

Project Update June 2024

I would like to inform you that, after receiving the funds at the end of January 2024, the project team has started to implement the project as follows.

Project inception and planning, before starting fieldwork, we requested for research permit from the Babati District Council through the University of Dodoma (UDOM) and the Regional Administrative Secretary (RAS) of Manyara Region. After getting the research introduction letter from the university on 30 March 2024. By using our partial permit, the project team has managed to meet with various stakeholders including the Regional Game Officer (RGO) of Manyara, the District Administrative Secretary (DAS) of Babati District, and the District Game Officer (DGO) of Babati to introduce the project and to plan on how the project will be implemented successfully.

Also, in collaboration with the district leaders (i.e., DAS and DGO), we have identified Ngolley, Kakoi, Minjingu, and Vilima Vitatu as study villages where the project will be implemented based on their proximity to the Vilima Vitatu hills. We have conducted meetings with the village leaders (Village Executive Officer and Village Chairperson) of the four study villages to elucidate the primary goal of our project. Finally, in collaboration with the village leaders, we selected four primary schools (i.e., Mdori, Vilima Vitatu, Ngolei, and Kakoi) and two secondary schools namely, Burunge and Nkaiti for implementing this project.

Getting the permit has been so challenge as per the new wildlife and tourism policy from the ministries and we followed the previous procedures that seem not working.



Figures showing the rock crevices where the Pancakes tortoise live, and the villagers were trying to spot if the animal can be easily seen.