

Final Evaluation Report

Your Details	
Full Name	Tarisai Mike Nyamucherera
Project Title	Scaling up conservation horticulture and implementing a communication strategy to strengthen support for conservation of the Chimanimani cycad in Zimbabwe
Application ID	27744-B
Grant Amount	9775
Email Address	tmnyamz@gmail.com
Date of this Report	

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
<p>Analyse how different groups of people from local farmers, to national environmental agencies and international conservation NGOs and agencies perceive the values associated with the plant and how this can be used to support the conservation of the plant</p>				<p>Semi-structured and focus group interviews have been performed in the areas around Chipinge and Chimanimani mountains in Zimbabwe. This analysis was done among different stakeholders that included private propagators, roadside plant retailers, local farmers, national environmental agencies and international conservation NGOs and botanist. Interviews combined free-listing and well-structured interviews based on locally known species.</p>
<p>Conduct a campaign targeting the law enforcement officials, state prosecutors and cycad collectors on aware of the reasons why successful convictions and maximum penalties are essential for effective enforcement in relation to cycad conservation.</p>				<p>Awareness campaigns efforts were made, and it is our understanding that improved knowledge on why successful convictions and maximum penalties are essential for effective enforcement in relation to cycad conservation has been achieved among those engaged. There seems to be increased understating among the engaged stakeholders on the urgency in cycad conservation. Our engagements led to a great change in their view and their renewed willingness to highly contribute to conservation of the <i>Encephalartos chimanimaniensis</i>. More work still needs to be done because conservation is still considered a responsibility of ministries that deal with natural resources management.</p>
<p>Propose and develop policies and recommendations for regulating deforestation and degradation in the ecosystem.</p>				<p>This is a long-run activity involving local authorities, policy makers, researchers, national Forest Office, rangers and local people. A consensual framework has been proposed and strategies are still being developed.</p>

Set up a nursery and compare recovery techniques to address essential research questions such as survival rates of plants where the method of propagation involved pups and offshoots/adult plants.				This is still on-going, and observations are currently being noted and comparisons being made. process was affected the extended lockdown period due to the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic.
Collect <i>Encephalartos chimanimaniensis</i> plant materials to a garden at the National Herbarium and Botanical Gardens of Zimbabwe propagate them and to grow in the collections of the garden.				A total of 350 have been put into paper pots

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

- Outbreak of the Covid-19 Pandemic- no one could attend to our potted plants during the extended total lockdown.
- Cuttings, pulps and other plant material are being attacked by parasites: applied treatments.
- Shortage of plant material for propagation purposes.
- Lack of desire and fear to participate in surveys from roadside plant sellers.
- Lack of interest to know about cycads from law enforcement officials.

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

- The project team collected *Encephalartos chimanimaniensis* plant materials and successfully propagated them at a garden at the National Herbarium and Botanical Gardens of Zimbabwe.
- We documented knowledge from an assessment of local knowledge of how different groups of people from local farmers, to national environmental agencies and international conservation NGOs and agencies perceive the values, aesthetic, patrimonial, rarity and peculiarity, associated with the plant and how this can be used to support the conservation of the plant. A position paper was drafted and submitted to the RSG Programme as part of periodic reports.
- We engaged law enforcement officials and equipped them with the necessary skills and knowledge to address the illegal trade in cycads and enforce the current moratorium. there is therefore enhanced awareness among engaged law enforcement officials leading to change in their view and their renewed willingness to highly contribute to conservation of the Chimanimani cycad

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

They were first involved in the field work for data collection because they were more knowledgeable in the areas prone to host the species as field expert. Local communities were also involved during surveys where we sought to establish the values {aesthetic, patrimonial, rarity and peculiarity}, associated with the plant and how this could be used to support the conservation of the plant. Due to the rarity of the plant involved and the caution needed in involving wider community, it is envisaged that eventually the communities will be involved in future germination activities and finally during the sensitisation and awareness raising campaign activities and experiences exchange with other local communities. Their contribution will also be highly required in proposition and development of policies and recommendations for regulating conservation and community involvement in conservation of the Chimanimani Cycad and other endangered plant species.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes. There is need widen the number of engaged stakeholder and conduct capacity building and shared propagation knowledge to consolidate conservation of the Chimanimani cycad beyond availability of project funding.

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

Parts of the current project’s findings have already been shared during seminars and workshops. Lead researcher will also attend a locally organised academic seminar and conference to share results and findings among researchers with similar interests.

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

The project activities were planned to last 12 months, but the corona virus outbreak led to an extension of 5 additional months.

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
Conservation Brochures and advertising material for the	700	700		

awareness campaign				
Project stationery	100	100		
Communication	100	100		
Cost of acquiring plant materials from Mozambique	350	550	+200	Survey team spent more time on the field due to rains and difficult roads.
Subsistence for 3 scientists	810	1100	+290	Survey team spent more time on the field due to rains and difficult roads.
Accommodation for 3 scientists @ £15/night low cost lodge	1620	1620		
Hiring, maintenance and fuel for project vehicle (4100km @ £0.40/ km	3200	3500	+300	Higher fuel cost due to inflation than expected
Growth hormones	200	200		
Token Allowances for 2 project staff at the herbarium	1000	1000		
Project equipment	75	75		
Setting up website and other social media pages for promotion	300		-300	Money had to be allocated to fund changed than anticipated fuel cost
Internal Workshop for feedback on the horticultural project	450	450		
Publication cost	150		-150	Allocation was used for additional accommodation costs
Community Radio airtime	500	-	-500	Part was used to fund subsistence for researchers and other to cover contingencies
Contingencies	220	380	+160	Host organisation deducted 3% to fund co-hosting of account and bank charges during withdrawals
Total	9775	9775		

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

- I feel the next most important steps would be to institute a stakeholder capacity building exercise to ensure that we share the knowledge, experiences gained throughout the implementation of the project. It will be imperative that experiences are shared to ensure that stakeholders are capacitated to continue with conservation of this plant species. there is need to ensure that we continue to engage for development of policies/briefs and recommendations for regulating conservation and community involvement in

conservation of the Chimanimani cycad and other endangered plant species

- There is also needed to continue with engaging stakeholders and communities with sensitisation programmes on conservation to ensure community based natural resources conservation outcomes.

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?

Yes. The foundation was acknowledged during presentation at national conferences of the findings and during workshops/seminars. Logo of the foundation has also been used.

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

Tarisai Nyamucherera. I was responsible for coordinator all the project's activities. I was in charge of project implementation as well as drafting of project progress reports and the final report.

Anthony Mapaura. PhD candidate in botany, University of the Free State. He is an expert in the field of plant research and propagation (by seeds or from vegetative organs). He helped in the propagation section and follow up on the field. He gave advice on propagation and data collection.

Vuyisile Moyo, MSc in Social Ecology. He assisted with data collection and organising meetings with various stakeholders for awareness campaigns and activities.

Prisca Muchemwa, BSc. She is an environmental communication expert, specialising in sensitization and advocacy. She helped a lot in organising workshops and data collection among all stakeholders engaged.

12. Any other comments?

Special thanks again to The Rufford Foundation for having made this possible. Your continued support is enabling applied research for species that ordinarily would have been forgotten. Keep up the wonderful work!!!!!!!

Below are photos of randomly captured plants that have been successfully transplanted and are growing in the garden











Below are plant materials that have been affected by (1) weevils and lack of attention as there was no movement during the extended lockdown enforced to control spread of COVID-19









