

Project Update: December 2020

The project activities update that were completed since fund was distributed.

1. Site visit/field identification and analysis



Figure 1: Travel around Nyungwe National Park which border with community villages where you regular meet a great number of citizens frequently coming from the forest for different reasons

Site visit was carried out across project implementation catchment area for exploring, and detailing identification of research setting, figuring out the projects needs as well as meeting with potential partners, such as local authorities and community leaders. In response to COVID-19 pandemic measures, there were sessions of head-to-head mobilisation with project key potential partners to prevent risk of virus spreading.



Figure 2: site check in at Kageno ground, with youths and adult adolescent's representative ambassador



Figure 2: community check in with opinion people in one area around Nyungwe National park

2. Conducted a research inception workshop for stakeholder engagement (healthcare professionals and conservationist's agencies and other influential people) and collected their insights about additional ideas and desired outcomes that the project intended to generate. During the workshop, the participants pledged the accountability and support about project executions and questionnaire was modified for additional questions to fit the study area.



Figure 3: Thaddee Uwimana (Project implementer) doing a presentation about Project Research during workshop



Figure 4: Invitees (stakeholders) following the presentation and providing understanding about research project

3. Capacity building/training of local team for research assistant

The data collectors training for research execution was carried out for the sake of quality data and for liability and accuracy data, the team were trained in methodology, mechanism and behavior regarding data collection methods such as confidentiality and ethics in research. There was additional number of people on the recent team to respond to COVID-19 pandemic measures and guideline established by Rwanda Minister of Health.



Figure 6: Training T-shirts for data collectors' volunteers

Before and throughout training, materials such masks, notebooks, pens, hands sanitiser and instructions were given to ensure reproductive training outcome. The team was trained about family planning and conservation and how the two subjects are interconnected together.





Figure 5: The trainees during training sessions practicing exercises and other part of training package.





Figure 8: Data collector volunteers filling out questionnaire before community mobilization and awareness.



Figure 9: participants (Trainees, facilitators and trainer) after training session

4. Nyungwe National park tour visit

After the training, the team had a tour around the project implementation area. The goal of the travel was to help team having deeper understanding about study setting and community will deal with during data collection, and also doing mobilisation and awareness throughout the travel

5. Data collection and community awareness

There was research project mobilisation and awareness within community previously training and throughout training day, and there afterward questionnaires were also given all the way through. Due to COVID-19 pandemic I met different groups of people separately to adhere on preventives measures against pandemic



Figure 10: photo of team after demo site around Nyungwe Park where it borders community



Figure 6: project awareness and mobilization within a group of single mother's club (RAISE HOPE)



Figure 7: A group of environmental club and Voice of Nyungwe during project awareness and data collection.





Figure 8: Awareness and data collection activities among group of adult's youths, adolescents and sexual reproductive health clubs

Project activities still under process, data collection activities still underway, and data collection facilitators continue awareness and mobilisation as well as data collection in villages and among households.



Figure 14: Village visit for research mobilization, awareness and data collection in one of operating village