

## 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](mailto:jane@rufford.org).

Thank you for your help.

**Josh Cole, Grants Director**

Grant Recipient Details	
<b>Your name</b>	Sainge Nsanyi Moses
<b>Project title</b>	Biodiversity Assessment and Conservation Status of Plants in the Mbembe Forest Reserve of Donga Mantung Division in the North West Region of Cameroon.
<b>RSG reference</b>	11058-1
<b>Reporting period</b>	March 2012 to November 2012
<b>Amount of grant</b>	£5939
<b>Your email address</b>	<a href="mailto:Sainge2001@yahoo.com">Sainge2001@yahoo.com</a> , <a href="mailto:tropeg.cam@gmail.com">tropeg.cam@gmail.com</a>
<b>Date of this report</b>	11 <sup>th</sup> October, 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
To conduct botanical surveys through forest inventory			Fully achieved	Botanical Survey report available.
To identify Plants (new and old) and classify them according to their conservation value/status.			Fully achieved	
To produce a complete check list of plants in the project area.		Partially achieved		
To produce a vegetation report on plants of the project area, and publish new plant species if any			Fully achieved	
Two MSc students were supposed to use this data for their Theses.	Not Achieved			After field work, they found out that their academic objectives were contrary to the data at hand.

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

No detailed botanical survey or biodiversity work has ever been carried out in the Mbembe forest area leaving us very bare in terms of information that exists about the area. There was actually no recent detail map of the area so TroPEG decided to produce a recent map for that forest area and the reserve. This helped us show the vegetation distribution of the area as presented in our general report coming alongside this structured report format.

Mbembe is a difficult terrain with lack of good potable water during the dry season, coupled with numerous biting insects. A good Insect repellent will be ideal for future work in this area.

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

- The Biodiversity and conservation status of plants of the Mbembe Forest area known.
- Field surveys in the Mbembe forest area carried out and findings recorded. This will facilitate monitoring in later years.

- High conservation and medicinal plants of the area identified and documented.
- Comprehensive list of flora and a complete preliminary checklist of plant species of the area produced.

Due to this project, the biodiversity and conservation status of some plants of the Mbembe Forest reserve have been put in place. Close to 70 species of important medicinal plants of the area have been classified and documented.

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

The involvement of local communities were enormous starting with the Divisional Officer and Bridgette commander of Ako where we had a brief stop to inform them about our work. While at Ako two workers were employed. When we arrived at Buku, we had a meeting with Fon Lenge Joseph Eku and one worker was employed from there. A good number of workers were employed at Buku-up and Ndaka savannah. All the workers from the local communities benefitted financially as they were paid, and also they gained experience in plant inventory, plot setting and identification of plant specimens. They also now have a basic knowledge of the importance of biodiversity conservation and sustainable development. The traditional authority (Fon) being the custodian of the forest on behalf of the government will ensure that the plots set up are safeguarded as they have understood the importance of biodiversity conservation.

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

Yes. We plan to expand these plots in the Assa, Akwese, Ndaka and Abaffum area and also carry out the re-census of these plots every 3 or 5 years so as to enable us monitor the dynamics of the forest. Also, the inventory carried out on the plots have provided opportunities in the area of assessment of carbon stocks in this kind of forest for work in the domain of climate change and ecosystem dynamics.

Also, in collaboration with other local community organisations, the local government and the entire community, we would disseminate the information of this work and together strive to produce a management plan for the biodiversity area.

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

These results will be shared through reports, publications, posters, presenting them in conferences, workshops, and collaborating with other scientist in other to share data for publications and books.

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

The project was implemented as planned in 9 months. February – October 2012.

Activity	Time (Months represented M)											
	M1	M2	M3	M4	M5	M6	M7	M8	M9	M10	M11	M12
1. Assemble field survey material, field team and develop implementation strategy	X											
2. Establish survey plots, collect plants specimens, identify plant specimens and record data		X	X									
3. Enter field data for analysis and identify plant specimens in the herbarium					X	X						
4. Data analysis and production of a complete checklist of flora and their conservation status.						X	X					
5. Wrap up the project, produce final report of project activities to funder and produce scientific publications of the data collected.							X	X	X			

**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.

Item	Budgeted Amount	Actual Amount	Difference	Comments
Transportation: Buea- Project site and back	684	736	52	Increase in fuel and transportation fare in some areas.
Porters	219	219		
Tents	219	225	6	More people were involved in the work.
Communication	274	274		
Accommodation in the community	171	171		
Subsistence for principal survey persons	1,231	1,231		
Feeding cost in the field	1231	1723	492	Increase in food prices.
Identification of specimens in the herbarium in Yaounde. Hotel bills and feeding. 10 days	342	342		
Transportation, Buea – Yaounde and back	34	34		
Stationeries	137	137		
Field boots	34	34		

Medication	328	352	24	Some medications that were effective were more expensive than estimated.
Pressing papers and presses	137	137		
Production of maps of project area		200	200	We needed the maps so as to demonstrate the vegetation spread. None has ever been produced for the site.
Printing of report		137	137	To disseminate the information at the National level.
Shipping of specimens to herbaria out of Cameroon.	616	110	506	Specimens shipped to Missouri Botanical Garden Herbarium.
Contingency (5 % of Total Budget)	283			
<b>Total</b>	5940	<b>6,062</b>	122	

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

We recommend that, apart from continuing further botanical surveys, a documented booklet of all the plant species in the area should be produced. This will facilitate the production of a proper management strategy for the reserve and will help the communities understand the importance of the resources they got and how to best manage them.

#### **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 logo was posted on our bags and all the new equipments bought as we moved along the communities and explained the purpose of our work. This helped to publicise RSGF during the course of the work as communities were made to understand that RSGF was the primary supporter of the project.

#### **11. Any other comments?**

The Mbembe Forest Reserve area is a new avenue for Biodiversity Research, Conservation Biology and Sustainable development that needs to be exploited.

It is rich both in plant diversity, and the value of the forest when quantify in terms of medicinal plant value and non-timber forest product (NTFP) trade off. In future years, it can be used for carbon sequestration research and evaluated for carbon marketing if properly managed.