

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	Lucy Radford
Project title	Bridging the Gap Between Hunters and Conservationists in Morocco
RSG reference	19693-1
Reporting period	01/01/2017 – 31/12/2017
Amount of grant	£4860
Your email address	lucymayradford@gmail.com
Date of this report	26/12/2017

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
To establish hunters' awareness levels regarding endangered species			Yes	
To build a relationship with hunters in the Tangier-Tétoun region that is based on trust and knowledge sharing			Yes	
To identify and train hunters who are interested in assisting with conservation activities			Yes	
To gain an understanding of hunters' perceptions of themselves and of wildlife and conservation		Yes		Though semi-structured interviews have been conducted as planned, analysis is not yet complete due to the time required to transcribe, translate and analyse all the interview content.

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

One difficulty which arose was the hunters' lack of availability for interviews and workshops at certain times of year; in addition to their sport hunting at weekends, the majority of the hunters have full time jobs and it was initially difficult to spend enough time with them. However, we eventually established Friday evenings as a good time to conduct interviews, and were able to use weekend days for workshops if planned in advance.

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

Inviting hunters to participate in conservation work has created a valuable connection between two groups not normally thought of as allies. Hunters in Morocco, as in many other places, are one of the main groups of people accessing and exploring wild places, so to have established this link is an important step not only for this project and team, but for the broader picture – it shows that hunting and conservation do not need always to be opposed and that collaboration is more effective than conflict.

Practically, involving hunters and inviting those who were interested to train in basic conservation data collection skills has indirectly boosted the size of a small, underfunded conservation team. Association for Moroccan Wildlife Conservation does not have the budget to hire more staff to undertake data collection across the Tangier-Tétouan region, so any input from hunters as they make observations during hunting trips is extremely useful.

Preliminary analysis of semi-structured interviews reveals that licensed hunters take pride in following rules and codes of practice for sustainable hunting, and that some hunters 'police' illegal hunting by directly addressing those breaking the rules, or by reporting them to the authorities. This is a potential area for development in addressing the problem of unsustainable sport hunting in some areas, and again, could be a lesson to apply beyond this specific project.

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

The hunters involved in the project are local community members from the Tangier-Tétouan region. They have benefitted from the project through having the opportunity to share their knowledge and to feel heard by conservationists; this is something they have not previously experienced, and they were initially surprised to be approached in this way. They have also benefitted by being able to take up the opportunity (if they wish to) to learn some conservation skills such as DNA sample collection, field observations, wildlife ID and data recording.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

We will continue to maintain our relationship with the hunters; it is important to keep channels of communication open and to provide 'refreshers' for training, if and when these are required. We will continue to learn from the information the hunters provide in our interactions with them, and their contribution to our ecological data collection will continue to inform our conservation work.

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

Once the semi-structured interview data has been fully analysed, we will submit papers for publication in peer-reviewed journals. We also plan to submit an abstract for oral presentation at the European Association of Zoos and Aquariums (EAZA) Conservation Forum meeting in May 2018. Once the data has been analysed, we will also be able to present parts of it in blogs on our website and link to these through social media, including links to The Rufford Foundation.

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 funding was used over the anticipated timescale (i.e. one year), though the 12-month period began later than stated in the application form due to delays in receipt of references for the funding to be released.

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
Accommodation and subsistence for time in Morocco	2000	2000	N/A	
Dictaphone for recording semi-structured interviews	80	80	N/A	
Return flights from UK - Morocco x 3	600	558	42	The leftover money from the budgeted amount for flights was put into extra refreshments for the first workshop.
Travel insurance	50	50	N/A	
Materials for preparation of photographic guide	30	30	N/A	
Stipend for RA/translator	1200	1200	N/A	
Workshops x 3	900	900 (+42)		See comment above.

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

The first important step is to complete the analysis of the semi-structured interview data, to gain a better understanding of hunters' perceptions throughout the project. This will enable me to publish the data and build on this work by planning future initiatives with the hunters. An ongoing important step is to maintain the relationship with the hunters by meeting up with them when I am in Morocco, for informal 'catch-ups' and to collect any field data they have obtained.

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?

The Rufford Foundation logo was on my printed materials for the project, but The Rufford Foundation is yet to receive any further publicity. Due to the potentially sensitive nature of working with hunters, I decided to avoid publishing anything online or on social media until my analysis of the hunters' interviews was more complete. Once I am able to publish content related to the data, I will ensure The Rufford Foundation is acknowledged and the logo used.

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

Dr Sian Waters: Dr Waters assisted me with interview design and implementation, as she has years of experience in conducting semi-structured interviews.

Ahmed El Harrad: Ahmed was my RA and translator; he liaised with key members of the Hunting Association at the project's inception and was present to translate for me when conducting interviews, training and workshops with hunters who did not speak Spanish. He also assisted in transcribing interviews.

12. Any other comments?

I am extremely grateful to The Rufford Foundation for supporting this project. It has been a fascinating and valuable experience, both for my development as a researcher, and for the development of a new area of collaboration for Association for Moroccan Wildlife Conservation.

