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**Piel, AK, Cohen, N, Kamenya, S, Ndimuligo, SA, Pintea, L and Stewart, FA**

**Population status of chimpanzees in the Masito-Ugalla Ecosystem, Tanzania.**

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### Article

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1 **Title:** Population status of chimpanzees outside of National Parks in the Masito-Ugalla  
2 Ecosystem, western Tanzania

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28 **ABSTRACT**

29  
30 *More than 75 percent of Tanzania's remaining chimpanzees live at low densities on land*  
31 *outside National Parks. Chimpanzees are one of the key conservation targets in the region*  
32 *and long-term monitoring of these populations is essential for assessing the overall status*  
33 *of ecosystem health and the success of implemented conservation strategies. We aimed to*  
34 *assess change in chimpanzee density within the Masito-Ugalla Ecosystem (MUE) by*  
35 *comparing results of re-walking the same line transects in 2007 and 2014. We further used*  
36 *remote sensing data derived from Landsat satellites to assess landscape change within a*  
37 *5km buffer of these transects in that same period. Our results indicate that there has not*  
38 *been a significant decline in chimpanzees across the surveyed areas of MUE between*  
39 *2007 and 2014. Comparisons between 2007 and 2014 results suggest that the MUE*  
40 *chimpanzee population has been stable over this period, and represents approximately 576*  
41 *individuals. Although the overall mean density of chimpanzees may have declined from*  
42 *0.09 individuals/km<sup>2</sup> in 2007 to 0.05 individuals/km<sup>2</sup> in 2014, whether this change is*  
43 *significant cannot be detected due to small sample sizes and large error margins. Some*  
44 *areas (Issa Valley, Mkanga, Kamkulu), in fact, showed an increase in chimpanzee density.*  
45 *Seasonality of chimpanzee habitat preference for ranging or nesting may explain variation*  
46 *in density at some of the survey sites between 2007 and 2014. We found a relationship*  
47 *between increasing habitat loss derived from Landsat satellite imagery and decreasing*  
48 *chimpanzee density. Future surveys will need to ensure a larger sample size, broader*  
49 *geographic effort, and random survey design, in order to more precisely determine trends in*  
50 *MUE chimpanzee density and population size over time.*

51  
52 **KEY WORDS:** Chimpanzee; Density; Survey; Remote sensing, Masito-Ugalla; Tanzania

55 **INTRODUCTION**

56  
57 Chimpanzees (*Pan troglodytes*) have been classified as an endangered species  
58 since 1996 (IUCN) and are threatened across their distribution [but see Oates, 2006]. Over  
59 the last four decades, researchers and conservationists alike have described the impact of  
60 habitat destruction [Lehmann et al., 2010; Junker et al., 2012; Young et al., 2013], human  
61 introduced [Leendertz et al., 1993; Köndgen et al., 2008; Ryan & Walsh, 2011] and natural  
62 [Keele et al., 2009; Kaiser et al., 2010; Rudicell et al., 2010] disease, and poaching  
63 [Sugiyama & Soumah, 1988; Reynolds, 1992; Ohashi & Matsuzawa, 2011; McLennan et  
64 al., 2012] on wild chimpanzee populations.

65 Tanzania, home to the two longest, continuous studies of chimpanzees [Gombe  
66 Stream - Pusey et al., 2007; Mahale Mountains - Nishida, 2011], hosts between two and  
67 three thousand chimpanzees, all within three regions in the western part of the country  
68 [Plumptre et al., 2010]. Almost one third of these chimpanzees live within the boundaries of  
69 the two aforementioned national parks. However, the rest are distributed across  
70 approximately 30,000km<sup>2</sup> of land outside of National Parks, comprised mostly (>80%) of  
71 miombo woodland [Moyer et al., 2006]. These extra-park savanna-woodland chimpanzees  
72 naturally occur at extremely low densities and thus offer a significant challenge to those  
73 trying to monitor changes in population size and distribution over time [Moyer et al., 2006;  
74 Piel et al., 2015].

75 Monitoring of these apes is critical given the nature of the threats facing much of  
76 Tanzania's wildlife. Specifically, numerous recent reports show that whilst the primary threat  
77 to chimpanzees is habitat loss due to human settlement expansion and conversion to  
78 agriculture, annual burning, logging and poaching are also playing a role [JGI, 2007;  
79 Davenport et al., 2010; Plumptre et al., 2010; Piel & Stewart, 2013, 2014; Piel et al., 2013]

80 and conservationists have focused on establishing priority areas based on remaining  
81 chimpanzee habitat. In western Tanzania, human incursion into the Masito area is mostly  
82 for conversion of chimpanzee habitat into oil palm plantations, but also for slash and burn  
83 agriculture [Pintea et al., 2002, 2012]. Given the known impact of oil palm habitat  
84 conversion, from the loss in biodiversity to increases in habitat fragmentation and pollution  
85 [Fitzherbert et al., 2008] and specifically the impact on apes [Swarna Nantha & Tisdell,  
86 2008], we predicted a similar relationship between habitat loss and Masito chimpanzee  
87 population density.

88         Results from monitoring studies inform on change over time and, when combined  
89 with other data (e.g. forest cover changes derived from multi-temporal satellite imagery),  
90 conservationists can better understand how human threats in Tanzania affects wildlife  
91 abundance, distribution, and behavior [Newmark et al., 1994; Banda et al., 2006; Pintea,  
92 2007]. Subsequent conservation strategies and actions can then be adapted to directly  
93 address these threats [Mulder et al., 2007]. Accordingly, we recently conducted a survey of  
94 five different previously surveyed areas across the Masito-Ugalla Ecosystem in western  
95 Tanzania. Our primary goal was to compare results from a similar survey conducted in  
96 2007 [JGI, 2007]. We predicted that overall chimpanzee population density would have  
97 declined over the seven years between surveys in response to increased human pressure.  
98 We also predicted that the largest declines in density would be found nearest to the largest  
99 human settlements (here, in the Masito region), whereas Ugalla areas would show stable  
100 densities.

101 **METHODS**

102 **Survey areas**

103 The original survey in 2007 was designed and conducted by JGI in collaboration with the  
104 Tanzanian Institute for Resource Assessment (IRA), Tanzania Wildlife Research Institute  
105 (TAWIRI), District Wildlife and Forest Officers from Mpanda and Kigoma districts [see JGI,  
106 2007 for further details]. Six survey sites were selected non-randomly based on known  
107 chimpanzee presence. Where possible four radial transects of 5km length following cardinal  
108 directions from the central campsite were conducted at each site. Such non-randomly  
109 selected transects are not ideal for estimating overall population size across MUE,  
110 however, these data do allow for comparison over time.

111 In order to control for regional variation in chimpanzee density we repeated identical  
112 surveys of five of the six 2007 sites in 2014 (two in Ugalla and three in Masito). Data from  
113 the sixth survey site are not presented here given that there is no longitudinal comparison.  
114 We followed 2007 track logs and waypoints taken along transects (Figure 1). Both surveys  
115 were conducted during the wet season (October to April), with 2007 surveys conducted  
116 during the early rains (October and November), and 2014 surveys during the late rains  
117 (January and February).

118 FIGURE 1 ABOUT HERE

119 **Data collection and nest encounters**

120 To determine chimpanzee density from nest counts, we used standard line transect  
121 methods to first estimate densities of chimpanzee nests and then convert these to densities  
122 of individuals [Plumptre & Reynolds, 1996]. This method relies on the fact that

123 chimpanzees, like all great apes, construct nightly nests. We decided to use nest counts  
124 instead of direct encounters with chimpanzees given the low density of chimpanzees across  
125 MUE and overall paucity of actual encounters.

126           On each transect, in 2007 all data were recorded in hard copy and in 2014 we  
127 recorded all data using Google Android Nexus 7 tablets with pre-designed data forms using  
128 Open Data Kit (ODK) software. We recorded all direct (sightings) and indirect (print, nest,  
129 feces) evidence of large mammals, specifically chimpanzees, noting GPS coordinate,  
130 vegetation (miombo woodland, closed forest, open forest, swamp, or grassland), number  
131 (of animals for direct encounters only), age classification (of nest or feces traces) and  
132 perpendicular distance to the transect. We categorized nest state of decay as ages 1 to 4:  
133 (1) leaves green and nest structure intact; (2) some leaves brown, but nest structure intact;  
134 (3) nest rotting and structure disintegrating; and (4) only the frame and <5% of leaves  
135 remaining. Nests were considered decayed from stage 4, following Plumptre and Reynolds  
136 [1996], therefore only nests of age 1 to 3 were used for further analyses.

137           We measured the perpendicular distance from each item of evidence to the transect  
138 line [sensu Buckland et al., 2010] and entered data into DISTANCE 6.0 [Buckland et al.,  
139 2001] to calculate the Effective Strip Width (ESW), and from the total area surveyed, obtain  
140 a nest density estimate (nests/km<sup>2</sup>). Several models can be used for nest density  
141 estimation, and we selected the model that yielded the lowest Akaike's Information Criterion  
142 (AIC) value as recommended by previous studies (Thomas et al. 2010). We entered data  
143 for each area surveyed into DISTANCE, and stratified by vegetation type in order to  
144 separately calculate (ESW) for 'Open' (miombo woodland, grassland, swamp) and 'Closed'  
145 (evergreen closed & open forest) vegetation types. This analysis therefore yields a nest

146 density estimate for open and closed vegetation, in addition to a global nest density  
147 estimate that controls for survey effort in each vegetation type.

148 We used an available production rate of nests of 1.1 per day [Plumptre & Reynolds,  
149 1996]. Unlike previous studies that used a nest decay rate of 97, we used a nest decay rate  
150 specific to each vegetation type, described in Stewart et al. [2011]. We thus calculated the  
151 number of individuals per km<sup>2</sup> by correcting for the time for nests to decay to age four, and  
152 nest production rate, using the below formula [Plumptre & Reynolds, 1996]:

153

154 *Density of chimpanzees = Density of nests/(production rate x mean time to decay)*

155

156 Given that the 2007 results did not consider vegetation-specific decay rates (which vary by  
157 two-fold), we obtained the raw data from 2007 and re-analyzed them using DISTANCE,  
158 stratified by vegetation type, and also used the most up to date decay rate and thus we  
159 analyzed both 2007 and 2014 datasets identically for comparative purposes. Finally, we  
160 converted chimpanzee density (number of individuals/km<sup>2</sup>) to estimated population size by  
161 multiplying this density estimate by the total area of interest (number of km<sup>2</sup>).

162 We first re-analyzed the 2007 raw data using transect lengths measured in an  
163 identical way to 2014 transect lengths using high resolution satellite imagery in Google  
164 Earth, updated decay rates for dry season nests and using two different vegetation  
165 classifications. Transect lengths walked in 2014 differed slightly in a few cases in 2007  
166 (Table 1). We therefore controlled for this difference in effort by incorporating 2007 transect  
167 lengths into our re-analysis of 2007 data.

168 All research complied with protocols approved by the Tanzania Wildlife Research  
169 Institute and adhered to the legal requirements of Tanzania and the American Society of  
170 Primatologists Principles for the Ethical Treatment of Non-Human Primates.  
171

## 172 **RESULTS**

173 In 2007 and 2014, we walked 16 transects (12 in Masito, 4 in Ugalla), covering a  
174 total of 70.30 km in 2007 and 66.07 km in 2014 (Table 1). In both surveys, we documented  
175 chimpanzee nests at all survey sites, even when we removed age 4 nests from the dataset.  
176 When we partitioned transects into open (woodland) and closed (evergreen forest)  
177 vegetation, we found that ~92% of transects were in open vegetation, versus ~8% in closed  
178 vegetation in both 2007 and 2014 (Table 1). This is remarkably different than the overall  
179 average of these figures across MUE, which is estimated to be 83% woodland, 14%  
180 grasslands, wetlands and bare lands, and 2-3% forest [Moyer et al., 2006].

181

182 TABLE 1 ABOUT HERE

183

184 Using the values that DISTANCE provided for effective strip widths (ESW) for each  
185 open and closed vegetation types, we calculated the number of individual chimpanzees per  
186 km<sup>2</sup> to be over 15x higher in forests than in woodlands (Table 2). When we incorporated the  
187 proportion of available forest across the whole of MUE we calculated an overall population  
188 density of 0.09 individuals/km<sup>2</sup> in 2007 and 0.05 individuals/km<sup>2</sup> in 2014 (Table 2). From  
189 these figures, we can estimate the population size for chimpanzees living in suitable habitat  
190 (2,699 km<sup>2</sup>; n= ~243 chimpanzees) and across the entire ecosystem (5,756 km<sup>2</sup>; n= ~518

191 chimpanzees). However, these estimates have large error margins (Table 3).

192

193 TABLE 2 ABOUT HERE

194

195 To test whether seasonality played a role in the difference between 2007 (early wet  
196 season) and 2014 (late wet season) chimpanzee densities, we examined the proportion of  
197 all nests observed (per km<sup>2</sup> to control for different ESWs) in closed versus open habitats  
198 between 2007 and 2014. A significantly smaller proportion of the total nests/km<sup>2</sup> observed  
199 in 2014 were found in closed vegetation and a greater proportion in open vegetation,  
200 compared to the proportions of total nests/km<sup>2</sup> found in closed and open vegetation in 2007  
201 & 2014 (Fishers exact test, p=0.012).

202 Overall, we re-calculated the 2007 chimpanzee density on the surveyed transects to  
203 be 0.12 individuals/km<sup>2</sup>, compared to 0.06 individuals/km<sup>2</sup> in 2014, taking into account only  
204 the proportion of vegetation types sampled along the transects (Table 2). To further test  
205 whether there was a change in density from 2007 to 2014 we conducted a Wilcoxon's  
206 matched pairs test to compare density of each surveyed region and found that there was  
207 not a significant decline (W=6, N=5, p>0.05, one-tailed). This result holds if comparisons  
208 are made between years for each transect (W=18.5, N=11, p>0.05, one-tailed) rather than  
209 regions, as above. The lack of a significant decline overall reflects that changes in density  
210 were not consistent across each transect area. Instead, Issa, Kamukulu Hills, and Mkanga  
211 river all exhibited an increase in density, whilst Kigoma River and Kalulumpeta Hills  
212 exhibited large declines (Figure 2).

213

214 FIGURE 2 ABOUT HERE

215           The overall density between 2007 and 2014 differed only within closed vegetation.  
216   Given that the 2007 surveys were conducted in the early wet season, versus the 2014  
217   survey which was conducted in the late wet season, it is possible that seasonal nesting site  
218   preferences of chimpanzees could explain the lower mean density in 2014. We therefore  
219   compared the individual chimpanzee densities across surveyed areas in closed versus  
220   open vegetation (Figure 3). Kalulumpeta Hills and Kigoma River showed declines in  
221   chimpanzee density in open vegetation as well as closed, whilst Mkanga and Kamukulu  
222   hills show an increase in density in closed vegetation in 2014. A statistical comparison  
223   yielded no significant difference in density between closed ( $W=3$ ,  $N=6$ ,  $p>0.05$ , two-tailed)  
224   and open ( $W=17$ ,  $N=10$ ,  $p>0.05$ , two-tailed) vegetation types between 2007 and 2014.

225

226   FIGURE 3 ABOUT HERE

227

228   Human threats

229           To assess whether a loss in forest and woodland habitats may explain some of the  
230   variation in chimpanzee density between the survey periods, we analyzed the total amount  
231   of forest and woodland lost in each survey area each year between 2000 and 2012 derived  
232   from Landsat satellite imagery [Hansen et al., 2014]. We found that areas within five  
233   kilometers of the MUE line transects lost a combined 1,134Ha between 2008 and 2012.

234           We then correlated habitat loss against changes in densities to examine whether  
235   there was a relationship between forest loss and chimpanzee densities, and found a trend  
236   for increased negative change in chimpanzee density with increasing forest loss (Figure 4;  
237   spearman's rank correlation,  $r_s=-0.80$ ,  $n=5$ ,  $p<0.10$ ).

238

239 FIGURE 4 ABOUT HERE

## 240 **DISCUSSION**

241 Overall we found no significant decline in chimpanzee density between 2007 and  
242 2014 across the surveyed areas of the Masito-Ugalla Ecosystem in western Tanzania.  
243 Although we found chimpanzee density in 2014 to be almost half of that in 2007, the  
244 confidence limits surrounding these means are almost entirely overlapping. Thus, neither  
245 global nor local densities were statistically different across years. The differences in density  
246 were variably distributed across space, with some areas showing declines, whilst others, an  
247 increase. Large confidence intervals in both 2007 and 2014 data sets are due to too few  
248 transects ( $n = \sim 20$ ), kilometers walked ( $< 100$ ), and nests recorded to assess change across  
249 an area estimated at  $> 5,500 \text{ km}^2$ . A larger number of all of these parameters would provide  
250 greater definition for us to more reliably determine changes in chimpanzee density over  
251 time. Nonetheless, the difference in mean density suggests that although not detectable in  
252 this study, there may be an overall decline so we explore here two possible reasons for this,  
253 as well as compare both 2007 and 2014 data with those from another (2011-2012) survey  
254 across western Tanzania [Piel & Stewart, 2013] (Table 3).

255

### 256 **Seasonality**

257 The savanna woodlands of western Tanzania are characterized by dramatic  
258 seasonality. In the heterogeneous MUE habitat, chimpanzees nest more frequently in forest  
259 relative to forest availability [Stewart & Pruetz, 2013], in addition to selectively nesting on  
260 woodland slopes [Hernandez-Aguilar, 2009]. However, the extent to which chimpanzees  
261 select closed or open vegetation for nesting changes seasonally. In the dry season,

262 chimpanzees avoid nesting in woodland and preferentially select forest vegetation, likely  
263 due to the seasonal loss of foliage in woodland vegetation [Stewart, 2011; Stewart &  
264 Pruetz, 2013].

265         Whilst the 2014 survey was conducted in January, in the latter part of the wet  
266 season, the earlier 2007 survey was conducted in October-November, at the very beginning  
267 of the wet season. We would thus expect for most chimpanzee nests to be found in the  
268 gallery forests then, as woodland trees lose leaves in the dry season, versus in 2014 when  
269 many would be in the woodlands. Given that >92% of the survey effort was conducted in  
270 woodland, we expect this difference in seasonality to influence the number of nests  
271 observed on our line transects. The overall relative proportion of chimpanzee density in  
272 closed versus open vegetation was greater in 2007 than 2014, a difference which  
273 approached significance, suggesting that chimpanzees' seasonal use of vegetation for  
274 nesting may have influenced differences in global density across years. In examining  
275 differences between the surveyed areas however, we see that although closed vegetation  
276 density decreased at Kalulumpeta Hills and Kigoma River, open vegetation use also  
277 decreased. Additionally, those areas that showed a slight increase, or similar density  
278 overall, exhibited a density increase in closed vegetation (e.g. Kamukulu Hills and Mkanga  
279 River; Figure 3). These findings suggest that geographic-specific changes in density are not  
280 related to seasonal use of vegetation.

281

## 282 **Habitat loss**

283         If seasonal differences do not explain variation in chimpanzee density across time,  
284 recent habitat loss may. We found a strong correlation between the amount of deforestation  
285 since 2007 and a decline in chimpanzee density. This relationship is part of a widespread

286 pattern seen across great ape distribution [see Junker et al., 2012], and Tanzania is no  
287 exception. Human settlement and agriculture expansion along with other threats such as  
288 illegal timber harvesting and fires continues to threaten Tanzania's chimpanzee habitat  
289 [Mwampamba, 2007; Fisher et al., 2011] and specifically evergreen forests [Pintea, 2007;  
290 Pfeifer et al., 2012]. In an arid landscape like western Tanzania, gallery forests and  
291 woodland slopes are important refuges for chimpanzees, providing key food and nesting  
292 sources at various times of year [Hernandez-Aguilar et al., 2013; unpublished data], and a  
293 reduction in forest abundance clearly threatens chimpanzee viability across Tanzania  
294 [Plumptre et al., 2010; Lasch et al., 2011; Piel & Stewart, 2013; Stewart & Piel, 2013].

295 Our results quantify this relationship, and show that for each 1000ha of forest loss, the  
296 MUE landscape loses a corresponding density of 0.1 individuals/km<sup>2</sup> of wild chimpanzees  
297 (Figure 4). If the current rate of forest loss each year continues at its current rate of ~1.4%  
298 [JGI, 2014] forest lost/year and is not mitigated soon, we can expect all of Tanzania's  
299 remaining extra-park chimpanzees in MUE to be habitat-less in approximately 70 years. To  
300 more robustly test this prediction, more data on the rate of habitat loss and chimpanzee  
301 density are required across not only for the MUE but also adjacent ecosystems.

## 302 **COMPARISON TO PREVIOUS REPORTS**

303 Given the large error margins that we have calculated for 2007 chimpanzee density  
304 estimates, it is impossible to say with confidence whether chimpanzees have declined over  
305 the last seven years. However, a recent survey across the MUE in 2012 that combined  
306 genetic censusing techniques with traditional transect methods produced results with far  
307 lower error margins [Piel & Stewart, 2013] and so is worthy of inclusion here. Across 160  
308 kilometers of line transects, Piel and Stewart [2013] recorded 169 nests and collected 131

309 chimpanzee fecal samples. By using capture-recapture analyses using CAPWIRE [Miller et  
310 al., 2005; Pennell et al., 2013], they described a density across the MUE of 0.10  
311 individuals/km<sup>2</sup> (Lower CL: 0.09; Upper CL 0.13). This estimate is similar to that of the 2007  
312 data reported here, and yet was conducted only two years earlier than the lower 2014  
313 estimate.

314         These 2007 and 2012 estimates are also consistent with historical reports of  
315 chimpanzee density in the region. Except for one of the earliest studies in the mid 1950s in  
316 one high density chimpanzee area of Kasakati in Masito, which estimated densities at 0.46-  
317 0.71 [Suzuki, 1969], all previous (transect) survey work across Tanzania has reported  
318 values repeatedly and consistently between ~ 0.01 - 0.14 individuals/km<sup>2</sup> [reviewed in  
319 Moyer et al., 2006; see also Table 3].

320

321 TABLE 3 ABOUT HERE

## 322 **RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUTURE SURVEYS AND CONSERVATION ACTIONS**

323         In assessing change over time of chimpanzee presence, historical data can be  
324 useful. However, given the differences we identified above in survey design and effort,  
325 neither the 2007 or 2014 data are reliably informative for investigating chimpanzee density  
326 across MUE. For that, we recommend more extensive spatial and temporal coverage, e.g.  
327 more and longer transects that reduce error margins [Kühl et al., 2008; see detailed  
328 recommendations in: Buckland et al., 2010; Thomas et al., 2010]. Future surveys should  
329 also include a greater proportion of gallery forest than the current ones. In a heterogeneous  
330 landscape like MUE, Moyer et al. [2006] discuss zig-zagging forests, for example.

331         We further recommend that (1) new transects be added, (2) at random locations,

332 rather than areas of known chimpanzee presence, across MUE, (3) using parallel or  
333 random transect lines designed using DISTANCE to determine the most appropriate  
334 sampling method for this heterogeneous habitat, rather than transects radiating from central  
335 locations which results in over-sampling, and finally (4) transects be walked semi-annually  
336 at the same time each survey year to control for seasonal differences in chimpanzee  
337 nesting behaviour.

338         One advantage of the above-described transects is that they (temporally) frame the  
339 2012 UPP/JGI surveys recently described [Piel & Stewart, 2013], and thus provide an  
340 opportunity for longitudinal changes over time. Thus, whilst results from 2007/2014 are not  
341 directly comparable to those from 2012 because of methodological differences, these data  
342 from various areas together could be used to assess temporal patterns of chimpanzee  
343 presence/activity across various snapshots of MUE. Finally, we need to bear in mind that in  
344 all of the studies (2007, 2012, & 2014), the surveyed areas were specifically targeted  
345 because of known chimpanzee presence, and represent only a fraction of the larger  
346 ecosystem, so any extrapolations to overall population sizes and broader temporal patterns  
347 across the ecosystem need to be interpreted with caution.

348         There are already various strategies employed to address the threats to MUE [JGI,  
349 2009; Lasch et al., 2011]. For example, JGI has recently facilitated village land use plans  
350 developed by the local communities and worked together with District governments,  
351 (Tanzania National Parks (TANAPA), local communities and other non-government  
352 organisations to establish Local Area Forest Reserves that cover all the general land in the  
353 MUE. Additionally, it is now well established that researcher presence deters illegal human  
354 activity [Pusey et al., 2007; Campbell et al., 2011; Laurance, 2013; Piel et al., 2015] and so  
355 even long-term research projects may help mitigate these threats. Therefore there is a need

356 to use the results and recommendations from this study to design a comprehensive survey  
357 approach that would allow continuously evaluation of the success of ongoing conservation  
358 efforts in the region.

359

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495 **FIGURE LEGENDS**

496 Figure 1 – Map of western Tanzania and the transect locations. Shaded green areas  
497 represent predicted chimpanzee habitat.

498 Figure 2 - Chimpanzee density within each area surveyed in 2007 & 2014.

499 Figure 3 - Chimpanzee density within each vegetation type (open and closed) and  
500 compared across years in each area surveyed in 2007 and 2014.

501 Figure 4 – Comparing loss in forest with difference in chimpanzee density between 2007  
502 and 2014.

503

504 **TABLE LEGENDS**

505 Table 1 - Transect lengths and habitat proportions for each transect walked in 2007 and  
506 2014

507 Table 2 – Density estimates compared across vegetation types and globally for our re-  
508 analysis of 2007 data reported in JGI (2007) using updated nest decay rates and re-walked  
509 transects in 2014.

510 Table 3 - A comparison of MUE chimpanzee population sizes from various studies: (1) our  
511 recalculations of 2007 (JGI) survey data, (2) the current, 2014 re-walking of the 2007  
512 survey, (3) an independent survey of other MUE areas in 2012, and (4) compiled estimates  
513 using historical data.

Table 1

| Region       | Survey area<br>(abbreviated) | 2007 Transects |             |              |            | 2014 Transects |             |              |            |
|--------------|------------------------------|----------------|-------------|--------------|------------|----------------|-------------|--------------|------------|
|              |                              | Lengths (km)   |             |              | #<br>Nests | Lengths (km)   |             |              | #<br>Nests |
|              |                              | Open           | Closed      | Total        |            | Open           | Closed      | Total        |            |
| Ugalla       | Kigoma                       | 9.50           | 0.47        | 9.97         | 25         | 8.18           | 0.47        | 8.64         | 3          |
|              | Issa                         | 4.97           | 0.00        | 4.97         | 33         | 4.97           | 0.00        | 4.97         | 11         |
|              | Mkanga                       | 17.97          | 1.86        | 19.83        | 37         | 15.61          | 1.76        | 17.37        | 8          |
| Masito       | Kamkulu                      | 16.33          | 1.48        | 17.81        | 13         | 16.33          | 1.48        | 17.81        | 2          |
|              | Kalululempeta                | 16.22          | 1.50        | 17.72        | 28         | 15.77          | 1.50        | 17.27        | 2          |
| <b>TOTAL</b> |                              | <b>64.99</b>   | <b>5.31</b> | <b>70.30</b> | <b>136</b> | <b>60.86</b>   | <b>5.21</b> | <b>66.07</b> | <b>26</b>  |

Table 2

| Vegetation  | Chimpanzee density (individuals/km <sup>2</sup> ) |             |             |             |             |             |      |     |     |
|---|---|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|------|-----|-----|
|   | 2007  |             |             |             | 2014        |             |      |     |     |
|   | Mean  | LCL         | UCL         | Mean        | LCL         | UCL         | Mean | LCL | UCL |
| Open  | 0.05  | 0.02        | 0.12        | 0.04        | 0.01        | 0.27        |      |     |     |
| Closed  | 1.34  | 0.47        | 3.83        | 0.29        | 0.12        | 0.70        |      |     |     |
| Overall (controlling for 7.9% forest on transects)    | 0.12  | 0.06        | 0.23        | 0.06        | 0.02        | 0.23        |      |     |     |
| <b>Overall (controlling for 3% forest across MUE)</b> | <b>0.09</b>                                       | <b>0.03</b> | <b>0.23</b> | <b>0.05</b> | <b>0.01</b> | <b>0.30</b> |      |     |     |







