

Project Update March 2026

Rufford I.D.: 49688-1

Project Title: Drivers Human-Wildlife Conflict: Investigating Factors Behind Rising Chimpanzee Incursions into Banda Rutiritiri Villages Western Rwanda

Update:

A short update on my Rufford-supported project around Nyungwe National Park in Nyamasheke District, Rwanda. Fieldwork is progressing well, and we are currently conducting data collection in Banda and Rutiritiri villages.

Me and my team are collecting data on a daily basis to document chimpanzee crop-foraging events and understand when and where these interactions occur. In addition, we are continuing to engage with local community members and raising awareness about chimpanzee conservation and ways to reduce potential conflict.

Please find attached a few photographs taken during field activities this week. I apologize for sending three photos instead of two.

Thank you very much for your continued support of this project.

Kind regards,



Chimpanzees feeding on banana plants in agricultural land in Banda village during field data collection on crop-foraging behavior outside Nyungwe National Park. Observations such as this help document how and when chimpanzees use farmland resources near local communities.
Photo credit: jean Baptiste harerimana



A chimpanzee feeding on cultivated banana plants close to local households in Rutiritiri village. Documenting these events helps improve understanding of the factors driving chimpanzee crop-foraging and supports the development of strategies to reduce human–chimpanzee conflict.

Photo credit: Rosine Muberarugo



Chimpanzee observed feeding in a sugarcane field during field surveys in Nyamasheke District near Nyungwe National Park. Direct observations of crop-foraging provide important evidence for understanding chimpanzee movements and interactions with agricultural landscapes.

Photo credit: Alfred Niyingenera