

Project Update: January 2019

Project launch

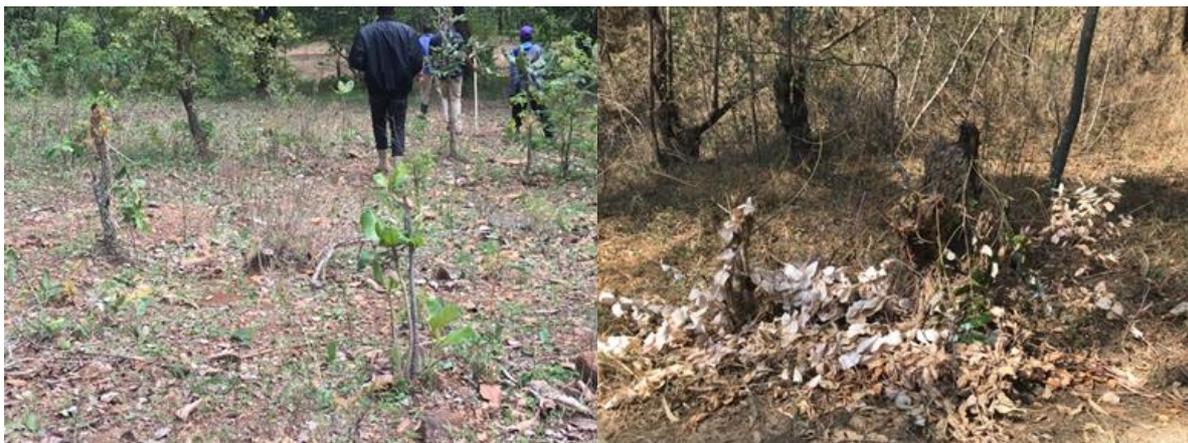
The project launch was done in October 2018 after obtaining a research permit from the Mbeya City Council. The launch aimed at introducing the project to various stakeholders, planning project activities, and identifying opportunities/barriers to project implementation. The project launch involved meetings with the research team from Mbeya University of Science and Technology (MUST) and Tanzania Forest Services Agency (TFS), Village Executive Officers (VEOs), environmental committees and local communities from 14 of the villages adjacent to the reserve.



Research team and village environmental committee during project launch

Reconnaissance survey/identification of anthropogenic changes

The reconnaissance survey was conducted in the project area for 3 weeks. It involved the research team and some members of the village environmental committee. The goal of this survey was to familiarise with the working environment, identify proper locations for beehives as well as potential degraded areas which require immediate intervention for restoration or reforestation.



Reconnaissance survey in Mt Loleza Forest Reserve

Awareness raising

The awareness raising was conducted in December 2018, with the main focus of promoting and educating the local communities around the Mount Loleza Forest Reserve on the importance of conserving and properly managing the biodiversity and habitats of the forest reserve. The villages visited were Muvwa, Itimba, Idugumbi, Iganzo, Nzoho, Iziwa, Itende, Ihombe, Mbeya peak, Itangano, Mwansekwa, Nonde, Ikukwa, and Iyela. The conservation education was facilitated by Mr Danford Ayubu from Tanzania Forest Service. My team also donated beehives to some of the villages (Muvwa, Itimba, Idugumbi) as agreed during project launch and reconnaissance survey in order to promote conservation of the forest reserve and surrounding habitats.



Village meetings during awareness raising



Beehives donated to Muvwa, Itimba and Idugumbi villages