

# INTEGRATED GENERAL LAND MANAGEMENT PLANNING MEETING REPORT

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December, 2012



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December, 2012

# INTEGRATED GENERAL LAND MANAGEMENT PLANNING MEETING REPORT

MEETING HELD ON SEPTEMBER 28<sup>TH</sup> AND 29<sup>TH</sup>, 2012 IN MPANDA,  
TANZANIA

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the Jane Goodall Institute



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# **Overview**

This report captures the discussions of General Land Management Planning in the Greater Mahale Ecosystem (GME) in western Tanzania during a two day stakeholder workshop in Mpanda September 28 and 29 2012. This is the third stakeholders' meeting that was held in Mpanda district to put together ideas and develop a strategy to improve the status of the current general land in the area with valuable and important ecological and biodiversity values for western Tanzania. These areas have a significant number of chimpanzees and other animal species especially elephants. Additionally, these forests serve as water catchments for Lake Tanganyika, Katavi National Park and economically important farm lands in the Mpanda and Kigoma Districts. It is important for both people and nature to improve the protection status of the most critical areas of this ecosystem. The purpose of the meeting was to present recent biological survey findings and to discuss where and how these critical habitats should be protected.

## **Meeting Objectives**

The meeting established five objectives:

1. To get update on the progress of GME activities
2. To report back on the preliminary findings of chimpanzee research conducted in the area
3. To discuss new protected areas (where and how)
4. To discuss integrated mapping for the GME and establish a way forward
5. To review the status of establishing a formal GME Steering committee

## **GME and MUE Integrated Management Planning**

The meeting was opened by the Katavi Regional Commissioner Honorable Dr. Rajab Rutengwe. The meeting was jointly co-facilitated by Mr. Petro Masolwa, Project Manager Tuungane Project, The Nature Conservancy, Mary Mavanza, Governance Officer, Gombe Masito-Ugalla Program, the Jane Goodall Institute (JGI), Kathryn Doody Frankfurt Zoological Society (FZS) and Matt Brown, Conservation Director, The Nature Conservancy (TNC).

The first session involved experience sharing on previous work done in the Greater Mahale and Masito Ugalla ecosystems and several presentations from different programs and research was presented to familiarize participants with the GME. All presentations and discussions revealed the ecological

importance and potential of the area with the presence of important species such as chimpanzees, elephants and other big mammals. The presentations highlighted the importance of protecting the GME. District governments from Mpanda and Kigoma shared their ideas and current efforts in place for the protection. They also shared how they are addressing the challenges of increase in illegal settlements, expansion of agriculture/farms in critical habitats, influx of livestock from neighboring regions, wildlife poaching and illegal harvesting of trees for timber, charcoal processing and firewood collection for salt processing.

## Current conservation initiatives

A number of efforts and resources have already been committed towards achieving the goal of integrated general land management planning of the Greater Mahale Ecosystem.

- Development of 63 Village Land Use Plans neighboring the general land supported by FZS and JGI
- Conservation Action Plans for Greater Mahale ecosystems supported by FZS through MEMP
- Conservation Action Plans for Greater Gombe and Masito Ugalla ecosystems supported by JGI between 2009/2010
- Mpanda and Kigoma districts in collaboration with JGI have identified other partners to work with and protect the general land in the Masito-Ugalla ecosystem.
- A preliminary biological assessment of the forests in the General Land Protected Area supported by TNC and JGI
- Development of a draft National Chimpanzee Conservation Action Plan in 2010.

## Executive Summary

This report provides an overview of the two day meeting held to develop strategies to protect and conserve biodiversity hotspots in the GME and Masito-Ugalla area. This was the third meeting held in a process which was initiated in March 2011.

Participants discussed how to advance the process of developing and implementing an integrated General Land Management plan for the Greater Mahale Ecosystem in western Tanzania that is based on the available research data and other information known on the area. The areas of focus were those that are of ecologically significant as identified from the chimpanzee survey and other related surveys. The planning focused on watershed areas, potential habitat for wildlife such as chimpanzees and elephants, wildlife migratory corridor areas, village forest reserves and forest connectivity areas. Results of discussions revealed that successful implementation of an Integrated General Land management Plan in GME and MUE requires close collaboration and coordination between all the

partners including local communities bordering the areas, district, regional and national government authorities, non-governmental organizations, research institutions, donors, and the private sector. The threats and challenges facing the area are eminent and require urgent actions to address them through an integrated approach. The challenges and threats come from different sources, and as a result a joint approach between the various institutions is needed to make sure that all parties are involved in the process of addressing and tackling these threats. Threats include illegal settlements, expansion of agriculture/farms in forest areas, influx of livestock from neighboring regions, poaching of wildlife and illegal harvesting of trees for timber

The composition of the previously established GME steering committee was revised in order to push the process of developing an integrated management plan for the GME area forward and to ensure that all important stakeholders are represented and communicating and coordinating activities. The steering committee members are from Mpanda District, Kigoma District, Frankfurt Zoological Society, The Nature Conservancy, Tanzania National Parks (TANAPA), and the Jane Goodall Institute.

The important issues that were raised in the meeting are as follows:

1. Work together—the two districts of Kigoma and Mpanda, Non-Governmental Organizations in the area, TANAPA and Village governments neighboring ecologically important areas so as to reduce the impact from cattle herders and cultivation.
2. Raise awareness among stakeholders working in Kigoma District and Mpanda district on the importance of the Greater Mahale Ecosystem in Western Tanzania.
3. Involve high level decision makers i.e. members of parliament from Kigoma and Mpanda district so that they are aware of the process being implemented to reduce political back lash in the future
4. The integrated General Land Management Plan for the GME (including the Masito-Ugalla area) should proceed as planned and agreed in previous meetings.
5. Review the current status of GME, challenges that exist now, but understand that a substantial increase of the threats over the area will compromise its ecological importance.
6. Both Kigoma and Mpanda districts should increase awareness at village and ward level so that they stop inviting and welcoming livestock keepers who migrate into the areas illegally
7. Each district should continue with their conservation activities and discussions and bring this up as a priority during management meetings so that all departments know what is going on without compromising the main objective of developing an integrated General Land Management Plan in the GME
8. The current land laws and environmental management laws should be implemented and the district authority should guide communities and ensure that their bylaws are legal and working to protect community land.
9. The proposed steering committee has to meet on 15<sup>th</sup> November 2012 in Kigoma and the members reviewed so as to include the responsible people for natural resources and decision making within the respective departments
10. Based on the chimpanzee research finding that were presented, the workshop participants decided to think more critically about where and how the critical habitats could be protected better in the

GME. To do this, the participants broke into three groups.

## Group Work Directions

### ***Question 1—WHERE to protect?***

In order to protect the priority chimpanzee areas (identified by recent research) where should the new protected area/s be located?

### ***Question 2—HOW to protect?***

In order to best protect the priority chimpanzee populations in the GME what status should the reserved land be?

### ***Question 3—What needs to be done to continue with a gazetttement process?***

What is required, steps (e.g. information / resources / input from other agencies / expertise etc.) to move the process forward?

## GROUP PRESENTATIONS

### GROUP 1

#### ***Question 1—WHERE to protect?***

Areas: Kakungu Hills, Kalobwe Hills, Wansisi hills, Ntakata Ridge and Kashagulu Forest

#### Why:

- These are watershed or water catchment areas
- They can be conserved as one ecosystem because they are on general land with exception of Kashagulu Forest which is on Village Forest Land. This will enhance connectivity of the ecosystem

#### Adjacent communities:

Kashagulu village, kalya, Sibwesa, Magambazi, Igalula Buhingu, Rukoma, Sibwes-Mpanda, kasekese, Kasega-nyama, Nkungwi, Kabage, kapalamsenga, itunga, and Songambele

#### ***Masito Ugalla***

Current Status: Connectivity

To be protected as Local Area Forest Reserve (on Progress)

Rationale:

High biodiversity Status (chimpanzee habitat)

Adjacent Community:

Isenga, Bulamata, Vikonge, Uvinza, Ilagala, Songambelel, Sunuka, Kirando, Karago, Sigunga, Herembe, Lyabusende, Kaparamsenga

**Question 2—HOW to protect?**

Aims of new protected areas:

- Protection of the chimpanzee habitat
- Protection of water catchment Areas

**New Protected Areas**

Area east of Mahale National Park

Area North West of Katavi national Park

Area as watershed Reserve-Bugwe, Ntakata and other general land around that area

How?

Annex procedures as per national parks policies, laws and regulations should be followed

Watershed reserve regulations, policies and laws should be followed (of the forest Act 2002 No. 14)

**Question 3—What needs to be done to continue with a gazetttement process?**

Specific research/baseline surveys

Mpanda, Nkasi, Uvinza, District Councils to initiate the process of annexing

Mpanda and Uvinza district Council to initiate and lead the process in accordance to forest Act 2002 No 14

**GROUP 2**

**Question 1—WHERE to protect?**

Areas 1. Masito Ugalla, 2. Ntakata, Kakungu and Kalobwa Complex

Adjacent communities:

Miashamo, kashagulu, Kalya, Sibwesa, Rukoma, Igala, Lugonesi, Mwese, Lubalisi

## **Question 2—HOW to protect?**

- Catchment/Watershed Forest Reserve—Mountainous national Park
- Local Authority Forest reserve—Mahale East Forest reserve

Note: Assessment and follow ups at Bugalaba and Ubanda to make one village should be done to get more information

### **Aims:**

- To protect water catchment
- To protect Chimps and other animals
- To protect forest from Degradation

## **Question 3—What needs to be done to continue with a gazettement process?**

### Steps for Gazettement

1. Conduct baseline
2. Define and establish aims of gazettement e.g. watershed
3. Identify boundaries and resource assessment available in the area
4. Present the findings to District Full Councils for purpose of sharing information and getting initial approval
5. Conduct sensitization to villages around the area through community meetings
6. Collect all information and present to Regional Commissioner.
7. Regional commissioner consult Regional Natural Resource Officer for technical advise
8. All documents sent to Forest and Beekeeping Division(FBD) for review and approval
9. FBD advertise on the government news paper the aim of gazzeting the area as watershed for 90 days
10. After 90 days the responsible Minister share the information with the Parliament

Mpanda and Uvinza Districts responsible

## **GROUP 3**

## **Question 1—WHERE to protect?**

### Areas:

1. Masito Ugalla

2. Bugwe village
3. Ntakata Ridge
4. Kashagulu hill
5. Wansisi Hill
6. Kalobwa Hill

#### Current Status

1. Masito Ugalla; General Land and partly Village Forest reserves
2. Bugwe— Village land
3. Ntakata—Village Land
4. Kashagulu—Village land
5. Wansisi—Village Land
6. Kashagulu Forest—Village Forest Reserve

#### Adjacent Communities:

1. Masito Ugalla  
Kasisi, katambike, Mnyamasi, Vikonge, malagarasi, Chakulu, Uvinza, Mwamila, Kalenge, Kazuramimba, Ilagala, Mwalkizega, Songambele na Sunuka
2. Bugwe:  
Vikonge, Igalula, Mpembe, Lwega
3. Ntakata  
Lubalisi, Lugomesi, Kaparamsenga, Rukoma, Mgambazi, Herembe, Mahale, National Park
4. Kashagulu  
Kalya, Sibwesa and Mahale national park
5. Wansisi  
Sibwesa, katuma, Lwega and Mpembe
6. Kalobwa  
Lubalisi, Mwese, and Mahale national Park

#### **Question 2—HOW to protect?**

1. Masito Ugalla—Local Authority Forest Reserve, LAFR
2. Bugwe—Watershed Forest Reserve
3. Ntakata—Watershed Forest Reserve

4. Kashagulu—Watershed Forest Reserve
5. Wansisi—Watershed Forest Reserve
6. Kalobwe—watershed Forest Reserve

Why:

Chimpanzee habitat

Water catchment areas with many rivers

**Question 3—What needs to be done to continue with a gazetttement process?**

1. Conduct resource assessment to understand natural resources available
2. Demarcate the area in order to understand the size
3. Conduct awareness to community around the area to be conserved on importance and how the community around will benefit
4. Provide all information to Basin Authority i.e. Lake Tanganyika Basin
5. Establish Agreement with the neighboring communities

**Table 1.** Commonalities in Group Presentation on Areas suggested to be conserved and the respective status

Sn	Areas Identified	Status Suggested	Remarks
1	Masito Ugalla	Local Area Forest Reserve, LAFR	
2	Ntakata/Bugwe	Catchment	Potential to raise its status to National Park
3	Kakungu/Kalobwa Bujombe /Wansisi	Catchment	Potential to raise its status to National Park
4	Bugwe	Catchment	
5	Rukoma/Lubalisi	Village Forest Reserves	
	Ntakata Mahale	Connectivity	Later raise from Corridor Status, to National Park
6	East of Mahale	Catchment	Later raise Status to National Park
7	Katuma Hills	Catchment	Needs data on water users and their habits. Task force to follow up using available data in order to make appropriate status suggestion and decisions
8	Katavi Extension to Lake	National Park	Needs talks between the DC and TANAPA
9	Wansisi	Local Forest Reserve	Land Use plan developed has Village Forest Reserve

## GREATER MAHALE ECOSYSTEM

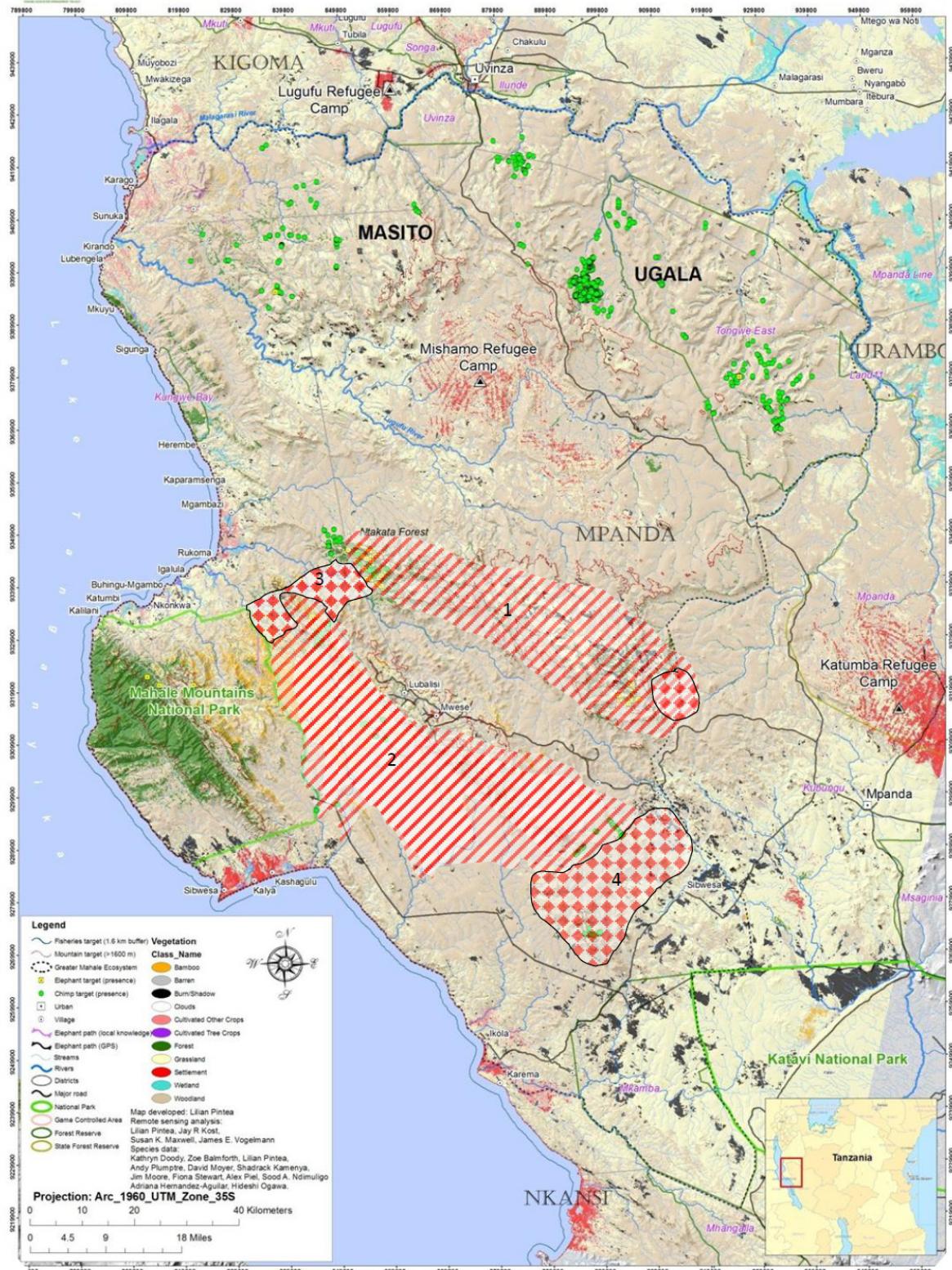


Figure 1. Map showing the location of recommended priority areas as a result of the group work.

# Recommendations

Masito-Ugalla - The group recommended that the JGI led process to protect the forest areas of Masito Ugalla should continue as planned.

1. **Ntakata Ridge** should be in the short term be given a higher level of protected status e.g. as a Catchment Forest Reserve with a view that it should become a National Park in the future. There is an area with a different status on the western end of the ridge (please note that it is probably not in exactly the right location on the sketch map) called Bugwe. While Bugwe is not so important for chimpanzees it is very important for water catchment as it is the source of 24 rivers in the area—including the Katuma River which flows into Katavi (according to local knowledge). Currently the status of this land is village land—but there is regional level support for changing this to protected status. The rest of Ntakata Ridge is currently general land—with villages such as Lubalisi, Lugonesi, Mwese, Katuma, Lwega, and Mpembe following the road and reaching to the lower hills of the Ntakata Ridge. The current suggestion is that these villages retain their existing boundaries and are supported to develop Village Land Forest Reserves that are demarcated within village boundaries.
2. **Kakungu / Kalobwe/ Bujombe/ Wansisi Ridge** should be given a higher level of protection in the short term e.g. as a Catchment Forest Reserve with a view that it should become a National Park in the future, including the area extending to the Eastern Mahale Mountains National Park (MMNP) boundary, effectively extending the park. This proposal includes all the general land along the ridge and is not intended to affect the boundaries of the village along the road. The new protected area would join MMNP in the West, and Kashagulu Village Forest Reserve in the south west. There are known to be at least two informal settlements Bugalaba and Ubanda near Kashagulu Village Forest Reserve who to officially Kashagulu village during the Kashagulu PLUM exercise. Further investigation into these informal settlements needs to be conducted. The advantage of extending the protected area to the MMNP boundary is that it will mitigate the impacts of the expected Kalya road, by preventing settlements along both sides of the roads effectively isolating MMNP from the rest of the ecosystem.
3. **Connectivity between MMNP Kakungu and Ntakata.** Currently part of the area that connects MMNP to Kakungu is Village Land (Rukoma), as is the area that connects Kakungu and Ntakata (Rukoma and Lubalisi villages). The recommendation from the meeting was that these priority areas should be reviewed with the relevant villages and if necessary, village land use plans adjusted to ensure appropriate land use (VLFR) in the areas. If this does not succeed then further action might be needed.
4. **Wansisi Hills is under currently village land (Sibwesa Village)** with the important forest areas included into a village Wildlife Management Area (WMA). Current opinion in the meeting was that the WMA process is not proceeding well and is unlikely to protect these areas of forest and chimpanzee population. The recommendation from the meeting was to closely watch this area and if necessary work with the village to change the status of the land to Village Land Forest Reserve.
5. **Other areas of interest discussed by the group:**

6. Katuma Catchment—there was a suggestion made that the whole of the Katuma Catchment should be protected to secure the water flow into Lake Katavi. However the group as a whole recommended that this issue should be investigated urgently by relevant partners and an appropriate action taken.
7. **Katavi—extension west to the lake** shore (to include the large Mkamba Forest Reserve). It was decided this should be discussed between TANAPA and the District. However, participants noted that whilst that area is possibly important for elephant movements there are no chimpanzees known to populate this area.

General Land bordering Katavi to the north Katavi Border—as no data regarding the importance of this area was presented, no recommendation regarding this area was made. However it might be of relevance for elephant movements across the ecosystem.

# Appendix

**Table 2.** List of Participants for the Stakeholders Meeting for Integrated General Land Management Planning; MPANDA: September 28<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup>

NO	NAME	TITLE	CONTACT
1	DR RAJAB RUTEGWE	RC -KATAVI	
2	ESTOMIH CHANG'AH	DED - MPANDA	
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26	FABIAN KASHINDYE	DALDO	0754495715
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**Table 3.** Schedule for Stakeholders Meeting for Integrated for General Land Management Planning—Mpanda

DAY	TIME	TOPIC	RESPONSIBLE PERSON
<b>Thursday Sept</b>			
<b>27</b>	08.00 – 04.00 pm	Travel to Mpanda	Participants
	05.00 – 06.000 pm	Partners meeting	FZS, TNC, JGI, DNROs
<b>Friday Sept 28</b>		<b>DAY I</b>	
	07.30 – 08.30 am	Registration	Magnus

<b>DAY</b>	<b>TIME</b>	<b>TOPIC</b>	<b>RESPONSIBLE PERSON</b>
	08.30 – 09.15 am	Welcome, Introductions and Logistics	Josephine Rupia
	<b>09.15 – 09.45 am</b>	<b>Opening Speech</b>	<b>DED Mpanda</b>
	09.45 – 10.00 am	Objectives of the meeting -Where are we coming from in relation to GME Planning -Ground rules	Kathryn/Mary/ Matt/Petro
	<b>10.00 – 10.50 am</b>	<b>TEA BREAK</b>	<b>ALL</b>
	10.50 – 11.10 am	Project Overview—Tuungane	Petro Masolwa
	11.10 – 11.30 am	Project Overview—GMU	Mary Mavanza
	11.50 – 12.10 pm	Project Overview—WMAs	WWF/DNRO
	12.10 – 12.30 pm	Project Overview—Lake Tang Integrated Project	Hawa Msham
	12:30 -12:50 pm	Update from the district on the protection of the Masito-ugalla ecosystem	Josephine
	12.50 – 01.15 pm	Opportunities for integrated Land Use Planning	Matt/Petro
	<b>01.15 – 02.00 pm</b>	<b>LUNCH BREAK</b>	<b>ALL</b>
	02.00 – 02.30 pm	GME - Ecological significance	Dr. Kamenya
	02.30 – 03.00 pm	Chimpanzee distribution survey report (UPP)	Matt
	03.00 – 03.30 pm	Plenary Discussion	Matt/Kamenya
	03.30 – 05.00 pm	New Protected Area group work	Matt/Kamenya/Kathryn
	<b>05.00 pm</b>	<b>TEA/DRINKS</b>	<b>ALL</b>
<b>Saturday Sept 29</b>	<b>DAY II</b>		
	08.00 – 08.30 am	Registration	Magnus
	08.30 – 10.00 am	Group Work Report	Groups
	<b>10.00 – 10.45 am</b>	<b>TEA BREAK</b>	<b>ALL</b>
	10.45 – 01.30 am	Plenary discussion on Developing a master plan for the GME	Matt
	<b>01.30 – 02.30 pm</b>	<b>LUNCH BREAK</b>	<b>ALL</b>
	02.30 – 03.30 pm	Review of the Steering Committee	Kathryn/Sood
	03.30 – 04.30 pm	Next steps/Way forward	Petro/Magnus
	<b>04.30 – 05.00 pm</b>	<b>CLOSING Remarks</b>	<b>DED Kigoma</b>
		<b>TEA/DRINKS</b>	<b>ALL</b>