

Project Update June 2024

Project activities conducted between February and June 2024

(i) Establishment of environmental clubs and training

The project team facilitated the establishment of environmental clubs in two primary schools and one secondary school in Uzi Island. Also, the team conducted both indoor and field training to enhance knowledge and skills of the environmental committee and student representatives on environmental conservation and management (**Fig. 1- 4**). Participants were well informed of conservation status of *P. kirkii* and its potential habitats, control of wildfire, deforestation level, pollution and other human related activities that threaten the survival of this endemic species. Moreover, the trainers clearly highlighted the importance of conserving *P. kirkii* and their contribution in the tourism industry of Zanzibar. This activity aimed at ensuring that the committee members and students are well informed about *P. kirkii*, kept motivated and continue to conserve the environment even after the project phase out.

During indoor sessions, students had time to interact with the project team and there were some questions regarding conservation issues which were posed to them. Students who gave correct answers were given t-shirts (with Rufford logo) as presents as well as opportunity to plant trees in the school compounds to inspire others (**Fig. 5- 8**).



Fig. 1



Fig. 2



Fig. 3



Fig. 4

Figures 1- 4: Project team members facilitating workshop trainings to student representatives and environmental committee's leaders on conservation of *P. kirkii* and its habitats during indoor and outdoor sessions in Uzi island.



Fig. 5



Fig. 6

Figures 5- 6: Team members interacting with students during indoor training sessions in Uzi island.



Fig. 7



Fig. 8

Figures 7- 8: Students' representatives demonstrating their ability to plant tree seedlings during outdoor sessions in Uzi island.

In addition, several leaflets (prepared in local Swahili language) were distributed to all participants after training sessions to keep reminding them on issues related to conservation of *P. kirkii* and its habitat even after the project come to an end (**Fig. 9- 11**).

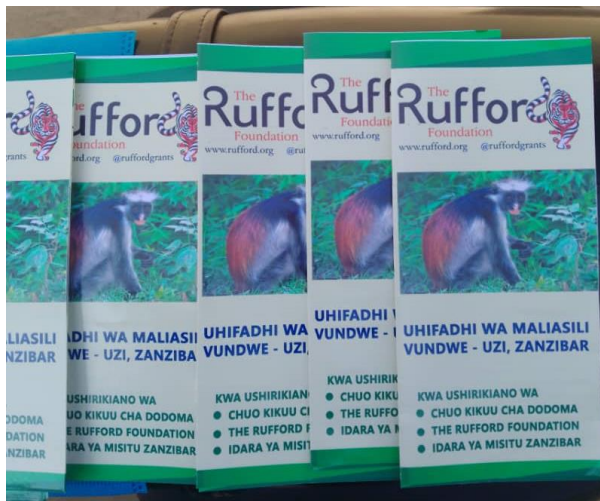


Fig. 9

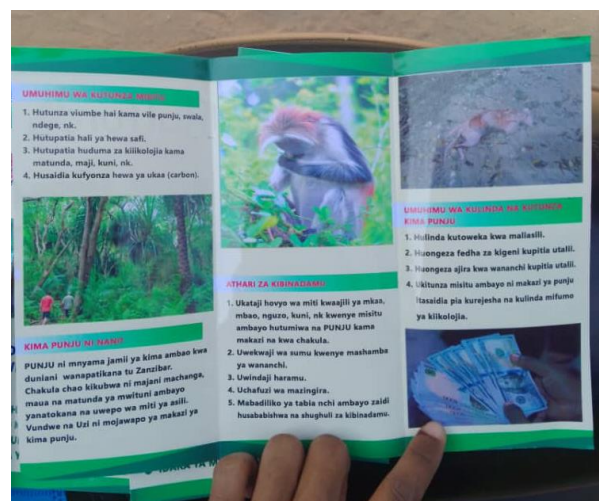


Fig. 10



Fig. 11

Figures 9- 11: A leaflet with pages containing information regarding potential threats, conservation and management strategies for safeguarding the *P. kirkii* and its habitat in Vundwe and Uzi islands.

(iii) Tree planting (Phase II)

In collaboration with a few villagers, the project team first evaluated the trees which were planted during Phase I and assessed their growth performance and health (**Fig. 12- 17**). The activity aimed at understanding the growth success of these newly planted trees. The team found that more than 92% of the planted seedlings attained good growth height. Also, it was noted that most seedlings which died were damaged by the termites. However, a high number of seedlings performed well and this could have been contributed by adequate rainfall caused by El Niño conditions which occurred between October 2023 and January 2024.



Fig. 12



Fig. 13



Fig. 14



Fig. 15



Fig. 16

Fig. 17

Figure 12 – 17: Growth condition of some of the tree species planted during Phase I (between November 2023 and January 2024) in Vundwe and Uzi islands.

After field assessment, the empty holes were identified and then re-planted with new seedlings. The team then continued with Phase II of planting in the remained degraded areas in both Uzi and Vundwe islands (**Fig. 18- 23**). Species planted during Phase II included *Tricalysia microphylla* (Mlapaa dume), *Sorindeia madagascarensis*

(Pilipili doria), *Terminalia boivinii* (Mkunguni), *Clausena anisata* (Mfusho), *Suregada zanzibariensis* (Mdimu msitu), *Macphersonia gracilis* (Mjoma) and *Diospyros consolatae* (Mkukuru).

*Word in bracket represent local name of the respective species.



Fig. 18



Fig. 19



Fig. 20



Fig. 21



Fig. 22



Fig. 23

Figures 18- 23: Phase II tree planting activity in most degraded areas of Vundwe and Uzi islands.

Next moves

(i) Conservation education

In collaboration with environmental committees and forest officers, the team will continue to provide conservation education to the surrounding communities on conservation of *P. kirkii* and the environment. During this activity, local fishermen, tree loggers and firewood collectors who occasionally visit Vundwe island will be our focal groups. The team will use group discussions, educational videos and leaflets to ensure that the participants understand, become motivated and willingly participate in the conservation of *P. kirkii* and its habitats.

(ii) Instalment of the signposts

Signposts containing different conservation messages, rules and regulations will be prepared and installed in Vundwe and Uzi islands. These signposts will help to remind the resource users and other visitors on dos and don'ts when they are in forest.