

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	Hortensia Rasoanandrasana
Project title	Enhancing Community - Managed Conservation and Ecotourism in Bobaomby area, the North tip of Madagascar
RSG reference	16111-2
Reporting period	12 months
Amount of grant	£5,000
Your email address	tensyreine@live.fr
Date of this report	September 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
Provide an environmental education programme by a Powerpoint presentation, posters, and documentaries				Different focus groups with villagers of Anjiabe and Ampombofofo and informal environmental programme have been hold but the environmental education programme could not be completed because we could not provide the power point presentation and the posters and the documentaries due to lack of time and resources.
Increase the number of villagers involving in the project.				The number of villagers involving in this project is considerably increased. The local people in the village of Antaravy are now aware and involve in the project.
Conduct a biological study during the rainy season to complete the data collected during the first phase of the project				We have managed to carry out the biological study of the project during 2 months of the rainy season. The biological study of the next step of the project will focus on specific species of <i>Eulemur coronatus</i> and <i>Chelonia mydas</i> which are classified as Endangered (EN) in IUCN Red List.
Hold a practical workshop on tour planning and budgeting, first aid, catering services, financial management, tour guides, communication and language skills etc.				We have had a visit of students and professor from the University of Antsiranana and the University of Western Ontario, Canada to give the project the opportunity to hold this objective. Next time, to be able to fully achieve this objective we will need to continue this activity. In addition, we have to increase the number of our local guides and help them to get a professional qualification within Madagascar National Park (MNP). The participant of the English language class was mostly young and kids so the next plan is to incite adult to join the class by providing teaching programme especially for adult.
Develop a basic tourism infrastructures such				Thanks to the generosity and the implication of the local community to this project, there is now a place of

<p>as accommodation facilities (camp sites in minimum), signboards at the entry points and picnic sites</p>			<p>camping which is not far from the village and where visitors could admire nature and interact with local people's activities. However due to the limited budget we were not able to build other tourism infrastructure such as sign board in the entry, make shelter in the picnic place of the different circuit, and build a community information centre in the village.</p>
<p>Develop local community on alternative source of income through training them about sanitation and how to find permanent costumers in town</p>			<p>We were able to provide training on sanitation to villagers and we have already contacted the NGO called Union Matanjaka in town to collect and sell the product of the villagers, and this will be their permanent customer. However, this activity requires longer period, planting activity, providing communities good quality of seeds, and farmer technicians which we will include to the next step of this project.</p>

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

The project did not meet much difficulty except asking for research permission to the Ministry of Forest. The difficulty was due to the political situation in Madagascar, the permission has to be made in Antananarive and it took much time than predicted.

However, as this was not our first time to conduct research in the area and as the project is already known and accepted by the local community and the local authorities, the Mayor gave us the necessary permit and appreciate and affirmed that he is proud to support the first young Malagasy from the northern region of Madagascar implicated in a such interesting project.

The second unforeseen difficulty that arose was that local communities are starting to work on their rice field on January which was the time of the environmental education programme and it was difficult to find them every day in the village. So as solution, we went in the rice field to survey people on livelihood, alternative source of income, agriculture, charcoal production and sensitise them individually.

The environmental education programme has not been made as predicted in a month but depended on villagers' availability.

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

- The project has ameliorated the existing data that we gathered during the first phase of the project. More detailed information such as socio-economic, culture/tradition/taboo, access, fauna and flora is now available for every category of people.
- The project has developed and reinforced local communities' knowledge and awareness on biodiversity conservation values and ecotourism benefit. Local community are engaged to the project by providing land to build a campsite and by participating on the creation of the different circuits of the project. The project now have a campsite and able to offer different circuits which are all important to make the visit really worthwhile.
- The public presentation and the exposition at the Alliance Française as well as the project video is a significant marketing of the site. The site is become more and more known by different stakeholders, government and tour operators.

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

As during the first step of this project, local communities have played a major role in this project. They have been involved from the beginning of the project.

➤ ***Participate to the Biological study***

We have been always accompanied by the local guides that we have trained during the first step of the project (Jaomena, Dada Joby, and Chauffeur). They were the responsible of the guiding and took part on the biological research. This was an opportunity for them to get trained to identify biodiversity species and to become professional tour guide.

We have also worked with the villagers for their knowledge information on availability and the present status of biodiversity. They have given us detailed information especially on local name of bird and plant species. This allows them to get the ability to respond to visitors about the biodiversity names existing in the site.

➤ ***Involved in the Creation of the different circuits and the Campsite building.***

Villagers have been involved on the decision making in setting up the different circuits of the site. They gave all the detailed information about the legend, history, taboos, attraction, and path to get to the sacred places (Agnalagnana and Ratabirano). This helped them to be aware of the different attractions of the site and the needed information that they will provide to the future visitors of the project.

The local villagers have participated in planning and constructing the campsite. This place is created not only for the project activities but also can be used by the villagers in terms of traditional event, community meeting and celebration.

- ***Participate on the Environmental Education program and Language skills development.***

All of local community categories (child, young, men, and women) have been incited to participate on the environmental education programme and the foreign language skills development hold by the team member. This activity has been continued by the guest of the project (Canadian students and Malagasy students) to allow villagers to be familiar and have contact with foreigners.

- ***Invited to the public presentation in town.***

Moreover, during the public presentation and exposition of the project at the Alliance Française in town, two of the local community representatives of the project have been invited to come in Antsiranana to attend the public presentation. This was an opportunity for the local community to have a direct contact with different important people and act as messenger to tell the rest of the community how important is their implication and how the protection of their biodiversity could be beneficial to their livelihood.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes, we do seriously plan to continue this work to guarantee the success of biodiversity conservation and the ecotourism project.

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

As during the first step of the project, since the implementation of the project we worked to inform different categories of government and NGOs working in conservation and we presented the project to local authorities.

We have also started to create a short video of our work which is already show cast on my webpage in Rufford website and YouTube. I put up the video on my Facebook pages as well so that all of people, national and international, will be able to follow the update of my work.

In addition, we have collaborating with the University of Antsiranana and the University of Western Ontario, Canada, to broaden the project. A report on the students stay in the project site is also available at the library of the University of Antsiranana, Anglo-American Language study Department.

The final report will be submitted to the Department of Regional Forest and Wildlife Conservation in the region.

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

The project was carried out after receipt of fund in September 2014. As planned the project period was 12 months which was correspond to anticipate or actual length of the project.

The Rufford fund was used during all period of the project since we did not get an extra funding from another organisation except the dispense during the visit of students from the University of

Western Ontario, Canada and the students from the University of Antsirana for ten (10) days was taken in charge by the University of Western Ontario Canada.

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
Insurance, research Permission	80	80	0	
Rental equipment for workshop and awareness activities (Visual Aid projector, Generator, Speaker)	100	0	+100	The workshop and awareness activities were depending on the availability of villagers, so it is preferable to own these materials so that we will be able to use them at any time.
Food for Team during the field: 6 people(04 research assistants,02 local guides, X 120 days(2£/day)	1,440	1,530	-90	As during the first phase of the project, we had unexpected guest and during the construction of the camp site, we have invited the participants to have lunch with us. This is to strengthen our relationship with the community and also a tradition and to show politeness.
Food for me: 1 person x 120 days(2£/day)	240	240	0	
First Aid supplies (emergency supplies, anti-malaria medicine)	60	60	0	
Transportation –Dugout Canoe Rental Boat with Boatman (estimate based on occasional use.	120	275	-155	The cost of the transportation is increased due to the high cost of fuel and we have also had transported the plank which are necessary for the construction of a table for the eating area of the camp site.
Personal Compensation (minimal pay)- coordinator (120 days @ 2.5£/day).	300	300	0	
Personal Compensation-04 Research Assistants(120days2.5£/day)	1,200	1,200	0	
Personal Compensation - 2 local Guides(120 days work @1.5£/day)	360	360	0	

Ecotourism and conservation project Infrastructure building+ Supply Cost for Village participants.	940	875	+65	The budgeted amount was not enough to cover the construction of all of the ecotourism infrastructure but only for the construction of the campsite
Design and Printing Ecotourism Pamphlets	80	0	+80	We do not yet manage to design and print the ecotourism pamphlet because we want to be sure that the text and the photos are marketable.
The cost of the project finding presentation with Government and Non-Government Organisation and local authorities (rental room, refreshment, and handouts)	80	80	0	
TOTAL	5,000	5,000	00	

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

The feasibility of the conservation and ecotourism project is now well recognised in the area, the important next step of the project is to keep working and reinforcing some of the project objectives such as: environmental education programmes, long term professional training, to develop programme to support alternative source of income activities by providing communities more techniques and seeds for their agriculture, the development of tourism infrastructure. In addition, as the project is on its third phase, some of the objective will focus on the specific area that has been found during the previous phase:

- The biological study of this project will focus on an ethnoprimateological study of *Eulemur coronatus* which is classified as Endangered (EN) in IUCN Red List.
- We have also to increase the number of the project local guide and help them to get professional training at Madagascar National Park (MNP). The project will have to incite adult to join the English language class by providing teaching program especially for adult.
- In addition, local communities claimed that people from outside their village now have recently come to hunt the lemurs, birds, and bats in the project site. Thus, the project needs to expand the environmental education and awareness to some other villages surrounding the project communities. An information centre also has to be build.

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, we used the RSGF logo in short video, on t-shirts, announcement, recruitment handouts. The t-shirts and handouts were distributed to many volunteers from the target villages and general public

who had been involved in workshop and environmental sensitisation activities. RSGF also has received local and regional publicity like the project always mentioned the RSGF's support and website whilst we introduced the project during the speech, sensitisation and meetings, workshops in the communities, and public presentation in town.

11. Any other comments?

This project is a pioneer project as it is the first small project initiated by young Malagasy team in the north of Madagascar.

We are really grateful with the RSGF support. This project has again brought environmental and social positive impact to the local communities as well as to all the participants of the project. There is a strong need to continue this project in a long run.