

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	Beryl Achieng Makori
Project title	Survey methods and conservation of bats in caves in coastal Kenya
RSG reference	16125-1
Reporting period	September 2014-August 2015
Amount of grant	£4990
Your email address	Berylmakori@gmail.com
Date of this report	4 th 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
Mapping the caves and surveying their bats population.			√	The owners of the land where the caves occurred were somewhat difficult to deal with but with time they appreciated what we were doing
Survey of the perceptions and opinions of the community about bats			√	Language barrier was a great challenge. But with the help of a hired translator, we were able to achieve this object.
Sensitising the community on the importance of bats in the local ecosystem		√		The community have beliefs about bats that will take more than just sensitisation to convince them that bats are of importance to them and the ecosystem
Bring together local staff from government environmental agencies and the local community to find ways of protecting bats via prioritisation of important caves and the bats therein, but also promote bat based tourism in the area.		√		Most of the leaders and staff approached were not really convinced that there is any important thing that could be of help to them or their organisations. But some were very receptive and even promised to help sensitise the community and others

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

Insecurity- The project country Kenya was highly disturbed by insecurity especially along the coastal area from terrorists during the project period. This led to delay of the project but eventually we were able to finish.

Language barrier- most of the people around the study areas were not conversant with English or Swahili and so there was a problem communicating with them especially the elderly. This was tackled by hiring a translator through out to help during the interviews, to talk to cave owners and also during the workshops to ensure the message gets to everyone.

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

- The project has developed baseline information to help in monitoring the bats in the caves and other future studies.
- The locals are more aware of bats and their importance in the ecosystem and this will help conservation as they are willing to take part in conservation activities.
- Bats have been embraced as a tourist attraction especially by the Watamu cave owner who is now receiving some tourists to see bats in the cave which is in the middle of Watamu town.

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

Since the caves where the bats occur are in private lands, we had to involve the community in every step so that they don't feel left out and also so that they may know the bats that are in the caves and around the area.

Some of the locals were curious to know more about bats and from our visits, workshops and outreach programmes, they were willing to help in sensitising others and showing them that's bats are not 'Bad animals' by helping conserve them.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes I am planning to continue this work. I have helped the schools around the study sites to start wildlife clubs and with more funding I will be able to deliver materials on bats to help them understand more. Since I have started my Masters programme I am planning to do more research for my thesis around the same area to advance on this work.

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

I plan to publish the results in a scientific journal, present them at workshops, conferences and when giving talks on conservation of bats.

Also hard and soft copy materials will be available for the stakeholders who might need them.

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 project took 9 months, though it was planned to take 8 months. The grant was used over a period of 7 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.

	Budgeted Amount	Actual Amount	Difference	Comments
GPS	300	102	198	GPS was acquired at lower prices than anticipated.
Camera with flash option	500	522	-22	2 extra camera batteries were acquired due to the lack of electricity in the camping site.
2 tents	400	340	60	we managed to get the tents at discounted prices
Laptop computer	400	343	57	Cheaper prices were negotiated for.
2 headlamps with red lights	170	0	170	The headlamps were provided by friends just before the funds came in so there was no need to buy others.
Assorted batteries for head lamps	25	29	-4	more batteries were used for the headlamps, GPS and the camera flash
Face masks for protection against Histoplasmosis	15	10	5	we got cheaper masks
Hiring venue for two workshops	200	136	64	we got a cheaper venue
Allowance for workshop participants (30 persons)	300	340	-40	Four more participants than intended came for the workshop.
Allowance for workshop facilitators from environmental agencies (£10 per person*3 persons)	40	30	10	one facilitator was not available for the workshops
Daily allowance for project personnel (£10 per day*7 days per trip*9 trips*2 persons)	1120	1170	-50	There was one more 5-day trip and the field assistant had to be paid. This was due to the fourth cave that was identified.
Refreshment for workshop participants and facilitators	320	325	-5	More participants showed up than anticipated.
Printing and stationary	100	105	-5	more materials and stationary were required especially for the workshops and outreach programs
Travel (by bus; 2 persons, 9 trips to and from Malindi and local travels at Malindi)	400	380	20	The cost of travelling to Malindi for some months were lower
Food (for 2 persons for 9 trips)	350	394	-44	There was one more trip
Camping fees (for 2 persons	350	280	70	we managed to get a subsidized student

for 7 days for 9 trips)				rate
50 T-Shirts(£5 per T-shirt*50 pieces)	0	72	-72	There was need for T-shirts for the workshop to leave a mark behind and by wearing the T-shirts with the words 'Bat Conservation' the message would reach many more.
Allowance for the translator/guide.(£5 per day*4 days per trip*5 trips*1 persons)	0	100	-100	The language barrier especially during the workshops and interviews necessitated for a translator who also acted as a guide.
Charges for cave entry(£3 per day/entry*5 days per trip*4 trips*2 persons*4caves)	0	480	-480	we never budget for the entry fees and one more cave was found and included in the project
Total	4990	5158	-168	The extra cost was covered by the pi
Exchange Rate	£1= 147 KES			

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

- More studies in the area should be done as the area is rich in bat fauna.
- The local stakeholders should be sensitized more so as to reach as many people as possible
- The students and pupils from the nearby schools should be involved more in such studies as they always carry the message home to their parents and friends and they are the future conservationists.
- The locals should be made more aware of the benefits they can get from having the bats in their surroundings.

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 used the logo on the t-shirts, Questionnaires and on the materials distributed during the workshops and outreach programmes and will also appear on the front page of the final reports and published work.

11. Any other comments?

I would wish to thank RSGF for funding this project since it has broken some ice on some issues surrounding bats in the region.

More scientists especially in the home country Kenya should come out to sensitize people on bats in the different regions so as to see that the bats are conserved.