

Progress Report

Title of the project: Supporting Income Generating Activities in Uzi Island to Reduce Pressure on Natural Forests which are Potential Habitats for Zanzibar Red Colobus Monkeys

Grant type: 1st Booster Grant

ID: 47419-B

Team leader: Filemon Elisante Mbwambo

Project activities conducted between June and October 2025

i. Permit processing and project launching in Uzi.

Immediately after securing funding from The Rufford Foundation, the team requested an extension of the permit from the Office of the Second Vice President of the Zanzibar Revolutionary Government and the Department of Forestry. The team then met with key stakeholders, including officers from the Department of Forestry, the Zanzibar Beekeeping Association (ZABA), local leaders, and community members, to discuss project activities and the overall implementation process (**Fig. 1 a-d**). During these meetings, the team informed participants about previous conservation efforts on Uzi Island and explained how the current project aims to protect the remaining population of Zanzibar red colobus monkeys (*Ptilocolobus kirkii*) and their habitats.





Figures 1 a-d: Consultation of key project stakeholders in Zanzibar.

ii. Formation and training of groups on appropriate techniques for management of beekeeping project

In collaboration with the project team, the village leader (Sheha), and the village councils (Shehia councils), the Uzi social committee facilitated the formation of groups to oversee tree nursery and beekeeping projects on Uzi Island. The groups were composed of community members, including farmers, charcoal makers/tree loggers, fishers, and vendors. Community leaders allocated areas that were then inspected by the team and confirmed to be suitable for establishing tree nurseries and beekeeping sites.

Together with ZABA and forestry and beekeeping officers from the Department of Forestry, the team conducted training on appropriate techniques for managing beekeeping projects. A variety of methods including presentations, practical exercises, field visits, demonstrations, and group discussions, were used to deliver the training. The program combined theoretical and practical sessions to equip members with the knowledge and skills required for successful beekeeping. Theoretical topics covered included bee biology, apiary site selection, harvesting tools, bee products, hive management techniques, pest control, and honeybee diseases (**Fig 2. a-f**).





Figures 2 a-f: Trainers demonstrating on appropriate techniques for management of beekeeping project

Additionally, practical sessions were held to provide trainees with hands-on beekeeping experience, equipping them with essential knowledge, techniques, and confidence to manage their own hives once the projects begin. The training also covered modern and good beekeeping practices, including site selection criteria, hygiene, hive layouts, and the use of contemporary tools and equipment (**Fig 3. a-f**). Furthermore, participants had the opportunity to deepen their learning through visits to apiaries and honey processing units operated by the Department of Forestry and ZABA, where they practiced skills in real-world settings (**Fig 4. a-j**).



Figures 3 a-f: Demonstration on beehives layout, basic gears and tools for beekeeping project





Figures 4 a-j: Apiaries and honey processing units operated by Department of Forestry and ZABA.

iii. Ordering and purchasing of necessary materials for beekeeping project

The team ordered, purchased and delivered the initial batch of essential materials for the beekeeping projects (**Fig 5. a-d**). Some materials, including beehives and beeswax, were sourced from ZABA to strengthen the partnership between the association and the newly formed groups. Since the project is still in its early stages, other materials, including those used for harvesting of bee products, are yet to be delivered but have already been ordered.

iv. Establishment of apiary for the groups in Uzi island

After several rounds of training, the members had the opportunity to demonstrate what they had learned by working with their own hives, which were purchased specifically for this beekeeping project in Uzi. The first batch of beehives was set up in the forests of Uzi island (**Fig 6. a-f**).



Figures 6 a-f: Establishment of apiary for the beekeeping group in Uzi island

Ongoing activities

Under close supervision of the project team and ZABA, group members continue to familiarize and practice on the use of modern gears, tools and equipment used in beekeeping. Also, construction of shade, purchasing of materials and other activities related to tree nursery project are being carried out in the project sites.