

Final Project Evaluation Report

Your Details	
Full Name	Sylviane Volampeno
Project Title	Conservation of Threatened Lemurs in Andilambogno Forest, western Madagascar: Biological research, Habitat Restoration and Community Outreach
Application ID	24521-B
Grant Amount	£ 10,000
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Date of this Report	July 2 nd , 2020

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
Train the local community				Seventeen people, composed of 15 men and two women, from the village of Andilambologno were trained in lemur survey and forest patrol for 5 days. The training was composed of 4 days of theoretical training and 1 day of practical training. The participants learnt the methodology of lemur survey, forest patrols and also use of equipment such as GPS and filling in a data sheet. A test was conducted at the end of the training in order to evaluate the ability of the participants to become local guides. Only three people failed to the test.
Conduct forest patrol and lemur survey				Eight local guides conducted regular forest patrols and lemur surveys. During the patrols, the guides destroyed lemur traps encountered within the forest. A total of three lemur species including two diurnal species, the blue-eyed black lemur and the western lesser bamboo lemur, and the only nocturnal lemur, the northern giant mouse lemur. We found four groups of western lesser bamboo lemur within the forest and six groups of blue-eyed black lemur.
Sensitize local community about biodiversity conservation and environmental protection				Four community outreach sessions were conducted during the project period. We were supposed to carry out a fifth awareness raising session in April 2020 during the Earth Day but due to the pandemic disease we were not able to do it as the country was in lockdown. Overall, all sessions went well, the school children learnt much about the biodiversity of the forest of Andilambologno.
Restore forest lemur habitat				We planted 1500 young seedling composed of two native trees and one exotic plant. Ninety people

				participated to the reforestation, 60% of whom were school children. A year after the reforestation, we found that the trees were growing well, and the mortality rate was only about 20%.
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2. Please explain any unforeseen difficulties that arose during the project and how these were tackled.

Overall, we did not encounter any difficulty during the project; local community training, reforestation and lemur surveys went well as planned except the community outreach. We planned to conduct the fifth environmental education event during the Earth Day on 22nd April 2020 but unfortunately we could not make it due to the COVID-19 crisis. Madagascar announced its first case on the 20th March and then from that date the country was in lockdown and travel was restricted until now and gatherings of more than 50 people were not allowed. Therefore, we were not able to travel to the project site to carry out this activity. We plan to do this fifth event once the pandemic disease is controlled and travel as well gatherings are allowed. Nevertheless, we should respect the health barriers in order to prevent the spread of the disease.

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

Local community training:

It is noted that we are the first to conduct a project within the area and this project funded by the Rufford Foundation is the first long-term project in the site. We were very impressed to have women who participated in the lemur survey and forest patrols. Of the 17 participants, two were women. At the end of the training we did a training test and only three people failed, and the two women passed the test. We can conclude that the local community were motivated and dedicated to the lemur conservation and research. We have now eight local guides who conduct regular lemur surveys.

Lemur survey and forest patrol:

By conducting regular lemur surveys and forest patrols, the two diurnal lemur species are habituated to human presence and the local guides learn more about the groups and their home range. We can conclude that regular presence of the guides within the forest helps control the human pressures within the area. In addition, this will be very helpful for researchers who will carry long-term lemur research in the future. Some trails already exist within the forest for the survey and lemurs are not wild anymore, thus the future researchers will not spend more time to habituate the lemur species.

Community outreach:

In order to raise the awareness of the villagers for all sex-age classes within the villages surrounding the forest of Andilambologno we prepared diverse educational events such as environmental quiz, film documentary and training for local teachers. The main role of the activity was to increase the awareness of the local community about the conservation of the biodiversity, mainly lemur species and protection of

the lemur habitat. It is noted that we are first to carry out community outreach within the villages surrounding the forest of Andilambologno.

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

During the environmental education events carried out within two villages (Marovato Sud and Mahintsihazo) we gathered 500 villagers – we were the first to conduct this activity within these villages. We also trained 20 teachers. The local community gained indirect benefit such as knowledge about the importance of the lemur and its forest habitat. During the reforestation we gathered 90 people and more than half were school children; it means that the local communities also have benefitted from the project, they are aware that the trees planted surrounding these villages will serve every day needs and those that are planted within the forest border will restore the forest habitat. They are also aware that without trees no rain and rain is very important for their life. The eight local guides that carry out lemur survey are paid monthly; these people are from eight households.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes, we have plans to continue our work within the study site and we will make our conservation work in Andilambologno forest sustainable. We will continue to collect long-term data on the lemur species that will allow us to determine lemur population dynamics. We did not collect data on nocturnal lemur during this project period thus this is also useful for future lemur research. It is also useful to continue the forest patrol in order to control the human pressures within the forest. We will keep conducting community outreach as changing local community behaviour is not easy it needs time. In parallel with this project funded by the foundation, we also carried out survey within the households in order to find out the alternative livelihoods that the local community needs in order to improve their living conditions. It will also decrease dependence of the natural resources. Therefore, we plan to implement alternative livelihoods project.

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

Late this year the second Malagasy primatological society congress was supposed to take place but due to the COVID-19 this congress was postponed until 2021. We will disseminate our results during this congress in 2021. We also plan to publish in the journal Lemur News our preliminary results on the lemur species survey in the Andilambologno forest. As noted previously we are the first to conduct lemur survey within the forest, so the results of our work deserve to be published. We keep update our Facebook page with results of your project.

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

The project period is for 2 years: June 2018- May 2020. The grant agreement was signed in May 2018, but the project started in June 2018.

June 2018: Training for lemur survey and forest patrol

Between June 2018 to September 2019: Community outreach (4 events conducted)
 January 2019: Reforestation

December 2019: Reforestation monitoring

July 2018 -May 2020: regular lemur survey and forest patrol

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic we were not able to carry out the fifth community outreach event which was to be held in April 2020. We will finish this remaining activity once the situation is safe. We will ask a non-cost extension with the remaining budget.

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
Transportation	1700	1550	-150	This budget covered cost of transportation (hiring car and public transport) related to all activities from the beginning until the end of the project. This difference will be used for the remaining community outreach event
Forest patrol and lemur survey	1350	1350		This budget covered per diem for 8 local guides that conduct regular lemur survey and forest patrol during the project period and their uniforms, raincoat and notebooks
Reforestation	1500	1500		This budget covered the cost of young seedling from the nurseryman, transportation of the young seedling from the nursery station to the reforestation area, refreshments during the reforestation
Field equipment	1500	1500		We bought 2 tents, 1 camera, 2 compasses, 1 lamp for camp and 2 headlamps and 2 GPS
Education and outreach activities	2000	1850	-150	This budget covered the various educational products, stipends for teachers and partners and fuels for

				generators. The remaining budget will be used for the remaining outreach activity that we suppose to do in April 2020 but due to the pandemic COVID-19 we were not able to finish it.
Local community training	500	500		This budget covered training equipments, transportation for the trainer and participants, food during the training and salary of the trainer
Food allowance	1450	1450		This budget covered food during the project period for all activities team and 8 guides.
TOTAL	10000	9700	-300	The remaining 300GBP will be used to finish the remaining outreach activity.

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

As mentioned previously we are the first organisation that implemented a project in Andilambologno forest. The forest is rich in term of biodiversity other than lemur species such as birds, reptiles, amphibians and freshwater tortoises. Therefore, it is important to continue biodiversity research within the forest. As the forest is still unprotected, we need to continue forest patrol within the area to prevent the increase in human pressures within the forest. We also plan to continue community outreach and will implement alternative livelihoods within the villages surrounding the forest. In addition, since the beginning of the country lockdown due to the COVID-19 pandemic forest exploitation and animal hunting are increasing as many people lost their job due to the closing of national parks and restriction of travelling.

Therefore, it is an urgent need to reinforce forest patrol and implement alternative livelihoods to avoid the overexploitation of the forest.

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?

We included The Rufford Foundation logo to the t-shirts that we produced and always acknowledge the foundation after each outreach event. The logo will also be included in the talk or poster presentation that we plan to attend next year. We will acknowledge also the donor in publication. We are now at the stage of writing up at the moment.

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

Sylviane Volampeno: myself (project leader), I coordinated all activities. A meeting was held with the project prior each field work to discuss the timeline, budget and meeting with local stakeholders

Rindra Ramanankirahina: She played a role of advisor and checked all educational materials before printing or presenting.

Tsiory Rakotomalalala: He is the field leader; he was in the field for all activities

Natacha Andrianirina: She is the field assistant and participated to all outreach activities and reforestation

Eight local community guides: **Jache, Theodile Ibrahim, Jaosidy Filariau, Jaosana, Ratsimbazafy Henriot, Jao Robene, Jaofety and Razafindratsimanary Eliot.** They collected regular lemur data and conducted forest patrol

12. Any other comments?

Without this grant from The Rufford Foundation we were not able to implement lemur and conservation work within the forest of Andilambologno. We would like to thank Rufford for their support. Our plan is to continue our conservation project within the site including lemur research and conservation, implementation of alternative livelihoods such as beekeeping, chicken rearing and permaculture. Therefore, we will request further support from The Rufford Foundation.