

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	Ravonjjarisoa Doda James Patrice
Project title	Macrofungi biodiversity study through scientific and leadership training in Dry and Rainy forest of Madagascar
RSG reference	20853-2
Reporting period	10 th November 2016 – 10 th November 2017
Amount of grant	£ 5 000
Your email address	ravonjjarisoa@yahoo.fr
Date of this report	16 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
<p>Our main object is to enhance and improve the scientific and practical knowledge of Malagasy young people on conservation and particularly on fungi conservation and natural resource sustainable uses</p>				<p>100% achieved. The participants were very satisfied about their program which focused on: IUCN Red List assessment, conservation project management and leadership, fungi conservation. They had more practical studies, field studies which they could perform and improve their capacity to undertake conservation project and research. The students have met with experts on several subjects, which has helped them to grow in their skills and knowledge.</p>
<p>Our second object is to continue our macrofungal survey in the west region of Madagascar as a dry forest, and in another site in the East region as a rainy forest</p>				<p>It was partially achieved. We had achieved our field study in Ankarafantsika as a dry forest. Our fungus foray in the east region as a rainy forest was disturbed by the weather with no rain. As this fungus foray was programmed during rainy season, it was too late this year. Then, our fungi survey during our field work in the east region was not too satisfied. As the identification of some species take so much time, its analysis is still ongoing.</p>
<p>Our third object is to continue and complete our ethnomycological studies and conduct socioeconomic importance of these macro-fungi to the community in Ranomafana and in Ankarafantsika</p>				<p>It was partially achieved. One species which is well known by Malagasy people in our biodiversity site study is the "olatafa" or <i>Lentinus Tuber regium</i>, and its uses as medicinal mushrooms are the same. Most of the edible mushrooms sold in the market of Antananarivo are mushrooms of introduced eucalyptus plantations and mushroom of introduced pine</p>

			plantation, especially species of <i>Russula</i> and <i>Cantharellus</i> . The people around the biodiversity site are rarely collected fungi than others species such as masiba or <i>Dioscorea</i> sp, raffia, honey, wood for construction such as <i>Dalbergia</i> sp, and wood for charcoal.
Our forth object is the public awareness about the importance of fungi and its conservation, we contribute to raise awareness through educational programs on the need to sustainably exploit these macro-fungi. We sensitize and convey the young pupils and the people in general to become volunteer recorder for fungi supporting fungal conservation			It fully achieved. The pupils and their trainers in the schools that we have visited were very interested about the value of fungi, uses and the importance of their conservation. As well, all of them of them recognise, the sign of climate change in their village and in their region. They are very impatient about what to do to tackle this problem. The Malagasy people need clear and more information about natural resource sustainable uses. They recognise as well the loss of biodiversity and its impacts in their life. They need respect from all stakeholders who manage their biodiversity and close collaboration with all of them.

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

As we programme our fungi survey during rainy season which normally start on December till March, but in this time, there was no sign of rain, particularly in our biodiversity site. It was characterised by long drought. This has been a big problem which disrupted our field work, particularly in the rainy forest.

This drought period was followed by the Enawo cyclone on March 2017, which cause big effects and disasters to Madagascar.

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

1. The most important outcome is the effective implication of the young Malagasy people, particularly the environment students in the conservation action and research with the leadership and scientific skills. As the collaboration with local people is vital to the success of biodiversity conservation, most of the project activities give them many opportunities to perform their human relationship skill.

2. Another important outcome is the improvement of the local knowledge and understanding of sustainable and long-lasting use of all-natural resources from their forests and the other ecosystems such as lakes.

3. In this study we also found high richness of species, and the best period for fungus foray in dry forest

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

The local communities were involved directly and indirectly in many activities of our projects. Some of them collaborate directly with us as guides and porters. Others took active part by giving us information and shared their knowledge about natural resources, its richness and its uses particularly about fungi.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes, we want to continue this work by completing data to elaborate the fungi Red List in Madagascar, particularly during the rainy season December – March. It is an opportunity to continue and to maintain the implication of the young Malagasy students to the conservation action by practising and performing their knowledge.

We practise as well, a participatory research with local people and with the pupils with their trainers to collect data about macro fungi. It contributes the public awareness and it rises their motivation to the conservation. We continue as well the ethnomycological inquiry.

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

All the environment Students who participated in the project activities could use data collected in this project in their memories.

Some MSc student who use data from this project will present the result in an oral defence and the result will be shared in an oral examination on March or May 2018 and the RSGF will be acknowledged.

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 grant was used for 12 months as anticipated.

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. Ar (Ariary) Malagasy currency

Fortunately, our exchange rate on November 2016 when I received the fund was higher (1£ = 4 000, 00Ar) than we are expected in our budget plan (1£ = 3750 Ar).

Item	Budgeted Amount	Actual Amount	Difference	Comments
A. Purchase of flipchart, papers A4, notebooks, T-shirt	500			
A. Telephone and internet cos	540			
A. Research permit	50			
A. Transportation	1 500			
B. Food and accommodation	1 800			
B. Equipment purchase	250			
C. Special event organisation; environment events, reforestation	260			
C. other expenses (generator rental)	100			
TOTAL	5 000			

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

1. Continuing our active training on conservation by stirring the student to undertake research project. We impact and involve them in a stage focused on further scientific investigation on one fungus species.
2. As the assessment programme to establish the fungi status according the IUCN Red List is a long lasting period, we continue our data collection about fungi biology, ecology, distribution and threat.
3. To promote the mushroom cultivation which contribute the sustainable development and alleviate the biodiversity pressure.

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?

The RF logo was used on posters, flyers and letters delivered during the course of the project and the celebration of environments events such as World Wetland Day, World Biodiversity Day and World Environment Day. We also used the RF logo in each power point presentation during workshops.

11. Any other comments?

The Rufford Foundation support is a great opportunity for us as a trainer on conservation and biodiversity. It contributes to perform and improve our conservation training by implicate our knowledge in practice, for the students and for us as trainers too. We have realised more field study, more contacts and relationships with local people around the biodiversity sites. This grant had contributed as well to rise the voice about the importance of Fungi and its conservation in our country. We are looking forward for the continuation of this project with RF.