

Final Evaluation Report

We ask all grant recipients to complete a project evaluation that helps us to gauge the success of your project. This must be sent in **MS Word and not PDF format**. We understand that projects often do not follow the predicted course but knowledge of your experiences is valuable to us and others who may be undertaking similar work – remember that negative experiences are just as valuable as positive ones if they help others to learn from them.

Please DO NOT fill in and submit this form until the project has been completed.

Complete the form in English. Note that the information may be edited before posting on our website.

Please email this report to jane@rufford.org.

Your Details	
Full Name	Tony Muisyo Wambua
Project Title	Promoting Conservation of Endangered Mt Uaraguess Guereza (<i>Colobus guereza ssp. percivali</i>) through Community Education and Awareness in Samburu County, Kenya.
Application ID	43300-1
Date of this Report	10 th November 2025

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

Objective	achieved	Not achieved	Partially achieved	Fully achieved	Comments
Determining the human perceptions & interaction with Mt Uaraguess guereza.					<p>A total of 207 individuals participated in the questionnaire. The majority of the respondents 53.14% were males, while 46.86% were females. The final sample size of 207 individuals was slightly lower than the planned sample size due to logistical and time constraint rather than reluctance of community members to be interviewed. In fact, willingness to be interviewed was generally high across all sampled villages. However, the pastoralist lifestyle of the communities affected the number of respondents reached.</p> <p>The key findings of this study revealed that majority of the respondent had awareness of the species and recognized its ecological importance. Most of the interactions with the species was indirect as the community members accessed several forest resources</p>

			<p>within the Mathews Range. While positive attitude towards conservation was generally high, a notable proportion of respondents expressed concern over habitat degradation, hunting of the species and declining sightings indicating perceived population decline and increased threat to the species.</p>
<p>To establish the population status of the Endangered Mt Uaraguess guereza.</p>			<p>A population census was carried out in Nkare-Narok, Ngilai, Wamba and Kangulata forest section within Mathews Range Forest. A total of 12 groups were recorded with an estimated population ranging between 96-144 individuals across the four sampled areas. The results revealed a shocking decline of the population estimated to be about 70% decline based on the last census carried out in 2012 which recorded 635 individuals. This census was carried out by a team of 31 individuals comprising of nine researchers from Kenya Institute of Primate Research, two researchers from Northern Rangeland Trust, eight rangers from Community Conservancies, and 12 local guides. The reasons for the decline included severe habitat degradation caused by extensive tree cutting for</p>

				<p>livestock fodder during prolonged droughts, illegal hunting for skin and climate induced forest dieback. Human driven threats accounted for over 66% of all recorded threats with more than 53% linked directly to tree cutting pressure. Additional contributing factors include predation pressures and reduced food availability due to loss of key forage tree species such as <i>Olea capensis</i>.</p>
<p>Determining habitat threat to the survival of the endangered Mt Uaraguess guereza within Mathews Range Forest.</p>				<p>We conducted habitat threat assessment survey at the Wamba, Ngilai, and Nkare Narok forest sections using line transect method where 24 transect measuring between 2-4km each were established across all the sampling sites.</p> <p>Human activities were the dominant threat to Mt Uaraguess guereza and the Mathews Range Forest, accounting for over 66% of all recorded threats. Habitat degradation was widespread across all forest sections, marked by extensive canopy loss, habitat fragmentation, and degradation of riverine forests. The most common threat was tree cutting for livestock</p>

				<p>pasture, which contributed over 53% of all threats and intensified during the 2022–2024 drought. <i>Olea capensis</i>, a key food tree for colobus monkeys, was the most heavily affected species. Other threats such as fire, elephant damage, and natural tree dieback were present but occurred at much lower levels.</p>
<p>Determining the activity budget of Mt Uaraguess guereza.</p>				<p>We did not achieve this objective due to the current hunting of this species which has greatly affected their behaviour. The use of guns by the hunters have made them to be very cryptic to evade hunters who still are persecuting this species based on reports we have.</p>
<p>Conducting awareness and education programs targeting the local community and school going students.</p>				<p>We sensitized 111 community members through public meetings and more than 1,000 pupils in six schools in Samburu East were enlightened on primate conservation. These schools included: Ntepes comprehensive school, D.E.B. Wamba comprehensive school, Lkisin comprehensive school, Oromoidei comprehensive school, Noolotoro primary school and Ngilai comprehensive school.</p>

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

a). This study is a wake-up call to protect the Endangered Mt Uaraguess guereza which is endemic to Samburu County in Kenya and is currently the most threatened primate species in the country with estimated population of 96-144 individuals. These findings informed the decision to organize this year's International Primate Day celebration in Mathews Range to promote conservation of this critical species which is on the blink of extinction. This event was held in Ngilai Community Conservancy on 1st September 2025 it focused on sustainable financing and community engagement in primate conservation. The activities included community sensitization, national webinar, a public conservation march, stakeholders' speech with national media coverage and tree growing at Engilai Primary School as part of broader restoration goal.

b). This study has generated a manuscript titled "*Perceptions and Primates: Exploring Local Attitudes Toward Primate Conservation in the Mathews Range, Samburu, Kenya*" which was submitted to *African Journal of Primatology*.

c). I will share the project report with Samburu County government department of environment, Kenya Institute of Primate Research, Wildlife Research and Training Institute, Kenya Wildlife Service, Ngilai Community Conservancy, Kalepo Community Conservancy and Namunyak Community Conservancy who are key stakeholders in conservation of this species.

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

One of the challenges encountered was bad weather which led to many roads being completely rendered impassible which delayed our work for three months. Additionally Our field vehicle developed a mechanical problem hence we had to incur additional costs which was not budgeted. Finally, we encountered challenges with exchange rate due to inflation as during application of this grant 1 pound equalled to 197.4 Kenya Shillings and at the time of receipt of the funds 1 pound equalled 167 Kenya shilling reducing our purchasing power. To address all these financial deficits, we successfully got additionally funds from Primate Action Fund and Primate Conservation Inc.

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

A total of 234 community members were involved directly in the project as respondents, data enumerators, field assistants, rangers and porters this ensured that they acquired the necessary knowledge on conservation of the Endangered Mt Uaraguess guereza and entire Mathews Range Forest. This was very critical to ensure they are informed and create sense of ownership and responsibility. Those who benefitted financially included field assistants,

enumerators, potters and rangers drawn from three community conservancies within Mathews Range Forest.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes. I have plans to continue with this work through stakeholders' engagement and community awareness to end the hunting of Endangered Mt Urageess guereza which is currently shrinking the population of this species at an alarming rate. Lastly, I plan to start tree nursery to restore degraded habitat within Mathews Range ecosystem.

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

Through conference presentation, reports and publications. So far, this work has been presented in two international conference and one local conference. Additionally, this work has generated two manuscript which one has been submitted to African Journal of primatology.

Additionally, the results were shared with community members through four public meeting at Wamba, Ngilai, Lkisin and Nkare Narok.

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

The project team feels that by bringing relevant stakeholder together to curb the current ongoing killing of the endangered Mt Urageess guereza will ensure this species is protected. Additionally, we seek to establish four tree nurseries to support restoration of degraded habitats. Lastly, we would seek to continue educating the community and provide alternative sources of income to the vulnerable members of the community to ease pressure on the natural forest which support this critical species.

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. The Rufford Foundation logo was used in all project related materials including posters, reports presentations and during outreach activity in Samburu Rufford was acknowledged for their support.

The foundation received both local and international publicity through various podium and poster presentations both in Kenya and outside Kenya. This include 30th IPS Congress in Madagascar (2025), the Kenya Institute of Primate Research Internal Seminar (2025), and it also received further publicity during the Africa International Biotechnology and Biomedical Workshop and Conference on 27th–31st October 2025.



Photo of Mt Uraguess guereza observed during our survey at Wamba Forest section within Mathews Range.

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

1. Stanislaus M. Kivai, (Ph.D.) team leader involved in sampling designing, actual sampling, questionnaire enumerator training and overseeing the successful implementation of the project.
2. Danson Mwangi (Ph.D.) team leader involved in sampling designing, actual sampling, questionnaire enumerator training and overseeing the successful implementation of the project.
3. Charles Maingi (Ph.D. candidate) team leader involved in sampling designing, actual sampling, questionnaire enumerator training and overseeing the successful implementation of the project.
4. Pauline Otolu team member assisting in data collection in Nkare Narok Kangulata sampling site.

5. Paxton Kabasa team member assisting in data collection and community education and awareness.
6. Joyce Mbungua team member involved in data collection in Ngilai.
7. Ruth Wambui team member involved in data collection in Wamba and conducting awareness at school and community.
8. Jonathan Ngalatu team member involved in data collection at Wamba.
9. Balozzi Lekaaso team member involved in data collection in Nkare Narok and conducting awareness at school and community.
10. Musa Lenamarker (Northern Rangeland Trust) team member involved in data collection in Wamba and conducting awareness at school and community.
11. Benjamin Lojokin (Northern Rangeland Trust) team member involved in data collection in Nkare Narok.

10. Any other comments?

I am very grateful to Rufford foundation for this crucial support to undertake a study on a species which had been neglected for over a decade despite it being listed as Endangered. Through your support you have inspired many young researchers and provided a platform for conservation of global biodiversity which could not have been possible without your funding. I believe publishing this results in peer reviewed journals I will share the plight of this species and avert a possible extinction and acknowledging Rufford Foundation in all articles.

ANNEX – Financial Report

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