

Final Evaluation Report

Your Details	
Full Name	Fredrick Ojija
Project Title	Securing habitats and populations of endangered species through countermeasures of invasive plant problems in Mt. Rungwe Nature Forest Reserve, Tanzania
Application ID	41466-D
Date of this Report	11 th October 2024

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
To assess the abundance, spread, and threats of IAPs on CPR and native plant species			√	The assessment was completed, and manuscript is currently under review.
To educate local communities on IAPs, their threats, and what they can do to stop their spread			√	Indented villages were visited, and local people were educated
To build the capacity of local stakeholders to prevent, control, and eradicate AIPs			√	Intended stakeholders were educated.
To conduct restoration of invaded areas by planting native plant species		√		Some areas were not restored
Predict the potential spread and impact of AIPs on CPR and natural habitats in MRNFR			√	Prediction was completed. The manuscript was submitted to peer reviewed journal and currently is under review.

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

a). The current status of IAPs and their impacts on habitats and populations of endangered species, *Cephalophus spadix*, *Paragalago sp.*, and *Rungwecebus kipunji* (CPR) were established.

b). There is increased knowledge on IAPs' negative impact and their control measures.

c). A map for the potential spread and impact of IAPs on endangered species, *Cephalophus spadix*, *Paragalago sp.*, and *Rungwecebus kipunji* (CPR)'s populations and habitats in MRNFR were predicted.

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

A main unforeseen problem was the difficulty in accessing some of the habitats in the reserve due to the impenetrable and mountainous nature of the forest. However, alternative routes were used to observe the areas at a possible distance to assess habitat condition and IAPs. Rainfall sometimes made it difficult to complete some of the activities on time. However, undone planned field surveys were rescheduled for the following days.

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

Local communities were fully involved in the project's activities. They participated in the restoration activities, conservation education campaign to raise awareness about the conservation of the species and management/control of IAPs. Some local people, for instance, a local guide, participated in the field surveys to assess the spread and impact of IAPs in MRNFR. Local communities were given beehives and seedlings for planting. Overall, local communities benefited from training, education, and participation in the project activities, as well as free beehives and tree seedlings. The local guide benefited from an allowance based on their participation in the field work.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

I plan to continue with this project to monitor the impact and distribution of IAPs, predict the impact of climate change on its population and habitats, establish means to control them and mitigate their impact, and help endangered species to survive.

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

I plan to publish two articles in peer-reviewed journals based on this work. Also, I will share data and information of this project in various social media, e.g., blogs, twitter, LinkedIn. I will also present the findings in December 2024 during the Research and Innovation at Mbeya University of Science and Technology, as well as during TAWIRI conference in December 2025.

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

The most important step is to continue with the project to make sure that local communities are fully engaged and continue to receive support and education from the project. Also, establish regular field surveys to monitor the distribution of IAPs and populations of endangered species, *Cephalophus spadix*, *Paragalago* sp., and *Rungwecebus kipunji* (CPR), in Mount Rungwe Nature Forest Reserve (MRNFR)

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?

The Rufford Foundation logo was used during our work and acknowledged in all meetings and communications we made. For publicity, we used t-shirts with the Rufford Foundation logo.



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

Activities	Team members
ASSESSING THE CURRENT ABUNDANCE AND SPREAD OF IAPs IN MRNFR.	Mr. Kazumari Mkwavila (TFS) Dr Fredrick Ojija (MUST)
RESTORATION OF INVADDED AREAS BY PLANTING NATIVE PLANT SPECIES	Mr. Lusekelo Silabi (MUST) Miss Leticia Lutambi (MUST)
ASSESSING THE IMPACT OF IAPs ON	

<p>NATIVE PLANT SPECIES RICHNESS, DIVERSITY, AND COMPOSITION, AND CPR</p> <p>RESTORATION OF INVADED AREAS BY PLANTING NATIVE PLANT SPECIES</p>	<p>Dr Fredrick Ojija (MUST)</p> <p>Miss Fatuma Mwasamboma (MUST)</p> <p>Mr. Lusekelo Silabi (MUST)</p>
<p>EDUCATING LOCAL COMMUNITIES ON IAPs, THEIR THREATS ON CPR, AND WHAT THEY CAN DO TO STOP THEIR SPREAD</p> <p>RESTORATION OF INVADED AREAS BY PLANTING NATIVE PLANT SPECIES</p> <p>BUILDING THE CAPACITY OF LOCAL STAKEHOLDERS TO PREVENT, CONTROL, AND ERADICATE IAPs IN THE RESERVE</p>	<p>Dr Fredrick Ojija (MUST)</p> <p>Mr. Lusekelo Silabi (MUST)</p> <p>Mr. Kazumari Mkwavila (TFS)</p> <p>Miss Fatuma Mwasamboma (MUST)</p> <p>Mr. Zawadi N. Humbo (local guide)</p> <p>Mr. Mazao A. Fungo (Local guide)</p>
<p>BUILDING THE CAPACITY OF LOCAL STAKEHOLDERS TO PREVENT, CONTROL, AND ERADICATE IAPs IN THE RESERVE</p> <p>RESTORATION OF INVADED AREAS BY PLANTING NATIVE PLANT SPECIES</p>	<p>Dr Fredrick Ojija (MUST)</p> <p>Mr. Zawadi N. Humbo (local guide)</p> <p>Mr. Mazao A. Fungo (local guide)</p> <p>Mr. Kazumari Mkwavila (TFS)</p>

10. Any other comments?

We are very thankful to the Rufford Foundation for funding this project.