

## Final Project Evaluation Report

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Your Details	
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Project Title	Saving the Endangered Goliath Frog in Cameroon
Application Id	21007-1
Grant Amount	£5000
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**1. 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
i) Train and build capacity of youths and community leaders towards the conservation of the Goliath Frog and management of their ecosystems				A total of four training sessions were organised to build capacities of youth on conservation of goliath frog and biodiversity. Training of university, secondary and primary school students on amphibians and the goliath frogs that occur around and show the importance of preserving amphibians and the environment as a whole using GIS and remote sensing
ii) Promote and build community-based institutions.				An association was set up to protect goliath frog; unfortunately, we are still formalising its registration.
iii) Develop conservation education packages for the children in the area. This will be articulated around a student poster contest to be organized and prizes to be awarded, to lead the students to become interested in amphibian conservation issues.				The package was developed and administered in four schools. A contest was organised and the prizes awarded to outstanding students. A number of 200 flyers and 100 t-shirts with sensitisation messages were produced and shared with locals and students.
iv) Further the understanding of the Goliath Frog. An integrated ecological model using remote sensing will be developed, covering a large spatial extent at high resolution.				

**2. Please explain any unforeseen difficulties that arose during the project and how these were tackled.**

Moungo is adjacent to the South West region of Cameroon. At the moment, this region is subject to some political unrest. It was difficult to convince people around that we were not part of either side trying to spy on them for reporting. Additionally, we had to experience a delay in processing our research permit due to a restructuration of the research system in Cameroon by the Ministry of Scientific Research and Innovation. Also, acquisition of elaborated environmental data for ecological niche modelling was a challenge, mainly due to the unstable internet.

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

**a). New occurrence data for the goliath frog**

Six sites were sampled for amphibians and the goliath frog. We could upgrade occurrence data on the amphibian fauna. Goliath frog nests with tadpoles were observed during our field expeditions.

**b). Awareness raising and education**

From our outreach and awareness raising campaigns, household and locals could be educated through talks and leaflet on the ecology and the conservation of the goliath frog and other amphibians. Awareness of locals was carried out on the importance of amphibians and their role in the ecosystem in the Moungo. This seemed at first irrelevant to the local communities around but our project acted as a medium where local could understand better the importance of the goliath frog as well as other amphibians and the need to conserve them and their habitat. Several participants could receive tee shirts bearing conservation message: Save the Goliath Frog. Three categories of learners were trained during this project: university students, secondary and primary school students. University students received a training on the use of remote sensing to protect biodiversity with reference onto the goliath frogs. Students were able to draw efficient maps tying these to their respective projects. Secondary school children were involved into classroom discussion on the goliath frog and the need to preserve them. Education sessions in primary school were articulated around a manual elaborated to serve as a guideline on amphibians.

**c).Capacity building**

During this project, a M.Sc. student in Applied Ecology and Wildlife Management from the University of Dschang in Cameroon did an internship and was trained on different field techniques such as interview survey design and administration, ecological survey of amphibians, field data collection and analysis. The student is in the writing phase of his thesis and would be able to present findings from his studies in the upcoming months during a public defence.

**4. Briefly describe the involvement of local communities and how they have benefitted from the project.**

Local communities were involved at several stages of the project. They were mainly involved in the delivering of the project. They served as field guides during our ecological surveys. Also, involvement of local communities was through lectures and meetings organised during the project. In these lectures, it was explained to them what species of amphibians occur in the areas associated to the goliath frog, the threat these are facing, the potential impacts threats would have on amphibian species and the importance of their preservation. Local communities have benefited true information about amphibians and the goliath frog. Before the lectures, several people would not know why a frog like the goliath frog is becoming scarce. Due to successive talks and conversations, the community at various levels (stakeholders, educative community) benefited from knowledge on the ecology and need for conservation of amphibians. This was especially important as several frog are going missing in our highlands. In that, the community could better appreciate what could be their own role to play in preserving what should be one of their most precious richness, their unique amphibian fauna.

**5. Are there any plans to continue this work?**

Well, there is urgent need to cover all the range of the goliath frog with such an initiative. The Mounjo experience should just be the starting point. From this project, we know that people can be receptive on the conservation of amphibians and school age children are just in need of a constant reminder to turn what would be the next hunter into advocate for amphibians and goliath frog conservation. There is a dire need to continue this work both in Mounjo and across the range of the goliath frog.

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

We are in the writing process of the result from this project. We expect to have at least a high quality paper on the ecological niche and drivers of aversion/affection of the amphibians as well as the goliath frog in Cameroon. The manuscript will be published in peer-reviewed journals, our target will be open access journal to increase the visibility of our work. We intend to also share our result through our page on ResearchGate. There is an ongoing masters project that would potentially be completed based our findings. The thesis will be deposited at the University of Dschang library and made available to whoever wishes to consult it. Our project featured on the book of abstract of the Cameroon Bio science 2017 conference and was cited on some online article on the goliath frog <https://www.biographic.com/posts/sto/taking-down-goliath>

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

Well, the grant was used over 16 months that is higher than the anticipated 12 months of the project. This mainly because of my trip as a visiting Scientist to the

Anthony Lab at the University of New Orleans and Blackburn Laboratory at the University of Florida, USA in March-April 2018

**8. Budget: 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. It is important that you retain the management accounts and all paid invoices relating to the project for at least 2 years as these may be required for inspection at our discretion.**

Item	Budgeted Amount	Actual Amount	Difference	Comments
Awareness raising seminars /workshops for 3 communities	1500	1620	+120	A gift to village development committees that was not initially budgeted and extra drinks and snacks during awareness campaigns
Awareness raising seminars /workshops + frog contest in 3 schools	900	970	+70	Extra drinks and snacks had to be bought for school officials
Transportation	400	380	-20	Money could be saved by using bus for transportation instead of small cars as planned
Subsistence	1200	1050	-150	Buying food items in bulk could help us reducing the cost of subsistence in the field
Phones for communities + communication credit over one year project	150	20	-130	Communities chief did not use phones appropriately and funds were no more allocated to them for the communication throughout the project
Supplies for Ecological survey (batteries, rubber boots, sleeping bags, tents, GPS, strong torches and small reagents)	100	250	+150	Initial equipment got bad and there was a need to buy new ones.
Field Assistant for subsistence for Ecological survey	750	750		
<b>Total</b>	<b>5000</b>	<b>5040</b>	<b>+40</b>	The local exchange rate was £ 1= 740 F CFA during funding rather than £ 1= 757,544F CFA during application

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

Looking ahead, next step could reside in:

- Understanding the evolutionary significant units for the goliath frog to see if we have to consider the whole range as a single conservation unit or the existence of different units for conservation.
- Continue a monitoring scheme for this frog and other amphibians and keep the flame burning across school age students on the conservation of the goliath frog.
- Understand better the field ecology and requirement for the frog.

This will potentially help us reduce amphibian mortality at the earlier stages and prioritise conservation efforts.

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

The RF logo was extensively used on materials produced from this project such as t-shirts, leaflets; posters, presentations, workshop, documentation. The RF was used during the our presentation at the Cameroon Bioscience meeting in December 2017, at the University of Buea Faculty of Science Expo and Symposium in June 2018, during a workshop and projection of a documentary on amphibians held on the campus of the University of Buea in June 2018; during our sensitisation campaigns at the Government High School of Manjo, Government High School of Ebone, Government Technical High School of Manengole, at the Government Primary school of Manengole and the Government Primary School of Mangamba between April and June 2018. The logo has also been used during various presentation about my research projects at the Institute of Mining Research in Yaounde and the Institute of Agricultural Research for Development in Yaounde and Bangante.

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

**Geraud Tasse:** Geraud was the Principal Investigator and project coordinator. He was in charge of the implementation of project activities. He ensured activities to be implemented smoothly with the best approaches.

**Youmsi Justin:** Justin was in charge of raising awareness campaigns, he was the first line for entry in many communities. He also assisted during the administration of the questionnaire and raising awareness on the conservation of the Goliath frog in several communities.

**Nlene Soh Branly:** Master's student at the University of Dschang. He was involved in ecological surveys and sensitization activities carried out during the project.



**Tchassem Fokoua Arnaud:** Arnaud was instrumental during the ecological survey in finding appropriate site for sampling.

## 12. Any other comments?

At the end of this project, I wish to acknowledge The Rufford Foundation for funding this initiative. This was a really needed initiative to provide a medium for conservation of the charismatic goliath frog. Without the Rufford Foundation, this would have not become a reality. Also, I am really sorry for the delay in submitting this report and I look forward collaborating again with the Rufford Foundation on subsequent initiatives.

