

## Final Evaluation Report

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| Your Details               |  |
|----------------------------|--|
| <b>Full Name</b>           | Simula Peres Maijo   |
| <b>Project Title</b>       | Scaling up conservation of eastern chimpanzee ( <i>Pan troglodytes schweinfurthii</i> ) and its habitats in Tongwe Forest Reserves, western Tanzania |
| <b>Application ID</b>      | 40945-D  |
| <b>Date of this Report</b> | 09 <sup>th</sup> August, 2024  |

**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   |
|--|--------------|--------------------|----------------|--|
| a) To raise local community understanding and awareness on the importance of protecting biodiversity and sustainable utilization of natural resources                  |              |                    |                | Through outreach program, this was full achieved in all the project villages   |
| b) To reduce the conversion of forests and woodlands to agricultural lands, halt logging and debarking of trees to make traditional beehives in Tongwe Forest Reserves |              |                    |                | Potential alternative environmentally friend economic activities were promoted |
| c) To promote sustainable beekeeping to improve local community livelihoods and contribute to the management of chimpanzee habitats in Tongwe Forest Reserves          |              |                    |                | This was practically carried out in all the villages under the project         |

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

- a) Improved local community livelihood through selling of bee products for family income
- b) Reduced forest degradation by stopping the harmful and unsustainable human activities that drive forest degradation in the vicinity of the Tongwe Forest Reserves
- c) Improved quality of chimpanzee habitats in terms of food and nesting resources availability. Also, ecological role played by bees (i.e., pollination services) is well heightened.

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

There were no difficulties during the implementation of this project. Everything in the project went as planned. The project team received candid support from the Local Government Authorities from the District level to the village level.

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

As a part of the project sustainability plan, the project team members worked in a close collaboration with the Local Government Authorities (i.e., the District and the Village Governments) and the targeted local communities. Involvement of local government authorities ensured access to the government initiatives. Also, since the local governments are permanent in area of the project, we anticipate them to help in sustaining the project activities beyond the project duration. Moreover, involvement of the targeted local communities from the early design of the project to the implementation stage, helped to build the project ownership among the local community members. This increased the participation of the local community in the project. This strategy is promising a high chance of project sustainability even after the donor supports will come to an end.

**5. Are there any plans to continue this work?**

Yes, there are plans to continue with the already started work, however, with the possibility to address the recently discovered challenge around the Tongwe Forest Reserves. The project team is looking forward to applying for the completion grants. With the completion grants, we anticipate to work on, "promoting beekeeping value chain" among the beekeeping groups established under the projects. In so doing we will be completing the only remaining aspects under the project to ensure a bigger conservation impact and improved local communities' livelihoods.

On the other hand, in western Tanzania, it is well acknowledged that orchids are important for food, medicine and source of income among the local community members. Nevertheless, a rapid assessment conducted around the Tongwe Forest Reserves, revealed that, the local communities are overharvesting the edible orchids a condition that threaten the persistence of orchids in the wild. The assessment also revealed that, the local communities lacks conservation knowledge about orchids and they were not aware of the status of the orchids they harvest. These findings, calls for an immediate conservation actions to conserve the threatened wild edible orchids across the region.

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

The results from this work will be communicated through seminars, meetings, workshops, report, and in form of posters.

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

Looking ahead, the team hope to work on:

a) Promoting beekeeping value chain addition among the local communities

Beekeeping is an integral component of rural development and plays a critical role in conservation of ecosystems. Honeybees benefit human populations directly through their valuable products (honey, wax, pollen, royal jelly, venom, broods, and propolis) and indirectly through their pollination service. Thus, beekeeping is one of the nature-based income generating activities based on utilization of Non-Timber Forest Products. Thus, increasing the value chain of the beekeeping products among the local beekeepers can highly promote the conservation of the forests as the beekeepers will have super income from their beekeeping activities.

b) Promoting conservation of the threatened wild edible orchids

Consumption of orchids in western Tanzania has lately been documented to increase a condition that threatens the survival of wild edible orchid populations (Davenport and Ndangalasi 2003). Wild edible orchids have been reported to be under severe threats (Lalika et al. 2013). The orchids are overexploited for food, medicine, and trade. Following overharvesting of the species and environmental degradation, some of the orchids have been claimed extinct (Davenport and Ndangalasi 2001; 2003). Notwithstanding the existing threats, data on orchids' status, distribution, abundance, and the ecological drivers for their dynamics are very limited (Tembo et al. 2023).

**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?**

The Rufford Foundation was well acknowledged particularly to the national, district, and village authorities responsible to permit the implementation of the project activities. Also, The Rufford Foundation was acknowledged on the supplied beehives to indicate that the support was from The Rufford Foundation.

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

**Simula P. Maijo:** He is the leader for the project. Being a conservationist, ecologist and a researcher, he conceptualized the project idea, coordinated and supervised the implementation of all the project activities and the project logistic arrangements.

**Selemani Moshi:** As a beekeeping expert with a diploma in beekeeping, he played a key role in all matter relating to beekeeping including training the potential beekeepers, inspecting beehives, harvesting and processing of the bee products. Through workshops, he trained the beekeepers on the basic aspect of beekeeping. He practically facilitated beekeepers with the installation of beehives in the forests and trained the group members on the installation process. Further, he trained the beekeepers on bee product harvesting, processing, packaging, labelling and storage.

**Omary Ally:** Having a vast experience in beekeeping and skills to construct beehives, he played a role of constructing beehives which were later supplied to the

formed beekeeping groups in the villages. On top of that, he trained the beekeepers on the aspects of beehive management.

**Cecilia Leweri:** She was responsible to raise local communities' understanding and awareness on biodiversity conservation, provide conservation education, and offer various strategies to be adopted to enhance conservation of Tongwe Forest Reserves (TFRs). Moreover, she was responsible to monitor and evaluate the performance of the project.

**Joseph Nkuki:** He played the role of a driver.

#### **10. Any other comments?**

The project team is thankful to the Rufford Foundation for funding this project. The grants received from The Rufford Foundation greatly contributed to conservation of the Tongwe Forest Reserves and the local communities' livelihoods.