



Research seminar at CoEB, Huye

Date: 28 Feb 2018

ASSESSMENT OF CONSERVATION EFFORTS, INCENTIVES, AND THE CURRENT STATUS OF THREATS TO THE HAMLYN'S MONKEY AND ITS BAMBOO HABITAT IN NYUNGWE NATIONAL PARK, RWANDA

Project leader: **Methode MAJYAMBERE**





THE DIAN FOSSEY GORILLA FUND INTERNATIONAL

Origin of our work



- I tried to send a similar topic once to funders; it was not selected
- I used a similar topic to apply for CEPF-FFI workshop, 2016
- Then and later, I identified the funder that was most suitable
- Later I developed the present work, the one Rufford funded

Problem, motivation, and purpose

- The problem is illegal bamboo harvesting from the Park by local communities
- Puts in critical conservation challenge the vulnerable monkey, *C. hamlyni*
- Past actions did not yield sustainable results;
- Especially revealing is the incentive mechanism for bamboo propagation in community's woodlots
- They were not even evaluated



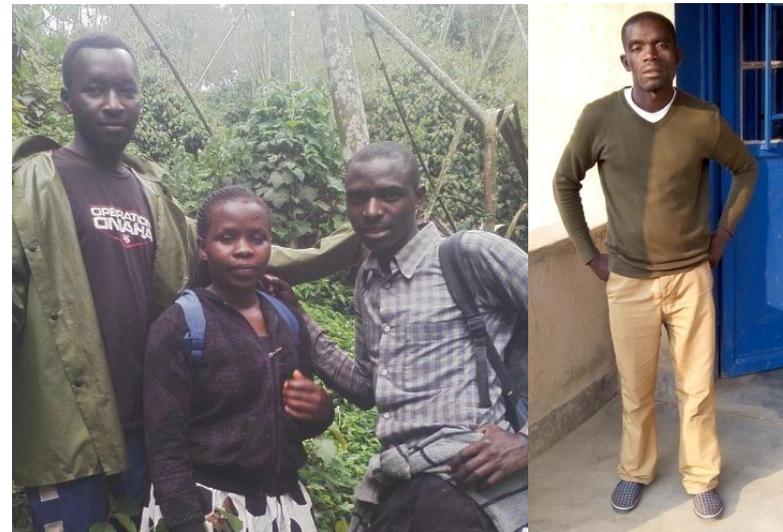
Problem, motivation, and purpose



- The vulnerable species needs urgent conservation efforts
- Bamboo habitat needs to be sustainably conserved (Nyungwe) or managed (in communities)
- People need bamboo and such traditional habits need to be well understood with focus on livelihoods
- The purpose was to evaluate past actions that addressed the problem of illegal bamboo harvesting, the impact of incentives put in place for that purpose, and current threats to bamboo habitat

Timeline, implementers, and stakeholders

- 10 months; including 8 months of field work and 2 months for workshop sessions
- Project started in July 2017
- Implementers:
 - BEST, with M. Majyambere leading
 - One project assistant
 - One local guide & collaborator
 - Three students, Biology, UR



Timeline, implementers, and stakeholders

- Other stakeholders:
 - RDB, esp. RDB's research partner + Community officer + Park rangers
 - WCS, esp. in charge of community programs
 - Local leaders (sector, cells, villages)
 - Cooperatives (esp. with purpose of Nyungwe conservation)
 - Local communities at large



Study design and methodologies

- We focused on two sectors adjacent to Nyungwe: Ruheru and Busanze
- In Ruheru sector we selected 3 cells; and 2 cells were selected for Busanze sector
- In each cell we found 5 villages, except one where were found 6 villages
- In total interviews were prepared to 156 households



Study design and methodologies

- Research subjects provided to students covered the whole work:
- 1) Assessing conservation efforts and actions on the Hamlyn's monkey and the bamboo habitat in Nyungwe National Park,
 - 2) Impact and efficiency evaluation of the incentive strategies to reduce illegal bamboo collection threatening the Hamlyn's monkey in Nyungwe National Park, and
 - 3) Status of current threats to the Hamlyn's monkey and the bamboo habitat in Nyungwe National Park.



Study design and methodologies

- Information from local leaders and documentation
- Household interviews: chosen at random from marital data of cells
- We conducted also focus group discussion
- Surveys of cooperatives; their actions and plans were inquired

* Waba wowe uyikoresha/ uyikenera? (Niba warabiretse urat
Yego Oya Narabigabanyije Nara

* Ni iki uyikoresha?

* Ivo ukoresha akenshi uvikura he/ ikomoka he?

Questionnaire

- Surveys were made in the fields (both communities and in forest)
 - Visits to the bamboo-planted areas; records of growth and regeneration status of bamboo; number and age of bamboo cuts; mappings of bamboo clumps
 - In forest we collected data on threats during 6 different days; 30 plots were covered; each plot being of a square of 20m x 20 m



Results, observations, and implications

- 1) Assessing conservation efforts and actions on the Hamlyn's monkey and the bamboo habitat in Nyungwe National Park
 - About 8 active groups (5 community cooperatives and 3 clubs based on schools) in Ruheru sector and 3 cooperatives in Busanze sector are concerned with Nyungwe protection
 - They include the ones that promote conservation education, for honeybee production, and for agricultural improvement
 - Most interviewed people were subsistence farmers and their level of education was low, mainly ranging at the primary school level
 - most people who need bamboo are of the poor category and depend on it for subsistence; people claimed that they needed bamboo in their woodlots
 - We realized that bamboo use was more prevalent in Busanze than Ruheru sector

Results, observations, and implications

- Most people did not understand their role in protecting the Park; they most feel that only some people have direct interest
- They simply mention that they play important roles in protecting the park, but could almost never specify which role and how
- Most people knew about the actions to protect the park, but especially after being a national park
- People most often mention that no new threats are happening to the park; that it can happen only by accident!!
- Most people are hesitant when answering for the origin of bamboo that is seen with people walking around; they argued that they were not concerned about knowing it
- Park bamboo is sold at cheaper price, and also most preferred
- Reports from the community will always be targeting neighbors of Burundi as perpetrators of illegal activities in bamboo habitat!!!

Results, observations, and implications

- 2) Impact and efficiency evaluation of the incentive strategies to reduce illegal bamboo collection threatening the Hamlyn's monkey in Nyungwe National Park
- A project under PAB and REMA once in 2005-2007 planted large spaces on buffer zone with bamboo habitat; no bamboo is surviving at that place, if not only sparse bushy shoots



Results, observations, and implications

- We first realized that most planted bamboo in agricultural fields did not have good yields
- Most bamboo thriving in community fields is the one they had before bamboo propagation initiatives
- Bamboo from community's woodlots is much less used, compared to the needs witnessed everywhere, denying the fact that bamboo from the Park is less used than the people's
- Few bamboo fields are possessed by people who scarcely need using it
- NB: DATA ON THIS ACTIVITY ARE STILL BEING COLLECTED



Results, observations, and implications

3) Status of current threats to the Hamlyn's monkey and the bamboo habitat in Nyungwe National Park

- The very characteristic threat is illegal bamboo cutting
- Near the bamboo habitat and inside are found other threats, e.g. firewood collection, logging, snares, grazing
- Some stretches of intact bamboo still exist but the habitat is much disturbed by human trails passing throughout
- On the bamboo harvested, most of parts remain inside; bamboo culms are cut selectively and improperly



Results, observations, and implications



- Hamlyn's monkeys are not visible; we could only hear their movements once during all time we traveled in their area
- The place has also been suspected for insecurity; such suspicions have long hampered the monitoring of the habitat
- We also found that bamboo shoots are not common in the habitat; the underlying reasons remain for further exploration

Progress and perspectives

There were four different activities

1. Assessing the status and outcomes of conservation efforts (4 months)
2. Assessing the status and perceptions of incentives (2 months)
3. Status of current threats on Hamlyn's monkeys and the bamboo habitat (2 months)
4. Workshops and meetings (2 months)

Notice: For 1-3 data are being entered, not analyzed yet to provide figures and tables; so results indicated only general trends

At present, we are left only with the activity 4 and few days of activities for surveys of the status of bamboo in community fields (activity 3)

We were timely; we plan to covered those within 2 months to come

We stay with hope that Rufford will fund a future project to continue our efforts for conservation sustainability at the site

Acknowledgements

- Endless thanks to the Almighty for the health we all have today, enabling us for this work, and for creating conservation
- Thanks to the all-important Rufford Foundation for enabling conservation of Nyungwe's bamboo and the *C. hamlyni*
- Thanks to FFI and CEPF for 2016 training on 'Project development, proposal writing and fundraising'
- Thanks to CoEB for organizing this seminar
- Thanks to RDB and WCS for collaborating
- Thanks to local leaders at the project area
- Thanks to all of you who encouraged us
- Thanks to all of you who attended this seminar

THANK YOU

