



## PSGB-Born Free Foundation Project Report

<b>PSGB-Born Free Foundation Grant Awardee</b>	Julius Kizito
<b>Project duration and dates:</b>	4 months 19 <sup>th</sup> May 2025 to 29 <sup>th</sup> August 2025
<b>Name of associated organisation/university (if applicable):</b>	Kalangala District Local Government
<b>Date report submitted:</b>	27 <sup>th</sup> December 2025
<b>Type of report</b> (quarterly, triannual, 6-month, annual):	Annual
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### Summary - Section 1

*Information for this section can be copied and pasted from the proposal document submitted.*

**Title of the project:**

Community members' attitudes towards, perceptions, and conservation education of *Chlorocebus pygerythrus* (LC) in Kalangala district (Ssesse Islands), Uganda.

**Aim of the project:**

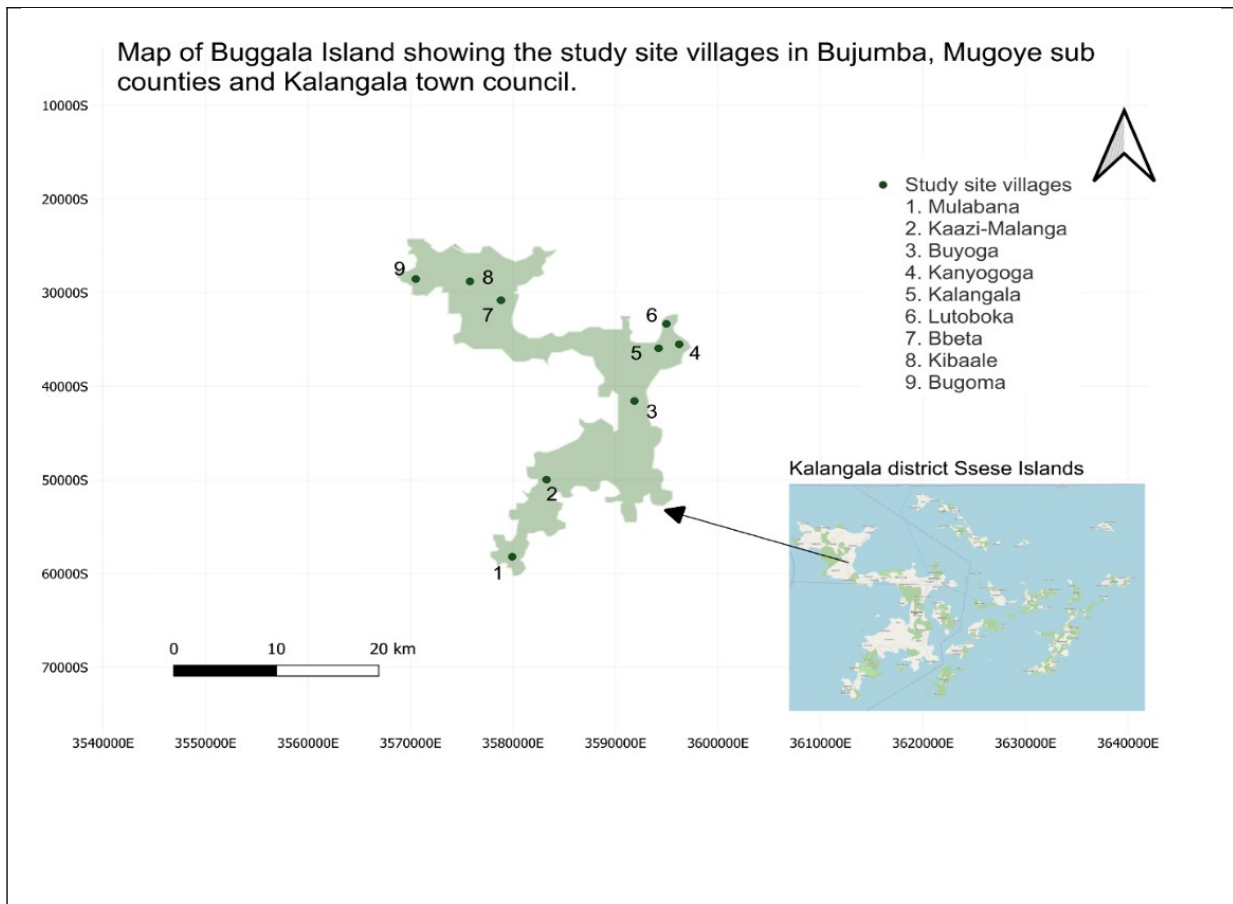
Assessing community attitudes and perceptions, evaluating human–vervet interactions, and improving conservation knowledge of *Chlorocebus pygerythrus*.

### Summary - Section 2

*Information for this section can be copied and pasted from the proposal document submitted.*

**Location of the project** (with site map if possible):

The study was conducted on Buggala Island, Kalangala District, Uganda.



**Focus** (e.g. species; individual; habitat; community – please give a few details about your focus and provide photos where relevant/available):

This study focused on the community attitudes, perception and interactions of vervet monkeys (*Chlorocebus pygerythrus*) with humans. Vervets are the only extant non-human primate species on the Ssese islands (Kalangala District), Lake Victoria, Uganda, East Africa. The vervets exist in highly fragmented forests and human-dominated landscapes.

### Report on delivery – Section 3

#### Report against your Methods, Monitoring and Evaluation and Expected Outcome(s)

All the expected activities for this project were successfully conducted. We interviewed 122 respondents about their perception and attitude towards the conservation of vervet monkeys. However, the interviewed participants were less by 13 respondents. We had a target of 135 respondents from nine villages.

Regardless of 90.98% (111) of respondents reporting vervets foraging on their crops, 63.93% (78) were willing to participate in their conservation, and 17.21% (21) of the respondents were not sure.

Unfortunately, 18.85% (23) were not willing to participate in vervet conservation. There was less knowledge about vervet conservation with 64.75% (79) of the respondents not aware of any vervet monkey conservation program, and 15.57% (19) were not sure.

We conducted 20 conservation education trainings with 457 participants attending the trainings. The trained participants were 157 more than the target participants number of 300. The number of participants per training was between 16 and 27 people. We trained on the behaviours, diet, ranging patterns and why there are frequent crop foraging as a result of habitat loss and fragmentation. We explained the effect of poisoning as a control measure and its adverse effect on humans, wildlife and the entire ecosystem. We emphasised the use of low-cost techniques to deter vervet crop foraging such as movable scarecrows using locally available materials, active communal guarding schedules during peak times to increase vigilance and reduce individual fatigue due to constant guarding, growing less palatable crops with high market value, and planting high-value medicinal or timber tree saplings along the field edges to increase their land productivity. During the training sessions, participants shared their crop field raid paths, practical sessions on making scarecrows, and pledges on the list of techniques they will implement.

All the participants filled out the pre- and post-training feedback form. The post evaluation feedback showed that the trainings were very effective in improving community members' knowledge about the conservation of vervets. There was a 92% increase in awareness of the conservation and ecology of vervets.

I am currently doing a follow up to establish if the pledged techniques were implemented with 32 of the 39 farmers so far visited are implementing at least one of the methods. I am also documenting the human-vervet monkey interactions reported in the areas where the trainings were conducted. I will compare the obtained data with the previous data collected before this project to assess the project outcomes and impact.

**Challenges and barriers to carrying out your project and how they were overcome:**

Timing. So that respondents can be interviewed during the time they are home. We adjusted our interview time to fit in with the time when most respondents are home after their working, especially farmers. At times, some respondents were interviewed at their workplaces.

Livelihood priorities. Some community members saw the conservation intervention of vervets as a challenge to their farming livelihood. We explained clearly the benefits of coexistence with vervets,

and members finally understood their conservation relevance.

**Changes to the project methodology (if any)** (briefly explain the details, and the reasons, for any changes):

Not Applicable

#### Report on reach – Section 4

**If applicable, for community or school-based work, how many people did you reach through your Activities?** (Where relevant please break these down by junior, senior, tertiary or adult audiences):

**1. Interviews.**

For the interviews, we interviewed 122 respondents. 65 females and 57 males. All of the respondents were above 18 years with only one respondent above 70 years.

**2. Conservation Education Trainings**

We had a total of 457 participants. 302 were females and 155 were males. We had five age categories i.e. 20-30 years, 31-40 years, 41-50 years, 51-60 years, and 61-70 years. 31-40 years category had the highest number of participants (157) and 61-70 years had the lowest participants number (36).

**If applicable, for data collection and monitoring projects, please give a rough outline of the data collected** (e.g. number of sightings, number of audio recordings, number of individuals etc.):

Not Applicable

**Communication – Section 5 Please provide one story from the last 12 months about the work you have been undertaking:**

One morning during our household semi-structured interviews at Bbeta Village, we found a troop of vervets had foraged on sweet potatoes during dawn of that day. The farmer was to frustrated, explaining that the vervets had foraged on his crops several times. Initially, he was reluctant to participate in the interview, saying, 'only talking won't stop them from eating his crops and wanted them to be eliminated by killing'.

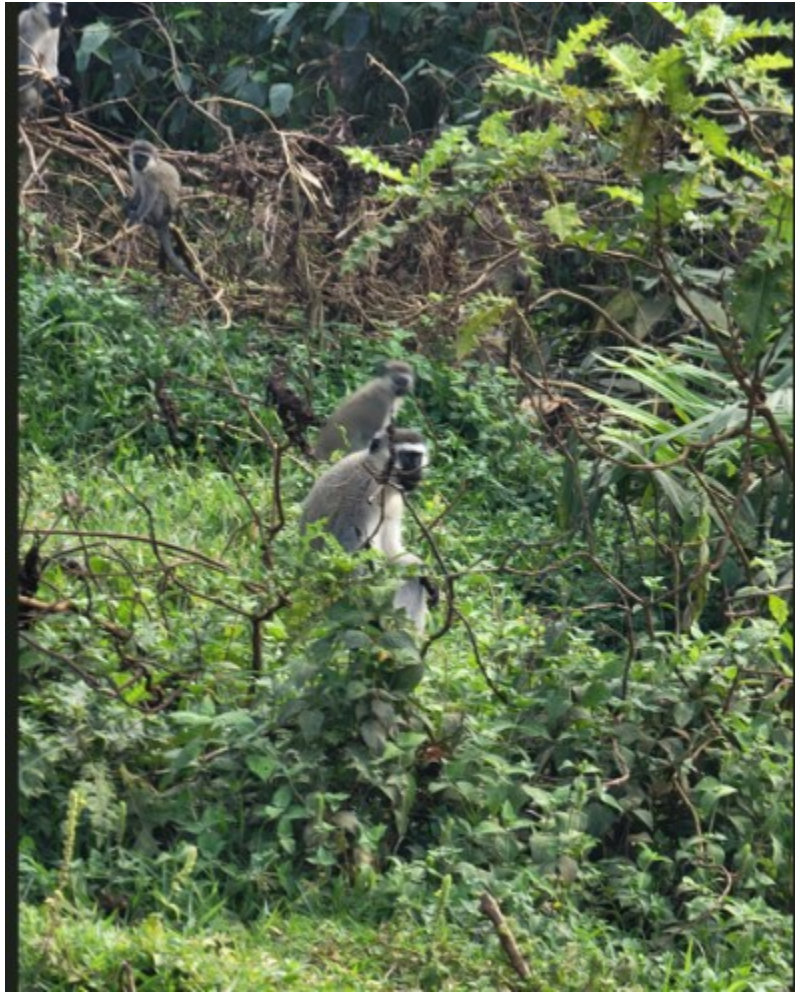
Together with the Community Development Officer (Interviewer), we engaged him in a conversation about several alternative environmentally friendly effective control measures. I shared examples from other villages such as Dajje Village where farmers had successfully used buffer crops such as chilli crop farming on the edges of their farmland to mitigate crop damage by vervets.

Finally, the farmer agreed to take part in the study and also promised to participate in the upcoming conservation training to gain more knowledge on conservation and control measures of vervet foraging. During my follow up activities in mid December, I found the farmer had started planting chilli on the edges of his farm and noted that the monkeys avoided them. He was also advocating for



farmers in his village to adopt to using buffer crops to mitigate vervet crop foraging.

**Please send photos or videos of your project, project team, focal species and/or habitat for use on our website and social media when communicating your work.**



Troop of vervet monkeys