

Final Evaluation Report

Your Details	
Full Name	Butati Nyundo
Project Title	Promoting co-existence between humans and primates in the villages around Ntakata forest: supporting local communities to adopt conflict mitigation strategies
Application ID	43395-B
Date of this Report	July 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
Identify farmers whose farms are prone to crop feeding or damage by primates around Ntakata forest				The project team carried out field surveys to identify farms most vulnerable to crop damage caused by primates. They worked closely with village chairpersons and forest monitors, conducting surveys and direct observations to assess the extent of primate intrusions. The surveys showed that farms nearest to the forest edge experienced the most significant crop damage. The team recorded the owners of these farms for further involvement in the project activities. Seventeen (17) farmers were identified and trained to raise awareness of the proposed conservation initiative. After the training, they received full support to adopt the methods recommended by the project team.
Initiate collaboration with the identified farmers and provides extra training on human-primate conflict mitigation approaches and actions				Collaboration was started with the 17 identified farmers, who received extra training on human-primate conflict mitigation methods and actions. As part of this, two group discussions, a seminar, and three practical training

				sessions were held to improve the farmers' understanding and ability to implement effective mitigation strategies.
Educate the farmers on the importance and need to establish buffer zones between the Ntakata forest and their farms				Local farmers were informed about the benefits of setting up buffer zones between the Ntakata Forest and their farmland, as a way to reduce human-wildlife conflict and promote sustainable farming practices. The farmers were receptive to the idea, with some already starting to put these buffer zones into place. In the discussions, the farmers stressed the need for a sustainable beekeeping project within the buffer areas. They saw this as a mutually beneficial solution, providing them with an alternative income stream through beekeeping while also relocating their farms away from the forest boundary.
Provide material and practical support to the farmers to grow primates' unpalatable crops				Selected farmers received materials and practical support to cultivate crops that primates dislike, with the aim of reducing crop-raiding and promoting coexistence between humans and wildlife. However, the number of farmers supported fell short of expectations due to higher-than-anticipated seed and seedling costs, combined with greater-than-expected interest

				from farmers in adopting the approach to mitigate conflicts. As a result, available resources could only support a limited number of 17 farmers, despite strong demand. Although it's still in its early stages, some of the supported farmers have begun harvesting their unpalatable crops. A few have already reported initial income from small-scale sales, suggesting promising potential for this approach to contribute not only to conflict mitigation but also to household livelihoods.
Identify people who mainly hunt and utilize primates as a source of protein (i.e., hunters/poachers)				Four hunters were identified as engaging in primate hunting, and all successfully transitioned to alternative livelihoods, achieving a 100% transition rate.
Assist the identified hunters/poachers to start poultry farming as well as goat rearing				Each of the four identified hunters was given four goats (three females and one male) and four chickens (three females and one male) to start rearing goats and poultry farming. It's clear that not all hunters could be identified, so it's possible to identify more and encourage them to transition into alternative livelihoods in the future. This can be achieved through ongoing community engagement, support from local leaders, and effective awareness campaigns highlighting

				the ecological and health impacts of hunting, as well as the benefits of sustainable alternatives. There's strong potential to reach additional hunters. individuals. Demonstrating the success of current interventions will also help build trust and motivate others to make the transition.
Establish a long-term monitoring and evaluation system to track the progress of human-primate co-existence initiatives and the status of primate hunting/poaching for food				A long-term monitoring and evaluation system has been established to track the progress of human-primate coexistence initiatives and assess the status of primate hunting and poaching for food. This system plays a key role in evaluating the project's success and sustainability. As part of this ongoing effort, the team conducts site visits twice a year to collect data, engage with local stakeholders, and ensure that project outcomes are being effectively monitored over time.

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

a) Reduction in human-primate conflict through sustainable farming practices

Our project successfully introduced primate-resistant crops to 17 farmers, leading to a noticeable drop in crop damage. These crops have proved effective in deterring wildlife while remaining economically viable, enabling farmers to safeguard their livelihoods and support conservation objectives. Although the reduction in crop losses caused by primates was not quantitatively measured, farmers reported a clear decrease in losses. Discussions with the farmers confirmed a significant decrease in crop loss attributed to primates, and many reported fewer incidents of retaliatory killings as a result. This feedback suggests that the mitigation measures are having a positive impact on reducing conflict and promoting coexistence.

b) Transformation of former hunters into conservation ambassadors

Four individuals previously involved in primate hunting have shifted to alternative, sustainable livelihoods such as poultry and goat farming. Their change in attitude from hunting to actively supporting conservation demonstrates a significant behavioural and cultural transformation that endorses long-term conservation efforts.

c) Positive shift in community attitudes and strengthened conservation culture

The project has greatly enhanced community awareness and acceptance of primates, encouraging a stronger dedication to coexistence-driven conservation efforts. This cultural shift is essential for maintaining conservation success even after the project ends.

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

During the project, several unforeseen difficulties emerged that required adaptive strategies:

a) Cultural resistance and skepticism

Initially, some farmers and hunters hesitated to adopt new practices due to deep-rooted cultural traditions and scepticism about the proposed interventions' effectiveness. Overcoming this challenge involved sustained community engagement, building trust, and maintaining a consistent presence by the project team. Through developing personal relationships and showcasing tangible benefits like reduced crop losses and successful livelihood changes, the team gradually earned community support and encouraged greater participation

b) Resource constraints

The project faced greater-than-expected demand for seeds, livestock, and training. Due to limited resources, only some interested individuals could be supported. The team prioritized the most vulnerable and motivated participants and kept seeking additional resources and scalable models to broaden future outreach.

c) Logistical challenges in remote terrain

The remote and ecologically diverse area around Ntakata Forest created challenges for transportation and access. Delivering materials and performing follow-up visits required more time and effort than anticipated. To address this, the project improved logistical planning, refined travel routes, and, when possible, collaborated with local community members to help with distribution and monitoring. These steps enhanced efficiency and ensured ongoing support.

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

Local communities were central to the project, actively shaping and executing conservation strategies. Farmers received training and support to grow primate-resistant crops, which reduced crop damage and increased income from sales. Ex-hunters shifted to livelihoods such as poultry and goat farming, gaining new skills and financial stability. This transition reduced hunting pressure on primates and strengthened community support for conservation. Awareness campaigns enhanced understanding of human-wildlife coexistence, fostering more tolerant attitudes toward primates. Through continuous engagement, the project empowered locals, built trust, and promoted shared ownership of conservation goals. This inclusive approach not only addressed immediate issues but also established a foundation for long-term sustainability by aligning community interests with wildlife preservation. As a result, the project brought significant economic and social benefits and nurtured a lasting culture of conservation.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes, there are clear plans to continue and expand the project. We aim to build on current achievements by increasing community outreach, with a focus on youth and women, and improving conservation education. We also plan to gather additional resources to help more farmers and former hunters adopt sustainable livelihoods such as livestock farming and agricultural inputs. We expect that by strengthening village monitoring teams and collaborating more closely with local governments and conservation partners, we can contribute to the project's long-term sustainability. Furthermore, we plan to integrate a beekeeping initiative into the already ongoing initiatives. Beekeeping is a low-impact, income-generating activity that supports both conservation and community development goals. The next phase will focus on further reducing human-wildlife conflict, promoting biodiversity, and enhancing community livelihoods. We will apply for the next stage of Rufford funding to support the project, "Strengthening community-driven conservation initiatives by incorporating sustainable livelihood strategies around the Ntakata Forest in Tanzania."

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

The project team will share results through community meetings, workshops, and school outreach to promote local learning and adoption. Additionally, the findings will be communicated to government agencies and conservation partners at the national level. Internationally, we will present the results through reports and relevant conferences.

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

The next crucial step is to solicit funding from relevant donors to expand the project, as outlined in part 5 above. We are currently finalizing the proposal and will apply for funds under the upcoming project titled "Strengthening community-driven

conservation initiatives by incorporating sustainable livelihood strategies around the Ntakata Forest in Tanzania."

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 on all printed materials related to the project.

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

Butati Nyundo: A project leader responsible for implementing and overseeing all project activities.

Emmanuel Pagiti: He was involved in encouraging local communities to implement conflict mitigation strategies. He also helped train local hunters in the most effective methods for poultry and goat farming. Additionally, he provided education on conservation and highlighted the importance of buffer zones.

Shabani Matwili: In collaboration with the Ward Agricultural Extension Officer, he provided conservation education, increased awareness about primate preservation, and encouraged human-primate coexistence. Moreover, he developed a long-term monitoring and evaluation system to assess the progress of human-primate coexistence initiatives and the status of primate hunting and poaching.

10. Any other comments?

The project team greatly appreciates the funding from The Rufford Foundation. As we prepare for the next phase, we look forward to continuing our collaboration with them.

ANNEX – Financial Report

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