

Project Update: November 2022

Project Background

In Tanzania, most chimpanzees live at low densities outside national park boundaries where they are threatened by habitat loss and fragmentation. Significant chimpanzee populations occur in the Masito-Ugalla Ecosystem (MUE), partly protected as Tongwe Forest Reserves (TFRs). Notwithstanding the presence of chimpanzee populations in MUE, some parts of this ecosystem are threatened by recurrent anthropogenic disturbances due to their proximity to human settlements. Anthropogenic pressures on MUE have negatively affected chimpanzee populations due to habitat loss and fragmentation.

This project supports the local community initiatives that aim at enhancing their livelihoods while effectively contributing to the management of chimpanzee habitats. Specifically, this project aims at promoting sustainable beekeeping which is one of the existing alternative livelihood strategies with the potential of contributing to the management of the threatened chimpanzee habitats in MUE.

Updates on project activities

Up to date, we have managed to carry out five project activities:

- i. We successfully renewed the project permit and obtained approvals from Tanganyika District Council and Katavi Region to commence the project activities.
- ii. We have conducted a field survey in Ikusi and Bulamata villages to identify potential beekeepers focusing on people involved in traditional beekeeping in Tongwe Forest Reserves.
- iii. We have trained the identified potential beekeepers on the basics of modern beekeeping and facilitated the formation of two farmer beekeeping groups in Ikusi and Bulamata villages.
- iv. We have supported the farmer beekeeping groups in the two villages with 100 modern beehives and facilitated the beekeepers with the installation of beehives in the forest and trained them on the process.
- v. Since the commencement of the project, we have continually monitored the project activities in Ikusi and Bulamata villages. This is done through conducting periodic field visits in Ikusi and Bulamata villages.



Figure 1: Training potential beekeepers on the basics of modern beekeeping at Bulamata village.



Figure 2: Bulamata potential beekeepers when exposed on a beekeeping suit as an important protective gear when dealing with bees



Figure 3: Batch one of the modern beehives (25 beehives) that was provided to Bulamata beekeeping group



Figure 4: Batch two of the modern beehives (25 beehives) that was provided to Bulamata beekeeping group



Figure 5: Conducting a training on the basics of modern beekeeping to potential beekeepers at Ikusi village



Figure 6: Demonstrating a modern beehive and beekeeping suits to the potential beekeepers at Ikusi Village



Figure 7: Participants following closely on the beekeeping training at Ikusi village



Figure 8: Handing over of modern beehives at the beekeeping group formed at Ikusi village



Figure 9: The Ikusi beekeeping group members (men and women) preparing the beehives to be taken to the project site.



Figure 10: Beehives preparation at Ikusi to be taken to the forest (project site)



Figure 11: The Ikusi beekeeping group members (men and women) taking beehives to the forest (to an apiary site).



Figure 12: Beehives reaching to an apiary site (to the forest).



Figure 13: Some of the beehives already positioned into the apiary site

Next project activities to be implemented

- i. In November 2022, all the beekeeping groups will harvest and extract honey from honeycombs.
- ii. After honey harvest, the beekeepers will be trained on honey processing, packaging, labelling and storage. The beekeepers will be trained to properly handle, package, label, and store bee products for marketing.
- iii. As the market analysis is already performed, the beekeepers will then select areas to sell their bee products.
- iv. To evaluate the performance of the beekeeping project in Ikusi and Bulamata.
- v. Report writing and dissemination.



Figure 14: The beekkeeping expert with the trained beekeepers from the Ikusi beekkeeping group



Figure 15: Trained beekeepers from the ongoing beekkeeping project in Bulamata village