

Project Update: November 2017

I received the funds for my grant on September 29th 2017 to run my project in Nilo Forest Nature Reserve (NFNR) in Korogwe, Tanga region, Tanzania. I began my project on 2nd November. Prior the inception, in October I started by seeking a permit from government district officials, NFNR management, and village executive officers (VEO) so that to avoid delays or obstacles during the project implementation. The inception had the aim to make VEOs, village leaders and village environment committees (VECs) aware of the project, but also to make the project team familiar with the study area and communities surrounding the reserve. Ten villages surrounding NFNR were selected for this event. Inception activities took 2 weeks (2nd-16th November) as was scheduled in the project timeframe. The villages selected for project inception will be the main focus of the project and training. These include Kilangangua, Kizara, Kiziga, Kuze, Kwemkole, Kweng'wiza, Kwetonge, Maramba, Mashewa and Nkombola.



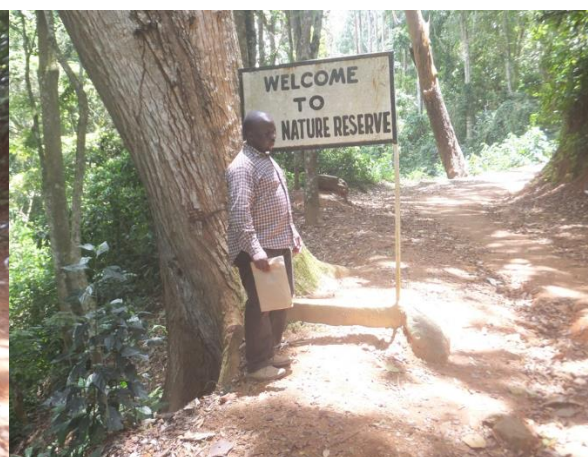
My team of five people and I summoned meeting with assistance of village environment committee (VEC), VEOs and one staff from NFNR. We managed to gather with about 10-15 villagers. The number of villagers was not high as many were busy preparing farms as farming season is near and other livelihood activities. We briefly discussed the goal, objectives and intended outcomes of this project and why there villagers are involved. We also introduced activities that will be implemented in their villages

i.e. beekeeping, tree nurseries, training etc. Because it was inception, the discussion just took approximately 45-60 minutes. After each inception, we had 10 minutes to discuss or introduce our sponsor, The Rufford Foundation. We aimed to make local people aware about who is supporting the activities in their villages. We informed them who is The Rufford Foundation, where the foundation is located, and what foundation is doing to conserve ecosystem and save biodiversity from extinction and also improving people's livelihood.

In December 2017, activities will be training (i.e. beekeeping), initiation of 10 sustainable income generating groups, raising awareness about the importance of managing natural forests, and species conservation especially a critically endangered long-billed tailorbird (*Artisornis moreaui*).



Some of villagers attended an inception meeting at Kilangangua (left) and Kwemkole (right)



Fredrick Ojija (left) and Beatus Mwendwa (right) standing along the road heading to Nilo Forest Nature Reserve (NFNR) main gate