

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	Taiwo Crosby Omotoriogun
Project title	The birds of Elizade University Forest and Surrounding Environment: a step to the conservation of Elizade Ecosystem.
RSG reference	20619-1
Reporting period	12 Months (January 2017 –December 2017)
Amount of grant	£5000
Your email address	Taiwo.omotoriogun@elizadeuniversity.edu.ng
Date of this report	15 December 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 assess and monitor bird species diversity and abundance within the forest and surrounding habitats				Birds were surveyed in both seasons, dry and wet, to estimate diversity and abundance of birds in the study area. We recorded 138 species in 38 families in the area within the study period. There are more bird species in the area that could not be detected with the survey method; however, with continuous monitoring of the area, those species will be added to the checklist
To create awareness for conservation of biodiversity and habitats among local communities and				Biodiversity conservation education and awareness were successfully conducted in public and private secondary schools in the study area with the aim of catching them young. Promotional materials, t-shirts, polo and pens, were customised for use during conservation education. The t-shirts had the inscription (SAVE: Biodiversity, Bird and Habitat at the back, and a photo of a pair of African paradise flycatcher <i>Terpsiphone viridis</i> and Rufford Logo in front). The pens had Rufford logo on them. The posters also had Rufford logo. We also had demonstrative sessions during the awareness campaign
To train young scholars in conservation and research skills				To further expand birds' awareness in the study area, the project established the Elizade University Bird Club (EUBC), focused on bringing together individuals, students, scientists and non-scientist who love and have interest for nature and biodiversity. Participants learn about birds, environment, and biodiversity. Project has successfully established a research group in the university, the Bird Monitoring and Molecular

				Research Group (BMMRG), this focused on continued monitoring of the birds in the area through bird conservation and habitat related research collaborations
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2. Please explain any unforeseen difficulties that arose during the project and how these were tackled (if relevant).

There was much difference between the budget and the actual purchase prices of some of the equipment; therefore, we could not buy some equipment. These were borrowed for use in the project. Also, land ownership problems arose at different point during the field survey due to the misconception that the project was a disguise to take over lands by the university; we were called surveyors. However, with much dialogue, we educated and convinced the individuals about our research work. Thereafter, we were allowed to continue work around such areas.

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

- Size of study area. Measurement of size and production of map for the study area was an important outcome because it was one of the challenges and information requested, that was not available, when we applied for the grant. Now we have estimated the size to be 15.07 km² (1507 ha), also have map, this was achieved using GPS, GIS and Google map tools.
- Baseline data. We build a baseline data of the birds through our study of the avian species composition of the area. We so far recorded 137 species in 38 families of birds using 126 lines transect surveys. Twelve species were recorded outside line transects. We may not have recorded all specie in this area, but we hope to continuously monitor the area to update the checklist. The forest is experiencing logging which not only destroys forest habitat but also increase accessibility for hunters as they need to construct roads to logging sites for timber extraction.
- Biodiversity education and capacity building. We conducted biodiversity and bird habitat conservation education and awareness by holding seminars to sensitise and educate the populace (especially secondary school students. We covered area on the ecology and social values of birds, including threat to birds and habitats through videos, lecture and poster presentation and demonstrative bird viewing sessions. We established the Bird Monitoring and Molecular Research Group (BMMRG), and Elizade University Bird Club (EUBC) focused on bird monitoring. Customised t-shirt, polo, poster and pens were used for conservation awareness.

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

We have interacted with a number of community individuals during the study. Some asked what we do, and they hear about bird for the first time. Binocular and telescope are new to them and they often request to view through, this fascinates and triggers their interest, and an opportunity for us to talk with them on our study. Most people in the community now refer to us as bird people. Also from periodic outings of the Elizade University Bird Club, members are getting acquainted and can easily identify common birds of the study area. There is an increase interest for birds among members. We presented customised t-shirt gift to members of the communities, teachers in the secondary schools. Students were also given customized pens.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes, periodic survey and mist netting of birds continues for the study area. This is to monitor important birds such as grey parrots and hornbills which were recorded in the area during the study. Also due to the habitat land use systems including agricultural practices involving agrochemicals e.g. herbicide and pesticide for weeds and pests control, it is important to extend study/ evaluate persistent organic residue in birds within this area.

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

I hope to make the report of this study and a handbook of birds of the study area (which is underway) available to the university management, university library and secondary schools' library in the community. Also, a manuscript is under preparation for submission and publication in The Ostrich Journal.

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 project activities were planned for 12 months; and it did not deviate from the timescale.

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
Dell Laptop: New Inspiron 15 5000: 4GB Single Channel DDR4 2133MHz (4GBx1); 500GB 5400RPM SATA Hard Drive	370		370	Not bought

Camera: Canon EOS Rebel T5 DSLR Camera with 18-55mm and 75-300mm Lenses Bundle	380	651	-271	
GPS: Garmin Oregon 650t GPS Unit	378		378	Not bought
Rangefinder: Leupold RX-800i Range Finder	300	264	36	
Savannah Pro 8x42 Binocular	304	351	-47	
Grandview 16-48x65mm Telescope	99	426	-327	
Paragon HD-F2 Heavy Duty Tripod	81	149	-68	
Mist-nets: Two sets of 9, 12 and 18 meters mist nets respectively of 24mm mesh, 2.4meter height, 2 /70, 4 shelves, black nylon.	432		432	Not bought
Poles and strings	96	96		
Hp-3com Laserjet Pro Mfp 127fw Wireless Printer	86	86		
Desk and chair	89	89		
Petroleum for field Vehicle (1200 litres).	432	432		
Vehicle hire and maintenance	368	200	168	
Accommodation for Staff	490	250	240	
Feeding for staff	180	180		
Batteries (AA size) for GPS and 9V button cell for Rangerfinder	30	30		Bought batteries only for the GPS unit.
Rain boots	30	16	14	
Rain coat	0	18	-18	
Field note, pencil and Eraser	4	4		
Allowance for field Assistants	304	1197	-893	
Capacity building and conservation Education	547	561	-14	
Total	5000	5000	0	

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

- To keep updating the checklist, we would continue to monitor the birds of the area through the EUBC and BMMRG activities.
- Through a community collaborative effort, we hope to execute enrichment planting of indigenous multipurpose tree species in some area and to ameliorate area affected by anthropogenic activities e.g. logging and farming.
- We also hope to continue sensitizing the younger generation in biodiversity conservation through periodic seminars and debates among schools, and with awards as motivation.

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?

Yes, we used the Rufford logo on the posters for the Biodiversity Conservation Education seminar. Also the Rufford Foundation received publicity through the branded t-shirts, Polos and pens as they were customised with Rufford logo and a leading message about our project.

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

The bird survey team:

Taiwo C. Omotoriogun - Principal investigator/team leader
Aniekan-Abasi E. Uwatt – Field/project assistant
Johnson Daramola- Public relation officer/field guide
Friday -Transport officer/driver

Biodiversity conservation education team:

Dr Taiwo C. Omotoriogun (Coordinator and organizer)
Dr Adeola Ojo (Poster presenter 1)
Dr Kola Olorunnisola (Moderator/Master of ceremony)
Dr Osulale Olayinka (Member)
Dr Momoh A.I (Member)
Lawal Sherif (Poster presenter 2)
Fadahunsi (Biodiversity lecture presenter)
Ajaiyi Oladimije (Photography 1)
Fadare S.O (Photography 2)
Aniekan-Abasi E. Uwatt (Bird viewing Stand)
Olatunbosun Arowolo (Member and PRO)

Project patrons:

Professor A.M Gbadebo (HOD, Biological Sciences)
Professor Ulf Ottosson (Advisor and equipment procurement)
Dr Talatu Tende (Adviser and Visitor Nigeria Bird Atlas)

12. Any other comments?

I express profound gratitude to the Rufford Foundation for supporting this work on biodiversity conservation particularly on birds and habitats in this area. My appreciation to our research assistant, guide, team members, Head of Department, Elizade University Management and the communities for their supported in this project.