

Project Update: November 2020



Reducing Extinction Risk of Critically *Endangered* *Rungwecebus kipunji* in Mount Rungwe Nature Forest Reserve, Tanzania

I received the funds in September 2020 to start the project activities. We began the project by meeting with stakeholders including conservators of Mount Rungwe Nature Forest Reserve. The project inception event took place on 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2020 at Mount Rungwe Nature Forest Reserve head office in Rungwe district. Village leaders, MRNFR conservators and other stakeholders were invited. The goal of the inception was to make stakeholders aware about the project and its main activities. Furthermore, I visited the Tanzania Forest service (TFS) agency zonal office in Mbeya district to formalize the project.

During the inception and after breakfast we discussed various issues related to challenges facing conservation of kipunji and Mount Rungwe Nature Forest Reserve. I made a brief presentation about the project while underlining its main objective. I also introduced and acknowledged our main funder, The Rufford Foundation, to stakeholders. We discussed in detail about The Rufford Foundation and its main role in conservation of biodiversity in Tanzania and globally. Moreover, to promote the Rufford Foundation, I gave the stakeholders the t-shirts with the foundation logo.



A project leader presenting the project activities to stakeholders





Above: Inception event was accompanied with breakfast and soft drinks. Below: Discussion of the project and familiarization among stakeholders.



### **Currently, the ongoing activities**

- (i) Conservation education awareness raising.
- (ii) Kipunji population survey.
- (iii) Kipunji's habitat survey.

### **Acknowledgement**

I would like to thank Tanzania Forest Service (TFS) Agency for allowing us to carry out this project in the reserve. I also thank Mr Yusuph Tango (conservator), the



manager of Mount Rungwe Nature Forest Reserve for hosting the inception event and leading the discussion. I also thank all stakeholders who attended the event, e.g. Grace Rugalema, Zawadi N. Humbo, Mazao A. Fungo, Kazumari Mkwavila, Jesca Mgata, Lusekelo Silabi, Obadia Enock, Erick Ngindo and others.

