

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	C.E. Bakker
Project title	Environmental education for children in local communities for the protection of flora and fauna in the Bénoué Complex, Cameroon
RSG reference	21244-1
Reporting period	January 2017 – December 2017
Amount of grant	£5000
Your email address	cebakker91@gmail.com
Date of this report	31-12-2017

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
Train 6 community guards to give environmental education				They gained experience during the training and as well during the Children's Bushcamp before they started educational sessions at local schools
Reach 125 pupils to the Children's Bushcamp				Even reached 250 children at the Children's Bushcamp, which is twice as many as foreseen
Giving 3 educational sessions at 10 schools around each national park (30 schools in total)				I reduced the number of schools, because the classes were larger than expected. In the end, around 1200 children were reached with those sessions (which was even more than previewed). The planning and logistics of the three sessions was a challenge, but in the end, all sessions were given.
Equip local schools with education materials				Education materials were created, but it was not achievable to leave them at all schools. Now we have created three sets, which have been used in different schools.

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

- The level of knowledge of the children was a lot lower than expected. We made a test to see the difference in knowledge between the first and last educational session on the schools. However, the children had too much difficulty in reading and understanding the questions so that the tests became useless.
- Transport issues at the Bushcamp. It was expected that 2 buses of Ecole the Faune (EFG) could be used. However, in the last week it became clear that one of the buses was not available. In the end, a bus of a local bus company was arranged and the problem was resolved.
- The logistic part of the educational sessions was challenging. Due to bad mobile connection it was difficult to get in touch with them and give them instruction about how to continue the project. This caused some delays in the programme. In addition, road conditions after the heavy rainy season caused extra delay.

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

1: Reaching 250 children and 26 local school teachers with the Children's Bushcamp. They got the unique chance to enter Bénoué National Park and get lessons and practical activities to get to know the park better. I think that practical on site education with the use of an almost entire Cameroonian staff is one of the most effective ways to create goodwill of local communities and create an increased interest for the protection of the park.

2: Reaching 1200 children with our school education programme to learn about the basics of nature and conservation. This part of the project was logistically quite challenging, but I think it was very positive to involve local schools into the project.

3: Train six motivated lion guards to give environmental education. They can now independently give basic environmental education on schools. With this project, they have gained a good base of experience to continue this work and empowered them to do other educational activities in the future.

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

The lion guards are local people, so we have created local employment through our project. Besides, the main goal was to involve local children in nature conservation and this has definitely been achieved. Normally, local people don't have any chance to visit national parks in a legal way. By organising the Bushcamp, many children, but also their teachers got the chance to visit the park legally, often for the first time in their life. In this way, they could enjoy the positive and beautiful sides of the park. Moreover, we hope that those people will now not only associate the park or protected areas with illegal activities or a 'free supermarket', but also will see it as an important area of natural resources to protect for their own future.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

For now, there are no direct plans to continue the work. However, I feel it is of great importance to find a way to keep local children involved and educated about nature conservation. However, I need to rethink our methods, planning and partners, since working with local partners and authorities was/is very challenging.

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

- Regular updates during the project on the Rufford website.
- I have placed news items on the Bushcamp on my social media.
- I am also still planning to write a short news item for a journal. But this idea needs to be worked out and elaborated further.

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 activity period was planned for 1 year (January to December 2017). This compared very well with the actual length of the project. First activities started in February, when I arrived in Cameroon, and the last activities have ended in December.

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. 1 £ sterling= 740 XAF (Central Africa Francs)

Item	Budgeted Amount	Actual Amount	Difference	Comments
SALARY				
Per diem guards	126	110,30	-15,70	
Salary staff during training	500	397,55	-102,45	The salary of staff given the training was less than expected for the days planned. In addition, we needed less teachers than previewed.
Salary guards for education sessions	1080	298,99	-781,01	It seems that there was a miscalculation in the original budget. Besides, it turned out that we used less schools (larger classes) than expected. Therefore, less days were needed to finish all education sessions.
Salary personnel during Bushcamp	1400	1874,74	+474,74	Budget that was left from the salary of the education sessions was used for this.
TRANSPORTATION				
Vehicle gas and maintenance (Bushcamp)	500	329,48	-170,52	This was cheaper than expected (even though we had to hire a bus). Also less car reparations than we expected.
Fuel motorcycle	225	125,26	-99,74	Less days of work, so less petrol had been used
SUBSISTANCE AND LODGING				
Sustenance guards and teachers during training	200	160,25	-39,75	Food and lodging turned out cheaper than expected

Sustenance of personnel and children during the Bushcamp	750	1338,84	+588,84	With inviting more children than expected, the costs of foods were raised substantially. Besides, we unexpectedly had to rent the entire touristic camp to house all the children, because the mattresses we originally wanted to use were not available anymore.
FIELDWORK AND EQUIPMENT				
Education materials and Bushcamp education sessions	200	377,94	+177,94	It turned out that this was more than expected, because we had to buy more materials for more children who received environmental education
COMMUNICATION AND OFFICE MATERIAL				
Phone fax and postage	19	0	-19	We did not really use this part of the budget.
TOTAL	5000	5013,35	-	

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

For the future, I think that it is important that environmental education becomes a part of the curriculum of schools in Cameroon. However, before this can be reached more in depth pilot's studies need to be done to find out what works and what not. Most challenging part in here is to define the level of the children and adapt the programme to this. Also, for the Bushcamp it is important that this becomes a regular yearly or two yearly activity. Another next step could be to expand the Bushcamp also to other parks in the area or even in other parts in Cameroon.

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?

We have used the Rufford logo in the materials that we have printed for the education sessions on schools and for the Children's Bushcamp.

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

Elise Bakker – Coordinator and teacher

Iris Kirsten – Assistant coordinator and teacher at the Bushcamp

Nadia Nhiomog – Teacher at the Bushcamp

Serge Kamgang – Teacher at the Bushcamp

16 eco-guards – Assisted during the bushcamp. Assisted in education and were responsible for the security of the children during the Bushcamp. 2 eco-guards had

more responsibility and arranged all contacts with the schools (for both the regular sessions as the Bushcamp). 2 eco-guards assisted with cooking during the Bushcamp

6 lion guards – Gave environmental education on schools. They also assisted in the Bushcamp

7 people from Tourist Camp “Buffle Noir” – Managed the camp, Helped with everything needed during the Bushcamp (setting up beds, pumping water etc.)

1 cook - cooking during the Children’s Bushcamp (with help of two eco-guards)

5 drivers – Driving the children between the schools and the Bushcamp

12. Any other comments?

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to give the children in the Bénoué Complex the chance of visiting a park and receiving environmental education.

