

Project Update: February 2017

The project continued successfully during the last months of 2016 and ended with its last activity in January 2017. The implementation of TEAM's camera trapping sampling in Uzungwa Scarp Nature Reserve ended in December 2016: all 60 camera trap points (deployed in three sequential grids of 20 camera traps) sampled correctly and despite fear of camera thefts due to the intense encroachment in the area, all camera traps were retrieved and functional. Data were collected in January and images are currently being annotated so that the data-set can be ready for analysis. We were positively surprised when finding relatively more wildlife than expected, including a number of images of the Tanzania-endemic Abbott's duiker.

The project activities ended in January 2017 with the planned workshop for Tanzania National Parks' ecology department dedicated to standardise the use of camera trapping across parks in the country. The workshop was held from 12th-14th January at the Udzungwa Ecological Monitoring Centre, and attended by ecologists or assistant ecologists from 13 national parks in the country (so, the majority) who were eager to learn practical methods to standardize camera trapping using TEAM's protocol. We went through theory, sampling design (including GIS mapping for each of those parks of a potential grid for implementation, this activity being helped by an officer from TANAPA's GIS Unit), selection of sites and camera placement in the field, retrieval of data, use of Wild.ID and finally the basic analytical routines both non-spatial (using Excel) and spatial (with help with staff from TANAPA GIS Unit). Participants were extremely satisfied with the workshop outcomes and there is hope that camera trap sampling will indeed be applied in a number of parks in Tanzania.

These activities, and a summary of the overall programme in Udzungwa that RSGF funded over the years, have been presented by Arafat Mtui (UEMC coordinator for MUSE – Science museum) at the recent conference organized by RSGF for Rufford grants recipients in Moshi, northern Tanzania.



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