

## The Rufford Foundation

### Final Report

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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](mailto:jane@rufford.org).

Thank you for your help.

Josh Cole, Grants Director

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#### Grant Recipient Details

<b>Your name</b>	Claudine Tuyishime
<b>Project title</b>	Assessing the factors influencing low participation of women in conservation work in Rwanda
<b>RSG reference</b>	21048-1
<b>Reporting period</b>	Dec 2016-Dec 2017
<b>Amount of grant</b>	£5000
<b>Your email address</b>	Tuyishime2005t@yahoo.fr
<b>Date of this report</b>	December 20 <sup>th</sup> 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
Assess the factors driving the low involvement of women in conservation work in Rwanda.			X	The interviewees were very helpful and happy to provide information, the topic was interesting for them and they were very participative. Both men and women were participative and spoke freely about their answers.
Predict the influence of women once involved in conservation work			X	The participants/interviewees managed to list some of the activities that a woman can perform well once recruited in conservation. More researches should be conducted to have a broader picture of that. It should be extended around all parks in Rwanda and later across the region like east African region. I can say that at the level of the designed project, this objective is fully achieved, but further studies are needed to explore more ideas from different regions.

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

During the project, we did not encounter hard difficulties; however it was noted that sometimes to find the randomised interviewee was difficult, as most of interviewees were located in remote areas where network/signal is limited. It took then some days to connect to the person to interview. To tackle this difficult, we connected with park managers to find the people to interview and then get an appointment. The difficult of terrain were also noted as some locations were far and not accessible. To overcome this issue, we used to go one day before and spend a night in target location and early morning we start interviews. In general, we have not got hard difficulties, as the ones we met were expected and they have not hindered the project.

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

For this project, we have achieved different outcomes but the most important include the following:

1. Identification of possible factors that hinder women to participate in conservation work; results to be shared with potential stakeholders. Again, we

established a list of conservation activities that a woman can perform once involved in conservation, to be shared with stakeholders in meetings and symposium.

2. Initial contacts were done for establishment of a club/group of young ladies (from schools around Nyungwe) who will be the catalysers of conservation and gender mainstreaming among the society around Nyungwe National Park. Initially I will work with five schools representing five districts bordering Nyungwe. These young women will be empowered and their capacity in conservation will be built to become future female advocates for both conservation and gender mainstreaming.
3. As Rufford small grants recipient (with the project related to gender and conservation), I was invited to a 4-day training organised by Fauna and Flora International (FFI) in collaboration with Critical Ecosystem Partnerships Fund (CEPF) and have been certified as female conservation leader. During the training we discussed also about the factors limiting the involvement of women in conservation work mostly at field level, and we went back with a purpose of empowering young women to become future female conservation leaders. Our motto was: I am empowered to empower other women. From there, I joined female conservation networks, a WhatsApp group called: "women for conservation" was created and is made by FFI training participants from Rwanda, Kenya, Tanzania, DRC, Uganda, Zambia, South Sudan, Ethiopia, Zimbabwe and UK. We actively talk about women leadership in conservation, how can a woman be empowered, how to empower each other, what kind of conservation projects we can do, how to involve young women in conservation. I feel then empowered and ready to empower others.

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

The local community was involved in interview as some of the interviewees were from local community, I hired an assistant who was born and live around the park, and has enjoyed working with me. After having this project, I explained to my employer how gender matter in conservation and we started considering gender in our daily activities around Nyungwe. We started then including women in our projects like livestock, beekeeping, and environmental education programmes as we evaluated ourselves and found more projects of ours were mostly benefiting men. It is under that context, we managed to include more women (over 20 women become matrons for wildlife clubs in schools around Nyungwe) in conservation education programme that I was leading, and we also focused on working with women groups around the park. This was indirect benefit of the project to the community, and I was also guided by the skills I got from "women leadership conservation workshop" organized by FFI in Kigali, in March 2017, and I participated in it as Rufford grantee.

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

Yes. I am planning to continue this work and will extend it to all national parks in Rwanda. This research was done only for the case study of Nyungwe National Park; having data from other parks could help more the decisions makers in improving female recruitment but also considering the factors identified. Again, after understanding the role of woman in conservation and having the list of factors that inhibit her participation in conservation work, I am committed to build the capacity of more female who should become conservation leaders in future, I am empowered to empower others that's why I am planning to train more women around Nyungwe National Park, who will become future trainers and advocates for conservation of the beautiful biodiversity in and around Nyungwe. I will start from young ladies from schools around the park to represent five districts bordering the park, once the project succeeds, it will be extended in other corners of the park. Building the capacity of more female from local areas will increase the involvement of women in conservation, women will love conservation at early age, and if possible, we will make a tour and visit some women who work in conservation to learn from their experiences in field, and of course I will be sharing my experience with them as a 9 years' experience female conservationist. I wish to make conservation an enjoyable carrier for both men and women starting from Nyungwe National Park.

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

1. At University of Rwanda and KCCCEM, I will organise a seminar in collaboration with heads of department and will share the results with students and lecturers.
2. At my work, I will also ask for time to talk about my findings, and will post them on their website.
3. I will strive to attend international conferences and present my findings orally or/and by posters
4. I will present the findings also in 2018 Nyungwe research symposium which is regularly organized by RDB in collaboration with University of Rwanda
5. I will also send the findings to Tropical Biology Association (TBA) to post them on their website, as this project originated from a training I have got from TBA in October 2015 about integrating rights and social issues in conservation. Even, after getting the grant, it was posted on their Facebook page; so results will be posted both on Facebook and website.
6. I will also share the findings with FFI for them to post on their website as they are also concerned with gender and conservation aspects.
7. If possible, publication in papers of national or international 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?**

The grant was used in 12 months (Dec 2016-Dec 2017). This agrees with the anticipated length of the project and I can confirm that the time was sufficient for the project activities.

**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
Costs for interviews in field at Nyungwe National Park (Food, Transport, Lodge, communication,)	2000	2200	-200	This difference was due to difficult terrain, and this obliged to stay longer than expected in some areas, and it complicated logistics.
Costs for interviews within conservation institutions (Transport, lodge, Food, communication, )	1000	880	120	Transport to organizations was not complicated and this has made the work easier and the reduced the cost
Focus groups costs	1500	1720	-220	Transport costs has increased a little bit, and that's the origin of the difference. This was due to location of the people where public transport is not applicable.
Data entry and cleaning costs	500	580	-80	The data entry cost has also increased a little bit compared to the planed costs. This was due to the fact that that I did not have the laptops to give those (2 people), so they used their own laptops and then the cost was increased.
<b>Total</b>	<b>5000</b>	<b>5380</b>	<b>-380</b>	I have managed to cover this difference by my own contribution and I was happy to contribute to my project to achieve its objectives.

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

1. Creation of young ladies groups/clubs around the park starting from five schools.
2. Capacity building of the groups/clubs and give them a package to become future trainers in conservation matters and advocates for Nyungwe conservation.
3. The project will be duplicated around three more parks in Rwanda.
4. Organise a session of park staff and train them about gender and conservation and how to apply gender principles in their daily work. This can be in one

package or in one project with ladies clubs trainings, but of course in different sessions.

**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?**

1. Yes, I used the Rufford Foundation logo on doorpost of our offices, on proposal submitted to RDB when looking for research permit, on questionnaire used in interviews.
2. I also branded Rufford in workshop I attended in February 2017 related to women leadership in conservation, here Rufford has received a publicity during the course of my project; participants came from 10 countries have known Rufford and how it support conservationists to carry their projects. I mentioned also Rufford Foundation in a biodata I gave for the workshop, showing the project I am conducting, I showed that it is funded by Rufford foundation.

**11. Any other comments?**

The project was very important as it helped to identify possible factors that influence low participation of women in conservation and at the same time proposed some of the activities that women can perform once they are brought on board. It also helped to identify some of the solutions to tackle those barriers. The project was interesting for most of the people, as it looks like the first project of that kind in Rwanda. The project was a good opportunity for me to attend important workshops and will also attend more mostly to share these interesting results. By concluding, it is recommended that this project should be extended to other protected areas to have the image of the whole country. The project recommends again that more women should be encouraged to study, to understand and then love conservation at early age; that's why I will strive to get funds to train young women in conservation and they become future advocates for conservation of the valuable biodiversity we have in Rwanda. By training young women in schools I will also encourage them to study conservation courses at University, so then we can have more women trained in conservation. The project inspired me to think about involvement of women in nature conservation, in my daily work as conservationist I think about the role of women in conservation. It is noted that a mixture of natural science and social science is need to improve conservation work. This project should even go beyond Rwanda and be duplicated in the region to have the global perspective.