Project Update: January 2024

During this period, we carried out the following activities:

Development of Evaluation tools: The project has two evaluation components; primate monitoring, and community survey. The project coordinator worked closely with one of the staff from Kanyanchu River Chimpanzee Project and one MSc student from Makerere University to develop tools for the two evaluation programmes.

The community evaluation aims at getting responses from the community about the primates that thrive in the areas, the primate involvement in human-primate conflicts, human-primate conflict mitigation measures employed and their effectiveness, and their attitudes towards primates in the wetland and general conservation. The primate survey looks at distribution, behavior and interaction of primate species in Magombe and nearby wetland patches.

A questionnaire for the community and a survey for primate monitoring were developed and uploaded on a laptop as well as the gadgets that were used for data collection.

Stakeholder engagement: We carried out a stakeholder engagement to help get opinions and support for the project. Staff from KAFRED, Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA), Ngogo Chimpanzee Project, Kanyanchu River Chimpanzee Project, College of Veterinary Medicine, Animal Resources and Biosecurity- Makerere University College attended the meeting. During the meeting, the project coordinator informed the stakeholders about the different components of the project and sought opinions.

During the same meeting, the two evaluation/survey questions were discussed, and the stakeholders suggested some changes, which were incorporated.

The stakeholders in attendance pledged to support the project throughout its implementation.

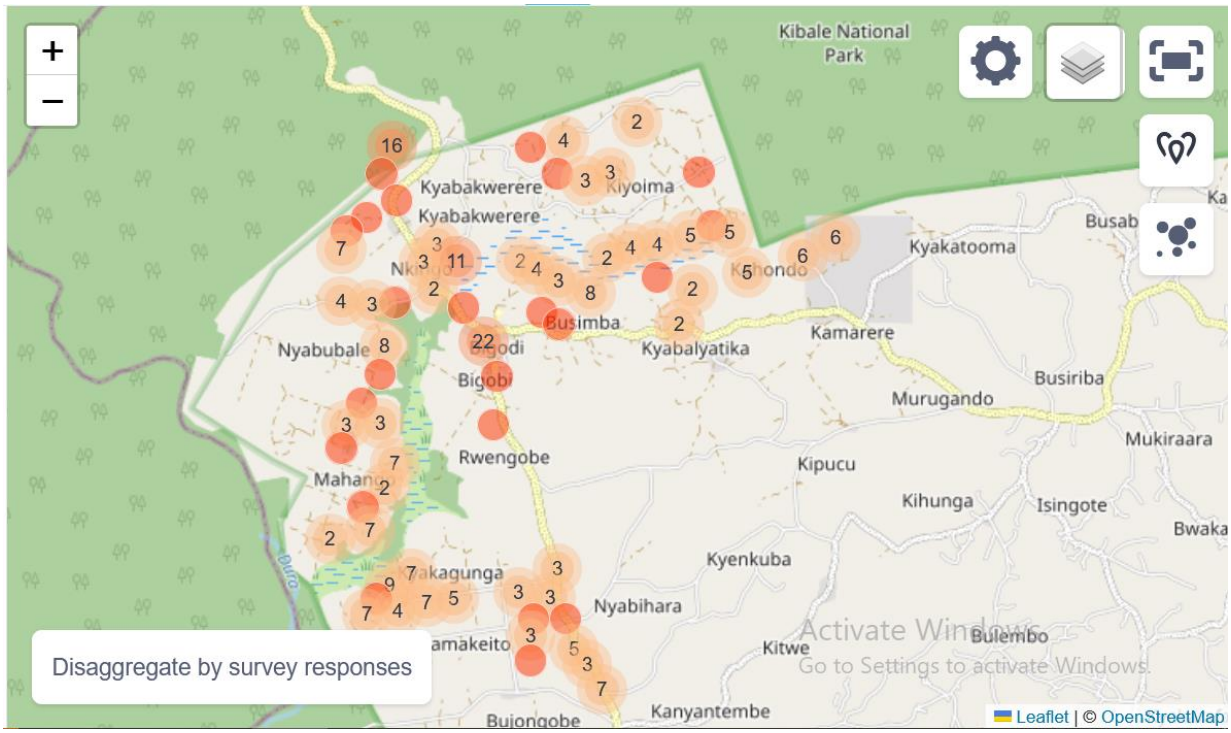
Field team going through the primate monitoring data collection tool.

The project coordinator meeting with some of the key stakeholders.

Training field team: We recruited four field-based staff to conduct both the primate survey activity and community evaluation. These attended a 3-day training course (two practical sessions in the field and one theoretical session to help them understand the broader goals of the project and equip them with knowledge and skills in data collection.

These acquired data collection skills such as use of tablets/phones and KOBO tool, GPS sets and different primate behaviour and other parameters that will be recorded. They were also taken through the community survey questions to enable them to interpret them rightly since they are written in English, yet the target population speak indigenous languages.

Community survey: The field team carried out a community survey reaching out to 273 households around the seven wetland patches of Magombe, Kaborogota, Kanywambogo, Kiyoima-Kitojo, Mujuruga and Kacwamakaito-Kyakagunga. These households are ones that have land that touches any of the seven wetland patches.

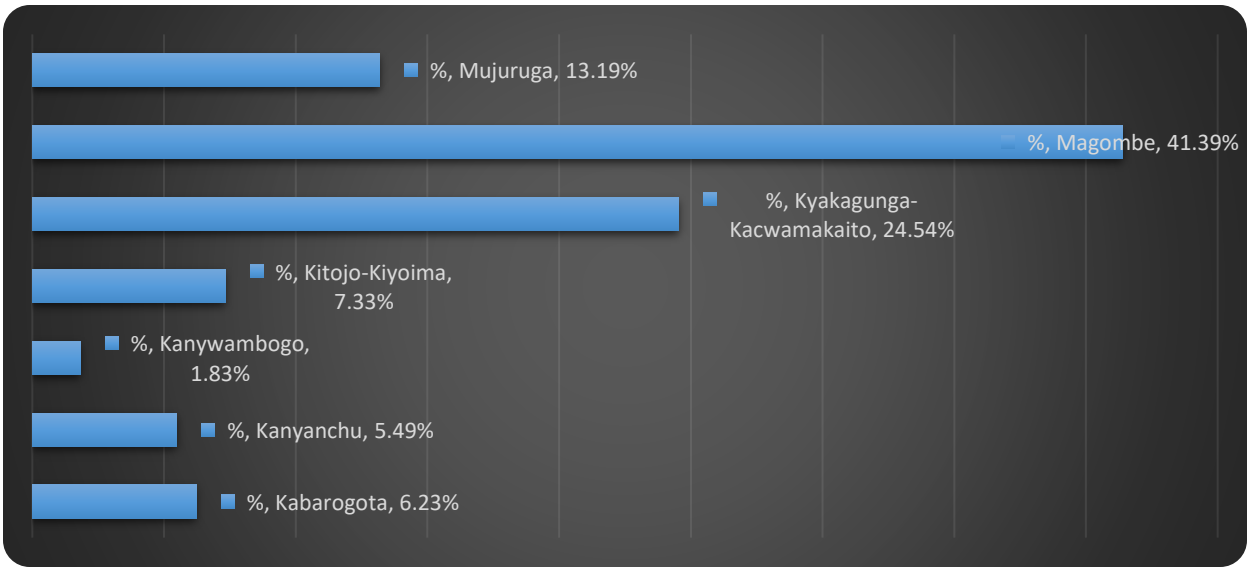


Map 1: Distribution of respondent households across the different wetland patches

Below are some of the results from the community survey:

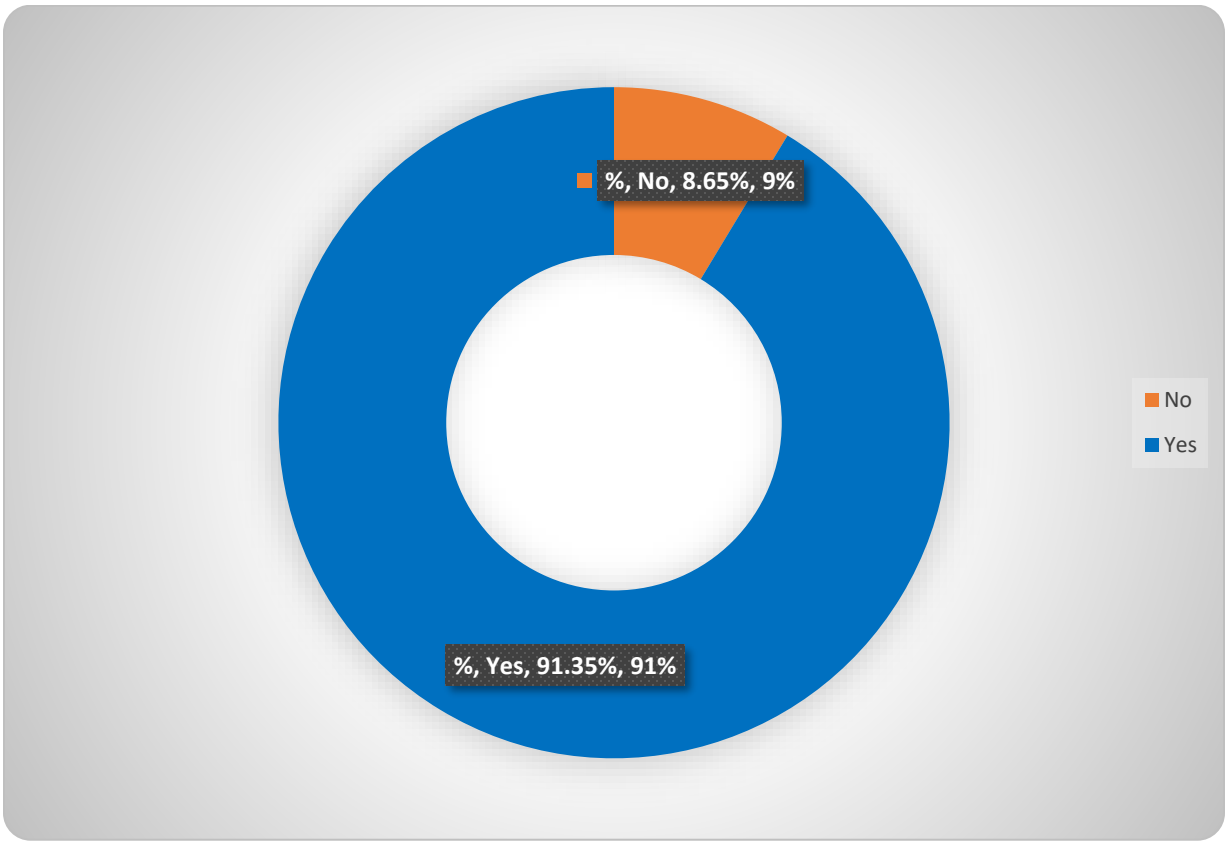
1. Households neighboring each wetland patch/fragment.

Names of wetland fragments/patches	No. of households	%
Kabarogota	17	6.23%
Kanyanchu	15	5.49%
Kanywambogo	5	1.83%
Kitojo-Kiyoima	20	7.33%
Kyakagunga-Kacwamakaito	67	24.54%
Magombe	113	41.39%
Mujuruga	36	13.19%
Grand Total	**273**	**100.00%**

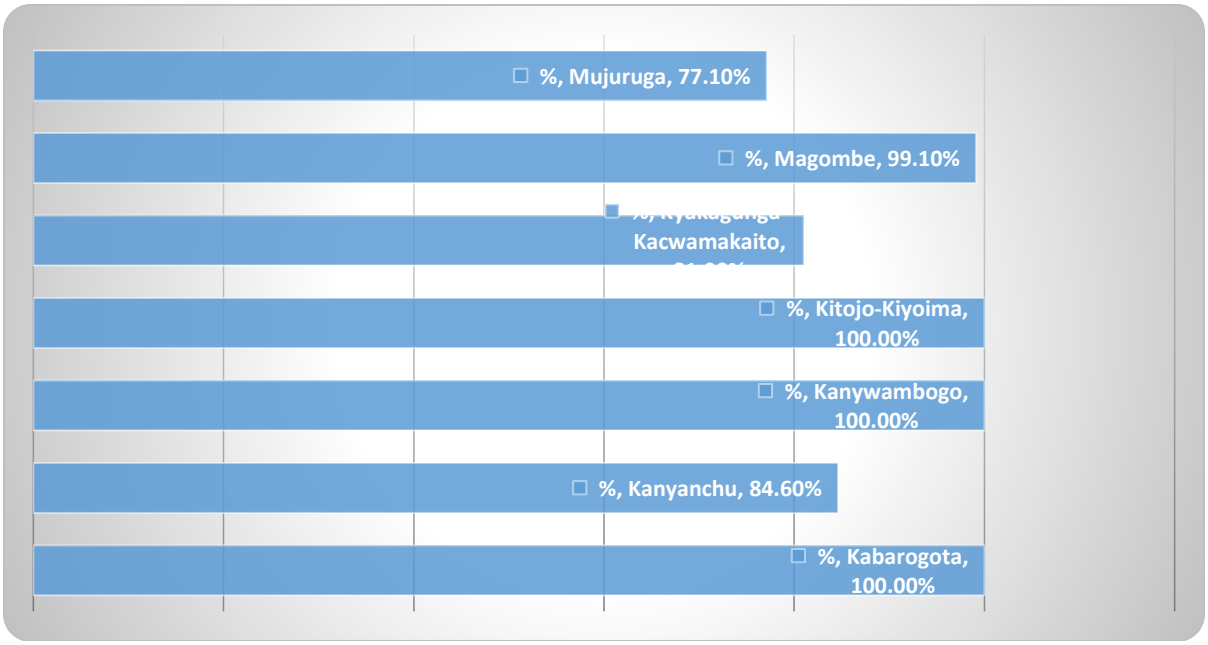


From the survey, most households reached neighbor Magombe because of its size. The team noticed that wetland neighbors are increasing because of land fragmentation, where the original owners have split their land to give to their children or even sell to raise money for addressing financial needs.

2. Household affected by human primate conflicts.

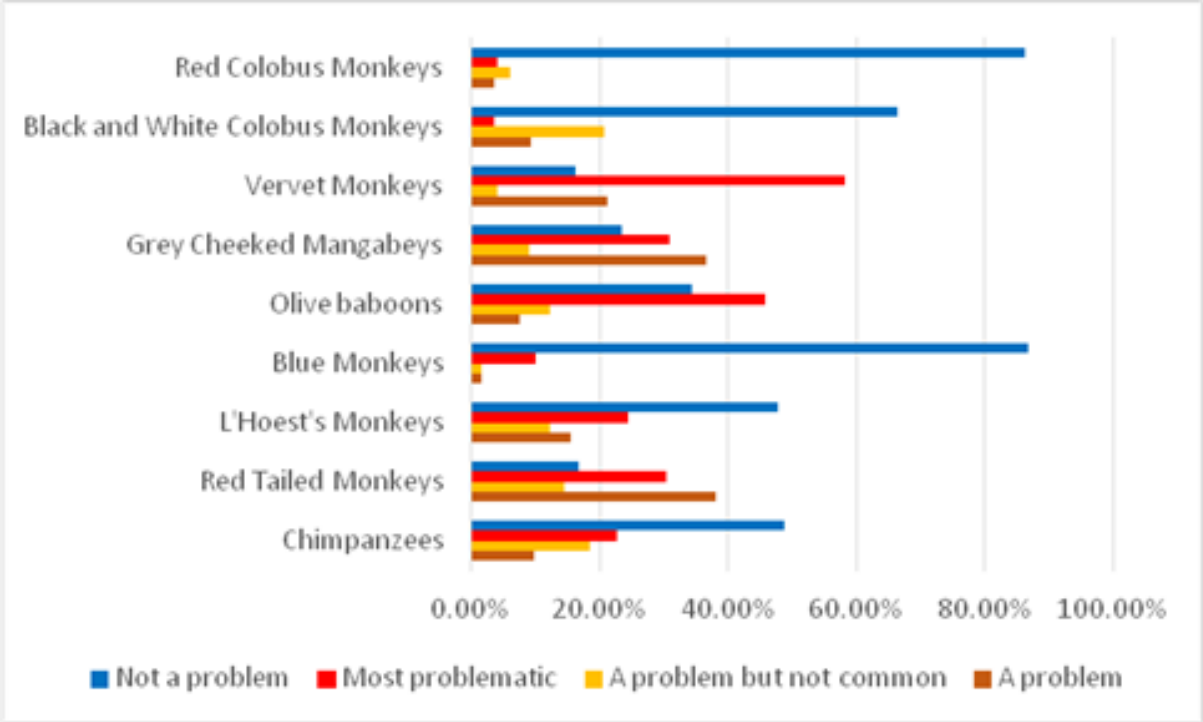


Households affected by human-primate conflicts per wetland patch.



The team found out that all wetland patches were affected by human-primate conflict, with all households around Kaborogota, Kanywambogo, Kitojo-Kiyoima affected. Mujuruga had the biggest number of households that are not affected by the conflicts, and this might be attributed to the destruction of the habitat that may no longer be very suitable for primates.

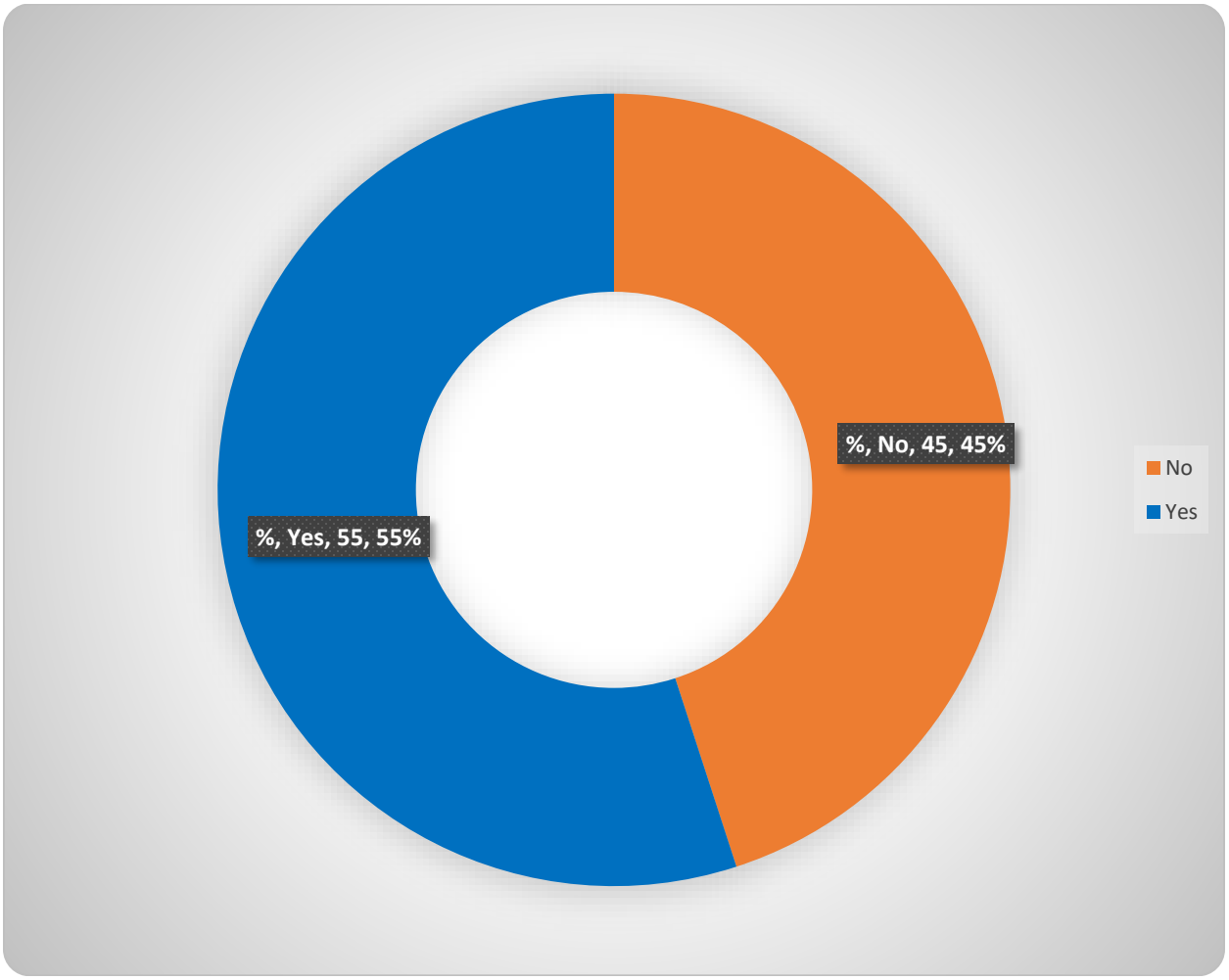
3. Primates involved in Human-primate conflict rating.



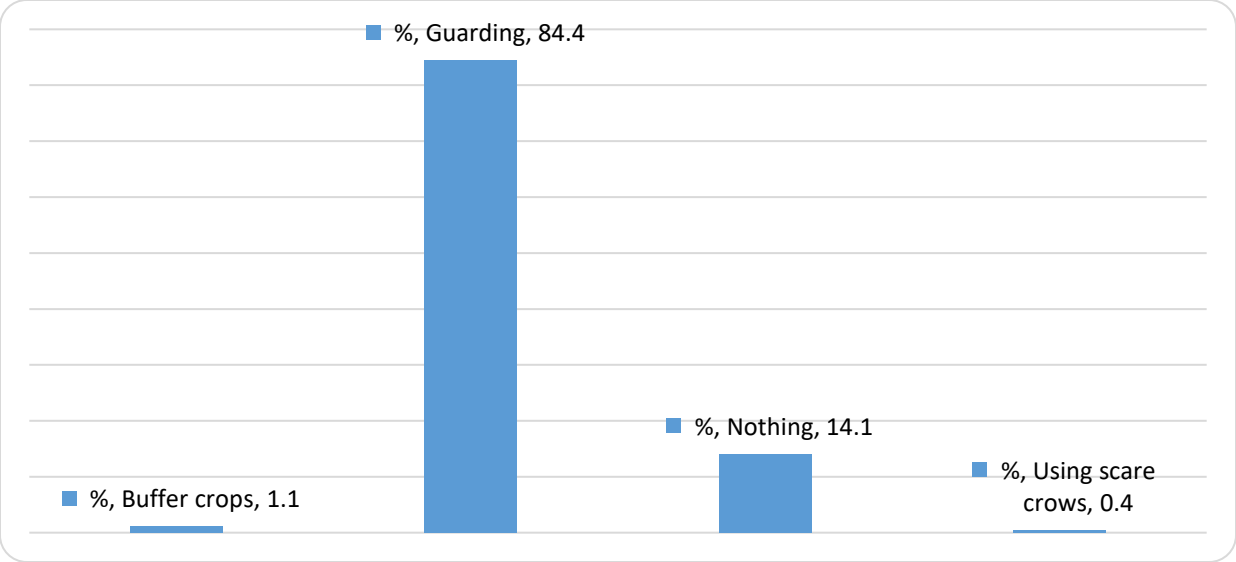
From the survey, the most problematic species are vervet monkeys, followed by olive baboons, while the least problematic species are red colobus, followed by blue monkeys and black and white colobus monkeys in the third position.

4. Control mitigation measures employed and their effectiveness.

Human-primate conflict mitigation measures effectiveness status	No. of responses	%
No	112	45
Yes	137	55
Grand Total	**249**	**100**



Control/mitigation measures.



Animal rearing can help mitigate human-primate conflicts in our community.

Responses	**%**
Agree	66.2
Disagree	10.2
Neutral	23.6
Grand Total	**100**

Growing unpalatable crops (like tobacco, tea and coffee) next to the wetland/forest fragments can help mitigate human-primate conflicts.

Responses	**%**
Agree	34.8
Neutral	39.3
Disagree	25.8
Grand Total	**100**

Guarding is the most common method used by wetland neighbours. Within guarding, the survey team noted that some use dogs; others guard using family members including school going children, while others hire people to guard.

From the survey, the measures employed to mitigate crop raiding were effective for some people, with 55% saying so while 45% felt they measures were not effective.

When asked about growing non-palatable crops and animal rearing as additional crop raiding mitigation measures, most households agreed that animal (livestock) rearing can be a good remedy, but many were not very much positive about growing non palatable crops as a remedy.

5. Knowledge and Attitudes

It is important to protect these wetlands/forest fragments to promote primate conservation.

Responses	**%**
Agree	74.7
Disagree	19
Neutral	4.3
Grand Total	**100**

The forest fragments should be cleared because they increase our vulnerability to crop raids.

Responses	**%**
Agree	20.4
Disagree	72.1
Neutral	7.5
Grand Total	**100**

People can peacefully coexist with primates in the wetland/forest fragments.

Responses	**%**
Agree	49.2
Neutral	34.5
Disagree	16.3
Grand Total	**100**

The presence of primates in these wetlands/forest fragments have contributed to the development of this community.

Responses	**%**
Agree	66.8
Disagree	19.6
Neutral	13.6
Grand Total	**100**

Overall, most wetland neighbors were positive about primate conservation in wetlands and forest patches in the area, they are also positive that they can co-exist with primates. They also appreciated that the presence of primates have contributed to the development of the area, which is more likely to be as a result of eco-tourism done by KAFRED.