

The Rufford Foundation Final Report

Congratulations on the completion of your project that was supported by The Rufford 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	Peter Fundi Njagi
Project title	Impact of human subsistence activities on habitat use by Percival's black and white colobus monkey in Mathews Range Forest Reserve
RSG reference	13419-1
Reporting period	July 2013-August 2014
Amount of grant	£5252
Your email address	fundu@primateresearch.org
Date of this report	

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
Habitat use by Percival’s black and white colobus			Fully Achieved	There were a few delays due to insecurity
Percival’s colobus habitat characterisation and community participation			Fully Achieved	
Community capacity building and education		Partially achieved		Major workshops could not be held due to inter-community political instability within Wamba town

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

- a) Insecurity: during August and September 2013 and April 2014, the region was insecure due to inter-community fighting. Due to this, the project had to be delayed during this time to allow for calm and secure access of the forest. On major workshop at Wamba town had to be cancelled citing insecurity in the region.
- b) High density of elephants and buffaloes migrating from Samburu National Reserve making access of the forest without an armed guard unsafe. Consequently, I had to reduce the amount being paid to the Principal Investigator to include two armed scouts from Namnyak conservancy.
- c) The road network was seriously damaged by the May-June 2013 rains and access of Nkare Narok and Nkilai camp sites was impossible, even with 4 x 4 cars. We, therefore, had to walk the inaccessible sections for long hours.
- d) The workshops were only attended by the male elders excluding women who comprise the highest percentage of livestock herders in the forest. This is part of their traditions where women are not allowed to attend elders’ meetings. We however managed to educate those women and youth we met in the forest on the importance of forest conservation.

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

The study yielded a total of 302 Percival’s colobus individuals distributed within the high-altitude forests of Mathews range forest reserve. There was a strong correlation between habitat destruction and colobus numbers with the southern region (Wamba) recording the highest level of disturbance ranging from tree felling, pruning, forest fires, and medicinal plants extraction. The same region recorded the highest numbers of Percival’s colobus (135), compared to other regions (76 at Nkare Narok and 54 at Murit) and their habitat selection coincided with vegetation regeneration and fairly opened forests.

The project was able to train six community members and two armed rangers/scouts on vegetation data collection including plant identification, Percival’s colobus sexing and ageing, use of a GPS and data recording. The scouts will continuously monitor the colobus population and collect data on

habitat status during their daily patrols. In addition, they will educate the community on the importance of conserving colobus habitats.

During the community workshops the elders supported the efforts made by the research team to understand the ecology of Percival's colobus and the need to conserve Mathew's forests as a habitat for this endangered and endemic subspecies. They also agreed to appoint a grazing coordinator from among the elders who will be zoning the grazing areas and ensure sustainable extraction of pasture from the forest. In addition, the elders agreed on allocating one of the abandoned houses to be used as a research station and Namnyak conservancy to collaborate with the Institute of Primate Research in its establishment and management.

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

In order to enhance community participation in the conservation of Mathews Range forest reserve, six community members were trained on colobus sexing, ageing, behavioural data collection, vegetation monitoring and habitat characterization. The six were very resourceful during community workshops where they translated the project output in the Samburu language. In addition, three community scouts whose job is daily patrols in the forest to control illegal activities were trained on colobus monitoring, habitat studies and identification of threats to the population. The scouts will be very instrumental in ensuring that the controlled grazing zones will be avoided by the herders as they continue monitoring the populations and their habitats.

Four community workshops were also held to share the project findings with the community and collate their views towards conservation of Percival's colobus and their habitats. A total of 114 elders attended the meetings and the importance of Mathews forest not only as a source of water and pasture for the livestock, but also a habitat for a variety of wildlife species including the endangered and endemic Percival's black and white colobus was emphasised. The distribution of Percival's colobus within the forest and the major anthropogenic threats observed including livestock overgrazing, unsustainable tree pruning and felling for fodder, honey harvesting, medicinal plants extraction and fire effects in forest were spelt out. The proposed mitigation measures were explained to the community which included zoning of colobus habitats and controlled grazing of within these zones. The elders were also trained on sustainable pruning of trees for fodder while avoiding those trees which die out after pruning (including *Craibia laurentii*) and reducing the number of browsers (goats and camel) getting into the high altitude forests.

It was noted that, the community had their own mitigation measure in place which included curbing entry into the forest by grazers from a different tribe and actively participating in fire monitoring efforts. The community agreed to appoint an elder responsible for overseeing grazing activities in the forest and to allocate grazing blocks during prolonged drought periods. The community was made to understand the long-term impacts of their activities in the forest and how this will negatively impact on their livelihood. In response to this, they pledged to set aside an area where a research station can be developed to facilitate studies on this unexplored forest reserve with the station's benefits being channelled back to the community. The Institute of Primate Research in collaboration with Namnyak conservancy is already formulating memorandum of understanding and memorandum of agreements on the refurbishment and management of the research station

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

I plan to further this work by initiating integrated conservation of Mathews range with efforts to enhance nature-based enterprises within the community to reduce over-reliance on livestock for their livelihood.

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

The project results will be presented in form of a report to be presented to Namnyak conservancy offices and a copy of be deposited at the Institute of Primate Research library and to the Kenya Wildlife Service office at Isiolo. The project findings will also be published in one of the peer reviewed journals. In addition, the project findings will be presented in conservation conferences both local and international.

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

The grant was used between October 2013 and October 2014. A three months delay was caused by insecurity in the region leading to the late reporting of the project findings.

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
Principal investigator research allowance for 60 days	864	432	432	The amount had to be reduced to hire two security scouts
Six local research assistants for 60 days	1296	1296	nil	The local assistants agreed to be paid the budgeted £3.6 per day
Two armed Scouts for 60 days	nil	432	432	PI allowance was reduced to cater for the difference
Car Hire during field work for 60 days	1727	1727	nil	The car hire company agreed to rent a car at the budgeted amount of £29 per day
800 liters of fuel	633	550	83	Less fuel was used because in many occasions I could not drive to the site.
Car maintenance for the days in the field	106	71	34	I did not experience any major break downs during field work
GPS	216	216	nil	The GPS price did not fluctuate from the budgeted amount
Digital camera	180	193	13	There was a slight increase in the market price
Eight Field notebooks	6	6	nil	All budgeted amount spent
One dozen pencils	2	2	Nil	All budgeted amount spent
One dozen pens	2	2	nil	All budgeted amount spent
One dozen erasers	1	1	Nil	All budgeted amount spent
One dozen sharpeners	1	1	Nil	All budgeted amount spent

One dozen manila papers (for the workshop)	5	5	Nil	All budgeted amount spent
Four marker pens (for the workshops)	1	1	Nil	All budgeted amount spent
Six pairs of rechargeable batteries (for the GPS)	17	27	Nil	There was a slight increase in the Market Price
Three Battery chargers	22	32	10	There was a slight increase on the market price
Workshop (to facilitate local administrative chiefs)	173	142	31	One workshop could not be held due to inter-clan politics
Total	5252	5136	-116	

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

- a) All the three study sites should have a powerful grazing coordinator, who should undergo rigorous training on monitoring anthropogenic threats, monitoring grazing effects on the ecosystem and public relations to ensure effective conservation education communication with the community.
- b) Namnyak Conservancy should establish a research department, which coordinates wildlife and vegetation monitoring studies within the forest.
- c) The local community should be sensitised and empowered on investing in alternative livelihood to reduce over-reliance on livestock amidst the changing climatic patterns.
- d) Long term monitoring of Percival's colobus population and their habitat within Mathews Range forest reserve should be initiated.
- e) Community awareness and sensitization on forest resources conservation and the impacts of anthropogenic activities should be a continuous process.

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

Not yet

11. Any other comments?

I wish to pass my very sincere gratitude to RSGF for awarding this grant, which was fundamental in unveiling the underlying impacts of anthropogenic activities within Mathews Range forest reserve. It is with the help of this grant that plans to construction of a research station within Mathews are underway which will be key in not only furthering research on Percival's colobus but other species within the ecosystem. I look forward to advancing on the project findings and provide long term measures to the conservation of Percival's colobus and the entire Mathews range forest reserve.