

## **Project Update: May 2025**

Project activities conducted from December to March 2025

### **(i). December 2025- Permit processing and field preparation**

The project team applied for a permit from Tanzania Forest Services (TFS) and Tanzania Wildlife Research Institute (TAWIRI). While waiting for the license, the team started necessary field preparations including visiting stakeholders in Morogoro, such as the PAMS Foundation, a non-profit with a mission to empower the people who protect wildlife and wild places. PAMS work to restore the forest in Nguru Mountain where this project was taking place. Other activities were purchasing necessary field gear and equipment as well as recruiting and training field assistants. The permit was approved at the end of December 2024.

### **(ii). January to February 2025-Population size, distribution and habitat condition**

*Callulina kanga* primarily thrives in wet areas, i.e. trees, hidden among branches and leaves. Their survival is directly linked to the protection of their forest home. Currently, their population is tiny, existing along the river near Difinga village. While previous studies noted just two individuals at elevations of 760 m.a.s.l (5° 58' 37.67"S, 37°41'57.28"E) and 1,140 m.a.s.l (05°55'00.4" S, 037°42'20.1" E) documented by Michele Menegon and Frontier-Tanzania, respectively, this project has excitingly noted four number individuals of *Callulina kanga* at two new localities other than those documented before. Two at the elevation of 1027 m.a.s.l (05°57.894" S, 037°42.058" E), and two at 1064 m.a.s.l. (05°57.888" S, 037°42.029" E). But we've got to be mindful that human activities, including agricultural encroachment, continue to impact this precious habitat.



Figure 1: First locality where two *Callulina kanga* were recorded



Figure 2: Second locality where other two *Callulina kanga* recorded





Figure 3: Show *Callulina kanga* in the first locality



Figure 4: Show *Callulina kanga* in the second locality



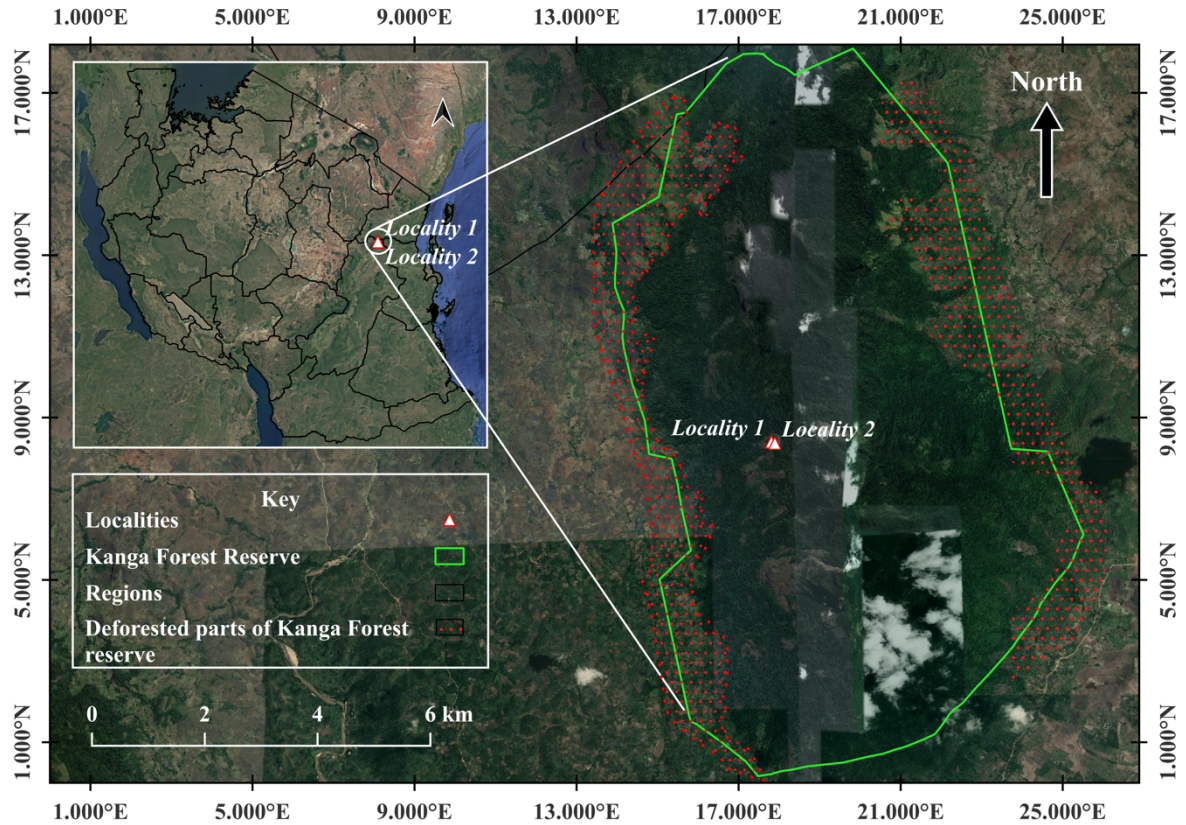


Figure 5: A map that show tree loss cover and the two new localities where four *Callulina kanga* were recorded during the survey

### (ii). Challenges during the field survey

During the field survey in Kanga Forest Reserve to assess the population size distribution and threats to the conservation of the Kanga Warty Frog (*Callulina kanga*), several challenges were encountered.

The remote location of some survey sites made it difficult to access, especially during the rainy season when trails became muddy and impassable. Adverse weather conditions, including heavy rains and storms, disrupted fieldwork schedules, affecting our ability to conduct surveys consistently over planned periods. The Kanga Warty Frog has a low population density, making it challenging to locate individuals during surveys. Despite extensive effort, we recorded only a small number of individuals. Ongoing deforestation and land conversion within the vicinity of the forest reserve pose significant threats to the species' habitat, making it difficult to track their populations accurately and assess their distribution effectively, as they occur in low elevations where some human activities take place. Encroachment by local communities and agricultural activities near the survey sites introduced additional



stressors, such as habitat fragmentation, which could affect the frog population and behaviour.







Figure 6: Show different picture taken during the field survey

**(iv). Human activities observed in the project area**

During the preliminary field survey, the team found signs of human activities, such as farming (Fig 7), which may affect the conservation of *Callulina kanga* in the Kanga Forest Reserve. Also, the team encountered agricultural encroachment (Fig 8), human wildlife conflict between farmers and bush pigs and monkey



Figure 7: Show the farming around the Kanga Forest Reserve landscape





Figure 8: Show farmer camp adjacent to Kanga Forest Reserve



Figure 8: Show the deforestation in Kanga Forest Reserve





Figure 9: Show crops destroyed by bush pigs this indicate the presence of human wildlife conflict

**(v). Ongoing project activities and plan**

The researchers are conducting Household interviews (HHS), and Focus Group Discussions (FGD) to assess community knowledge, attitudes, perceptions, and practices related to the conservation of the Kanga Warty Frog. These methods will enable the project team to collect both individual and collective views and opinions across diverse community groups. By understanding community awareness through these surveys, the project can tailor conservation education and intervention strategies effectively.