

Project Update: July 2010

My research project is progressing well despite a few shortcomings. My three research assistants and I have so far conducted data collection exercise in over 45 out of 74 villages that the research project is targeting. Sampling procedure involved choosing randomly 30% of all villages adjacent to Mt. Elgon forest from the six districts on the Mountain and we are visiting up to seven households per village. However, at the beginning of March 2010, heavy rainfall started falling on the mountain leading to series of landslides that has so far killed over 375 people and majority of whom were from our target villages. Many roads and foot paths we were using were closed. This hazard increased our expenditures especially on transport and costs related to staying in the villages that were often prolonged. Supervision from Makerere University is going on well and hopefully we shall begin data analysis in September 2010.

