

Project Update: March 2015

I visited Mwamgongo and Bugamba villages to meet traditional healers and village leaders for the purposes of disseminating information obtained from my studies, preparing sustainable plans for planting trees and discussing best options on how to manage community forest sustainably. The medicinal value of the forest was critically discussed and the entire participants got an opportunity to learn and understand the importance of conserving forests due to many benefits that can be accrued from the forest, including medicinal values. I also got chance through many other park activities to discuss with District leaders on various conservation activities inside and outside the park, including all those related to my project. Through such discussion we also managed to let the leaders to visit Gombe National Park and its surrounding villages for the purpose of understanding the importance of conservation, and mobilizing community to opt practices that support conservation inside and outside the park. Some of these practices are like tree planting, agroforestry, contour farming, beekeeping and sustainable fishing. It was good time that I had also an opportunity to show the values of the forest including the medicinal values that have been proved scientifically.

All village and district leaders and traditional healers who were visited and educated about the value of the project and its implementation promised to actively participate into the conservation activities including conservation of forest.

This project activity will continue to be implemented as I am currently the Head of Outreach Department at Gombe National Park and whenever possible and when the fund is available I will expand the project idea to capture as many as possible values of forest, for its conservation and community development. This will help to protect the Gombe forest which is the habitat of many species including the endangered one, the Chimpanzee and Blue Monkey and vulnerable one the Red Colobus Monkey.





Left to Right: Collecting information about medicinal value final. Gombe National Park Forest. Gombe with district leaders and minister of local government. Gombe with district leaders and minister of local government looking at the beauty of the forest. Inoculating bacteria for culturing process. Mwamgongo village meeting final. One of the village bordering the Gombe National Park. With district and village leaders after the meeting with the people of Mwamgongo village.