

Project Update April 2024



ACTIVITIES COMPLETED

A: EDUCATING LOCAL COMMUNITIES ON INVASIVE ALIEN PLANTS (IAPs), THEIR THREATS ON CPR, AND WHAT THEY CAN DO TO STOP THEIR SPREAD

Since IAPs and their impacts are poorly known among conservation practitioners and local communities surrounding MRNFR, we conducted an education campaign in village surrounding the nature reserve to raise awareness about IAPs' negative impact on the ecology and future populations of *Cephalophus spadix*, *Paragalago* sp., and *Rungwecebus kipunji* (CPR) in MRNFR. They were also educated on techniques to prevent and control the spread of IAPs. For instance, mechanical control methods include pulling and digging, suffocation, cutting or mowing, and chemical control methods. But we mainly emphasised avoiding planting exotic plant species near or in the MRNFR as well as cutting, pulling, and/or digging exotic IAPs (*Pinus patula*, *Eucalyptus saligina*, *Lantana camara*, *Ageratum conyzoides*, and *Cypress* sp.) from the nature reserve and its border zones if possible.



Figure 1. *Pinus patula* trees are planted and growing within the border zones of MRNFR. Some of them were seen inside the nature reserve.



Figure 2. *Eucalyptus saligina* growing inside the MRNFR



Figure 3. Training session during village meetings

Additionally, we educated the local communities and raise awareness about the conservation of *Cephalophus spadix* (the very rare antelope Abbot's duiker), *Paragalago* sp., and *Rungwecebus kipunji*, which was not included in the conservation programs in the previous project.



Figure 4. Raising awareness about the conservation of critically endangered primate (*R. kipunji*) and the very rare antelope Abbot's duiker

B: BUILDING THE CAPACITY OF LOCAL STAKEHOLDERS TO PREVENT, CONTROL, AND ERADICATE IAPs IN THE RESERVE

Furthermore, we built the capacity of local stakeholders to prevent, control, and eradicate AIPs within and at the border zone of the MRNFR. To do so, we conducted workshops among local communities, MRNFR conservators, and government village leaders.



Figure 5. Building the capacity of local stakeholders to prevent, control, and eradicate AIPs within and at the border zone of the MRNFR

C: CONFERENCE PRESENTATION/RESEARCH EVENTS/ OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

We also made oral and poster presentations in different outreach activities, including during Research and Innovation Week (from December 4th to 8th, 2023) at Mbeya University of Science and Technology and the Nanenane exhibition in Mbeya Region, Tanzania.







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