

Final Evaluation Report

Your Details	
Full Name	Bruce Ainebyona
Project Title	Primate Monitoring as a Tool to Promote Human-Wildlife Coexistence in Magombe and Its Tributary Wetlands/Forest Patches
Application ID	41288-B
Date of this Report	30/03/2025

1. Indicate the level of achievement of the project's original objectives and include any relevant comments on factors affecting this.

Objective	Not achieved	Partially achieved	Fully achieved	Comments
Monitoring primates in Magombe and its tributary wetlands and forest patches				Primate monitoring was done in the area. However, this can go on to further validate the findings or have new findings
Support at least 30 households with human primate co-existence projects				30 households were supported with human primate co-existence projects such as livestock rearing, beekeeping and growing crops not eaten by many primates such as coffee. So far, other households surrounding the wetland have benefitted from the revolving fund, and more will continue to benefit from the scheme when the current beneficiaries return the interest free loan they got. Under the project, a reforming charcoal burners association was formed and 15 households were trained on making charcoal briquettes and these were also supported with briquette making technologies
Build capacity of local staff in long term monitoring of primates and other wildlife species				Three local community members were involved in the primate monitoring activity. These still need continuous engagement to take this on with minimal or no support from the project and KAFRED

2. Describe the three most important outcomes of your project.

- a) **Working with the local community to identify human primate co-existence measures:** From the primate monitoring exercise, the local community survey and the awareness meeting, the project team agreed with local community members in the area on what can be done to co-exist with primates in the area. Some of the measures agreed upon and supported under the project was growing crops that are not liked by primates, alternative livelihoods like beekeeping and livestock rearing
- b) **Forming the Magombe Wetland reforming charcoal burners association:** During the initial project plan, habitat destruction through charcoal burning was not among the key issues to address. It was however striking to find that this was happening in around so many parts of the wetland and was likely to negatively impact on the primates. Under the project, charcoal burners were brought together, had several awareness sessions, were supported to make an association, which was supported to start charcoal briquette making.
- c) **Strengthened partnership with stakeholders:** The project included local community members, other NGO staff such as Ngogo chimpanzee Project , KAFRED and Uganda Wildlife Authority. These continue to work together with the project team in different activities that promote conservation of primate in Magombe and its tributary wetlands, and Kibale National Park

3. Explain any unforeseen difficulties that arose during the project and how these were tackled.

Many people are affected by the human primate conflict, and when the project held the first awareness meeting, it was communicated that some of those affected will be supported by human primate co-existence measures. Every one expected to be supported immediately, yet the resources could were not enough.

To tackle this, those who were not supported immediately were encouraged to make use of the revolving fund, which in the long run will reach everyone as the wetland neighbours can borrow and return the funds at an interest free rate

There was a rebel attack from Allied Democratic Forces in Kibale National Park and surrounding areas during the first quarter of the project. This was during a primate monitoring phase, which made it risky for the team to visit forested patches in most areas. The halted the monitoring for sometime, while conducting community surveys and awareness and later resumed monitoring when security was reinstated.

4. Describe the involvement of local communities and how they have benefitted from the project.

Monitoring team involved three community members. These were not only equipped with primate monitoring knowledge and skills but were also given some facilitation. One of these has been recruited on a permanent basis to work with another project funded by University of Illinois that monitors the risk of disease transmission between wildlife and primates in the area.

The project created awareness on primate co-existence measures. If these are well adopted, it will improve the livelihoods of the local communities, who have been

spending almost all seasons guarding crops. Also, a few households were supported with measures, while others were supported and more through the revolving fund program.

The project also brought the charcoal burners in the area together, into an association that aims at looking for alternative and sustainable sources of fuel.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes, from the community survey the project team learned that most wetland neighbours look at ecotourism as the ONLY importance of the wetland and the wildlife that live in there. A few others appreciate the extractive benefits like getting fuel wood, raw materials and water. There is need to create awareness on ecosystem services provided by the wetlands, forest patches and the wildlife that live in there.

Also from the primate monitoring reports, there were signs of chimpanzees coming more closer to the communities. This was consistent with information got during the community survey, with some local community members reporting chimpanzees raiding sugar canes and bananas. This conflict seems to be on the rise and needs more attention

Primate monitoring should continue and the activity was integrated into KAFRED's routine work, and occasionally their team will work with the project coordinator to monitor the primates in the area.

6. How do you plan to share the results of your work with others?

I shared preliminary findings with the local district administration, and also shared these during the African Primatological Society Conference in South Africa. I will work with the team to find opportunities for publishing our work

7. Looking ahead, what do you feel are the important next steps?

It's not conclusive that habitat destruction contributes to escalation of human primate conflicts in the area, but during the monitoring, it was noticed that this is happening especially as local communities look for charcoal. Through the reforming charcoal burners association that was formed, we will engage local communities in making briquettes as means to substitute charcoal burning.

KAFRED occasionally receives internship students and volunteers. Engaging these in primate monitoring could also help.

More awareness needs to be done in the communities in the area. Some people are stuck to their traditional crops such as maize, yet these are raided by primates such as monkeys. Growing crops like coffee could help them earn more, which can help them buy what they consider as traditional food/crops

8. Did you use The Rufford Foundation logo in any materials produced in relation to this project? Did the Foundation receive any publicity during the course of your work?

Yes, during my presentation in the African Primatological Society Confence in South Africa, I acknowledged support from Rufford Foundation and included their logo.

I also used the logo for all the reporting and project related forms

9. Provide a full list of all the members of your team and their role in the project.

Bruce Ainebyona, was the coordinator of the project. He also led most of the awareness sessions and community engagements during the project

Angendakin Sam, who is the Project Manager, Ngogo chimpanzee project offered guidance in primate monitoring techniques.

Peter Ainebyona, who is the Assistant Programs Manager Kibale Association for Rural and Environmental Development(KAFRED), helped coordinate with the main collaborating organization, KAFRED. Peter also helped with final monitoring and evaluation of the project

Julius Niwamanya, was part of the primate monitoring team. He also helped in mobilizing the community.

Kabagambe Henry, over saw the primate monitoring

Ronald Twinomugisha and **Rose Atuheire** were two members of the community who were recruited to help with the primate monitoring. They also supported the community survey

10. Any other comments?

From the community survey, baboons ranked as the most common crop raiding species. However, from the primate monitoring activity, very few baboons were sighted. The baboons especially in the main Magombe wetland are known to be semi habituated, and this rules out the possibility of avoiding the monitors. This raised a number of questions, could they have reduced in the recent past, could have just been a coincidence. These need to be continuously monitored alongside the chimpanzees that have crossed into the community more frequently than the past years

On behalf of the team, I thank Rufford foundation for supporting this work.

