

Final Evaluation Report

Your Details	
Full Name	Dr. Cintia Garai
Project Title	Supporting great ape and habitat conservation by engaging local people to participate as conservationists and as researchers through the power of media
Application ID	27569-B
Grant Amount	£9,955
Email Address	cgarai@yahoo.com
Date of this Report	22 November 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
Filming in the Kahuzi-Biega National Park (KBNP) and its surrounding region in the Democratic Republic of the Congo				I completed the fieldwork with Primate Expertise (PEX) in early 2020. We visited Bukavu, where the office of PEX is located, and the field where they operate in and around KBNP. With an assisting filmmaker and photographer, Robert Carrubba, we interviewed PEX staff and partner organisations’ staff. We filmed all activities that PEX engages in.
Editing 2 film versions about the work of Primate Expertise, one for local audiences, and one for international audiences				I edited a film about the conservation issues at KBNP addressed by PEX activities, such as creating alternative activities to hunting and deforestation for the communities living around the park, reforestation, education, and research in conservation and primatology. I made three versions of the film (French, English, and Swahili for local communities).
Distribution of the films				We organised several screenings in villages of the communities where we filmed, and in Bukavu, the provincial capital. The films were distributed via social media channels such as Facebook, WhatsApp, Twitter, and YouTube. Some partner organisations of PEX also distributed the films via their social media channels, such as IUCN-France.

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

Apart from the global difficulty, the COVID-19 pandemic, I didn't face any unforeseen difficulties.

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

1) During the field work period of this project, we video- and photo-documented many important aspects of environmental issues and conservation work in and around the KBNP, and the encouraging, persistent, and innovative approaches of the local NGO Primate Expertise. In the future we hope to use and expand on some of the materials that didn't get to be used as of today.

2) The fieldwork supported by this grant in itself enhanced communication among stakeholders living and working in the region, including PEx, the Congolese Nature Conservation Institute, local Bantu and pygmy communities, conservation and alternative activity experts, etc. By talking about the goal of the filming, we initiated discussions regarding the needs and challenges of the different stakeholders.

3) The ultimate outcome of this project are the three versions (English, French and Swahili) of a film about environmental challenges and conservation work in and around the Kahuzi-Biega National Park, with particular focus on the work of the Congolese NGO Primate Expertise. The film is freely available here in French: <https://youtu.be/eTlgEnYDw2Q>, and here in English: https://youtu.be/f_D6B2OrTNO. The Swahili version was uploaded on Facebook and distributed via WhatsApp, village screenings, and other social media, and will be uploaded on YouTube in the near future.

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

The fieldwork in and around the Kahuzi-Biega National Park in the Democratic Republic of the Congo was conducted in close collaboration with the local communities. Many people were interviewed. Many have welcomed the opportunity to talk about their challenges and needs to other community members, or other communities, as well as to international audiences. I hope that the final product of this work, the film, will further enhance collaboration among stakeholders in the region of KBNP, and give ideas to other conservation projects in the Congo Basin.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes, the applicant of this project gained a grant from IUCN-France together with Primate Expertise, which enables the continuation of the collaboration between PEx and the applicant. Part of the IUCN grant supports the distribution of the film made from this Rufford grant, but also additional films and radio programmes will be made for local communities and other stakeholders in the region. Some of the footage made from this Rufford grant will get to be used.

Apart from the continued collaboration with PEx, I intend to continue making and using films in innovative ways for conservation purposes, addressing specific target audiences such as local communities, decision makers, conservation organisations, students, and others in the DR Congo and other developing countries.

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

The films resulting from this project are freely available online. Additionally, they continue to be shown in village screenings, and meetings among stakeholders. I hope that the films will get used further in community conservation conferences, protected area management meetings, and any other occasions, and that they will be widely shared by any interested organisations.

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

The grant was used to travel to Kinshasa, DR Congo, and to the field of the Kahuzi-Biega National Park, to film in the park and its region, and to edit the films. This grant was approved in March 2019, and I started to use it during the preparation to the field trip in November 2019. I travelled to the DR Congo in January 2020, and I spent 3 months in total in the Kahuzi-Biega National Park and its region in 2020, during which time I was documenting community conservation, alternative activities to hunting and forest degrading activities, reforestation, conservation education, conservation research, etc. After I collected substantial amount of footage and information, I finished the script and edited the film, starting in Bukavu, continuing in Kinshasa, and finalizing in Budapest, in close collaboration with the director and local employees of Primate Expertise. The timeframe complies with the anticipated length of the project.

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
Travel expenses (International and local flights, local transport)	2240	2194	-46	The difference is due to the cost of air-tickets and local transport.
Living expenses (accommodation in Kinshasa, Bukavu)	4160	4195	+35	
Equipment	650	694	+44	
Other (visa, vaccination,	2000	1988	+12	

insurance)				
Unexpected expenses	905	915	+10	
Total	9955	10010	+55	

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

The most important next step is to measure the impact of the films produced under this grant. We plan to do this with Primate Expertise by using a questionnaire specifically made for this purpose and asking viewers at the village screenings to fill them out. The already visible impact is the enhanced communication between certain stakeholders who participated in this project, and who live and work around the Kahuzi-Biega National Park.

Beyond this project, a necessary step for the future of conservation films involves developing methods on how to measure the impacts of such films. There are very few studies in the topic. Only by objective measurement of the impact becomes possible to enhance the effectiveness of conservation films.

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 is in the credits of the film in French (<https://youtu.be/eTlgEnYDw2Q>), and in English (https://youtu.be/f_D6B2OrTNQ).

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

Cintia Garai – applicant. Writing script, organizing and conducting field work, filming, editing.

Robert Carrubba – filming and photo-documenting, contribution to script writing, editing.

Augustin K. Basabose – coordinating field work, interview, director of the local collaborating NGO, and one of the main characters in the film.

Michael Baraka – staff of Primate Expertise, interview, help in coordination.

Salomon Bazibuhe – staff of Primate Expertise, interview, help in coordination.

12. Any other comments?

Please see the following article on my activities with Primate Expertise in the region of KBNP, with a link to the site of Rufford Foundation.

<https://www.kahuzi-biega.com/deux-chercheurs-confirment-la-grande-importance-du-couloir-ecologique/>

I would like to thank the Rufford Foundation for its continuous support. I believe I will be able to use the experiences and footage that this project provided me, so that I can continue working toward my goals to contribute more to conservation via the power of films.