

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	Adenle Ademola Andrew
Project title	Land Degradation and Its Impacts on Ecosystem Services in the Nigerian Guinea Savannah: Insights for Sustainable Land Management
RSG reference	Application ID: 27153-1
Reporting period	Jan 2019- May 2019
Amount of grant	4,869 Pound /5522.91 Euros
Your email address	ade.ademola@futminna.edu.ng
Date of this report	May 2020

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
distinguishing human induced land degradation across the zone				
mapping and modelling the remnants of native savannah species in a state as a proxy for the zone				The spread of insecurity due to banditry, herdsmen attacks on rural communities and boko haram insurgency in north central Nigeria affected the mapping of sites with native savannah.
Assessment of ecosystem services, and local initiatives to govern the savannah				The same reason above limited and delayed the visit to remote villages for questionnaire survey. It also led to prolonged and spending extra days on field.

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

Language barrier: Most of the local communities do not speak Hausa or understand English so we got additional local language translators who translate from English/ Hausa to local languages like Nupe, Gwari.

Insecurity due to banditry, herdsmen attacks on rural communities and boko haram insurgency: Avoidance of hotspots and areas with potential of terrorist activities. In some cases, we were forced to take longer or poor routes to our destinations. Also, we avoided travelling at night and encouraged quick exit from threatened areas.

Resistance and inadequate stakeholder engagement and cooperation: This was cause by previous (government) projects with failed promises to the local communities. To resolve this, we told them the project is part of my PhD work, that we have no affiliation with government, that we are student doing our project.

Logistic challenges due to the large size including the poor network and conditions of roads linking the study local government areas in Niger state, we were forced to spend more hours and days before reaching our desired and identified communities for data gathering. In some cases, we spent longer than expected time and days on road and in hostels in some communities. Thus, making some deadlines or activities to shift or impossible.

Poor team skill and knowledge about the project: Before the start of the project, I spent at least 2 days to train and educated the team members of the project objectives. Also, through regular communication, the team members were continuously sensitised

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

- Areas and communities located within the hotspot of severe human-induced land degradation were identified across the study area, i.e. significant biomass degradation, improvement and stable area cover 38%, 14% and 48% of the NGS, respectively.
- The study found that most protected systems are threatened and might need strict protection in term of governance against human induced degradation.
- Based on the evidence presented to the communities on our findings, some communities have started proposing community-based afforestation and land degradation interventions.

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

The involvement of local communities started from the beginning to the end of the study which also involving an iterative loop between assessment and data gathering phases and the people's reflections on the study's preliminary findings. This involved going back to people for validations on information that was gathered on the research.

Also, residents from the local communities with vast knowledge about the community landscape were involved in the first objective through participatory mapping. During the community based mapping, preliminary mapping of savannah degradation and severity were presented for visualisation to the community stakeholder to facilitate discussions without communication barriers and to motivate participants to reflect and discuss about land degradation issues and option to protect the remaining savannah through the rapid identification of alternative to social, economic, and environmental drivers of land degradation.

The local communities benefited from the projected in the following ways - creating an avenue to enlighten the communities of the threatening consequence of their unsustainable land use practices

Temporarily grafting and paying two-member of the local community members into the research team in each community. They constitute the ad hoc member of our team

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Based on the results and finding from the project there is a plan to continue and expand the project to encourage local response to savannah degradation and to achieve land degradation neutrality (LDN) for the zone.

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

I hope to inform the local resource users and stakeholders on the research findings through community meetings, workshops, or seminars. This will make the target group understand the impacts of their actions on savannah degradations and the benefits proper conservation

Publication in peer reviewed journals to circulate to wider audience.

I plan to publish the findings of the study on my blog page (<http://adeadenle.blogspot.com/>) to make it sharable and searchable for similar researchers working on the same topic.

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

Period the Rufford Foundation grant used: The total proposed days for the field activities was 60 days.

Anticipated or actual length of the project: 80 days – 70 days in the field and 10 days for logistic issues.

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
Miscellaneous	210	273	+63	Unexpected cost incurred during visit to rural areas in form of snack provision and encouragement during the focus group discussion and questionnaire administration, also due to the extended period on field including local ad hoc staff
Local field transport	1009	1177	+168	Additional ten days on field

to the three zones in Niger state (A-B-C)				
Local flight to and from Lagos-Niger state field work	126	136	+10	Fluctuations in price and drivers demand
GPS	210	210		
Hard disk/Data storage device	63	85	+22	
Digital camera	210	210		
SD Card (64 GB) + Card Reader	32	32		
Field assistant (logistics)	442	442		
Accommodation	1514	1598	+84	Extra ten days on field
Food allowance	757	757		
Questionnaire printing	95	126	+31	Correction and improvement of questionnaire after initial printing.
Stationery (Pens, folders, writing pad)	32	32		
Internet and phone calls for logistics	116	158	+42	Necessary calls
Report printing	53	53		
Total	4869	5289	+420	

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

The next step is to support and facilitate local initiatives and interventions that will encourage addressing land degradation.

I also plan to conduct more research in Nigeria Guinea savannah especially among local communities have started proposing community-based afforestation.

Promoting scientific basis into setting and achieving land degradation neutrality (LDN) for the Nigerian Guinea savannah.

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 logo was used when making presentations about the project.

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

A team of local field assistants

Nda Ali is the team driver who provided the car that took us round during the period of field work exercise.

Abubakar Huye Saidu is a graduate of the College of education Minna. He served as one of the field assistants and interpreter during the field work exercise. He speaks Nupe, Hausa and English

Inuwa Abdulkadri is student at the College of education Minna. He served as one of the field assistants and interpreter during the field work exercise. He speaks Nupe, Hausa and English

Other Ad hoc local field assistants

These include persons living in the local community that was drafted into the fieldwork activities that understand the local terrain and culture including that assisted interpretation. They include but not limited to the following people

Yajiya Kudugi and **Andrew Edati**, (Zone A)

Abdul Raha and **Bala Inua** (Zone B)

Abbas Aliu, **Jubril Wawa**, **Adamu Issa** and **Nurudeen Kabe** (Zone C)

12. Any other comments?

I would like to say that two publications are ready from this study and the support of the small grant funding from The Rufford Foundation for research project 27153-1 in Nigeria would be acknowledged.