

Project Update: September 2021

FROM 10TH JULY TO 16TH JULY 2021

Background information: With invasive plants that become dominant in a new environment and have plentiful flowers with abundant nectar and pollens which can attract pollinators to exploit such flowers may later affect the diet and health of pollinators (Vanbergen et al., 2018). Management actions against invasive plants is crucial as it is aiming to decrease the negative impacts of invasive plants that have been developed within an affected area (Kaur et al., 2014), however, managers have normally met high oppositions from the public due to some valuable benefits people get from invasive plants (Novoa et al., 2017). From socioecological perception, invasive species management normally require a multi-stakeholder's approach which includes better knowledge of human scopes (Shrestha & Sharma, 2014). Involvement of local communities on invasive management frequently relay on levels of community awareness, their perceptions of the problem, species of the importance, best management approaches to targeted species, and incentives for management interference for communities (Shrestha & Sharma, 2014).

Brief description on raising local community awareness: After data collection and analysis on natural versus chemical-based management against the invasive plant *Gutenbergia cordifolia* and how each management affected insect visitors in Mwiba wildlife ranch, Tanzania. We found that using natural plant extract treatment is highly preferable to the chemical management of invasive plants *G. cordifolia*, as the DUL treatment maintained and even enhanced flower diversity while suppressing *G. cordifolia* and fostering insect visitors. Therefore, we had to go back to Mwiba Wildlife ranch to share our findings with Mwiba staff, the local community including the villagers, primary pupils and secondary students of Makao village which are close to Mwiba Wildlife Ranch. We made a brief presentation to each group about our project objectives and the results we acquired from the data that were collected from Mwiba. The goal was to make these stakeholders aware about the project and its main achievement.



Project leader training primary pupils on invasive and the management effect of invasive on insect flower visitation.



A photo with selected Primary pupils after training.



Training selected secondary students on invasive and the management effect of invasive on insect flower visitation.



A photo with selected secondary students after training.



A photo with village representatives after raising their awareness on invasive and the management effect of invasive on insect flower visitation.

Challenges

The COVID- 19 pandemic which was announced in our country in March 2020 disrupted most of our project activities and we had to suspend some activities and waited to carry them when the situation was calm.

Acknowledgement

We thank Rufford for funding our project and made it possible for us to reach the community easily and elevated their awareness and perception towards invasive management and its effect on other part of biodiversity which is the inset flower visitation.