

# CEPF SMALL GRANT FINAL PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

## I. BASIC DATA

**Organization Legal Name:** Trevor Jones

**Project Title (as stated in the grant agreement):** Assessment of the Conservation Status of the newly-discovered mangabey *Lophocebus* sp. in the Udzungwa Mountains of Tanzania

**Implementation Partners for This Project:** Amani Kitegile (B.Sc.), Athumani Mndeme, Richard Laizzer; Chairman and villagers of Udekwa, Kilolo District; Chief Warden and Rangers of Udzungwa Mountains National Park, Tanzania; Wildlife Conservation Society Southern Highlands Conservation Programme, Tanzania

**Project Dates (as stated in the grant agreement):** January 1, 2005 – April 30, 2006 (including period of permit applications)

**Date of Report (month/year):** 07/06

## II. OPENING REMARKS

The discovery of the new species of monkey originally named *Lophocebus kipunji* in the Southern Highlands and Udzungwa Mountains of Tanzania became internationally famous when it was described in *Science* in May 2005. The story took a remarkable further twist in May 2006 when, again in *Science*, results of DNA and morphological analysis of the first complete specimen were published showing that this taxon warranted the creation of a new genus, named *Rungwecebus*.

Having observed and carried out the first preliminary surveys of the Udzungwa population, it was apparent from the outset that these animals were few in number and of urgent conservation concern. The next logical step was to carry out more thorough surveys to determine the distribution and estimate total abundance of the population, and to begin the collection of ecological data which will serve as the baseline for more detailed investigations into these animals' ecology. These were the overall goals of this project.

## III. NARRATIVE QUESTIONS

1. What were the initial objectives of this project?
  - a) To thoroughly survey the predicted maximum possible range of kipunji in the Udzungwa Mountains, and two other forests (Nyumbanitu and Ukami) which may possibly contain the species; to obtain several good counts of group size; thus to determine overall distribution, estimate abundance, and assess threats to the population.
  - b) To carry out some preliminary group follows in order to obtain preliminary information on important foodplants, seasonal ranging behaviour and inter-specific associations, and to record vocalizations.

- c) To non-invasively obtain faecal material for DNA analysis of this population.
- d) To collect survey data in all areas visited on all other primates present, including the endangered Udzungwa red colobus *Procolobus gordonorum*.
- e) To recruit and train a Tanzanian graduate assistant in technical field and conservation skills.
- f) To make an informed assessment of the conservation status of this species in the Udzungwa Mountains, for formal inclusion of the species in the IUCN Red List of Endangered Species.
- g) To generate recommendations for the conservation of this species in the Udzungwa Mountains.
- h) To disseminate all of the information accrued, together with conservation recommendations, to all of the appropriate local, regional and national authorities, NGOs and individuals.

2. Did the objectives of your project change during implementation? If so, please explain why and how.

None of the project objectives changed during implementation.

3. How was your project successful in achieving the expected objectives?

The project is set to achieve all of its objectives. Objectives a-e have already been achieved (with the exception of 'several good counts of group size' within Objective b, which proved extremely difficult due to the animals' shyness and poor visibility; though counts of minimum group size were obtained). The fulfillment of objectives f-h are ongoing. Objective f: sufficient data now exist for an assessment of kipunji for inclusion on the IUCN Red List of endangered species; this will be completed in collaboration with the WCS Southern Highlands Conservation Programme and the IUCN. Objectives g-h: results from the project and the conservation recommendations generated will now be circulated to all local and national stakeholders, and will also form the basis of a forthcoming scientific publication.

4. Did your team experience any disappointments or failures during implementation? If so, please explain and comment on how the team addressed these disappointments and/or failures.

Unforeseen difficulties with obtaining research permission at the regional level caused a two-month delay to the beginning of fieldwork. However this problem was partially overcome by extending fieldwork by six weeks at the end of the project. The onset of the short rains in mid-March 2006 eventually curtailed fieldwork, but we had planned for this possibility and all of the survey work vital to completing our objectives had been completed. Instead, the time allowed for collection of ecological data and group counts was curtailed by two weeks.

No other disappointments or failures were experienced.

5. Describe any positive or negative lessons learned from this project that would be useful to share with other organizations interested in implementing a similar project.

- As with all other projects of this kind, the knowledge and experience of local guides were invaluable.
- It is almost impossible to survey or observe unhabituated kipunji in Ndundulu Forest during the wettest months of March, April and May.
- Allow one to two months in the Iringa area for finalising local research permits, prior to commencing fieldwork.

6. Describe any follow-up activities related to this project.

The extremely worrying conservation status of the Udzungwa kipunji population, and the genus as a whole, make this taxon an urgent priority for continued attention. The team which implemented this project has now joined forces with the authorities on this taxon, the Wildlife Conservation Society Southern Highlands Conservation Programme, to plan and implement a coordinated programme of conservation-driven research across both of the sites where kipunji are found.

7. Please provide any additional information to assist CEPF in understanding any other aspects of your completed project.

The final results on the distribution and abundance of kipunji in the Udzungwa Mountains will be made available to all stakeholders in a separate document, after the completion of peer review of the conclusions drawn.

#### IV. ADDITIONAL FUNDING

***Provide details of any additional donors who supported this project and any funding secured for the project as a result of the CEPF grant or success of the project.***

Donor	Type of Funding*	Amount	Notes
Fauna and Flora International	C	£4000	

***\*Additional funding should be reported using the following categories:***

- A** *Project co-financing (Other donors contribute to the direct costs of this CEPF project)*
- B** *Complementary funding (Other donors contribute to partner organizations that are working on a project linked with this CEPF project)*
- C** *Grantee and Partner leveraging (Other donors contribute to your organization or a partner organization as a direct result of successes with this CEPF project.)*

*D Regional/Portfolio leveraging (Other donors make large investments in a region because of CEPF investment or successes related to this project.)*

Provide details of whether this project will continue in the future and if so, how any additional funding already secured or fundraising plans will help ensure its sustainability.

This project will continue in the future, evolving into more in-depth ecological research on kipunji, driven by urgent questions relating to why this monkey is so critically endangered. The author is currently in discussion with partners to agree on the details of the project, including the best, most sustainable strategy for fundraising.

## V. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The faecal samples that were collected in Ndundulu have been forwarded (after obtaining required CITES permit from the Tanzania Director of Wildlife) to Link Olson's Genetics Laboratory at the University of Alaska, to allow for direct comparison of the extracted mitochondrial DNA with the mitochondrial and nuclear DNA taken from the only existing kipunji specimen (from the Southern Highlands of Tanzania).

Our final survey results show that kipunji are even more endangered than we had feared at the outset of this project, and it is vital that a long-term monitoring and research programme is established. Efforts are now under way to make this a reality.

## VI. INFORMATION SHARING

CEPF aims to increase sharing of experiences, lessons learned and results among our grant recipients and the wider conservation and donor communities. One way we do this is by making the text of final project completion reports available on our Web site, [www.cepf.net](http://www.cepf.net), and by marketing these reports in our newsletter and other communications. Please indicate whether you would agree to publicly sharing your final project report with others in this way.

**Yes**

**For more information about this project, please contact:**

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