team Leader- Involved in training and data collection.

Mr Hamidu Ammi – member- Training and data collection

Mr Dickson Mauki - member- Training and data collection

Ms Lucy Stephen Mvungi - member- Training

Mr Hashimu Ally - Training

Ms Habiba Khamis - Training and data collection

Yusuf Kombo - Assisting the team members during training and data collection.

Ms Salma Rajabu - Assisting the team members during training and data collection.

10. Any other comments?

The project activities went as scheduled regardless of the minor challenges encountered during implementation. The team is very grateful to The Rufford Foundation for its financial support which made this project successful. We also thank all stakeholders who participated during implementation of this conservation project.