

## The Rufford Foundation

### Final Report

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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**

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Grant Recipient Details	
Your name	Jeannette Batamuliza
Project title	Promoting Sustainable Conservation of the Eastern chimpanzees ( <i>Pan troglodytes schweinfurthii</i> ) through Education and Raising Community Awareness
RSG reference	25322-2
Reporting period	July 2018- October 2019
Amount of grant	£5000
Your email address	<a href="mailto:jealiza90@gmail.com">jealiza90@gmail.com</a>
Date of this report	09 <sup>th</sup> October 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
Pre assessment survey about the existing knowledge about chimpanzees and Nyungwe national Park (NNP) conservation				This objective was assessed through questionnaires where the project beneficiaries were asked what they know about the ecological and economical importance of chimpanzees and what they think about the importance of NNP for their wellbeing and the current threats that the park is facing. We have seen that communities and students who are closer to the park know much more about the park and chimpanzees compared to the ones who are a little bit far from the park. Our project beneficiaries were so excited to learn much more about the threats to NNP and its fauna and flora diversity in general.
Promoting sustainable conservation of NNP through education				Different planned educational activities were conducted in both primary and secondary schools. In primary schools we have delivered short presentations relevant to young students afterwards we distributed different educational materials to the students and teachers. The materials we distributed includes brochures, labels for their notebooks, flyers, cartoons strip books showing the importance of NNP, threats and what to do as students for sustainable conservation of this charismatic chimpanzee species. At the end, we have launched " my chimpanzee my pride kid program" and we will do a quarterly follow up to make sure that the programme is functioning efficiently as we are aiming to scale up and these students that we started with will be the stars for others.

			<p>In secondary schools, we conducted different educational activities including presentations, debates, songs, poems, nature games and dramas where the winners were awarded different schools' materials, money and different educational and awareness raising materials including chimpanzee toolkit books, brochures, t-shirts, labels, stickers and others. We also gave some materials including banners, pull ups, posters, brochures and chimpanzee toolkit books to schools' teachers for sustainable use and promotion of chimpanzee conservation.</p>
Capacity building for Environmental Science teachers			<p>Environmental science teachers were trained about biodiversity conservation (threats to biodiversity but focusing on NNP especially at the Eastern chimpanzees' conservation aspects, and possible mitigation measures for sustainable conservation of this charismatic species that serve as the flagship species of this park). The teachers were also trained about natural resources, and how they are going to help us in managing the created and strengthened clubs to help students to use/ explore their talents for long term conservation of the eastern chimpanzees of NNP especially at Gisovu site. Teachers were very excited for the skills they got, and they promised that these skills are not going to be kept in their heads; instead they are going to look how they can incorporate the skills into their teaching curriculum for knowledge transfer.</p>
Promoting sustainable conservation of the Eastern chimpanzee through awareness raising			<p>Different community campaigns were conducted as a way of strengthening local responsibility towards sustainable conservation of the eastern chimpanzees of NNP. During these campaigns, we were assisted by the club's representatives and the students who won different awards during</p>

				educational competitions
Tree planting				This objective was not fully achieved because we missed the tree planting season because the season came (December) while we were still meeting with local authorities. Even though we didn't achieve this objective, we already met with the sectors agronomists and they have already advised us the best tree species to plant at the edge of communities' farms and we have already talked with the nursery tree owner so that when the time comes the seedlings will be ready for being planted. We thought also to plant the trees in April but we were advised that it could be better if we wait for the tree planting season as we couldn't be sure that if we plant them in April they can grow as we are facing a serious climate change in our country and this is the reason why we decided to wait and plant these trees in December 2019.
Post assessment survey				The same questionnaire was administered, and we found that the level of understanding and ownership has raised. The project beneficiaries promised us that they are going to be the ambassadors for the sustainable conservation of the eastern chimpanzees.

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

During this project we have met with some unpredicted difficulties, but they didn't forego us to implement our projects.

- ◆ The project was implemented in remote areas with bad roads and broken/ old bridges. Sometimes it required us to repair the wooden bridges ourselves so that we could pass.
- ◆ We also had difficulties in matching our project implementation timeline with the academic calendar because by the time we were planning to have field works, students were doing exams and the schools authorities proposed us to

carry out our field works when students were back from holidays because the needed to be concentrated on their exams.

- ◆ We were also planning to use LCD projector to make sure that our message was fully captured but we met with a challenge where some schools do not have electricity. Fortunately, we have printed out enough hard copies of our power point presentation and we made sure that the key message was captured as we wished!

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

- ❖ Sharpen youth into the top advocates through creating and strengthening the environmental clubs for sustainable conservation of the NNP especially the eastern chimpanzees of Gisovu site through different environmental education activities: Especially for the schools which are not directly touching the park's boundaries, students didn't know much more about biodiversity conservation, threats to NNP and its biodiversity and how as students they can contribute to promote the sustainable conservation of NNP. At the end of our educational activities carried out, students saw themselves how they can be the top advocates for sustainable conservation of the NNP. They even gave the examples of different initiatives that they are going to start like reporting on time everyone that they will threatening the park, joining environmental clubs for those who were not members, teaching their relatives, neighbours, parents and others the ecological and economical importance of the park for its sustainable conservation.
- ❖ Raising community's awareness and increase their level of understanding towards sustainable conservation of the eastern chimpanzees: This project was very crucial to the communities living around Gisovu site because it has increased the level of understanding and this was measured through the pre- and post-assessment surveys conducted. It is really to see how you contributed to someone's level of understanding and this definitely pushes you to work harder for brilliant contribution or achievements. This project also helped communities to learn much more about the ecological and economical importance of the eastern chimpanzees because the communities knew that the eastern chimpanzees have the simple role of attracting tourists. After learning how crucial chimpanzees are for human wellbeing, the surrounding communities felt very concerned and motivated. They promised us they are going to be the advocates of this charismatic species for its sustainable conservation. They promised us that they are going to work hands in hands with authorities and whoever who feels the ownership of conserving the eastern chimpanzees of NNP. We were really excited for such kind of synergies and we promised communities that we will keep working together for sustainable conservation of the eastern chimpanzees in NNP.
- ❖ Develop a tentative framework that can help to sustainably conserve the Eastern chimpanzees of NNP especially Gisovu sites through protecting their

habitat and proposing possible alternatives solutions in favour of chimpanzee conservation: This project helped us to get different helpful views/ suggestions from communities and students which once will be done, they can definitely help to sustainably conserve the eastern chimpanzees and their habitat as well. Asked what they see are the main threats to Gisovu chimpanzees, both communities and students told us that the main threats are illegal poaching and tree cutting. Asked why communities are poaching and cutting trees, both communities and students told us that in addition to limited knowledge they did not know for example from tree cutting they are threatening the eastern chimpanzees. Here, we explained them that these trees that they are cutting some of them serve as chimpanzees' food sources while others serve as their habitats. We asked them what could be the long term solutions with mutual benefits and they told us that even though we will plant agroforestry trees alongside their farms for different agricultural purposes, if they get some off farming activities for income generation, they won't be back into the for poaching or cutting trees. We considered their suggestions as a very important output of this project outputs because the communities honest and for achieving common goal it really helps and it is promising that by working hands in hands positive and long-term changes will happened.

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

The benefit and involvement of local communities from this project are grouped into five main aspects listed according to how crucial they are:

**Raising the level of understanding:** During this project implementation, we were training communities but also exchanging ideas with them. Before starting our presentation, we administered a questionnaire made different questions related to our project. We realised that communities have some basic knowledge about chimpanzee conservation but when it came at their ecological importance of this species for human wellbeing, this looked quite new to them. This made us to deeply explain the ecological importance of chimpanzees and we were happy how communities were eager to know much more about chimpanzees through different interesting questions and ideas they were providing. At the end of our session we also administered the same questionnaire and we found that the level of understanding of the communities was raised. This is a promising thing for us as it showed us that the message was well captured, and we believe that it will be put into practices for sustainable conservation of the eastern chimpanzees of NNP especially at Gisovu site.

#### **Raising the ownership towards sustainable conservation of the Eastern chimpanzees**

After learning how chimpanzees have crucial importance and the vulnerability of this endangered species to poaching and habitat loss, the surrounding communities felt ownership for their sustainable conservation. Before, communities were not aware about the ecological role of chimpanzees like maintaining the forests diversity through seeds dispersion but at the end they found how chimpanzees are very important to everyone while before they thought that chimpanzees are for only

attracting tourists and generate money. Knowing how ecologically chimpanzees are for human wellbeing, communities felt strongly concerned and committed to sustainably conserve this endangered and flagship species of this park.

**Getting different hygienic materials for those who well responded the questions asked during awareness raising campaigns:** After our session, we asked different questions related to the topics presented and the persons who responded well the questions asked won different hygienic materials like soap and others. This made the communities very interactive and it helped us to get different perceptions through their answers.

**Getting opportunities to express their views and possible initiatives to undertake for sustainable conservation of NNP's Eastern chimpanzees:** During our project implementation, we got a chance to hear various views or suggestions from the NNP surrounding communities and their possible alternative solutions or initiatives to undertake for sustainable conservation of the eastern chimpanzees of NNP. Communities listed the threats that the eastern chimpanzees are facing including poaching and habitat loss through tree cutting firewood and different agricultural and domestic activities. Asked what they think can be the most sustainable solutions for the eastern chimpanzees, communities told us that the eastern chimpanzees are mainly threatened by surrounding communities not others from far away from the forest. They told us they mainly go inside the park due to the lack of other alternative means. Asked what they think can be the most suitable alternative solutions for community wellbeing and sustainable conservation of the eastern chimpanzees, they told us that if they get off- farming activities that generate financial income they can stop going into the park and start to advocate for its sustainable conservation.

### **Strengthening partnership between researchers and communities for common goal of sustainably conserving the NNP and its Eastern chimpanzees**

This project led us (researchers) to establish a strong partnership with the surrounding communities. We were so excited to see how our project has raised the level of ownership and enthusiasm. This made us to promise them to work hands in hands and seek different funding opportunities to create different income generating activities as they suggested for their sustainable livelihoods and conservation of the eastern chimpanzees at the same time.

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

Yes, I am planning to continue this work though one or both ways as following:

#### **Create income generating activities (IGAs) through handicrafts:**

Support to develop handicrafts activities like weaving, knitting and sewing at village level was the priority request of women in all visited areas around NNP. These activities are traditional and integrated in our cultural context and are among IGAs which do not require high academic skills. Once we get funding, we are planning to start by those women who have shown the interest and determination to make the move self-employment. They will firstly get training programmes that will help them upgrading from basic skills to technical skills and finally to business skills. We are

planning to start by training them and equip them with different equipment so that in the next years they can be at self-help level but of course we will keep doing a follow up to them as our final objective is to establish a sustainable women's group which would be able to manage and run itself its own small enterprise.

### **Establishment and improvement of beekeeping**

We have also another idea of conserving the eastern chimpanzees of Gisovu site through supporting its surrounding communities with beekeeping, livestock and poultry. We wish we can start with a significant number of communities, but the first priority will be given to low educational older men and women.

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

We are planning to share the project results through the following channels:

*Publication of findings in a peer review journal:* As we have already completed a report, now the next step is to prepare a manuscript to be submitted in a peer review journal for publication.

*Presentations at national and international professional conferences and seminars:* We are planning to attend different conferences and seminars where the project findings will be shared orally or by poster displaying.

*Written project summary statement:* We are also planning to use social media mostly Twitter and Facebook to share briefly our project findings by writing a brief project summary statement to be shared to a broad number of our followers.

*Poster and oral presentations at local and national conferences, seminars and symposia:* Our project results will be shared during different national and local conferences and seminars. The Rwanda Development Board organises the annual research symposium where all findings of the projects done in and around protected areas are presented. Also, the Center of Excellence in Biodiversity and Natural Resources Management (CoEB) has its monthly research seminar where different researchers in various disciplines come and share with us their research/ project findings

*Presentations at journal clubs* like Rwanda University Club for Conservation of Biodiversity (RUCCB); which a club founded and led by the University of Rwanda students in zoology and botany conservation options.

*Newsletter:* The CoEB has a bi- annual newsletter where there is room for research and publication.

*Presentations at continuing educational in-services and verbal information at local unit meetings*

**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 project was supposed to be conducted over 12 months. The following are the activities carried out during this project implementation:

Overall	Activity	Anticipated time	Real time	Comments
<b>Field preparation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Process project implementation permits and field reconnaissance visit</li> <li>-Make contact with local authorities, school leaders and other stakeholders</li> <li>-Pre assessment survey</li> </ul>	3 months	4 months	It took an extra month to get a permit from different authorities and the field reconnaissance took more time as expected because our project beneficiaries are located in remote areas. The other reason was that by the time we were planning to conduct pre assessment survey, students were in holidays and it made us to until they were back.
<b>Project field work</b>	Outreach activities (talks, presentations, inter-& intra schools' competitions (through poems and songs), debates, community campaigns and focus group discussions	4 months	6 months	We had a delay of 2months because of the students' academic calendar. By the time we were planning to carry field works (educational activities), students were into holidays. When they were back, we had another constraint of matching schools' availability as we had to have inter schools' competitions. So, this made us to wait until all concerned schools agreed on the dates for competitions.
	Tree planting	1 month		This activity was not fully achieved due to by the time we were planning to plant trees (December) which is the month of tree

				planting in our country, we were still making contacts with the authorities and informing them about the project.
	Post assessment survey	1 month		On time
<b>Project analysis and reporting</b>	Data Entry and cleaning Data analysis Final report compilation	4 months	4 months	On time
<b>Project findings publication</b>	Research publication in a peer reviewed paper	2 months	4 months	Delay of 2 months The publication process will take extra two months of the time expected because of the delay we faced in field works.

**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
Publication cost	100	100		As planned
Printing cost for final reports: 5 printed books* 10£	50	72	+22	The budget was increased because we used hard cover
Data analysis (in-kind contribution): 2 persons * 20£*8 days	320	280	-40	The budget was decreased because we managed to do data analysis within 7 days
Data entry and cleaning (in-kind contribution): 2 persons * 20£*4 days	160	160		As planned
Seedling cost: 0.5£*2000 seedlings	1000	1200	200	We will add extra 200£ to cover the seedlings transportation
Training cost for environmental science educators for both primary and secondary schools: 26 persons (t trainers and 2 trainees)	3120	3120		As planned

*3 days * 40£				
Cost for inter & intra schools competitions: (2 persons*40£*2 days) + 1000£ (awards cost for winners)	1160	1160		As planned
Educational activities (delivering talks and presentations): 2 persons* 40£ *4 days	320	467	147	As the project was carried out in a remote area, hiring car required extra 147£ as the roads were very bad
Cost for awareness raising campaigns: 110£*4 (2 biodegradable banners and 2 pull ups)) + (2 persons * 40£* 2 days)	600	432	168	The budget went less because we got a discount on printing materials
Printing cost for pre & post assessment survey questionnaires (200), cartoon strip books (300) and educational materials including flyers, brochures, fact sheets and posters (500): 1 £*1000 (total number of materials to be printed out)	1000	1170	170	We added extra 170£ because we chose to use mat papers to increase the visibility and durability of the materials.
Research permits: 2 persons*15£	30	30		As planned
Field reconnaissance (transport, lodging, food and airtime): 2 persons*2 days* 40£	160	160		As planned
Project design (in-kind contribution): 2 persons*4 days*20£	160	160		As planned
<b>Total</b>	<b>8180£</b>	<b>8511£</b>	<b>331£</b>	We had to add extra £ 331 to finalize our project and we were very happy to cover this extra budget.

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

As highlighted in question number 5, based on our project beneficiaries' requests/wishes, and also based on how we saw the relevance of their requests, we saw that the most next important steps are the following:

**Create Income Generating Activities (weaving, knitting and sewing):** Nyungwe National Park (NNP) is one of the four parks that we have in our country. This park is the first one which hosts a large number of endangered eastern chimpanzees (around 400 individuals) with other 12 important primate species and other birds, reptiles and plant species. NNP is one of important assets in Rwanda, offering numerous goods and services in the national economy, to society at large, and to local livelihoods. Eastern chimpanzees are globally facing a fast declining due to different threats where poaching for meat uses and illegal tree cutting for farming are the major causes of forest loss and this threatens the eastern chimpanzees may endanger the entire ecosystem balance of the NNP and its chimpanzee population as well. It is in this regard; we are planning reduce these threats through creating Income Generating Activities (IGAs) so that communities may get financial income from selling the products. We believe that once these IGAs will be launched, it will give local people the resources they need and hence reduce their need to go into the park to harvest resources. This will be a sustainable win-win solution of communities' livelihoods and chimpanzees' conservation. For example by selling the produced handcrafts, cooperatives members will earn financial income and this will help them to mend their standards of living; increase of domestic production, reducing poverty, food security, savings, extend businesses and ability to get big loans and be able to repay them, nutritional and health status.

**Employment opportunity through beekeeping cooperative creation:** The Eastern chimpanzees are threatened by habitat destruction and poaching. These lead to this iconic species population to decline and community seem helpless to act while everyone's action may have a ripple effect and we believe that through a critical mass we can turn the tide. Wildlife is mainly threatened by humans while these last are the first to conserve it due to its tremendous ecological and economical importance for human wellbeing and achieving sustainable development goals as well. Even though people are still threatening the park while they got different educational and awareness raising skills, it is due to the lack of alternative income and this leads them to go in the park. This is why beekeeping is among the suggested alternative income generating opportunities that will help communities to sustain themselves and to not go back inside the park. Through beekeeping opportunity, we are optimistic that communities will not only acquire technical capacity building but also financial income from selling honey. The financial income generated from selling honey will help cooperative members and their families to meet life costs. At household level, the money will be used to meet other expenses such as school fees for kids, medical expenses, improved food supply, employment, saving and transport.

**Outdoor activities (Visit Nyungwe National Park):** Wildlife tourism is known as one of ways promoting directly and indirectly sustainable wildlife conservation, community

livelihoods and economic development of the country as well through incentives and revenues. Wildlife tourism may also promote the protection of Nyungwe forest which provides the eastern chimpanzees' food source and habitats. Therefore, this tourism also helps to preserve the valuable ecosystem services provided by the park such as rain provision and carbon sequestration. Nyungwe forest is still facing various threats including illegal tree cutting and poaching but we saw that the root cause is limited awareness and knowledge. It is in this regard, we thought about keeping raising community awareness through visiting this park's biodiversity, but the eastern chimpanzees are the most targeted species to visit. We believe that this will support sustainable wildlife economy and conservation, promote sustainable tourism and community will become touched and captivated by nature. This action will no doubt improve sustainable conservation of wildlife and protected area management, enhance community livelihood benefits through ecosystem services provision, reduce demand of illegal wildlife products and accelerate the ownership.

**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?**

Yes, the Rufford Foundation logo was used in all materials produced in relation to this project. The logo was on the project proposal submitted to the RDB for research permit, to a concept note shared with local authorities informing them about our project, stickers, labels, banners, pull-up, cartoon strip books, survey questionnaires, brochures, flyers and fact sheets. Also during education and awareness raising activities, we were informing our beneficiaries that the project was funded by the The Rufford Foundation and here we got opportunity to tell them briefly what does Rufford Foundation does in line with sustainable biodiversity conservation in the World especially in Rwanda which is known as a biodiversity hotspot. Our project beneficiaries acknowledged the financial support from Rufford Foundation, and they gave us a message of telling you "Thank you so much for your financial support"!

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

**Jeannette Batamuliza:** She was the project team leader and she was the one who were coordinating all activities of the project. She was reviewing the produced education and awareness raising materials, conduct field reconnaissance, conduct surveys, filed based activities and project reporting. After submitting a report, she will start working on a project manuscript for publication.

**Thomas Kanyempura:** He was in charge of developing cartoon strip books and the project field work, data cleaning, entry and analysis.

**Fidele Tugendanenayo:** He helped us to get in touch with school authorities and local authorities.

**Jean Damascene Nizigiyimana:** He was in charge of designing all education and awareness raising materials for the project excluding cartoon strip books

**Solange Akimana:** She was in charge of scheduling our field works but she was also part of the field work team.

**Theodore Baravuga:** He is the one who is following up with the one who will supply us seedlings to be planted at the edge of communities' farms in December.

## **12. Any other comments?**

First, I would like to heartily thank the Rufford Foundation for your financial funding. Honestly, I appreciated how you fund projects on merit without any other criteria or limitations. Frankly speaking, I can't say that I would love primates as I do today if I didn't get your support! You gave me a long term- motivation, you strengthened my confidence, ownership, enthusiasm and passion towards sustainable conservation of the primates. You really shaped me! Now whatever I post on twitter or facebook is about primates! What amazing career! I can't really thank you enough! You gave me courage of deepening my academic career and now I have a plan of pursuing my PhD studies focusing primates as my dream is becoming one of young Rwandan females' primates' researchers. I also appreciate how Jane Raymond is so communicative.

On behalf of all earlier career female researchers in Rwanda I thank you so much for your continuing financial support.