

Final Evaluation Report

Your Details	
Full Name	June Munanie Mutinda
Project Title	Understanding Nutritional Requirements of the Critically Endangered Eastern Mountain Bongo for Successful Captive Breeding and Wild Reintroduction in Kenya
Application ID	29857-1
Date of this Report	27-11-2023

1. Indicate the level of achievement of the project's original objectives and include any relevant comments on factors affecting this.

Objective	Not achieved	Partially achieved	Fully achieved	Comments
To determine nutritional foraging goals across age-sex classes and seasons of the free ranging population of the Mountain bongo in Mount Kenya Wildlife Conservancy				
Determine the important food plant species utilized by the bongos in meeting their nutritional goals				
Compare food resources critical for meeting bongos nutritional goals in both the Conservancy and targeted area for Mountain bongo reintroduction in Mount Kenya Forest				

2. Describe the three most important outcomes of your project.

- a).** A comprehensive checklist of mountain bongo dietary composition. This study generated a detailed checklist of plant foods consumed by mountain bongo more than all other previous studies.
- b).** This is the first study ever to establish the nutritional chemistry of the mountain bongo diet for the semi-captive population in Kenya.
- c).** Community outreach education and involvement. This study significantly contributed to community awareness of the mountain bongo, the threats facing its population, and viable conservation measures.

3. Explain any unforeseen difficulties during the project and how these were tackled.

1. The COVID-19 pandemic struck immediately after the award of the grant which caused delays in implementing the work within the stipulated timelines. The project was carried out after the control measures for the spread of the virus were put in place.
2. The economic constraints that arose after the pandemic influenced global exchange rates. This also led to an increase in commodities such as fuel hence the project budget was not as sufficient.
3. Delays in research approvals as a result of increased requirements for acquisition of research permits in the country which also delayed the project implementation period.

4. Delays in project commencement as a result of management transition at the study area (Mount Kenya Wildlife Conservancy)

4. Describe the involvement of local communities and how they have benefited from the project.

1. Yes, an education meeting was conducted to educate schools and surrounding local communities on the ecological importance of the mountain bongo as well as habitat improvement practices.
2. Research assistants from the local community were engaged during the entire project. They benefited through capacity building on the various field techniques and field subsistence allowances.
3. Information generated has been used by community-based organized conservation groups to inform conservation activities including habitat restoration at Mount Kenya Forest which is home of the mountain bongo.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes.

1. The study seeks to further compare the nutritional foraging goals of the semi-captive mountain bongo population with those of their wild counterparts.
2. Nutritional health related diseases affecting the mountain bongo their impacts and relationship with zoonosis.
3. To evaluate local community attitude, perception and behavioural change towards mountain bongo conservation.

6. How do you plan to share the results of your work with others?

1. Scientific forums. For instance, I attended the ICCB conference and presented my work and also intend to attend other conferences.
2. Publications in peer-reviewed journals.
3. Dissemination through community-based education and outreach programmes.

7. Looking ahead, what do you feel are the important next steps?

1. Creating more community awareness meetings and outreach programmes.
2. Investigate health and zoonotic problems as key determinants of mountain bongo population recovery.

3. Habitat recovery. Through initiating habitat restoration programmes including planting tree species that act as key mountain bongo foods.
4. Extend the study to wild mountain bongo populations using new technologies.

8. Did you use The Rufford Foundation logo in any materials produced in relation to this project? Did the Foundation receive any publicity during the course of your work?

Yes, my posters, technical reports, seminar presentations, and all other documents used during the project had the Rufford Foundation's logo as the main funding agency for the work.

9. Provide a full list of all the members of your team and their role in the project.

Stanislaus Kivai - provided technical advice on the investigation of the nutritional goals of the mountain bongo.

Peter Fundi – His previous experience working with the species was instrumental in developing and implementing data collection tools. He also guided vegetation sampling.

Charles Kivasu - His behavioural research experience was critical during data collection and analysis.

Zainab Faisal - She was very helpful during data collection and implementation of various field techniques that were required for the success of the project.

10. Any other comments?

None