

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. 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. 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	Njouonkou André-Ledoux
Project title	Mushroom Caravan for Nature Conservation in Fouban Sud-division (Cameroon)
RSG reference	12641-2
Reporting period	12 April 2014 – 12 April 2015
Amount of grant	£5985.
Your email address	alnjouonkou@yahoo.fr
Date of this report	1 st May 2015

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
Sensitise the local population of 10 villages in Fouban sub-division on the diversity and importance of mushrooms in their area			Yes	
Sensitise the local population of 10 villages in Fouban Subdivision on the different legislation guiding exploitation of forest resources and environmental conservation.			Yes	
Better the understanding of the local population through workshops with Forest officials of the Ministry of Forestry and wildlife.			Yes	
Educate the local population on the impact of the different anthropogenic activities on their environment through field surveys		Yes		In some villages, due to heavy rain, we could not go to the field as such only oral presentations with power point with case study Fouban sub-division was realised.
Collect and identify other species of local mushrooms and document their ethnomycological uses		Yes		Due to the climatic conditions at the time, most species of mushroom were unavailable.

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

During the project, we had some difficulties among which the following were relevant:

- In some villages our agenda conflicted with some local activities (wedding, death ceremonies and traditional ceremonies). In such cases we had to reschedule the visit to such communities. In others, when it was a development meeting, we pleaded with them and included our activities on their agenda.
- Due to the high demand from local population we had to update and publish a new local mushrooms almanac. Its production cost was totally supported by us thanks to our research and innovation allowance from the Ministry of Higher education in Cameroon.

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

- a) A large number of persons were informed of the importance of fungi especially edible and medicinal mushrooms that play an important role in our nutrition and health.
- b) Thanks to debates, testimonies of elderly persons and field trips, the population of the different villages have realised that some of their activities are harmful to their environment, culture and health. They agreed that, they must act in favour of the conservation of nature and biological resources in their forest.
- c) The caravan gave the opportunity to the local population of the different villages to discuss with forestry officers from the Ministry of Forest and wild Life (MINFOF). The latter informed the local population about their function and different supports (distribution of sapling of *Eucalyptus* and follow-up and management of private forest) that they give to those who want to produce timbers.

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

Local communities were involved in presentation during which they exposed their opinion on mushroom diversity and importance. They also gave their point of view with regards to the underlying causes and consequences of environmental disturbance. They participated in the field works during which we analysed together the effects and consequences of nature disturbance and contributed in mushroom collection and identification.

They received answers to most of their worries concerning the country legislation on forest and wildlife, got information on MINFOF who did not only blame but also gave many technical and material supports to organise their different groups. They were informed that the Divisional Delegation of MINFOF was distributing saplings of eucalyptus free of charge to those who were willing to create their private forest. We also gave support to local primary schools.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes, because in almost all villages, we observed that local trees and forest are disappearing at an alarming rate and the local population was interested in acquiring training on mushroom cultivation. As such if such an opportunity is given, it will bust an understanding in the cultivation and multiplication of mushroom and planting of wild trees.

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

We have updated the almanac published in 2012 with additional species and distributed it to the local population and pasted some on the University campuses in Cameroon. We are now preparing a scientific article that will be published this year thereby sharing the results with the entire scientific world.

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

12 months as was established in the project schedule.

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.

1£ = 735 fcfa

Item	Budgeted Amount	Actual Amount	Difference	Comments
Inter-urban transportation of staff member using public cars	400	480	-80	Due to the increases of fuel and transport price
Renting car and fuel for local transportation	800	945	-145	Due to the increases of fuel and transport price
Hotel fees for staff members	750	725	+25	Discount from the hotel manager
Feeding of staff members	500	522	-22	Due to the inflation arising from the increase in fuel price
Cocktails and refreshment after meetings	600	600	0	ok
Allowances of local field guides	500	500	0	ok
Video projector	450	440	+10	Variation of price in the market
Electrical generator	420	433	-13	Variation of price in the market
Laptop	475	575	-100	We added antivirus and software for the good functioning of the computer
Tension throttle	100	100	0	ok
Rent of mass communication materials	340	340	0	ok
GPS Garmin	300	325	-25	Price variation in the market
Unforeseen	350		350	Used to support the above changes
TOTAL	5985	5985	0	

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

During our tour one question was recurrent: “how to cultivate mushrooms?” We hope that if we can give a practical answer to this question, it will be a bold step.

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, we used the Rufford logo on the almanac we published, projected it during our field presentations and all publicity that was used in the field.

11. Any other comments?

During the tour we observed that elderly and old persons were most interested on environmental questions than the youth who are more concerned with football and music.