

## 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](mailto:jane@rufford.org).

Thank you for your help.

**Josh Cole, Grants Director**

---

Grant Recipient Details	
Your name	Mathias D'haen
Project title	Saving DRC's threatened Kordofan giraffe
RSG reference	21303-1
Reporting period	26/09/2016 – 17/08/2017
Amount of grant	£5000
Your email address	mathias@dhaen.be
Date of this report	02/10/2017

**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
Identifying population dynamics				
Identifying population threats				
Identifying distribution and migration patterns				
Capacity building local team				Basic giraffe data collection, identification and data storage were gained, however, more in-depth research skills need follow up
Development of national action plan				

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

Data collection was undertaken through a combination of field patrols, previously fitted GPS satellite collars and aerial reconnaissance surveys. Whilst field patrols were carried out regularly they resulted in only a minimum number of direct giraffe observations and unfortunately less efficient than planned. However, the field patrols have played an important role in the development of on-the-ground monitoring and management of the park, gaining a better understanding of habitat and general data collecting. As a result, more aerial reconnaissance surveys were organised to obtain appropriate data for giraffe.

Considering Garamba NP's unstable environment, some of the scheduled giraffe field patrols were postponed to allow the park's management to focus on law-enforcement and anti-poaching efforts. Even though these inconveniences occurred rarely, new patrols were organised as soon as technically possible to follow up on those not undertaken.

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

1. A greater understanding of the population dynamics, distribution and movement patterns of giraffe in Garamba NP. This is critical for the ongoing conservation and management of the species in the park.

2. Identification of the various threats facing giraffe in Garamba NP facing and establishment of a framework for further conservation research and management addressing these threats.

3. Development of a draft National Giraffe Conservation Strategy and Action Plan in the DRC. Besides the inclusion of current conservation efforts, the document also outlines the efforts to be followed up by at a national level to secure long-term conservation of the species.

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

Local communities benefited from the work on different levels. Most directly, three research assistants were trained and employed in the conservation research field team and activity involved in the project. Their work focussed on data collection, individual identification of giraffe, data storage and basic analysis. There is a lot of future potential for this team in Garamba NP moving forward. Furthermore, some community members were exposed to the park and giraffe conservation through targeted wildlife tours such as 'World Environment Day'. Long-term, the preservation of giraffe in Garamba NP is critical for the future of its ecotourism which is directly linked to employment opportunities locally. As such, the benefits may not always be immediate but hopefully the focus on giraffe will enable greater support in future.

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

Yes. The project was undertaken in close collaboration with the management of Garamba NP and the outputs invaluable to their work. Plans are being made to continue the project by incorporating it into the management plan of the park, and hopefully will be up and running in early 2018.

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

Firstly, the project results have been shared with the management of Garamba NP to facilitate the protection of the species through baseline population information in support of on the ground anti-poaching efforts. Secondly, the development of a draft National Giraffe Conservation Strategy and Action Plan provides a solid basis for all future giraffe conservation in the country. Thirdly, the results from the project are used in evaluation reports for major supporters of Garamba NP (such as European Union and World Bank). Finally, the results will be shared on an academic level through presentations and developed into a Masters thesis within the Czech University of Life Sciences.

**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 over the same timescale as proposed: 26/09/2016 – 17/08/2017.

**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
International and local flights	1200	1079	-121	
Visa	1180	1381	+201	Extra costs as a result of customs difficulties
Accommodation and food	2000	1572	-428	
Vaccinations and medicines	200	327	+127	
Insurance	220	261	+41	
Research materials	200	506	+306	Additional materials bought - water filter, cooking stove
<b>Total</b>	5000	5126	+126	

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

Having built a solid baseline for the conservation efforts of giraffe in Garamba NP, with a focus on critical questions such as population numbers, distribution, movement patterns and others, it is important that this work is continued and the Park management assisted with the best information possible to allow them to make sound conservation decisions. Long-term, it is important that local DRC staff are adequately trained and undertaking the work.

The next proposed steps of the project include:

- Implementation of the National Giraffe Conservation Strategy and Action Plan activities.
- Ongoing long-term monitoring of the population for conservation management.
- Assessment of predation as a potential severe threat to giraffe population growth.
- Implementation of actions to minimise the threat of predation e.g. creation of a predator free zone, construction of a fenced area, etc.
- Assessment of giraffe internal translocations to minimise threats from poaching.

**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?**

Yes, the logo was used in all quarterly reports that were produced for the Giraffe Conservation Foundation, published on the GCF website and Rufford Foundation mentioned in various media interviews.

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

Mr John Barrett, General Manager and Erik Mararv, Park Manager, experts in Park management of operations, local situation and wildlife management in Africa.

Dr Julian Fennessy, Co-Director of Giraffe Conservation Foundation and Co-Chair of IUCN SSC Giraffe & Okapi Specialist Group – project advisor.

Dr Karolina Brandlova, Head of Department, Animal Sciences and Food Processing, Faculty of Tropical Agrisciences Czech University of Life Sciences Prague – Academic advisor.

Garamba National Park's Ranger Patrol teams – aiding with on the ground military tactics as well as assisting with field missions for data collection.

Djuma Ngoy, Didier Kimpungi Diana and Rodolphe Lutengya, Research and monitoring assistants – facilitating field missions, helping with post-observation identifications and data collection.

**12. Any other comments?**

I would like to thank The Rufford Foundation for the support received without which it would have never been possible to come to the results we have today. With such solid foundation for giraffe conservation established during this project, I do hope that ongoing support can help facilitate even greater giraffe conservation management efforts in DRC.

