

Project Update: June 2021

Project background

Uzungwa-Scarp Forest Reserve forms part of the Eastern Arc and coastal forests of Tanzania and Kenya. The reserve is a reservoir of species heritage in Tanzania and the world at large hosting rare, endemic and endangered flora and fauna. Various studies highlight wildlife hunting practices for local markets and household consumption, continuing anthropogenic disturbances and illegal activities related to timber production and trade, collection of firewood, charcoal pits, poaching, bushmeat hunting and small-scale agricultural encroachment are major threats facing the forest reserve.

To conserve biodiversity and ecological habitat of the Uzungwa-Scarp Forest Reserve, this project focuses to evaluate existing threats and forest disturbances, which has not been done since 2010. The project will document the type, frequency and intensity of forest disturbances caused by anthropogenic activities. The project will also use unmatched count technique (UCT) in order to quantify the scale and reasons for bushmeat hunting. Using camera trap survey, the project will quantify and report the current population ecological data, population size and structure, spatial distribution, density) of endangered Abbott's duiker.



Project team members during inception meetings at Uzungwa-scarp Forest reserve office.

Project inception

The project team visited the forest reserve in March 2021 and met with the forest reserve management to plan and discuss the implementation of project activities. The project team also met with village leaders and surrounding communities around the Uzungwa-Scarp Forest Reserve. We were able to carry out groundwork, plan project activities, timeframe, and orient village leaders on the project objectives, activities and their

participation. We visited the forest to identify important sites, boundaries, forest roads and other access points.

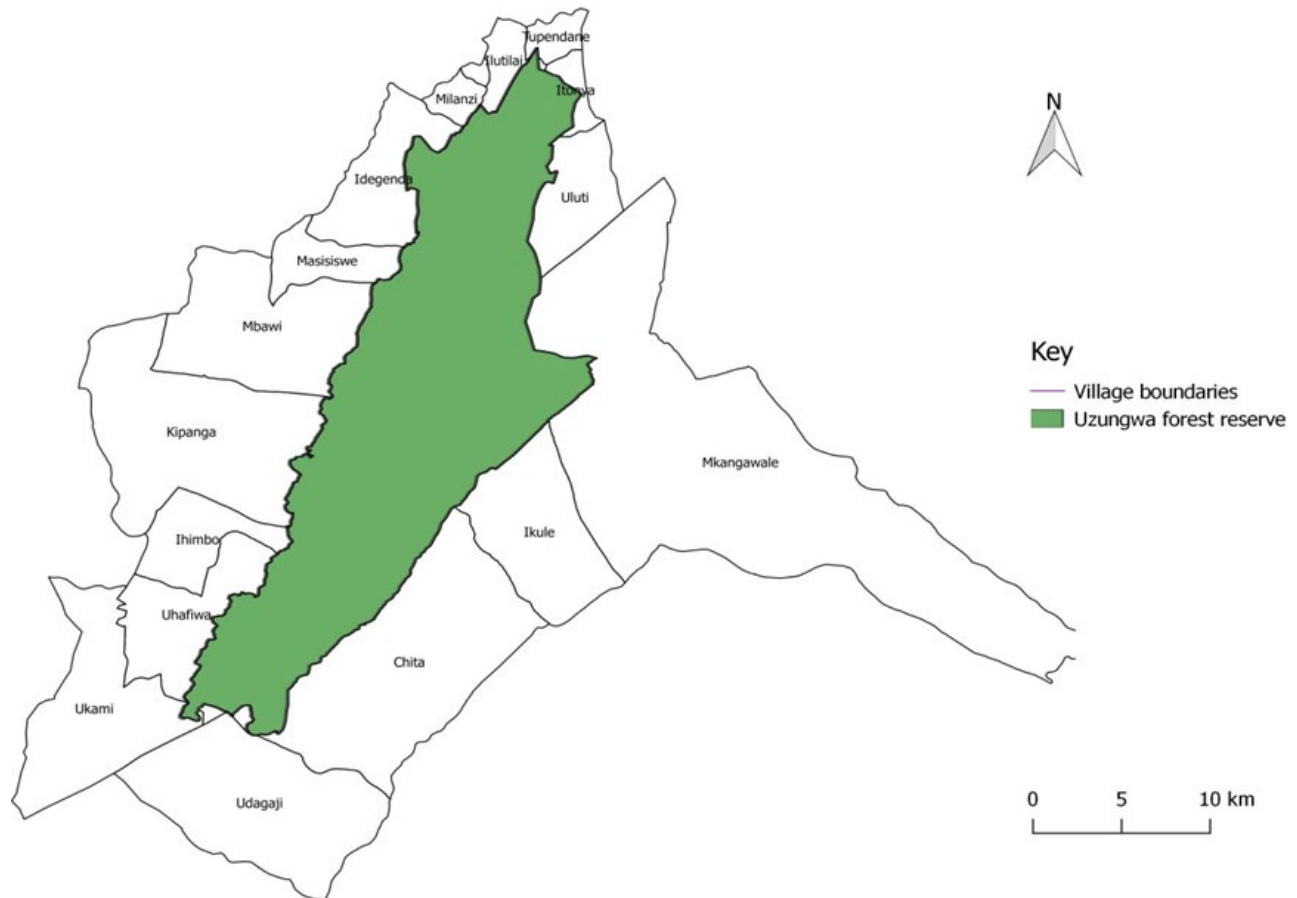


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Forest disturbance survey

During first quarter of the project timeframe, the team was able to conduct a forest disturbance survey. Transect walk was done using permanent tagged line along the contours and permanent footpaths from the forest boundaries in order determine forest conditions of the reserve. At this stage, we covered three contour lines at 650 to 1030m elevation. The area surveyed was composed of thick, sub-montane forest vegetation type.

We recorded various signs of human activity mainly wildlife hunting, beekeeping and fire encroachment. We will be providing detailed information and maps in our upcoming reports.

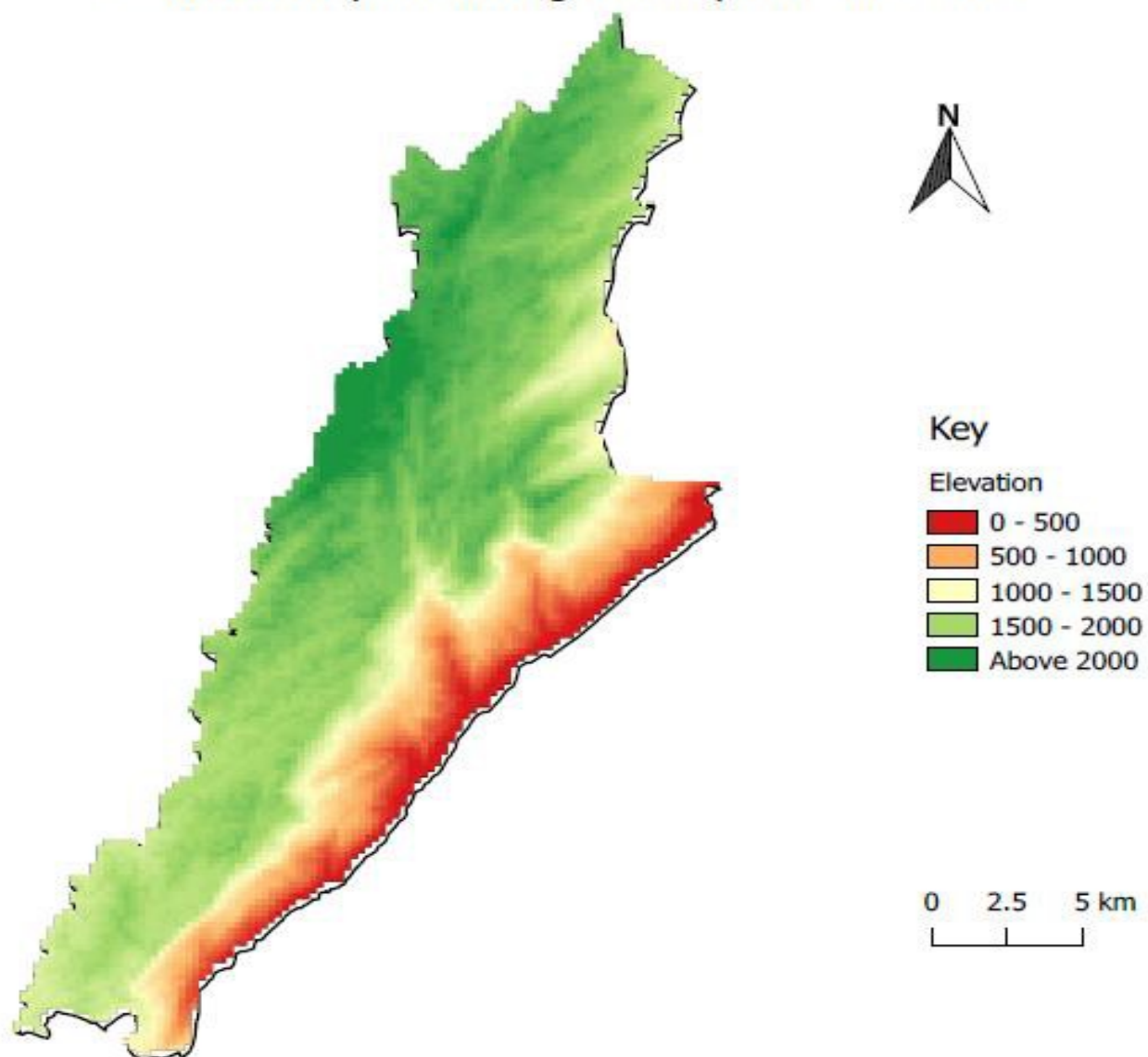


Map of Uzungwa forest reserve indicating location and community villages surrounding the forest reserve.



Local beehive in Uzungwa scarp forest reserve.

Elevation map for Uzungwa scarp forest reserve





Pit trap and snare in Uzungwa-scarp forest reserve



Project leader (second from left) and forest survey team