

## Project Update: July 2020

### Population survey:

We have continued doing the monitoring of the primates, where the encounter is increasing as we move to the dry season compared to the wet season. The *Rungwecebus kipunji* are getting more inside the protected areas as farmers are harvesting their corn/maize which is the main attractant of the *Rungwecebus kipunji* to live closer to the farms. We have cleared the transects that were dirt.



Beautiful sceneries within the nature reserve

During the survey we managed to encounter some of the disturbances that are taking place within Rungwe Nature Reserve, we managed to encounter people clearing areas for charcoal and creating charcoal for business.

Picture indicating areas within the nature reserve burned for charcoal

We also encountered a poacher with a bushbuck, but he ran away. Through the discussions with communities, the area is prone to illegal wildlife meat trade, where bushbuck, *Rungwecebus kipunji*, black and white colobus and red duikers are hunted for meat. However, there has been no active management in Mt Rungwe, there are very limited number of rangers to do the patrols in the forest.

Illegal activities encountered during the survey, we encountered a poacher with bushbuck and tree cutting for both fuel wood and building poles.

We are still running the monthly monitoring of all the primates where *Rungwecebus kipunji* is given high priority. We have managed to train the data collection monitors who have been in the area since the COVID 19 was announced in Tanzania. Monitoring continues but awareness campaign has not been put in place.