

## The Rufford Small Grants Foundation

### Final Report

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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](mailto:jane@rufford.org).

Thank you for your help.

**Josh Cole, Grants Director**

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<b>Grant Recipient Details</b>	
<b>Your name</b>	Natsai Judith Theodora Kushata
<b>Project title</b>	Understanding pangolin ecology and mapping their distribution in the largest protected area in Zimbabwe.
<b>RSG reference</b>	17691-1
<b>Reporting period</b>	Final
<b>Amount of grant</b>	£4611
<b>Your email address</b>	natsaikushata@gmail.com
<b>Date of this report</b>	21/6/2016

**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
<p>1. To determine and document the ecological environmental implications of pangolins in the largest protected area of Zimbabwe.</p>		X		<p>This objective has been partially achieved due to the sheer areal extent of the park which is twice the size of Switzerland! Therefore the first aspect of our study was to detail and document the habitat preferences of the pangolins in the northern section of the park and then systematically go on to the southern, eastern and western parts when we secure extra funding.</p>
<p>2. To produce a detailed habitat map of pangolins in the largest protected area of Zimbabwe.</p>		X		<p>A detailed map of the preferred habitats of the pangolins in the northern section of the Hwange Park has been produced, however, due to funds limitation the documentation of the other habitats in the other sections of the park have stalled. We however, even sighted three adult pangolins and detailed the GPS coordinates of the location of sighting despite these challenges.</p>
<p>3. To understand and document the local community perspectives on the significance of pangolins with a view to helping peripheral communities' move away from poaching pangolins.</p>			X	<p>The perceptions of the locals towards pangolins have been aptly captured and are being processed into a full publication for proper dissemination. Awareness and exhibitions posters have been produced for the wildlife stakeholders in Zimbabwe</p>

4. To instigate conservation awareness of pangolins and preservation of their habitats through deliberately strengthening site protection at pangolin strongholds in Zimbabwe.			X	Awareness campaigns to threats to pangolin habitats and pangolin populations have been held in the town of Hwange on the Wildlife Environment Day with full posters bearing the Ruffords Small Grants Logo being the main instrument of information.
5. To engage local authorities in the strengthening of legislation towards the protection of pangolins so as to reduce demand for pangolins among consumers.			X	At every stage of the research we have engaged with local authorities, and the results of the current research will inform the Minister of Water and Climate of Zimbabwe and the National Parks Authority to curtail illegal and illicit local and international sales of pangolins and pangolin products.

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

Pangolins are a specially protected species in Zimbabwe, therefore to obtain the research permit was a challenge due to the government red tape and this delayed the start of the project. We are however, happy to report that due to the fact that this research was being led by university based researchers we were eventually allowed to conduct it in the highly security sensitive Hwange National Park.

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

We have a detailed mapping of the pangolin distribution in the northern section of the Hwange National Park and recorded three live sightings of the extremely rare and shy pangolins.

We successfully carried a pangolin awareness campaign aired on national radio and TV.

We have kick-started engagement with not only the local authorities but trained 6 enumerators living in the peripheral communities on how to document and detail

any pangolin sightings as well as capturing the perceptions of the local community on threats to pangolins.

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

We took great exception to involving the local community as we believe the success of any wildlife management programme hinges on the willing participation of the local peripheral community. In this endeavour we trained six enumerators living in the peripheral communities on how to document and detail any pangolin sightings as well as capturing the perceptions of the local community on threats to pangolins.

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

We have kick-started this hitherto unexplored significant research in Zimbabwe, and therefore we have plans to continue with the detailing and documentation of the pangolin habitats and threats in the other sections of the Hwange National Park. Ultimately we want to provide a management framework for the endangered pangolin and a national pangolin conservation strategy and action plan using the data from this research. Hence we want to continue with this work ensuring that we have increased pangolin trafficking awareness in Zimbabwe.

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

We have already made exhibition posters that we are distributing in schools in and around Hwange detailing the perceptions and threats towards pangolins. We have presented the preliminary findings of this research at the Zimbabwe International Trade Fair (ZITF) and World Environmental Day with overwhelming responses and intend to present the consolidated results in upcoming international conferences. We are in the process of writing two publishable manuscripts that we intend to publish with high impact reputable journals so as to disseminate the results for an international audience. Besides that we intend to use these results to propose a national pangolin conservation strategy and action plan for adoption by the Zimbabwean government.

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

Though we had delays with the research permit issue we started the research on time 31/6/2015 and this fits in well with the actual length of the project though we had underestimated the logistical requirements to sample the entire Hwange National Park hence our plea to have an extension of the project.

**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
Vehicle hire (300kmx6trips@£0.70)	1260	1300	40	We had budgeted according to quote we had received from the parks scientific services department. However, from the time we started data collection, HNP was experiencing some poacher incidences. All their vehicles were on patrols hence we had to hire four guide trucks which became a little more costly.
Diesel fuel	320	320	0	
4 researchers accommodation (£20/day x 24 days)	1920	1920	0	
Local field assistants (2 x £7.00 x 24 days)	336	336	0	
Digital Camera	215	215	0	
Night spot lights	235	235	0	
Mammal guide	30	30	0	
Hand held GPS	120	100	20	We managed to source for a Garmin somewhere much cheaper than initially anticipated.
Stationary and communication	175	155	20	We kept communication bills lower as we had to cover and use more funds for car hire.
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£4611</b>	<b>£4611</b>	<b>£80</b>	

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

The next step is to finish off documenting and detailing pangolin habitat distribution in the other sections of the Park and the perceptions of adjacent peripheral communities. This involves further training of locals in data collection. Then use the results to propose a framework and formulate a national pangolin conservation strategy and action plan for adoption by the Zimbabwean Government.

**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 on exhibition posters that we are distributing in schools in and around Hwange detailing the perceptions and threats towards pangolins and those we have presented at the Zimbabwe International Trade Fair (ZITF) and World Environmental Day.

**11. Any other comments?**

We are grateful to the RSGF for availing the funds to conduct this research, and we would very much like to continue the cordial relation moreso in the light that we have only kick started a very important research that will aid in the local, regional and global conservation of the endangered pangolin species and show that for any successful wildlife management program the willing participation and involvement of the local peripheral communities is imperative.