

Project Update: April 2014

1.0 Activities

1.1 Inception workshop

Inception workshop was held on 29th March 2013 at Tangeni Catholic Church conference room in which it was attended by 31 participants. The participants include the conservator for Uluguru Nature Reserve, village leaders from the three project villages namely Tangeni, Kivaza and Chome. These project villages were selected based on the fact that they are located adjacent to Uluguru Nature Reserve and they are amongst leading villages for collecting fuel wood and other plant resources from the reserve. Furthermore, the nine members of the village environmental committees and six forest guides attended the meeting. Topics covered included the importance of conserving Uluguru Mountains including Uluguru bushrike. Training on the necessity to switch from the traditional three stones stove to energy efficient cook stoves. The village leaders were also asked to call for village assembly within the near future for informing the villagers about the project and for selecting the members of energy efficient cook stoves promotion group.



1.2 Energy efficient cook stoves



Prior to construction of the energy efficient cook stoves a village assembly was held in each project village where community members were introduced to the project objectives and scope. During these meetings 10 – 15 individuals were selected to join the Energy efficient cook stove groups and at least two members were local artisans. Thereafter the groups were trained on skills for constructing the stoves through constructing stoves to the members through facilitation of experienced technician being led by community based project expert. The groups were provided with tools and materials for stove

construction. During the trainings the following number energy efficient cook stoves were constructed: seven in Tangeni, five in Kivaza and six in Choma and the groups promised to construct 20 stoves in each village by the end of May, 2014.

1.3 Bird survey

Field bird survey started on 4th April 2014 including nine villagers, three from each project village, and four forest guides. It was preceded by training on bird identification skills, use of GPS and binocular and then going to the field for bird surveying through establishing line transects. Four has already being established. Uluguru bushrike was observed only in one transect line. Uluguru bushrike were observed at the altitude of 1749 m on tall trees (> 30 m) and in higher canopies. It was also noted that most human disturbances are below an altitude of 1700 m. Preliminary results show that there is still higher

disturbance inside the forest in particular logging, fuel wood collection and debarking and uprooting of trees for traditional medicines. Thus, the Uluguru bushrike population



2.0 Constraints/Challenges and proposed solutions

- March - May is a rainy season (farming season) in Morogoro region. Training and construction of energy efficient stoves was difficult because most of the villagers were occupied by farm activities. Also, bird survey was difficult especially in steep slopes and it was also difficult to spot them due to reduced bird activities, fog and rains. Thus, these activities will be strengthened further in the next dry season (July- September) which is not a farming season and it is also a breeding season for most bird species in which they become more active and easy to spot.
- High human disturbance was noticed in the Uluguru forests and some farms were up to 1450 m asl and the uluguru bushrike seems to be very sensitive to human disturbance as where it was spotted was around 1700 m asl where there was no signs of human disturbance. The conservator was informed about the disturbances and promised to undertake frequent anti-poaching patrols. During re-survey (dry season) the transect will go further up where it is challenging due to steep slopes and during wet season it was impossible.

3.0 Opportunities

- High level of project acceptance by the key stakeholders (local communities, conservationists and government officials). For example even villagers outside the project villages were willing to have the energy efficient cook stoves being promoted in their villages and during trainings we had a local artisan outside project villages who attended the trainings and later informed that he has constructed two efficient cook stoves at his village.
- Construction materials (bricks, clay and ashes) are plenty and locally available within the project villages

4.0 Plan for future work

- Undertake re-survey of uluguru bushrike during dry (breeding) season which is between July – September.
- Create more awareness to the local community on the importance of adopting energy saving cook stoves
- Keeping on facilitating the energy efficient cook stove promotion groups to continue constructing more stoves and make sure we have at least 120 stoves by end of June, 2014.