

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	Eric Marcel Temba
Project title	Does Ecotourism affect avian reproductive success in a Madagascar's National Park?
RSG reference	14175-1
Reporting period	December 2013-December 2014
Amount of grant	£5983
Your email address	tembamarcel@yahoo.fr
Date of this report	03/01/15

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
Detecting bird predators in national park and surrounding areas		X		So far we have detected few predators, either mammals, rodents or birds. However we could not identify properly each species detected despite our use of camera traps like for instance for the bird case. Moreover it remains difficult to determine species with the footprints because of lack of references.
Detecting anthropogenic disturbance by ecotourism		X		Few cases of ecotourism traces are encountered during our field work. We assessed numerous human footprints on our plywood. These traces may have been left by the tour guide spotters; we also detected few nests broken by similar reason in the park. Nevertheless it is still hard to quantify this case of disturbance without achieving the data analysis.
Assessing predator density (black rats)		X		During the field this year, our three nights sampling allowed us to have an overview of the population of this rodents in the park.
Measuring noise disturbance	X			We did not get the sound recorders on time.
Collaboration with national park authorities			X	We exchange continuously information with the park managers either in the site or here in Antananarivo through their database officer.
Communication to local community and scientific field			X	Through the small meeting with local base community surrounding the forest, workshop with all stakeholders and some seminars in our department allow us to share the information and to get new idea to go deepen in the subject.
To prepare a report with recommendations for a better ecotourism management		X		Our exchange with the park authority contains a small recommendation for management in the park. However we hope to send a full report of recommendation for ecotourism in the end of the project.

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

There were four relevant obstacles that caused a delay in the execution of the activities of our project. The first one was the administrative part. It took time for us to get our research permit from the Ministry of Forest. That forced us to postpone our field trip after 1 month of waiting. The second obstacle was the scarcity of certain materials that were necessary to conduct the sampling, for which we were forced to import them from abroad, and the materials had to spend some time there waiting someone or friend to bring them, causing more delays in some part of the methods. The third obstacle is the devaluation of currency here in Madagascar which leads us to a difficulty during the purchase of equipment. The last obstacle was that we had to cancel one of our study site (Tolongoina) that had been initially chosen, because we are recently informed that this area was not safe due to illegal gold mining and illegal logging. This situation makes us to change our activities in a third site (Vatoharanana) which is still part of the park but at about three hours from Talatakelo and still a pristine forest. However, despite of these obstacles, we almost reached our objectives

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

2. Indirect effect of ecotourism was assessed with the high presence of some predators like black rats. We think that the density of this species increases because of numerous wastes thrown in the park.
3. Ecotourism effect was encountered showed by several small paths even new one resulting the disturbance and destruction of few nests and contents.
4. Our ability to communicate and share our findings and our preliminary results is one of the most important parts of the project which lead us to collaborate to all stakeholders.

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

Awareness of the locals about having new management of ecotourism was created by sharing and explaining the project with the tour guide and their spotters to explain to the tourists to respect the recommendation. Environmental education was given to the school students in order to emphasize the importance of the bird community and can be sold for the ecotourism income.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

As this project is for PhD completion, we are willing to continue the project for a better database for a better management. For the next step, we are planning to use a sound meter to detect the noise disturbance if it affects the nest success. Also we are planning to build footprint field guide of the mammals and rodents in the park and also in Madagascar.

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

The outputs of this project will continue to be shared as publications in peer reviewed journals and extension articles. We are also planning to create a map of the park for a better ecotourism trail which we will edit it on a brochure. Finally, the achievement of this project is for PhD thesis which will be used as reference.

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 Rufford Small Grants has been used for a period of 12 month. This represents the second year of this study which is almost the half part of the time needed to complete the project.

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.

MGA 1 = £ 0.00025

Item	Budgeted Amount	Actual Amount	Difference	Comments
Travelling (Tanà-Ranomafana + food)	23	23	OK	
Park entrance fees	7.5	7.5	OK	
Field expenses (accommodation centre valbio, technician, car to Vohiparara)	3031	3285	254	We got unexpected expenses. Difference was covered by other fund
Expedition to Vatoharanana (replacement site)	318	318	OK	We had the same budgeted amount even we did not go to the corridor because we got the expenses during the expedition. We used the amount (£ 12), which had been for travelling, to pay porters to carry our equipments, cook for the team.
Materials for sampling (cam, memory cards, batteries, steel ropes, padlock, battery charger)	2664	2864	200	Difference was covered by other fund
Total	6043,5	6497,5	454	As mentioned in the application Dr Mar Cabeza covers some of the extra amount of the budget. Some of these extra amounts were from the exchange rate fluctuation here in Madagascar.

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

The immediate important step is to carry out the next field work. Since our entire data are gathered we could complete the project to the thesis. Finally we can provide our recommendation to park authorities which is the most important and achievement of the project.

**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?**

Yes. I acknowledged Rufford support at the end of any presentation (seminary). Also we have organised a small workshop session with the students in the department with a topic "How to get funding for research». I will be acknowledged RSGF in every publication from the study in the future.

11. Any other comments?

I would like to acknowledge the major contribution of the Rufford Foundation for the successful outcomes of this project. I am sure will contribute to the global efforts of biodiversity conservation. I am really thankful to and hoping for continuous support from Rufford Foundation in the future.