

## Project Updates

**Project Title: Assessing Mount Kilimanjaro's Ecosystem Invasibility for Managing Invasive and Potentially Invasive Plant Species Along the Elevation Gradient**

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<b>S/N</b>	<b>Objective</b>	<b>Status</b>
i.	Identify the invasive and potentially invasive grasses, herbs, and shrubs along the elevation gradient of the Mt. Kilimanjaro ecosystem	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Data collection and analysis</b> – Completed</li><li>• <b>Manuscript refinement</b> – Ongoing (target submission: end of August 2025)</li></ul>
ii.	Conduct a detailed risk assessment to prioritize the highest-risk invasive species and their potential introduction pathways	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Vegetation survey</b> – Completed</li><li>• <b>Social survey</b> – Completed</li><li>• <b>Soil seed bank experiment</b> – In progress</li><li>• <b>Data analysis, manuscript development, and submission</b> – To be completed by October 2025</li></ul>
iii.	Use ensemble habitat suitability modelling to predict current and future vulnerable habitats to invasion by the selected priority species	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Data collection</b> – Completed</li><li>• <b>Data analysis, manuscript development, and submission</b> – To be completed by December 2025</li></ul>
iv.	Co-develop a risk management framework based on the Early Detection and Rapid Response (EDRR) approach which has proven successful and cost-efficient in managing invasive species in other countries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Framework development and validation</b> – To be completed by February 2026</li></ul>