# The Rufford Foundation

# Final Report

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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**

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| **Grant Recipient Details** | |
|---|---|
| **Your name** | Krizler C. Tanalgo |
| **Project title** | Assessment of Wildlife Hunting and Trade along Local Communities in Two Conservation Sites on Mindanao Island, Philippines |
| **RSG reference** | 14528-1 |
| **Reporting period** | February 2014-February 2015 |
| **Amount of grant** | £ 5911 |
| **Your email address** | tkrizler@gmail.com |
| **Date of this report** | February 2015 |

**1. Please indicate the level of achievement of the project's original objectives and include any relevant comments on factors affecting this.**

| Objective/s | Not achieved | Partially achieved | Fully achieved | Comments |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Assessment of wildlife hunting and trade in two conservation sites in Mindanao Island, Philippines | | x | | • We were able to fully assess wildlife hunting in Mt. Apo National Park with five major sites surveyed with 165 respondents.<br>• We were not able to fully document wildlife hunting in one of conservation sites specifically in Mt. Matutum due to security (i.e. heightened alert level toward rebel groups) and safety issues travelling to the locality and we do not like to compromise the safety of the team. However, we focused our survey and our activities in Mt. Apo National Park by expanding our survey and period of local engagements. |
| Identify wildlife species being hunted and traded by locals along conservation site | | | x | • Preferred species for hunting and trade were identified by local hunters.<br>• Most of the species hunted were larger mammal species (i.e. wild boar, deer, bats, and wildcats), reptiles (monitor lizards, python) and birds. Species mostly traded were birds for cage and pet.<br>• There were species hunted, and domesticated and soon sold to buyers. |
| Determine drivers of local wildlife hunting and trade | | | x | • The drivers of hunting and trade were identified by local hunters and locals with knowledge on hunting and trade.<br>• The reason behind hunting and non-hunting of wildlife were understood based from local |

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| | | | | hunters.<br>• Change in hunting and trade activity from the past (15-30 yrs.) to present was examined.<br>• Poverty, and demand for meat and wildlife products were the overlapping drivers of local hunting and trade in conservation sites.<br>• Retaliation for locally considered as pest wildlife species like civet, monkeys, and wild boar.<br>• Religion, beliefs, and government were the main reasons of decrease/stopping of hunting and trade in local communities.<br>• A significant change in hunting frequency and practices over time were noted. |
| Assessment of hunter's and hunting profile | | | x | • The socio-demographic profile of hunters, non-hunters, hunter-trader, with knowledge only were determined.<br>• The method used for hunting, hunting manners, practices, distance travelled, hunting success, frequency of hunting and trade, the place were species sold, the price, and hunting success were revealed from the survey and local visitations.<br>• Most of the hunters were married males, ranging from the age to 25-45 years old. |
| Involvement of local community for raising awareness towards wildlife conservation through conservation education programmes and dissemination information-education | | | x | • We were able to involve local leaders, *Datus,* Chieftains, youth leaders and educators during the run of the project.<br>• Information dissemination was made through meetings and group discussion with the aid of local translators and educators to |

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| communication materials. | | | | facilitate easy understanding.<br>• Photograph-based posters showing variety of wildlife species, their importance and urging local communities to protect them were produced distributed.<br>• Celebrated the "*International Day of Biological Diversity 2014*" with one of the village sites.<br>• Local educators agreed to incorporate "*Wildlife and Nature Conservation*" topics on their classes in primary education. |
| Identify local knowledge and beliefs relevant in framing wildlife conservation action plans. | | | | • Other relevant information about wildlife was documented from different community members especially from older generations.<br>• Significant local knowledge, beliefs and practices relevant to conservation were documented and will be analysed in creating effective wildlife conservation measures.<br>• Based from the survey of local knowledge and beliefs, some of the species were protected due to their known services, and 'good luck' provided.<br>• Identified local knowledge and beliefs will be analysed to be incorporated in creating local action plan for sustainable human-wildlife existence in conservation sites. |

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

- Untoward scenarios were faced during the year the project was implemented. There were untoward occurred during the course of the project that hindered the team to meet some of its objectives. One of these is the security situation in the region (presence of rebel groups) and the accessibility to other areas. We negotiated with local

leaders and local government units to allow the entry. Some allowed us to enter but some didn't want to risk the security of the team.

- Another one is my age issue, though not a major issue, during the survey and local engagement I am 20 years of age. I found some difficulties in convincing the locals to talk and discuss essential information regarding local wildlife hunting and trade but this issue was circumvent by getting their trust and attention by sharing similar and known experience to them, and constantly interacting with them.

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

*I. Significant drivers, practices, species preferences in wildlife hunting and trade of local hunters in conservation sites were identified and assessed.*

- Most hunters were determined to be married males with age range of 25-45 years old. Hunting is usually frequent during dry season of the year (March to June) where agricultural products are scarce during growing period. Also the in drier season, it is very easy for them to penetrate the forest grounds and wildlife habitats unlike during the wet season due to terrain and extreme cold temperature higher incidents in hunters occur. Another one, is during flowering and fruiting season of trees signals hunters to pursue hunting. Hunters are commonly in groups of 3-4, with at least once a per month entry. Distance travelled from the past (20-30 years ago) was found to have significantly altered.

  Hunters are using locally made *'Lit-ag'* a snare-trap that comes in different sizes depending on their target species. For larger mammal species, a metal or bamboo *'Bangkaw'* or spear is used to hunt. The aid of domesticated dogs are also a practice for hunters during hunting. *'Kapulot'* – tree sap method, is also used to capture and hunt small birds. The use of rattan thorns and kites to hunt large flying foxes were also employed by local hunters. Captured and trapped animals were generally killed to obtain meat and prepared as local menus such as *'Adobo'.* Some of the extra meat were sold (sometimes) to neighbours. It is also noted by hunters that sometimes, hunting is unsuccessful.

  For locals, the main reason of hunting is for food source especially meat from large mammals (wild boar, deer, long-tailed macaque, bats, and wild cats), reptiles (monitor lizard and python) and birds. Retaliation is also another reason of hunting, for example in one of the localities, an operation 'king-cobra hunt' was set due to death cases due to cobra-human attracts. Trading preferences is more on small bird (i.e. *Padda oryzivora, Loriculus philippenensis*) species which were caged and sold in markets and lowlands. In other conservation areas, civet cats (*Paradoxurus hermaphroditus*) were trapped and domesticated by locals and later sold to coffee plantation owners where it is very valuable in the production of high-priced civet coffees.

We were able to comprehensively assessed and document significant drivers of wildlife hunting and trade in conservation sites. A validated questionnaire designed to determine overlapping of reasons in hunting and trade was created. Poverty, and demand for meat and wildlife products were two overlapping reasons of hunting and trade. Government regulation have also played an important role in mitigating hunting and trade but need to be reviewed again due to the absence of sustainable hunting protocols.

II. *Determined important local knowledge and beliefs relevant in designing conservation action plans regarding wildlife hunting and trade in conservation sites.*

- Part of the project is to determine local perception, knowledge, and beliefs toward wildlife species in their localities. The project were able to determine those significant knowledge and beliefs that were very relevant in wildlife conservation. One important beliefs that mitigates hunting and trade in communities in conservation areas, is indigenous beliefs, they believe that wildlife species plays a vital role in their culture for bringing good luck, good health, bounty harvest, and warning to untoward natural calamities. For example, people do not hunt collared-doves (*Geopelia* sp. and *Phapitreron* sp.) because of the belief that it brings warning especially during travel. Hornbills calls are serving as biological clock for many locals, the sound of owls during the night is feared to bring bad luck and death among family members. Locals also utilizes wildlife products for medicinal beliefs, such as, eating the meat of known species (i.e. deer) will transfer the strength of the animal to the one who consumed the meat. Some also uses parts of a specific animal to acquire their ability. In a different story, one locality has a unique wildlife interaction. Long-tailed macaques *(Macaca fascicularis)* were significant part of their community and were protected by the religious group.

  The information obtained is currently analysed to incorporate this in creating action plans for the sustainable human-wildlife existence in conservation areas.

III. *Raised awareness of different local community members towards wildlife species and their conservation*

- Conservation education is an important component of any conservation studies and project. We conducted conservation education programmes involving local leaders and educators to spread information with other members of the community. During interviews and focused group discussion, harmonious approach of idea exchange was done to elucidate to them the importance of every wildlife species as well as their ecological services provided in the environment. Waterproof posters in local dialect were also disseminated with the community. A bond with local leaders were also establish for constant updates and monitoring of wildlife in their respective communities.

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

- The conduct of the study was mainly conducted with the local community. They are the important component of the success of the study. Their involvement was very essential during community surveys, and community education programmes. Locals were involved in disseminating information towards conservation. Local communities also became our short-term warm homes during the conduct of the study and we were also able to discuss and exchange various information about wildlife species with them, and also learned various issues indigenous people living in conservation areas are facing.

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

- Yes, the next step of the work will be in a species-specific approach. Species identified as vulnerable and preferred for hunting and trade will be the focus of the next phase. Quantifying their yield and demand for wildlife product will be assessed and proposed. With this, there will be a clear solution and appropriate government intervention to sustain indigenous people living in conservation sites. This further work is planned to be part of my MSc degree in Wildlife conservation/Environmental Anthropology.

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

The result and portions of the result of the project was already will be shared among conservationists, wildlife managers, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, local communities and fellow young and early career conservationists.

I also have a chance to talk with senior conservationists working with similar projects from the Philippines and abroad and were able to obtain and learn essential points in doing such projects. I am also able to obtain a certificate in *Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative* (CITI) that is very essential in handling human subjects such as surveys.

The outcome of the project will be presented during the *1st Southeast Asian Youth Conference on Illegal Wildlife Trade* to be held in Manila, Philippines from 17th-21st of March 2015. My involvement in wildlife hunting and trade project supported by Rufford enabled me to be selected as one of the participant of the said conference organised by United Nations Environmental Program. The conference is an opportunity to share the significant result of the project and encourage fellow youth and young-budding conservationist to do more and participate in various conservation works and projects. The result of the project also be shared during the Philippine Annual Biodiversity Symposium of the Wildlife Conservation Society of the Philippines in April 2015.

Also a local conference and lecture series will be organised with cooperation of the Department of Biological Sciences, USM inviting academicians and educators to impart the significant result of the study to fellow academicians.

Currently, we are writing for publication consideration in relevant journals such as *Conservation Biology, Journal of Threatened Taxa, Conservation and Society.* At present, we are preparing one paper to be submitted and possibly 1 ro 2 more paper will be produced in 2015.

**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 from February 2014 to January 2015. There were some delays of implementation but we were able to cope-up with the changes.

**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 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Computer and printer | 363 | 363 | 0 | |
| Digital camera | 218 | 218 | 0 | |
| Field equipment (tent, boots, rain coat, bags) | 290 | 261 | 29 | Able to save one tent and boots from personal |
| Voice and video recorder | 145 | 145 | 0 | |
| Hand-held GPS | 145 | 217 | -72 | The model for the said price is not available |
| Transportation (fuel, travel allowance, local vehicle use) | 1160 | 1160 | 0 | Also covered part of Airfare |
| Food and services | 725 | 870 | -145 | Changes because we include our local host and partners in food preparation during our stay |
| Local guides | 435 | 435 | 0 | |
| Living cost of researchers | 1450 | 1450 | 0 | |
| Workshop, seminars, and interactive trainings | 145 | 217 | -72 | |
| Training for local students, academicians | 145 | 145 | 0 | |

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| Production of educational materials and conservation programs in village | 400 | 145 | 255 | |
| Communication (mobile, fax, internet) | 145 | 290 | -145 | The difference was personally shouldered by the researchers (12 months) |
| Report and photo processing, and publication | 145 | 145 | 0 | Budget here was allocated for publication fees in open-access journals. Difference will be personally shouldered by the researchers |
| | 5911 | 6061 | -150 | |

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

The project was only a first-step of the conservation actions in the conservation site. The next step of this project will be the framing of conservation measures or incorporating this with the existing protocols, this will be done through consultations with government and environment sector of the government. The quantification of demand and yield per hunt on a species specific basis is also a recommended next step of the project.

Highlighting appropriate species protection of vulnerable to hunting and trade should be given attention. Implementation of sustainable livelihood to replace hunting and trading activities is also recommended.

**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, The Rufford Foundation logo was used in materials produced related to the project. The logo appeared in official communication letters, team's ID, t-shirts, posters, presentations, talks and other related activities. The Rufford Foundation was highly appreciated as the funding agency of the project, the goal of the Foundation were also mentioned during meetings.

**11. Any other comments?**

The team is so much grateful for the grants provided by the Rufford Foundation. With the fund provided we were able to establish a comprehensive baseline data on wildlife hunting and trade in conservation site in Mindanao Island, Philippines. The project have personally nurtured and inspired me to further my interest in the field of ecology and conservation.