

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	Sylviane Volampeno
Project title	Advancing the conservation of the blue-eyed black lemur: Research, Awareness raising and development of alternative livelihoods
RSG reference	17449-2
Reporting period	12 months
Amount of grant	£5000
Your email address	svolampeno@yahoo.fr
Date of this report	June 12 2016

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
Update the blue-eyed black lemur population and control the forest				Together with the Park Local Committees (PLC) or park rangers, we updated the population of the blue-eyed black lemur within the park. The PLC conducted forest control within the forest regularly without our assistance.
Develop alternative livelihoods to the local communities				We developed two activities including fish farming and yam cultivation as alternative livelihoods within the two communes: Ambolombozo and Maromandia. These two projects went all.
Raise the local communities' awareness about the need of the conservation of the blue-eyed black lemur and forest protection				We conducted several activities to raise the local communities' awareness about the conservation of the lemur and protection of its forest habitat. The activities included environmental quiz, competitive games, PowerPoint presentation and panel discussion. It was very successful.

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

Overall, the project did well. The two main problems that we encountered during the project were transportation of young fishes and the bad weather during the education tour. Transportation of the young fishes was difficult; it took a day. The fishes were purchased in the capital Antananarivo and were distributed in Ankitsika village. We were informed by the fish farm technician in advance that, the risk of the mortality of young fishes is high because of the long travel as young fishes do not support hot temperature. In order to minimise the mortality rate, we hired a fish farm technician during the transportation and distribution of the young fishes. The transport was done with care, water was changed 3 times and oxygen was used during the travel. As result the rate of young fish's mortality was low (80 young fishes out of 775 were found died on arrival at the village).

Regarding the education tour, as planned at the schedule, five villages should be visited but due to the bad weather we were not able to carry out awareness raising at the last village which is Maromandia. There was a heavy rain thus we could not carry out the sensitisation as this was planned to do in outdoor while equipment such as generator, projector, and PA system did not support the rain.

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

Research: Through this project, we were able to estimate the population of the blue-eyed black lemur within the park. We have now data which are useful to update the status of the lemur species and its forest habitat.

Alternative livelihoods: This project was very helpful to the local communities because it allowed the improvement of their living conditions. It also taught them survive or live without dependence of the forest natural resources for food searching.

Education and outreach: We managed to conduct various activities that attract all sex-ages classes and covered many villages. Most of the activities were new and different compared to those at the previous project. Overall, the local communities enjoyed the activities and they learnt more information about the blue-eyed black lemur and the importance of the forest.

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

The local communities were involved during the project implementation and the main benefit from this project. We hired the local people as field guides during the fieldwork. The local communities gained knowledge and learnt new information about the critically endangered blue-eyed black lemur and the importance of the biodiversity of the park through the different activities during the awareness raising that we conducted during the project period. The implementation of the alternative livelihoods was very helpful because it allowed the decrease of the anthropogenic activities within the forest such as hunting, or logging and it taught the local communities to use wisely the forest natural resources.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

We aimed to reach a long-term conservation of the blue-eyed black lemur and its forest habitat thus we plan to continue our work. One-year project is not enough at all to reach our main goal which is change of the local communities' behaviour toward the over-exploitation of the forest and safe habitat of the lemur. In addition, the blue-eyed black lemur is ecologically important as seed disperser thus it contributes to the forest regeneration. Protection of the blue-eyed black lemur means protection of the forest. Therefore, we will make sustainable our project.

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

We already shared the results of the work during the conference on Women in Science and Technology in Kuwait in May 2016. We also plan to disseminate the results in upcoming International Primatological Society Congress in Chicago in August 2016. We are planning to publish articles through this project. We have a Facebook page, so we posted information and pictures related to this work regularly in our Facebook page.

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

Start date: June 2015 / End date: May 2016 as originally planned.

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
Implementation of the alternative livelihoods: cost of the training, cost of young fishes and seeds	1500	1300	+200	The cost of the young fishes and seeds were less than the expected budget thus we re-allocated £ 200 at the transportation.
Food allowance	1000	800	+200	The majority of foods were bought in Antananarivo so that the cost is less than in the town close to the study site. We re-allocated £ 200 at the transportation budget.
Transportation	1000	1500	-500	The park is located in a remote area thus we had to hire 4WD car to reach in some villages. We also hired a 4WD car to collect and bring the seeds to the villages and to transport the young fishes thus the cost of transportation was high as expected. In addition, the price of the fuel has increased.
Education and outreach activities	1500	1300	+200	
TOTAL	5000	4900	100*	100* retained will use for the evaluation (transportation and food allowance for the team)

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

The blue-eyed black lemur species is classified as a critically endangered species due to the ongoing threats mainly from human activities such as slash and burn agriculture and selective logging. In order to avoid the extinction of this endemic species, I feel the following actions are the most important.

The alternative livelihoods project should be continued and extended in order to cover all villages surrounding the park. The local communities suggested more activities such as poultry farming and vegetable growing thus these activities should be taken into consideration.

- Education and outreach project should be continued and sustainable as changing local communities' behavior needs time and patience. The local communities need to learn taking responsibility for conserving and managing the natural resources in their vicinities sustainably.
- Reforestation of native trees within the forest and exotic trees around the villages should be carried out. Reforestation of native trees is needed to extend the remaining forest habitat of the lemur while the reforestation of exotic trees will decrease the illegal forest exploitation. Exotic trees can be used for basic needs of the local communities such as construction of houses, pirogues and charcoal.
- Implementation of health project is also needed because it will allow the local communities to be healthy and productive.

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?

We used the RSGF logo in all materials produced in relation to this project including t-shirt, sarong, bags and at the PowerPoint presentation. We also acknowledged the RSGF during the fish farming and yam cultivation training. Some Malagasy biologists asked us help and advice about applying RSG grant. We will acknowledge the RSGF in upcoming publications.

11. Any other comments?

The RSG is an opportunity for me because it allows me to contribute the conservation effort on the critically endangered blue-eyed black lemur species.