

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	Tsetagho Guilain
Project title	Assessing the Conservation Status of Threatened Avifauna of Mount Manengouba, Cameroon
RSG reference	24187-1
Reporting period	30 th January 2019
Amount of grant	£4,899
Your email address	gtseguil@yahoo.fr
Date of this report	16 th February 2019



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
Provide quantitative population diversity, abundance and distribution data for Threatened Avifauna of Mount Manengouba.				130 point counts were randomly established across The Mount Manengouba forest, where data on the bird community was successfully collected. This gave us data on the entire diversity of Mount Manengouba's bird community. Point count data are currently being analysed statistically, but a preliminary analysis shows that several important bird species remain in the Mount Manengouba region. Some of the data will be used by Njikam Sidik for his Master thesis on the Distribution and Habitat Characteristic of Threatened Endemic birds of Mount Manengouba, and the rest for publication in an ornithological peer- review journal.
Identify and characterise habitats types found in Mount Manengouba, as well as identify threats on birds and associated habitats				GPS locations of all habitat types found in Mount Manengouba were successfully collected and analysed. Seven vegetation types were classified, constituting the main habitat types. Also, our present observation in the field and interviews with locals reveals that all forest and savanna habitats have been reduced in size or altered through various forms of human activity (mostly in the northern part of the mountain). Some natural forest patches are being eliminated or negatively impacted and such practices are particularly detrimental to generally reduce the range of endemic birds found there. The main threats identified included uncontrolled bushfires for clearing



		grazing lands (by herders), poaching, overgrazing (mostly at the summit of the mountain), farmland creation, illegal and unsustainable exploitation of the threatened <i>Prunus africana</i> bark for medicine.
Determine distribution and preferred habitat of threatened and endemic bird of Global conservation concern		We recorded habitat type and all GPS locations where birds of conservation concern were found. These data are still being analysed and by May 2019, distribution maps of all birds of global conservation concern found in the area, as well as associated habitats, will be available and will constitute baseline for future avifauna monitoring in the site.
Raise the level of awareness and knowledge of the local community on the importance of conserving the site by sensitizing at least 75% of the people living around the Mount Manengouba, in order to develop a conservation strategy for site based on the above results.		Ten conservation education campaigns and awareness workshops were successfully organised (in Bouroukou, Nsoug, Mouanguel and Pastoral) in schools, local administration and villages. But we didn't reach two villages located in the north part of the site (Ntak and Mueba) due to political issues in the area. Despite this, engagement with locals and schools was successfully achieved. 100 t-shirts with sensitisation messages and poster of Manengouba's threatened birds were produced and used as promotional materials during the education and sensitisation campaign. Now they are aware about threatened birds on Mount Manengouba, their conservation and associated habitats.
Fully train two local guides as potential future research assistants in the area.		Our two guides Abdou Babale from Pastoral village and Sebastien Ekoume from Nsoung village were successfully trained to collect data, on the use of binoculars, compass, mp3 recorder and habitat surveys. Additionally, they successfully identified all endemic birds and birds of global conservation concern found in the area. Given the difficulty to memorise the English name of



		these birds during the process, our field assistant Njie Francis generated a list of these birds containing local and English name of these, which facilitated their learning process. They were also presented to local representation of Ministry of Forest and Wildlife in Cameroon during a workshop as potential field assistants for any future work or monitoring in the area.
Engage with student research activities in the University of Dschang, Cameroon.		We collaborated with Njikam Sidik, MSc student from the University of Dschang, who received training on bird surveys and will use part of the results from this project for his Master thesis write-up and defence.
Build lasting research collaborations between local NGOs/Institution.		Collaboration has been established with The local NGO Cameroon Herpetology - Conservation Biology Foundation (CAMPHERP-CBF) directed by Dr Nono Gonwouo Legrand, a former RSG recipient for his work on human influence on the diversity and distribution of endemic amphibians, on Mount Manengouba. This NGO is dedicated to amphibian protection, and is executing a project in the area to designate Mount Manengouba as a protected area. Results from this work will constitute a good support to highlight the importance of this site for its designation as a protected area by the Cameroon Government. A report of bird diversity of Manengouba is being prepared and a copy will be give to CAMPHERP-CBF.
Identify priorities for further research and conservation management activities		A project proposal on the association between endemic birds of Mount Manengouba and floristic diversity found there is in preparation. Also, analysis of results from the successful data on bird surveys will allow us to complete this aim in 2020.
Recommendations drawn from this work will be instrumental in the		The development of strong and viable community-based forest management institutions is an



development of a simple management plan for a wider management project for the site		important step in creating a viable community-based forest conservation programme. Creation of a national park or wildlife reserve remains a good approach for forest and other natural resource management in this area.
Contribute to the update of Cameroon's National Biodiversity Strategy Action Plan (NBSAP) and the global biodiversity conservation priority areas.		This is still being prepared, as an up- to-date list of species constituting the avifauna of Mount Manengouba, threats to conservation and proposed measures have been channelled through the administrative authorities in charge of forestry and wildlife, in order to include it in the upcoming version of the NBSAP document. However, the site account will only be complete if the status of other taxa is included.

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

We expected to do 200 points counts but due to political issues in the north slope of the site, the area was too insecure but we did 130 points established across all vegetation types and this was sufficient to come out with good results on bird diversity in the site.

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

- 130 point counts were successfully established in all habitats types and data on bird communities, abundance, distribution and density of threatened birds of Mount Manengouba are now available and will be used as data base for future monitoring. Also, data will be used in partial fulfilment for the award of an MSc degree by a student from Dschang University.
- No record in the site of grey-necked picathartes, a vulnerable species listed by IUCN/BirdLife International, which was recorded last time during survey in 2000 particularly in Nsoung village. Interviews with locals in this village reveals that the species was mostly found in traps and for the past 6 years they didn't see it. This could suggest that the population of this bird has declined and it has become extinct in the area, or probably the remaining surviving population has migrated due to high hunting pressure.
- We established a good collaboration with local NGO CAMPHERP-CBF and our results will serve as good support to convince national government for the need to formally protect the site. Also, we provided support and training to a student from the University of Dschang (which is ongoing), and to our two



local guides. They could now serve as monitoring field assistance for future projects in the area.

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

This project was carried out with the help of the local communities who assisted in all stages of the survey. Prior to the fieldwork (during a pilot study), they helped in providing the information about threatened species found and their associated habitats. They participated during the presentation of project results and they agreed to help conservation of endangered species, mostly in Nsoung village (which still has some good forest and where we recorded many threatened birds). Two locals, Abdou Babale and Sebastien Ekoume, both from local communities were paid as field guides and received training on bird identification and ecological monitoring. In addition, this work funded by the Rufford Foundation has greatly increased their knowledge on bird conservation issues. Also during this cooperation, education on sustainable exploitation of natural resources was passed on to them as they are known to exploit natural resources (Prunus africana for instance) as an income generating activities. Local communities have created a forest management committee in each village with the help of CAMPHERP-CBF, and researchers should pay $\pounds 60$ in each village where they will work. This money is dedicated to develop each village, and we did it well in order to encourage them to continuously protect their forest. For long-term benefit, they progressively understood the importance of the project while generating little income from research and from the daily salaries paid for guides and porters. They understood through this cooperation that as long as the resources are available, they can periodically earn some money when research work is conducted at the site.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

There is no database for all Cameroon's IBAs. We are planning to extend this work to other IBAs in order to generate a database which will help for future monitoring and for the management of these sites. Also, always in Manengouba, we will examine association between threatened birds and associated floristic composition of the site. This will help to establish relationship between bird communities and associated trees species, in order to improve conservation of these species and other taxa as well.

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

Results will form part of Ndikam Sidik MSc thesis that will be defended in July 2019. Results from this work will be submitted to peer-reviewed journals, and will also be presented in BirdLife International newsletter and IBA monitoring database. In addition, we will present our results at the national level in Cameroon (Bioscience, CAFOBIOS, seminars, etc.) and at international level at the Student Conference on Conservation Science in 2020, if bursary for attendance is granted.



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 provided for the study was used for a period of 1 year (30th January 2018 - 30th January 2019). Due to political issues in some place in the site, we spent much time for fieldwork and extended 2 weeks after the grant completion period for final report preparation. This is the main reasons why the final report had a small delay.

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
A pair of Binocular Bushnell 10X50 water proof (to observe and identify bird)	185	185	0	Was initially budgeted
GPS Garmin 64s	0	210	-210	Was not budgeted but our own was spoiled during pilot study, and we bought another for field work.
Digital Camera(to capture all interesting and significant picture during field work surveys and workshops)	342	355	-13	We saw another which was better than the model originally budgeted for.
2 kits of tent, sleeping mat & sleeping bag (for investigator and research assistant)	220	150	+70	Was cheaper than planned
Laser finder range (for distance analysis)	200	110	+90	Fortunately we found one cheaper than originally budgeted
Bird identification guide (Bird of western Africa: Second Edition by Borrow & Demey), for bird identification on the field	38	45	-7	
Stereo audio recorder & speaker (to record and play birds songs for identification purpose)	185	150	+35	We saw a better deal with another seller which was cheaper than planned



Field guide /Research assistant per diem (x150 days)	1,235	1,085	+150	We made a good arrangement with field guides and research assistant, which allowed us to keep some money used to buy GPS
Transportations, for 5 trips (from Yaoundé to project site)	125	210	-85	Extra was for research assistant and MSc student
Feeding allowance, for researcher and assistant (x 150 days)	1,000	940	+60	Extra was used to add and buy the GPS.
300 Posters (laminated pictures of threatened birds and poster on research results)	453	358	+95	Fortunately, we saw a better deal with reduction, which allow us to keep some money.
100 Printed T-shirts (used as promotional material)	357	457	-100	We saw a better quality but more expensive than planned.
10 Report preparation (for community, local & National stakeholders, NGO & academic)	206	206	0	
Workshops for sensitisation /school lecture)	210	180	+30	The local administrative authorities helped to conclude some arrangements with locals. This allowed us to reduce costs and save some money
Contingency (3%)	143	300	-157	Costs for communication, library in villages, money transfer for the purchase of some equipment in French.
TOTAL	4899	4941	-42	

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

Complete data analysis and formulate an evidence-based conservation strategy for birds in the proposed national park. Also evaluate the land cover change occurred in Manengouba's IBA since its designation in 2000, this will help to plan a better land use management system.

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

RF logo was used in all promotional materials (t-shirts, posters of birds and results, and laminated pictures). Our Masters student Njikam Sidik will also use RF logo during his defence's presentation and will also acknowledged RF in his thesis. In addition RF will also be acknowledged in all communications (talks, posters and research papers)



during any scientific event. Links about RF's activities from the website, that regularly published on Facebook page are being shared in our various networks.

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

Tsetagho Guilain: Applicant and principal investigator;

Njie Francis: Research assistant;

Ndjikam Didik: MSc student and assistant;

Abdou Babale: Field guide;

Ekoume Sebastien: Field Guide.

12. Any other comments?

I sincerely thank RF for supporting this study around Mount Manengouba. Funds from the project have helped to update information of all threatened birds at the site and have also permitted us to have good data on its avifauna, associated habitats and threats. This could be used as database for future avifauna monitoring, and will contribute to the management plan elaboration of the site. Since I am also still finalising data process, the abundance, density and distribution map has not been produced yet but will be soon in the paper I am preparing. The project also helped to establish important links with local communities, traditional and administrative authorities around Mount Manengouba, and to get further experience for educational activities.



Left: Yellow-throated Longclaw Macronyx croceus. Right: African Pipit Anthus cinnamomeus.





Left: Nest of Bannerman's Weaver. Right: Bannerman's Weaver Ploceus bannermani.

















