

## Projects Update: December 2019

### Projects activities conducted:

We conducted a second fieldwork trip to resume data collection for household surveys to investigate illegal trade and consumption of bird bushmeat in the Swagaswaga-Mkungunero ecosystem. The fieldwork started in the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of December 2019 and lasted for 2 weeks. We surveyed three villages, Paranga, Chemba and Kelema East, in Chemba and Kondoa districts which were not surveyed during the first field trip. We collected questionnaire data from 395 households from Paranga (n= 214), Chemba (n= 133) and Kelema East (n = 48). During this fieldwork, I worked along with a team of three research assistants who are recent graduates of Sokoine University of Agriculture. The survey and anecdotal information suggest there is persistent illegal trapping and consumption of birds. Our surveys also revealed that there is ongoing bird poisoning in crop farms that targets large birds including francolin and guinea fowl with potential detrimental effects on other non-target animals such as carnivores and scavengers. However, the extend of the bird poisoning in these villages is still unknown and warrants further investigation. Photographs of traps used for catching birds of different sizes including francolins and guinea fowls are attached. Our next fieldwork will continue in January 2020 to collect data for bird density estimation in areas surrounding the four villages that are presumed to be used as bird trapping grounds.









