

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	Rachel Ashegbofe Ikemeh
Project title	Nigerian-Cameroon Chimpanzee (<i>Pan troglodytes ellioti</i>) Research and Conservation in Southwestern Nigerian Forests
RSG reference	14066-2
Reporting period	January 2014 – December 2014
Amount of grant	£5962
Your email address	r.ashegbofe@gmail.com
Date of this report	09/01/2015

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
Support government efforts in recognising and identifying (mapping) proposed conservation areas			√	A draft management plan is being prepared for the work we have done in on-ground surveys of the proposed boundaries of this conservation area.
Develop and implement cybertracker guided ecological monitoring targeting resident chimpanzee population		√		An ongoing activity
Collect available evidence and samples for continued studies in determining local chimpanzee evolutionary linkage		√		Samples collected so far are going to be shipped to our collaborating partner in Copenhagen Zoo where analysis will be conducted. The results will determine if objective has been fully achieved
Increase awareness through targeted conservation education in local communities		√		We conducted a school conservation education programme using custom-made chimpanzee stuffed toys with nursery and primary school children in Idanre town, the largest community close to the proposed conservation sites. This activity is still ongoing and will be expanded to other smaller communities and amongst other age groups. It is still too early to tell what we have done so far has increased awareness of the project and species amongst a representative number of people living close to the sites.
Update information on status of other critical wildlife species in the project site			√	

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

- a) Political and administrative changes within the Government Ministry responsible for forest management i.e. the change of the Director of Wildlife Conservation, the Permanent Secretary and Commissioner at the Ministry of Natural Resources slowed the project's progress as the team had to start all over briefing and negotiations with the new officials.
- b) Incessant clearing of forests for Indian hemp and excessive logging within the proposed conservation areas made the team concentrate more efforts in policy advocacy than on the needed survey work on chimpanzee monitoring.

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

- a. Developing a draft management plan and engaging the government every step of the way in promoting the demarcation of proposed conservation sites.
- b. We increased public awareness and stakeholder involvement at federal, international levels including local communities.
- c. Updated data on species and habitat status in the last critical to understanding the trends of biodiversity loss in the area.

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

Local people were hired on all of our field work especially as research assistants and for assisting with logistics. We also involved key community members and local chieftain in stakeholder consultation component of this project.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes, this work is ongoing with partial funding from the Margot Marsh Biodiversity Foundation and the African Wildlife Foundation

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

We are working on a draft management plan that will be discussed at a multi-level stakeholder meeting to be organised after the general elections in the country this year. We are also working on scientific papers and articles that should be prepared within the next 6 months.

A media company we are working with is helping us develop a news video/short documentary of the threats we are observing in our project sites, our challenges and the efforts of our team.

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

Over a period of 8 months and since it was part funding required for the overall project costs, it was about the time frame we had anticipated.

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
Camping/Field supplies (subsistence for team @£5 per day x 91 days)	1525	1,150	375	We did not spend the anticipated full number of days in the field.
Transportation and logistics	1640	1670	-30	-
Stipends and compensations	1600	1,982	-382	We added another member to the project team who assisted with us with administrative and communications issues
Communication and Administrative costs	665	1,160	-495	Due to the demands of policy advocacy, we expended more amount on communications and administration than had anticipated
2 PDAs for cyber tracker	400	0	400	African Wildlife Foundation (AWF) provided the project with a cyber tracker device and training to use it
4 waterproof notebooks	132	0	132	Could not be sourced locally
TOTAL	5962	5962	0	

*Local exchange rate fluctuated slightly during the funding period between £1 = NGN 255 – 270 sometimes depending on the buyer than on the official market rate

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

In general, we are committed to intensifying efforts to ensure that surviving populations of chimpanzee and other critical wildlife species occurring within the Idanre forest landscape are protected knowing they are the last populations holding on to survival in southwestern Nigeria. The government authorities and local communities hold the key to achieving this key conservation agenda. Thus, our overall goal looking forward is to engage these key stakeholders in such a way as to actively influence decisions that will ensure effective conservation.

- a) Continue systematic set-up of camera traps within proposed conservation areas and intensify efforts to increase coverage area.
- b) Continue focused surveys on collection of genetic sample materials to ascertain chimpanzee genetics (as a strategy rather than scientific objective), perhaps if results show sub-species uniqueness, then it will increase conservation attention for these areas etc.
- c) Intensify school educational campaigns with chimpanzee modelled stuffed toys and posters.
- d) Publish management plan for the proposed conservation areas as an instrument to continue negotiations with government

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. In all presentations, documents and posters produced for the campaign, RSGF logo was displayed prominently.

11. Any other comments?

Thanks to the RSGF and all of our funders and partners without whom we couldn't have been able to get any work done towards the conservation of this highly important forest ecosystem and critically endangered species. We have not yet achieved our overall objective of getting these areas and species fully protected but every step we make brings us closer to achieving this fundamental goal of conservation.