

Project Update: May 2016

Activities actually begun with a preliminary survey conducted in Ndundulu forest, western Udzungwa, in the summer of 2015, aimed at assessing the feasibility and gathering information for designing the primate census to be conducted. This was important because Ndundulu is a remote and vast forest and the survey allowed us to optimise the sampling procedures. The actual census began towards the end of 2015 and was successfully completed in February 2016. Replicating the design adopted in the other four forests of the range during the earlier phases of the programme, the forest block was sampled in an exhaustive way through a diffuse grid of line transects (each 2 km in length), suitable for distance sampling of arboreal monkeys. Hence, 26 transect repetitions were accomplished by the field team, for nearly 52 km walked. Plots for vegetation sampling were established along each transect, every 500 m and each with an area of 20 x 20 m. All the fieldwork was successfully accomplished thanks to the involvement and the help of trained, local, Tanzanian field assistants.

Analysis of this component of the project are already being conducted and adopted a Bayesian framework that allows to pool and evaluate all the data gathered till present, including those sampled during previous fieldwork in the other four forest blocks (Magombera, Matundu, Mwanihana, Uzungwa Scarp). Such analysis will allow us to obtain forest specific results on animal density, as well as information about environmental covariates that can significantly affect primate's occurrence and distribution. In addition to the papers already published during the previous phases of the project (with Cavada *et al.* 2016 being the most recent and combining the results for the other four forests), two more manuscripts are currently in production (one in review and one in preparation).

Plans ahead are being made for camera trapping training and sampling to be conducted after the rainy season, i.e. beginning on July 1st 2016. This activity will take the all summer. Meanwhile, planning for the final training workshop at national level will be made, and the workshop will likely be held in the winter of 2016/2017, or the ensuing summer. Attached are photos of field work during the most recent activities.

Reference quoted: Cavada N, Barelli C, Ciolli M, Rovero F (2016) Primates in Human-Modified and Fragmented Landscapes: The Conservation Relevance of Modelling Habitat and Disturbance Factors in Density Estimation. PLoS ONE 11(2): e0148289. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0148289.

