

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	Herbert Kasozi
Project title	Quantifying threats to the conservation of Rothschild's giraffes in Murchison falls national park Uganda
RSG reference	25442-1
Reporting period	June 2018 – Nov 2019
Amount of grant	5000
Your email address	kasozih@msu.edu
Date of this report	November 21, 2018

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
To estimate giraffe abundance.				Analyses are currently underway.
Estimated proportion of giraffes with snaring injuries.				We recorded 33 encounters of giraffes with snaring injuries of the 5760 total encounters.
Estimate number killed by snares in the survey period.				We recorded only two deaths in our survey period.
Estimate spatial variation in density in relation to oil activities.				There was no active oil activity.

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

I first tried out the surveys between July – August 2018 but was not successful due to constant vehicle breakdowns. This was in due time for me to return to Michigan State to resume the coursework requirements for my programme. We refurbished the vehicle and successfully conducted the surveys between July – September 2019.

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

From the data we collected, we shall have a precise estimate of giraffe abundance in Murchison Falls National Park. In addition, we shall ascertain the proportion of individuals in this population with snaring injuries and giraffe skin disease.

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

I have not included the local communities at this stage of the project.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes, I will keep looking for support to continue monitoring the giraffe population in this landscape.

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

I am currently preparing a manuscript to publish in a peer review journal. I also will present my results at conferences and other such gatherings. I will provide a report

to the park managers. I will also make use of any media opportunities to publish this work to the general masses.

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

I used the grant across a five-month period, spread over one year. This ties in with the anticipated length of the project.

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
Pencils	11		-11	Used other funds
Paper	5		-5	Used other funds
Ranger per diems	840		-840	Used other funds
Project driver	840		-840	Used other funds
Vehicle maintenance and repairs	700	1968	+1268	I used an old Toyota Land cruiser HZJ75 model 1992 which was prone to breakdown.
Fuel (Diesel)	700	2232	+1532	The project is very driving intensive with the engine running at least 12 hours a day.
GPS Batteries	126	84	-42	
Solar battery chargers	35		-35	Not bought
Range finders	140		-140	Not bought
GPS units	350		-350	Not bought
SD cards	105	14	-91	Bought one piece
External Hard drive	98	171	+73	I bought two pieces
Video Camera	210		-210	Not bought
DSLR Camera and accessories	840	825	-3	
TOTAL	5000	5294	+294	Exchange rate - https://www1.oanda.com/currency/converter/ (1 GBP = 4,718.89 Ugx, 1.29 Usd, Nov 18, 2019)

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

Continued monitoring of giraffes in Murchison Falls is a critical need. Meanwhile, I am conducting rigorous analysis with a view to publish baseline information on their abundance, density, and threats to their conservation.

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?

I have not produced any materials yet but will surely acknowledge the Rufford Foundation whenever I do.

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

Adriko Joseph – Research and Monitoring Ranger with Uganda Wildlife Authority. He provided security in the field as well as help with fieldwork.

Iwutung Shukran – He was the project driver.

Muge Julius – He is assisting with cropping giraffe photos for analysis in the pattern recognition software.

Robert Montgomery – He is my PhD advisor at Michigan State University.

Waako Wyclef – Helped with fieldwork and data entry.

12. Any other comments?

I sincerely thank the Rufford Foundation for providing me this opportunity to conduct this work.



Plate 1: Right side pattern for individual recognition of giraffes using the computer assisted photo recognition software – WILDID. © Herbert Kasozi.



Plate 2: a) Wire snares used for poaching in Murchison Falls National Park, Uganda; b) a giraffe recently caught in a wire snare. © Herbert Kasozi.

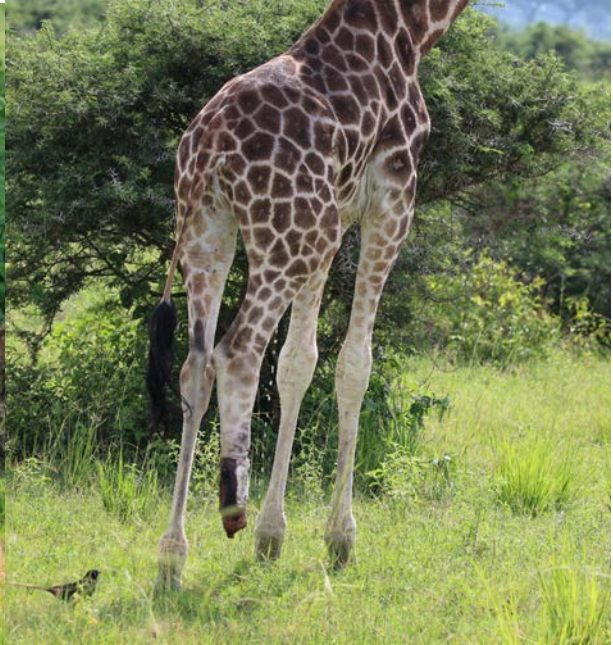
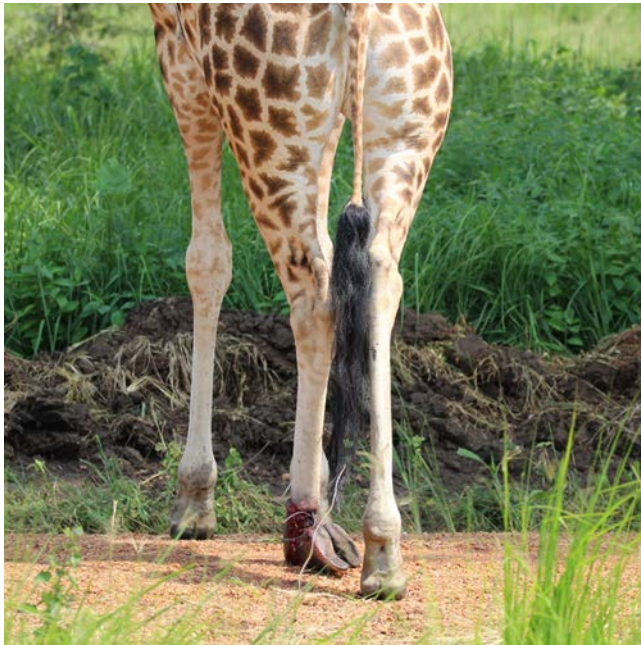


Plate 3. Snaring injuries afflicting giraffe limbs impair their capacity to move through the landscape in Murchison Falls National Park, Uganda. © Herbert Kasozi.



Plate 4. In the extreme cases, snaring injuries on giraffe limbs completely impair the giraffe's ability to move, causing it to stall and waste away. © Herbert Kasozi.



Plate 5. Herbert Kasozi conducting fieldwork in Murchison Falls National Park, Uganda. © Adriko Joseph.