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	Thierry Dèhouégnon Houehanou
Project title	Towards botanic garden setting through community-based knowledge for forest genetic resources conservation and training students in Sudanian zone of Benin
RSG reference	19016-1
Reporting period	01.04.2016 – 31.03.2017
Amount of grant	4967 Pounds Sterling
Your email address	houehanout@gmail.com
Date of this report	16.04.2017

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
Document the different local uses of forest genetic resources			■	The local uses of woody species have been documented successfully according to ethnic group and forest.
Identify forest genetic resources that are more important to local communities regarding their use value			■	Native and exotic forest genetic resources that are important to local communities have been determined successfully by calculating the use value.
Document local communities knowledge on germination constraints of highlighted important forest genetic resources			■	The documentation of local knowledge on germination constraints showed that germination of many inventoried tree species is feasible.
Select with local communities some tree species for germination trial and tree nursery			■	We selected with local communities successfully 15 useful tree species for which germination tree nursery can be developed.
Perform the germination trial and tree nursery of selected tree species		■		The tree nursery of some tree species, has been done. This activity has been affected by the change in rainy season.
Plant produced plants in some agroforestry parklands with local communities		■		Produced plants have been planted in some agroforestry parklands. The activity has been affected by the availability and the motivation of the local communities
Select a botanic garden site			■	A site has been selected for botanic garden Though an area has been finally retained, the activity has been affected by administrative policies.
inventory tree species on botanic garden site and label some species samples			■	The tree species have been successfully inventoried on the botanic garden site.

Plant samples of produced plants of forest genetic resources in the botanic garden with their label name				Produced plants have been established in the botanic garden. The tree labelling in the botanic garden is ongoing.

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

The first difficulty concerned the suitability of the time period of the project with the rainy time. Activities of plants production and their establishment need rainy period. With climate change effect, the rain starts sometimes with a delay. In regard with such difficulty, we needed to change the time period of some activities (plant production, plant establishment in botanic garden etc.). This caused a delay also in the fulfilment of those activities.

The second difficulty that occurred was related to the cost of some field activities. The cost has been different from the one budgeted in the case of some activities. In those cases we tried to adjust with the global budget.

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

The first important outcome is the documentation of the woody species that are valued by local people surrounding the different forests (Béléfougou, Soubrougou, Sérou, bouloum) of the township of Djougou. Overall, 58 tree species were inventoried as being used by those local people. The most important useful tree species that were selected with local communities were *Khaya senegalensis*, *Parrkia biglobosa*, *Afzelia africana*, *Gmelina arborea, Tectona grandis, Vitelaria paradoxa, Vitex doniana, Manguifera indica, Danielia olivera, Annona senegalensis, Isoberlinia doka, Cola gigantea, Milicia excelsa, Bombax costatum, Adansonia digitata, Ceiba pentadra, Borassus aethiopum, Pterocarpus erinaceus, Anarcadium ocidentalis, Detarium senegalensis*. There were significant differences between the different ethnic groups investigated (Yom, Dendi, Lokpa).

Secondly, we identified a site that can hold a botanic garden. Such botanic garden will contribute to the training of students. The most important training will be the practice of the identification of useful tree species. Thus, we have inventoried the tree species present on the site and we have produced the plants of some useful tree species. The produced plants have been installed on this site in order to reinforce the tree biodiversity.

The third outcome concerned the labelling of some woody species on the site of the botanic garden. Overall 25 tree species are labelling. The label gives the scientific name of the species, the family and the local name in one ethnic group. This will be helpful for student to easily identify some useful tree species.

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

The local communities were involved in this project during the field work of ethnobotany survey. Local people around each forest participated in focus group discussion and also in individual interview for sharing their knowledge on uses of woody species. In this regard, sometimes they were motivated by receiving a small fee. Moreover, some local people benefit from the project by receiving produced plants that they plant in their agroforestry or home garden. Additionally, local people benefitted from the project through their participation into some activities such as seed tree collection, plants establishment, and plant labelling.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes! Different plans for future are planning in order to get profit mostly from this project. The first future plan will consist to take care of the established plants and the labelled plants in the botanic garden. Secondly, we will continue to reinforce the biodiversity of the botanic garden by establishing other valuable and/or threatened plant species. Thirdly, the outcomes of this project is planned to be shared with many stakeholders.

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

First, the results of this work will be published in scientific journal. Secondly, we will make some posters that will inform on the results of this project. These posters can be presented at some local and international conferences. The posters will also be fixed on some places at the University of Parakou to inform the university public on the results.

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 RSG was planned to last 1 year. Such period is less than the actual length of the project. Though most important activities planned, have been completed during the period of one year, there are other tasks that will be completed after later. This will allow us to benefit really from 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
Three-ways travel to the field	303	404	-101	Two people for two-ways travel to the field instead one person for

				three-ways travel. This was necessary to meet the required time for the activity
Motor-bike rental	360	360	0	Totally consumed
Fuel for motor-bike	270	270	0	Totally consumed
Car rental	555	555	0	Totally consumed
Fuel for car rental	222	222	0	Totally consumed
Guide/Translator (Ethnobotanical survey)	304	499	-195	The Guide has been paid at £5.54/day instead £ 3.38/day. This was justified by the fact that it was necessary to motivate assistant in order to implement on time the activity of ethnobotany survey.
Assistant for seed collection	152	152	00	Totally consumed
Assistants for field work (site identification and Tree inventory at botanic garden site)	203	203	00	Totally consumed
Assistants for germination trial and tree nursery	406	406	00	Totally consumed
Tree planting by farmers	300	200	+100	We reduced the number of plants in order to fit the global budget
Tree species labelling	554	454	+100	The labels have been already made and the remaining amount will be spent for the activity of the labels fixing on the trees in the garden.
1 GPS Garmin	203	203	00	Totally consumed
1tandem	135	00	+135	This item has not been bought in order to fit the global expenditure between budgeted and actual spent amount
Compass-clinometer	254	254	00	Totally consumed
Practical works material production	111	00	+111	The activity is on-going and the posters will be elaborated and printed later
Internet and mail fees	135	135	00	Totally consumed
Telephone	135	135	00	Totally consumed
Ink for printer	134	134	00	Totally consumed
Paper, pens, memory stick, CD…	65	65	00	Totally consumed
Camera	166	166	00	Totally consumed
TOTAL	4967	**4817**	+150	The difference will be for the activity not completely achieved. 1 pound sterling = 808, 16 FCFA

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

The next important steps will be to: (i) continue to reinforce the biodiversity of the botanic garden by establishing other valuable and/or threatened plant species in the garden; (ii) supplement other tree species labels in the botanic garden; and (iii) take care of the site and the labelled tree species in order to use them each year for students training during their practical works.

10. Did you use The Rufford Foundation logo in any materials produced in relation to this project? Did The Rufford Foundation receive any publicity during the course of your work?

Not yet! The RSGF logo is not used at present. It will be used during the results sharing through poster production that are planning for short term. Also, it will be used on a label that will be located in the botanic garden to inform people on the fund donor.

11. Please provide a full list of all the members of your team and briefly what was their role in the project.

12. Any other comments?