

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	Mbunya Francis Nkemnyi
Project title	Enabling sustainable great apes conservation in the Tofala Hill Wildlife Sanctuary (THWS), South West Cameroon
RSG reference	15580-2
Reporting period	2014/2015
Amount of grant	£5000
Your email address	nmbunyaf@gmail.com
Date of this report	30/07/2015

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
To build field staff capacity in conflict management and participatory approach to community-based conservation through a workshop			x	
To identify and map the mechanism by which access is gained, maintained and controlled in the THWS			x	
To define innovative strategies that can enable sustainability and participatory management using the logical framework approach			x	

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

No major unforeseen difficulties arose during the implementation of the project.

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

- 18 field staff from the field based organisations (the Environment and Rural Development Foundation and the Resource Centre for Environment and Sustainable Development) were trained on conflict management and participatory approaches to wildlife conservation. This training enabled them to improve their output in managing conservation conflicts and in employing practices that can encourage community participatory management.
- Five priority interventions that provide an opportunity for rethinking the current objectives of the THWS conservation project were developed. This set the next step in redefining milestones and strategies based on empirical research. This will contribute in prioritising management actions to guide programme implementation in the THWS.
- A manuscript titled "Access to forest resources and implications on wildlife management in the Tofala Hill Wildlife Sanctuary, Cameroon" has been fully developed and ready for submission to the Journal of Conservation Biology.

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

During the process of questionnaires administration, in-depth interviewing and focus group discussions, local community members were able to learn and understand more about the conservation project through the questions that were asked to them. In most circumstances, we needed to clarify them on the questions asked. This exchange of knowledge between the researchers and local community members was a medium that encouraged knowledge sharing and learning. Secondly, the logical framework analysis method used in this project actively engaged local community members to be able to voice their concern about the project and provide opinions on the way forward. Thirdly, the training of field staff on conflict management and the use of participatory methods in project implementation will positively influence implementation success and outcomes.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

This work provides a lot of opportunities for further actions from diverse stakeholders. Priority interventions included:

- To build local capacity on sustainable agriculture practices.
- To build local capacity and leadership on action research in great apes conservation.
- To reconcile conservation education strategies with local culture and tradition.
- To improve the state of knowledge on conservation challenges.
- To promote and provide alternative livelihood options that promote great apes conservation.

As informed by the above interventions, we will like to continue this work in the direction of building local capacity and leadership on action research in great apes. This intervention has been analysed to have a significant impact in contributing to sustainable great apes conservation.

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

Firstly, the results in this report will be summarised into a policy brief and shared with all the local stakeholders participating in great apes conservation across the Western Highlands of Cameroon. Secondly, we plan to share the results of this work through participation and conferences. Some of the outputs of this work have been shared in the recent Tropical Biology Association African Alumni Group (TAAG) Conference that was held in June 2015 in Accra Ghana. <http://rcesdcam.org/african-scientists-urged-to-tackle-challenges-facing-conservation-in-africa/>. Thirdly, manuscripts will be developed from this work and this will provide a wide access to the finding of this research.

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

The period of execution of this project was between August 2014 and June 2015, which coincides with the anticipated period of this project (10 months)

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
Pre-project travel/communication	154	173	-19	-
1 field assistants for 182 days	1820	1820	0	-
Feeding cost for researcher during field work (182 days)	820	820	0	-
Transportation cost for 2 team members	1279	1333	-54	-

Field supplies	540	493	+47	-
Communication	300	300	0	-
Contingency	87	46	+41	-
TOTAL	5000	4985	+15	The difference will contribute to result dissemination cost

N.B: £1 is estimated to cost approximately XAF 790

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

The important next steps necessary to enable sustainable management in great apes conservation in the THWS as highlighted above will be:

- To build local capacity on sustainable agriculture practices.
- To build local capacity and leadership on action research in great apes conservation.
- To reconcile conservation education strategies with local culture and tradition.
- To improve the state of knowledge on conservation challenges.
- To promote and provide alternative livelihood options that promote great apes conservation.

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, I presented a talk in Accra Ghana, which was part of the results from this project and RSGF logo was incorporated in the PowerPoint presentation to acknowledge the financial support from RSGF. Locally, I was also opportune to offer two training sessions on fundraising for conservation and the support of RSGF was clearly acknowledged in my ongoing work which I used as a case study during the training.

11. Any other comments?

The support received from RSGF foundation was not only significant to this particular project but has also been very significant in promoting my career as a conservationist. Through the publicity of my work on the RSGF website, I have been able to reach a wider audience and this has been a significant contribution to my career.