

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	Dominic ALEKEH NGWESSE
Project title	Support to the sustainable community management of the Banyang-Mbo Wildlife Sanctuary in Cameroon, West Africa
RSG reference	17744 -2
Reporting period	2015 - 2016
Amount of grant	£4,990
Your email address	naturecameroon1@gmail.com
Date of this report	26 OCTOBER 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
Planning meetings				Meetings were held before field activities and after to ensure proper planning.
Education program				Environmental education was carried out in GBHS Nguti, GTC Nguti, GSS Ntale and GS Nguti group one. Over 780 students and pupils benefit from this education.
Clan forest meetings				Four cluster meetings were held in Ntale and Nguti. Attendance per meeting was over 35 persons. We therefore touched the lives of over 140 community members who are key decision makers in natural resources management.
Training in tree nurseries				One large training of trainer's workshop with 15 teachers in attendance. A pioneer nursery set up in Nguti with 500 seedlings that are now mature for transplanting in schools.
NTFPs Value chain training				Survey of six villages carried out in Nguti and Ntale Clusters. The analysis of the findings done. It requires survey of the villages in Upper Banyang then organisation of two training events in cooperative management. These could not be done because the budget was not sufficient.
Elaboration of the New Forestry law				Research has been carried out and we have a comprehensive copy of the sections of the new forestry law that we are now using for community education. 500 copies produced for distribution in communities
Development of Nature Trails for Bird watching in the periphery of the Sanctuary behind the Research station				1 km of leisure trail properly developed for birdwatching and environmental education. We hope to develop 4 km again to reach our target of 5 km. This is to promote eco-tourism in the wildlife sanctuary and also encourage scientific research.

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

It was not easy to find the new forestry law in English language, less to talk about the text of application. We were obliged to hire a consultant who has done the research putting the document in English language for us.

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

a) Adoption of the education programme by the schools authorities as it is to enhance education for sustainability development promoted by WWF. We are highly encouraged by the teachers and students through independent initiatives to organise themselves in clubs and we simply come to animate. This implies the ownership of the clubs by the schools and not us thus ensuring sustainability of the clubs by the schools.

b). The development of the nature trails for birdwatching is an innovation that is being promoted by us and highly appreciated by the municipal authorities and schools as well as the Conservator of the Wildlife Sanctuary. This will attract tourists for bird watching, educate students through outdoor activities and provide a medium for leisure.

c). The NTFPs survey. We have discovered a huge knowledge bank in the communities about the value of their NTFPs and also discovered some very crude methods of harvesting. The training on the best NTFPs harvesting methods will ensure sustainable management of natural resources. The development of a market information system shall enable the communities improve on their house hold incomes through cooperatives and the availability of facilities to manage NTFPs production and processing.

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

The NTFPs survey is through the local inhabitants living adjacent the wildlife sanctuary and the development of the nature trails as well as the market information system for NTFPs is part of the empowerment of the communities. We are working with the Village Forest Management Committees as well as schools. This implies that the project is pro-community through a participatory approach.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes, there are plans to continue the work even for a longer period after your funding. In the first place, we are developing a 3-year strategic plan which will go operational by January 2017. We will be glad to send you a copy as we anticipate

seeking for more funding from you and other donors. So far activities that have been partially accomplished will now be accomplished in 2017 as we anticipate applying for more funds from you.

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

We shall publish the reports and circulate to our networks and also make presentations of our results firstly to the Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife through the Conservator of the Sanctuary and its technical partners of WWF and GIZ. It shall also be published on local press and within our platform of protected area civil society coalition. Communities shall also benefit through village development meetings

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

This project was approved around July 2015 and we got the funds in November and launched the project in December 2015. It was anticipated to be implemented within a year. But the circumstances surrounding the project where we had to plan together with the conservator in order to win the confidence of the authorities so that our job is given more credibility as well as giving more visibility. This implies that we had to sometimes delay planning in the event that the conservator and his team were not available. Now that we have won their support, we are empowered to operate freely with or without them on the field. This project has actually taken three extra months. We hope to overcome this challenge in the next project, working strictly on the time frame.

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
Planning meetings	200	150	+50	Saved for materials
Materials/banners	100	100		Underestimated cost
Education programme	600	580	+20	Saved for other activities of this project
Clan Forest meetings	1,000	1,020	-20	High transport cost to villages
Training schools for nurseries making	600	650	-50	
Training in NTFPs value chain	800	875	-75	

Reporting	600	525	+75	We bought a small office printer to reduce costs of spending on documentation in future
Field transport	800	890	-90	Increase prices of fuel in Cameroon
Unforeseen	290	200	+90	Unforeseen was used to provide logistics for the strategic plan of Nature Cameroon
Total	4,990	4,990	0	

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

Important next steps are:

- To complete results that were partially completed.
- To produce billboards in schools for environmental education to enhance protection of the forest by students and teachers.
- To organise a large forum to create a platform of clusters of Village Forest Management Committees to ensure sustainability of the project and the integral protection of the Banyang-Mbo Wildlife Sanctuary through empowerment of the communities to have a management board that oversees issues that cut across clusters of villages such as encroachment into the sanctuary and unsustainable hunting.

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, we used the logo in all the invitation letters to meetings, banners for workshops and circulars to communities as well as reports.

11. Any other comments?

The support received from Rufford helped us forge ahead with our key activities at Banyang-Mbo. Significant among the list of achievement is building strong collaboration with the local authorities especially the Mayor of Nguti and the Conservator of the Wildlife Sanctuary. Our work will be given more visibility with a booster fund and we anticipate forwarding to you another application by next month.

A big thanks once again for promoting conservation and development in Cameroon in particular and Africa as a whole.