

Final Evaluation Report

Your Details	
Full Name	Ahissa Laurent
Project Title	Diversity, abundance and Conservation of Small Mammals in Tanoé-Ehy swampy Forest Reserve, High Conservation Value Site in Côte d'Ivoire.
Application ID	24451-1
Grant Amount	£4,998
Email Address	laurentahissa@yahoo.fr
Date of this Report	2018. 11. 12

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
Characterization of different habitats in the Tanoé-Ehy swampy forest				None
Sampling and identification of small mammals				None
Awareness raising and environmental education campaigns				On the 11 villages, our money supported the awareness programme in five villages.

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

Before the implementation of our small mammal conservation project, several meetings were held with the various village chiefs, youth presidents and surrounding populations. We explained the objectives and gave all the information to our partners for a good understanding. They were all unanimous to help with the project. We did not have any difficulties in this work.

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

I) At the end of this project we recorded 200 individuals of small mammals divided into 14 species of small mammals.

They are the soricomorphs *Crocidura buettikoferi*, *Crocidura juvenetae*, and *Crocidura olivieri*. The rodents were *Hylomyscus baeri*, *Hylomyscus simus*, *Lemniscomys striatus*, *Hybomys planifrons*, *Lophuromys sikapusi*, *Mylomys dybowski*, *Malacomys edwardsi*, *Mus minutoides*, *Mus musculooides*, *Mastomys natalensis*, *Graphiurus Lorraineus* and *Praomys rostratus*.

This study revealed two species with special status according to IUCN. These are *Hylomyscus baeri* (endangered) and *Crocidura buettikoferi* (near threatened). Ecological factors influencing the distribution of small mammals on the site are the degree of human disturbance, the presence or absence of water, the opening of the canopy, the presence or absence of grasses on the ground and the presence or absence of predators

II) We have organised environmental education at five pilot schools, four elementary schools and a college in the area on the importance of protecting threatened small mammal species. For this activity, we distributed knowledge sheets on the importance of animals and plants in general and the FMTE in particular. Trained teachers provided this knowledge to the children. To evaluate levels of

understanding, questions were asked through games during a day of excellence and conservation held in each school.

- Modern Collège of Nouamou (200 students): 30 / 05/2018
- Nouamou 1 Public primary school (325 students): 07/06/2018
- Nouamou 2 public primary school (275 students): 07/06/2018
- Kotoagnuan 1 Public Primary School (350 pupils): 12/06/2018
- Kotoagnuan 2 Public Primary School (300 pupils): 12/06/2018

Success rate:

100% Modern College of Nouamou
100% Public Primary School Nouamou 1
100% Public primary school Nouamou 2
80% Kotoagnuan Public Primary School 1
75% Kotoagnuan Public Primary School 2

III) Several sensitisation sessions were conducted with the populations through slide presentations, films, radio messages and signs. The objectives were first to present: 1) the ecological importance of small mammals in ecosystems and the current conservation status of the species *Hylomyscus baeri*; 2) the importance of conservation of FMTE through the benefits ecosystems provided by FMTE to local communities; and 3) establish voluntary forest monitoring groups against land clearing, sawn wood and other human activities.

We visited villages such as Nouamou (2300 inhabitants), Dohouan (2000 inhabitants), Kotoagnuan (3500 inhabitants), Yaoakakro (1235 inhabitants) and Kongodjan (1500 inhabitants). In total 10535 people benefited from the project. Groups of people made up of men, women and young people have been trained on the concepts of ecosystem conservation in each village. They will be able to continue the work at our absence. Five groups of volunteer monitors have been trained. Each group contained 10 people in each village. A total of 50 people received surveillance training and how to convince the population to safeguard the FMTE.

To reach a greater number of people in the countryside, villages and the city, we organised radio broadcasts in two radio stations in the project area. A radio in Ivory Coast (Akwaba FM) in the city of Noé and a radio in neighbouring Ghana (West FM) in the city of Elubo. For 60 days we talked about conservation of the FMTE. The broadcasts were animated by scientific researchers, village organisations in local languages. The various partners of the Swiss Center for Scientific Research in Côte d'Ivoire (CSRS) also hosted other programmes. About 2,600,000 listeners were aware of FMTE's conservation through radio messages.

Finally we built signs in each village. This will allow sustainability of the project actions. Newcomers to the villages will be able to quickly become immersed in the conservation of small mammals and the FMTE through what is mentioned on the signs. It is written on the plaque "Village Association for Conservation and Development." All for the conservation of the FMTE". The writings are accompanied by drawing of small mammals.

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

During project implementation the local community was strongly involved.

2018. 03. 30: Information about the project was given during a meeting with the local people, the different partners in order to better understand the objectives of the project.

2018. 04. 15 to 2018.05.15: We had teacher refresher training meetings that animated environmental education.

For habitat characterisation and small mammal sampling, the youth presidents, with the agreement of the village leaders, gave us field assistants to guide us through the forest. A total of 50 assistants due to 10 assistants per village were supported financially during sampling. They received motivational per diems.

T-shirts were distributed to students during environmental education. Local authorities, local students and visitors participated in the project through sensitisation, construction of the reference panels. All these results obtained were fundamental for the conservation of small mammals. The most important benefit aside from per diems and rewards, local communities have endorsed and accepted the conservation of small mammals and their habitat which is the FMTE.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Village associations were created in five villages. The members of these associations will continue to sensitise the local populations. As with most activities focused on behavioural change, the sustainability of the project through education of populations and authorities must be repeated every year. We would like to establish bases in the last six villages around the FMTE later if the Rufford Foundation trusts us for the future.

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

Several techniques are being considered to share the results of our project. During a restitution workshop shared the results with local communities, local authorities. For international communities, we will publish the results in a peer-reviewed scientific journal. All Rufford members, laureates and internet users will also be able to consult my Rufford webpage.

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

The main objective of the grant was to cover work on small mammal sampling and to carry out a small mammal conservation and FMTE awareness programme. The project activities lasted 7 months: April 2018 - October 2018. November and December were used for the writing of the final report. The implementation schedule submitted from the start was well respected.

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
Renting car and communication	500	500		
Foods for team members and per diems for field assistants	400	400		
Radio discussion program	300	300		
Workshops with the stakeholders	300	300		
Community education and awareness campaigns	525	525		
Genetic analysis	750	750		
Alcohol 96 %, Ether, Gloves	68	68		
100 Sherman live traps	2155	2155		
Total	4,998	4,998		

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

- Continue to organise awareness activities in villages around the FMTE, activate and improve the participation of members of the local community.
- Continue to reduce the clearing, the felling of the trees, the sawn timber; an important behaviour to save small mammals.
- Develop activities that can increase the financial income of local populations. This will allow people not to enter the FMTE.
- To provide regular training on the conservation and ecosystem services of the FMTE.
- Work in close collaboration with local schoolchildren and teachers to support environmental education programmes.
- Develop a long-term monitoring and conservation programme with the local community.
- Negotiate with the national, local authorities and local chiefs to classify this forest as a voluntary nature reserve.

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?

Yes, we used the RF logo on printed materials, including t-shirts and signs. We also used the Rufford Foundation logo on training materials. We also mentioned RSG support at community gatherings and outreach activities. The foundation received a lot of publicity during the project.

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

Ahissa Laurent: (PhD Student) Project Coordinator, I led all field activities and project activities.

Dr. Akpatou Kouamé Bertin, he supervised the identification activities of small mammals.

Prof. Koné Inza (Director General of the Swiss Center for Scientific Research in Côte d'Ivoire), he provided scientific researchers and sociologists for the scientific and maintenance aspects of the populations. He gave advice for the success of the project.

Konan Ernest: (Biodiversity Conservation Technician), helped with small mammal sampling and awareness

Tano N'Da Aboua: Responsible for village organizations, conducted outreach work with local communities.

Coulibaly Yaya: Deputy Head of Village Organizations, assisted in interpretation work with local people.

Wognin: (School Principal), Responsible for environmental education activities in primary schools in Nouamou 1 and Nouamou 2.

Mesmin: (School Principal), conducted environmental education activities in Kotoagnuan 1 and Kotoagnuan 2 Primary Schools.

Adaé Ladji: (principal of the college), supervised the environmental education activities in the college.

Vagni Médard: Photographer of the project

Bado Soleymane: Project Driver

We wish to express our sincere thanks to the Rufford Foundation for its valuable support for the conservation of small mammals of the FMTE.