

## Final Evaluation Report

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Your Details	
<b>Full Name</b>	AMUSA Tajudeen Okekunle
<b>Project Title</b>	Strengthening monitoring systems for adaptive management and protection of forest elephants in Omo forest reserve, southwestern Nigeria
<b>Application ID</b>	RSG 27297-C
<b>Grant Amount</b>	£13700
<b>Email Address</b>	teejayui@gmail.com
<b>Date of this Report</b>	30 March, 2021

**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
Recruit and train elephant monitoring teams to monitor and prevent illegal activities in elephant sanctuary and adjoining areas				The project in collaboration with other partners and the Ogun state government employed, trained and deployed rangers to patrol and arrest illegal activities in the project area so as to enhance the protection of the forest elephants.
Establish monitoring systems for protection of elephants within the project area				We introduced the GeoTracker, and Kobo collect system as law enforcement monitoring tools to assess threats, adaptively manage ranger programmes, and improve effectiveness of anti-poaching patrols in the project area. The GeoTracker alongside the Kobo collect has the capacity to help improve the quality of ranger-based patrol data by avoiding errors previously encountered when using GPS units and notebooks only, and also by collecting standardised and comparable data across sites. It also has the potential to reduce the amount of time spent entering data by directly downloading patrol data from input devices to a database for analysis and reporting. In addition to fostering an improved communication between field personnel and managers through faster data analysis and reporting, this initiative can also help in improving the monitoring of ranger performance through the automated tracking function of GeoTracker, thereby increasing transparency and accountability.
Secure and maintain the habitat of the elephant including their migratory corridors within the project area				The boundary areas of elephant range which required protection from encroachers were mapped for installation of patrol stations, signage and beacons. Signboards were subsequently produced and installed

				in the reserve.
Consolidate the education and awareness raising programme on elephant conservation and management among key stakeholders				We carried out sensitivity and awareness campaign on elephant conservation in communities within the project area. Generally, the outreach programmes were designed to increase understanding of elephant conservation issues, exchange opinions and experiences, and establish a dialogue among sectors of the community.

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

The main unanticipated difficulty encountered during the project was the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic. This posed restrictions to movement and patrol activities. Patrols were not made in May and October 2020 owing to a national lockdown. Subsequently, however, justifications were made, and permits were obtained for rangers to carry out patrol as part of essential activities exempted from the lockdown.

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

Some of the most important outcomes of the project include but not limited to the following:

- i. Securing and maintaining the habitat of forest elephant and establishing a monitoring system for protection within the project area.
- ii. Enhancing capacity of rangers involved in elephant monitoring through training sessions on monitoring and prevention of illegal activities in elephant sanctuary and adjoining areas.
- iii. Production of a documentary for education and awareness raising programme on elephant conservation and management among key stakeholders including policy makers, local communities and other interest groups.

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

The project activities involved sensitivity and awareness campaign on elephant conservation in communities within the project area. The sensitisation and awareness campaign were designed to increase understanding of elephant conservation issues and dialogue among sectors of the community. Overall, the outreach programmes have served as huge avenue for local communities to contribute to the conservation of elephants and other endangered species. The receptions in the

communities visited were homely and community members were generally enthusiastic. It was an investment for the future. Besides, most of the rangers employed, trained and deployed to patrol and arrest illegal activities in the project area were from the local communities.

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

This is a completion grant as funded by the Rufford Foundation. However, the work will continue. There is still needed to continue to seek further political support for the protection of elephants in the project area. Government needs to stop all human land use practices capable of causing destruction and fragmentation of elephant habitat in the area.

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

The results of the work are already being shared with stakeholders and the scientific community on different outlets and fora. These include:

1. <https://phenomenal.com.ng/headlines/conservation-experts-task-ogun-community-on-elephant-protection-many-trees-depend-on-the-elephants-digestive-system-for-their-seeds-to-be-effectively-propagated-and-if-elephants-become-extinct-s/>
2. <https://wuzupnigeria.com/conservation-experts-task-ogun-community-on-elephant-protection/>
3. <https://conservationsng.com/conservation-experts-task-ogun-community-on-elephant-protection/>
4. <https://www.instagram.com/p/B5JlHydnCih/>
5. <https://earthoptimismnairobi.org/themes/#>

The detailed reports of the project are already prepared. Articles and scientific write-ups from the work will also be published in popular tabloids, environmental news blogs and international journals with full acknowledgement of The Rufford Foundation. The results, findings and outcomes of the work will also be handy in both teaching and research.

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

The RSG was used throughout the project duration, about 21 months. The project timescale anticipated schedule was altered by the COVID-19 pandemic. However, the Rufford Foundation graciously approved the need for extension of project duration.

**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
Materials and Equipment	7100	3349	-3751	Some of the materials and equipment budgeted were procured by the Nigerian Conservation Foundation (NCF) from funding from other sources with the understanding that RSG fund could be used to cover other aspects of the project.
Training/Teaching Aids and Incentives	1500	3889	+2389	The actual amount budgeted was exceeded because SMART could not be used and project need to switch to other initiatives, especially as relates to building ranger's capacity which is a key component of the work.
Stipends/Subsistence and Refreshment	2000	2740	+740	
Local Transport	1500	1239	-261	
Preparation and Installation of Signage	500	311	-189	
Documentary and Sensitization on Human-Elephant Conflict	700	1333	+633	
Co-ordination and Reporting	400	333	-67	
NCF (Forex Differentials)		701	+701	The unstable exchange rate of the GBP to naira in relation to the RSG fund presented a loss in forex to the book value of NCF accounts. This differential was therefore, accommodated through the project.
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>6600</b>	<b>13895</b>	<b>+7295</b>	

\* GBP Rate as at time of receipt of RSG (27/6/2019) was ₦390.16 but rose to ₦507.85 before the end of the project.

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

The management of the project has progressed very well. However, there is still need for more support for the protection of elephants in the project area. There is need for more equipment and vehicle for patrol activities in this regard.

**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?**

The RF logo was used in posters, t-shirts, fliers, and almanac given as incentives and souvenirs for publicity of the project and motivation of local communities' members as well as project team.

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

Members of the project team and their roles are given hereunder:

**Azeez, Kayode Kaothar:** He is a trained extension officer. He has a PhD from the Department of Agricultural Extension and Rural Development, University of Ilorin, Nigeria. He served as project officer responsible for organizing project trips, community advocacy, instruments designing, field data collection, management and processing. He was also involved in training of rangers, particularly in the use of Kobo Collect and GeoTracker System. In addition, he provided field reports and documentation, as well as monitoring and evaluation of project activities. Furthermore, he was involved in procurement and management of field gadgets and needed items.

**Egbe Stella:** She holds a PhD in Conservation Biology from University of Jos, Nigeria. She worked as Biodiversity Conservation Officer on the Omo-Shasha-Oluwa Forest Elephant Initiative. She also served as project field contact. She was involved in data collection and community advocacy. In addition, she provided field reports and documentation, as well as monitoring and evaluation of project activities.

**Olabode Emmanuel:** He has a bachelor's degree in wildlife management from University of Ibadan, Nigeria. He works as Education and Research Coordinator on Omo-Shasha-Oluwa Forest Elephant Initiative. He served as field contact to ensure smooth and adequate implementation of programmes, plans and field activities relating to the project. He was also responsible for organizing project trips, providing field reports, documentation, as well as monitoring and evaluation of project activities. He played a very key role in many of the decision-making undertakings towards achievement of project goals.

**Clifford Omonu:** He obtained a Higher National Diploma in Wildlife and Ecotourism Management from the Collage of Wildlife, New Bussa, Nigeria and proceeded to University of Ibadan, Nigeria where he obtained Postgraduate Diploma in Biodiversity Management in 2013. He completed a master's degree programme in Biodiversity Management at the Federal University of Technology,

Akure, Nigeria in 2018. He was involved in field research and environmental education among the locals.

**12. Any other comments?**

We remain eternally grateful to The Rufford Foundation for supporting this project. We are very proud to associate with the foundation. The financial support received has helped young researchers like us to contribute to the conservation of biodiversity in our part of the world. Learning, findings and experiences from the project have been very rewarding.