

The Rufford Small Grants Foundation

Final Report

Congratulations on the completion of your project that was supported by The Rufford Small Grants Foundation.

We ask all grant recipients to complete a Final Report Form that helps us to gauge the success of our grant giving. The Final Report must be sent in **word format** and not PDF format or any other format. We understand that projects often do not follow the predicted course but knowledge of your experiences is valuable to us and others who may be undertaking similar work. Please be as honest as you can in answering the questions – remember that negative experiences are just as valuable as positive ones if they help others to learn from them.

Please complete the form in English and be as clear and concise as you can. Please note that the information may be edited for clarity. We will ask for further information if required. If you have any other materials produced by the project, particularly a few relevant photographs, please send these to us separately.

Please submit your final report to jane@rufford.org.

Thank you for your help.

Josh Cole, Grants Director

Grant Recipient Details

Your name	Rosemary Tonjock
Project title	Diversity and Conservation of macro-fungi in the Mount Cameroon Region
RSG reference	10907-2
Reporting period	December 2011-December 2012
Amount of grant	£5950
Your email address	rosemary32us@yahoo.com
Date of this report	4 th December 2012

1. Please indicate the level of achievement of the project's original objectives and include any relevant comments on factors affecting this.

Objective	Not achieved	Partially achieved	Fully achieved	Comments
Conservation education			X	100 % achieved. It was well executed and the local communities were very satisfied. This was done via media campaign, presentations and distribution of printed material.
Diversity surveys			X	100 % achieved. We captured diversity of some species of mushrooms that were not recorded in the previous year. However, identification of some species is still ongoing. So far, fungi had not been studied in the Mount Cameroon Region, but our research resulted in 189 species of fungi identified so far.
Market surveys			X	100 % achieved. Ten markets in the Mount Cameroon Region were investigated and also eight markets out of the study area were also surveyed to check the mushroom trade dynamics.
Checklists of macro fungi			X	90 % achieved So far, check list for 2012 is in final stage of preparation, according to IUCN 2005 categories and criteria. 45 fungal species have been selected.

2. Please explain any unforeseen difficulties that arose during the project and how these were tackled (if relevant).

All project sites were partially accessible by cars and some of the roads leading to the communities were very bad, this increased the transportation cost. The remaining part of the journey was done by trekking especially up the mountain.

Also, during the survey period, there was increase of fuel prices which led to increase cost of transportation than projected. The NGO, PSACEMM provided additional funds.

For ecological surveys we spent time camping up the mountain. There were a lot of wild animals and we were frequently disturbed by elephants. The hired local community members were those that had tactics in sending away the elephants and wild animals not to approach our tents

3. Briefly describe the three most important outcomes of your project.

1. A checklist, red lists and the spatio-temporal distribution of macro fungi species in the Mount Cameroon Region have been produced. This has constituted a reference point for future studies on biodiversity dynamics of macro fungi in the region, as well as a taxonomic resource. This will serve as a basis for developing and implementing conservation strategies for endangered species, spur up research on the biology and utilisation of undescribed species, and documentation of the genetic erosion/enrichment velocity of macro fungi in this region.

2. Conservation education. There was increased awareness and enthusiasm to support and sustain conservation education programmes among the local communities in the Mount Cameroon Region and beyond. A long-term public awareness was enhanced by distributing printed materials and media campaign to the public and the stakeholders with the purpose of raising awareness of fungi conservation.

Key threats to fungal biodiversity in the Mount Cameroon Region were assessed. The result obtained included the low level of education and lack of knowledge resulting in low public awareness, low economic status of the population, which results in excessive exploitation of natural resources for gaining economic benefit, fires during the dry season, excessive use of fertilizers, civil engineering - use of land for a different purpose, damaging the habitats and plant populations, and pollution due to improper handling of refuse, extensive use of fertilizers and pesticides, intensive agriculture, and cow grazing of the low vegetation.

3. An exploitation and trade dynamics of macro-fungi in this region was established. This gave information on the nature and degree of pressure on the different species utilised and set a basis for formulating conservation strategies that will check extinction and yet maintain or improve on the economic/health benefits from the species concerned.

4. Briefly describe the involvement of local communities and how they have benefitted from the project (if relevant).

The local communities were involved at all stages of the work from initiation with meetings and execution in the field, accommodation was used from local resources in some villages. Guides and porters were hired from the local communities during the project. The local community members were active participants in the project. In fact, the local communities took active part in the project and they have been acknowledge in the flyers distributed but will still be acknowledged in all publications resulting from the work. It was a collaborative work.

5. Are there any plans to continue this is work?

Yes, we want to continue this work but on a different phase on the cultivation of indigenous species of mushroom which are endangered and are getting extinct in the region and the creation of a database of identified fungi species in the region.

6. How do you plan to share the results of your work with others?

- 1 Flyers were distributed to the local communities about the conservation of mushroom.
- 2 Publication has been drafted and will be made available to the scientific community.
- 3 Awareness programme on conservation of mushrooms will continue with the communities.
- 4 Poster presentations have been delivered locally and will continue in the future.
- 5 A conservation guide for the macro-fungi in this region and their market dynamics will be published very soon.

7. Timescale: Over what period was the RSG used? How does this compare to the anticipated or actual length of the project?

The grant was used for 12 months, though the project is still ongoing as data analysis is still been done for the ecological diversity study. Funds were received on December 5th, 2011 and the project actually started on 5th January 2012.

8. Budget: Please provide a breakdown of budgeted versus actual expenditure and the reasons for any differences. All figures should be in £ sterling, indicating the local exchange rate used.

Notes to Budget

1.00 GBP = 748.960 XAF

British Pound Central African CFA Franc BEAC

Item	Budgeted Amount	Actual Amount	Difference	Comments
Orientation of project members and contact visits,	150	150	0	
Paid field assistance and paid field guide	900	900	0	
Lodging and transportation during field work	1500	1650	+150	Price of fuel increased during the research period resulting in increased cost of transportation and the difference was provided by the NGO.
Feeding	600	685	+85	The difference was provided by the NGO.
Equipment bought (consumables, laptop, projector, field GPS, booklets, CDs, flyer production)	2800	2800		All equipment was bought.
Total	5950		+235	

9. Looking ahead, what do you feel are the important next steps?

- Ex-situ conservation through cultivation of indigenous mushroom species.
- Creation of a database of the identified mushroom species in the region.
- To continue with conservation education on a nationwide basis.

10. Did you use the RSGF logo in any materials produced in relation to this project? Did the RSGF receive any publicity during the course of your work?

- Yes, the RSGF logo was used in the poster presentation and all oral presentations delivered during the course of the project.
- The logo was used on our conservation flyers.
- The logo was used for thesis presentation.



- The Rufford Small Grant Foundation have been and will be acknowledged in all other publication resulting from the work.
- RSGF was mentioned as the funding institution in all presentations and communications.

11. Any other comments?

It was quite a great experience. The enthusiasm of the villagers and their active participation, the commitment of the project team made it possible to attain our objectives. The research team was a great one, which worked very well with different stakeholders.

The local communities are looking forward for the continuation of this work (cultivation of indigenous mushroom species).