

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	Rachel Ashegbofe Ikemeh
Project title	Nigerian–Cameroon Chimpanzee Research and Conservation Efforts in Southwestern Nigerian Forests
RSG reference	20377-B
Reporting period	September 2016 – October 2017
Amount of grant	£9,875
Your email address	r.ashegbofe@gmail.com
Date of this report	7 th November 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 advocate for the establishment and full protection of proposed 400sqkm conservation area				This effort is still ongoing and we consider that we have made significant progress in the right direction even though the desired result of a formal establishment of the proposed conservation area is yet to be realised
To conduct a social survey using choice experiments to determine stakeholders' preferred conservation management options				The management plan for the proposed area has finally been completed but we were unable to include data from the choice experiment social survey we had planned. The survey was not satisfactorily conducted because of the various socio-political atmosphere of the communities during the funding year and so we are due to repeat the efforts in December 2017.
To continue field surveys especially with regards to monitoring of species and the collection of genetic samples				We were able to collect sufficient genetic samples during this funding year and preliminary results of the genetic analysis have started yield valuable scientific information.
To increase media and communication campaign efforts				

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

Although, we were aware of the political transition that will ensue in Ondo State from October 2016 (when the gubernatorial election campaigns was to become intense) to February 2017 (when the new governor would have been inaugurated) but we hadn't anticipated how much impact this election period will hamper significantly the progress of our own work. However, we decided to delay all our activities until after the elections and inauguration of the new governor and began most of our efforts in March 2017. Also note that this political transition that heightened the socio-political atmosphere in the communities was also a major problem for us in conducting the planned social survey.

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

One of the most important outcome of this project is that we have been able to fill the critical information gap on the evolutionary linkage of the chimpanzee populations west of the River Niger. Until the efforts of our project, there have been several international efforts (by some researchers from Europe and USA) to assess the taxonomy of these populations but they were generally unsuccessful in obtaining genetic samples. We have so far through our relentless field surveys and monitoring, been able to provide sufficient hair and faecal samples to our project partner - Copenhagen Zoo Research and Conservation Department – where genetic analyses are almost concluded and results will be published in a major scientific journal.

Secondly, we have produced a draft management plan/action plan for the proposed conservation area in the Idanre forest cluster.

Thirdly, we have also through our field monitoring efforts located another group of chimpanzee in areas previously overlooked as too degraded and disturbed to harbour any chimpanzee population.

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

There have been very minimal involvement of local communities during this funding year of the project mostly due to the socio-political climate in the communities at the time of implementing this phase of the project. However, we were able to involve the local communities in some form during conservation outreach activities and the social survey.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes. We are still focused on accomplishing one of our main objective of ensuring that at least 40,000 ha of forest areas within the Idanre forest cluster is established as conservation area (evidenced by policy documents, adoption of management plan and active patrols). We would also like to work towards advocating that wildlife laws in the Ondo State is revised to address current threats to endangered species and to include stringent penalties for violation. Presently, the Ondo State Wildlife Preservation Law CAP 129, Volume VI 1978 has become obsolete e.g. penalty for hunting an endangered species such as chimpanzee without permit is N100 i.e. about 0.27USD. We will also like to intensify and expand our public education/awareness activities.

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

The conservation aspects of our work will be shared mostly through media channels for the general public and core science aspects of our work will be shared through scientific journals.

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

Anticipated timescale of project was October 2016 – September 2017

Actual timescale is September 2016 – October 2017

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
Camera traps	2000	1800	200	
Field Supplies	3200	4075	875	We extended our field efforts to the Ise forest reserve following the efforts of the first phase of our project and this yielded significant new results
Consumables	400	388	12	
Logistics (transportation and hotel accommodation)	710	705	5	
Media and community outreach	2200	1340	860	The difference on this was used to supplement for the critical need in the field research/monitoring aspect of the project
Administrative costs and stipends for project team	1400	1567	167	
Total	9910	9875		

***The exchange rate varied considerably throughout the funding year but the average rate used is NGN450 to £1**

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

1. Disseminate the final draft of conservation action plan (also referred here to as management plan for the proposed conservation areas) and engage stakeholders in discussions regarding steps to its implementation.
2. Propose and develop policies that can be adopted to effectively regulate farming and hunting practices in forest reserves in the states.
3. Facilitate a collaborative forum of stakeholders that will oversee the implementation of the conservation action plan
4. Identify and advocate alternative livelihood schemes for those who will be affected by the designated conservation area
5. Continue conservation outreach work to local communities in and around the forest reserves

6. Increase public education/enlightenment on conservation issues that will bring about a level of awareness which will provoke responsiveness and garner public support.
7. Continue species monitoring efforts through field surveys and camera trapping as it is the main conservation footprint in this area.

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, the Rufford Foundation logo was used in the final draft of the management plan published for the Idanre-AkureOfosu proposed conservation area. The logo was also used in school conservation education campaign materials.

11. Any other comments?

Without continued funding from The Rufford Foundation, we would have been unable to make these advances in conservation and research of the endangered chimpanzees in southwestern Nigeria.