

Final Evaluation Report

Your Details	
Full Name	Byabasaija syliver
Project Title	Ecological and Social Impacts of invasive plant species on Maputo special Reserve and integration of surrounding Communities in Management
Application ID	29121-1
Grant Amount	£ 6,000
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Date of this Report	29 th October 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
To determine the spatial distribution of different Invasive Plant Species in the Reserve				Spatial distribution on invasive plants in Maputo Special Reserve was successful determined and the distribution map produced. This will help the reserve management team to prioritise control measures on invasive plants that were observed to be widely distributed in the area with much impact on the reserve ecosystem.
Assess the social impacts of Invasive Plant species on the communities within close proximity to special Reserve.				Comprehensive assessment to get community perception on invasive plant was carried out across 243, their perception was documented and report submitted to Maputo Special Reserve management team to integrate in the management plan of Maputo Special Reserve concerning control of invasive plant species.
Determining whether the plant invasive species cause changes in the abundance of plants with domestic use.				Assessment of plant species diversity both in the invaded and un-invaded area was done, and results showed a 37.7 % decline in richness at the species level in the invaded areas and a further 39.1% decline at the family level compared to un-invaded areas; this gave a justification for invasive plants species eradication in Maputo Special Reserve and eradication measures were recommended by the project.

To raise community awareness about different strategies that can be put in place to address invasive plants occurrence in reserve			Communities were engaged in discussing measure of invasive plant management in the reserve, through different focus group discussions. Different individuals across 243 households were involved in these sessions.
This project has provided information on the state of invasive plant species in Maputo Special Reserve and their impact on the reserve. The report produced by this project has formed a basis for policy makers and appropriate governing body of Maputo Special Reserve to design payments for ecosystem services (PES) project to secure conservation finance for actual eradication activities of invasive plant species and engage communities in management and control.			

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

During the questionnaire survey with local leaders and household survey, I encountered some problems such as language. Being a foreigner in Mozambique, I could not clearly understand the languages used, given their official language being Portuguese which differ from my English official language, in addition the project area was occupied by local Shangana community who would speak little Portuguese. To tackle the language barrier, local educated Shangana Mozambican citizens who could speak shangana, Portuguese and English were hired to carry out questionnaire survey and focus group discussion, under my direct supervision.

Community were at some point reluctant to answer the questions and to participate in discussion since they were looking for monetary compensation. They were aggressive to Maputo Special Reserve authority as the they had failed to provide them the promised compensation that was to be provided to them due to destruction on their crop by animals like elephants from reserve. This aggression was put on me and my team because they thought we were Maputo Special Reserve employees. We clarified to them that we are an independent team undertaking research on invasive plant impacts on Maputo special reserve and their subsequent effects to communities' arounds.

The last phase of the project was accomplished with difficulties due to Covid -19 outbreak. The communities were saying people from Maputo were the ones with Covid -19, this created some negative attitudes of communities to the team which affected the initial plan. I was planning to share the project findings with the local communities in the last phase, but due to Covid-19, it was difficult. Outsiders are not allowed, even to date, the situation not yet normalised. To solve this, a comprehensive report of the project findings was handled over to the Maputo Special Reserve management team, Matutwine post administrative leaders and copies to the village leaders, this will be shared to the communities by respective reserve extension teams during community meeting at a later stage.

Road conditions in the reserve was a bit difficult and driving in was made tough, as we could encounter tree logs that had blocked the roads, other roads were muddy that made the whole process of data collection to go with difficulties, with the use of pangas and hoes plus the team and reserve guide we could manage to clear the roads to ensure project activities move on successful.

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

- ✓ The state of invasive plant species in Maputo Special Reserve was documented and a total of 32 invasive plants species were recorded. The project results were integrated in the planning of the eradication of invasive plant species in Maputo Special Reserve by Bio Fund and Peace Parks Foundation, the project results formed a basis for prioritization of the eradication in the reserve.
- ✓ Published article in the international journal of Biodiversity Conservation. I believe this published information will be relevant for the scholars and other people who will be interested in state of Invasive plant species in Maputo Special Reserve. It will also form a reference point for other projects that will be implemented in Maputo Special Reserve regarding invasive plant species.
- ✓ Community awareness about invasive plant species and need for their control in locality in Maputo Special Reserve was raised. Individuals across 243 households that surround Maputo Special Reserve, had a feel of the need to control and eradicate invasive plants in their locality.

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

There was involvement of local people during the project period in various form. In every step of the research project, local people were consulted and interviewed for primary data collection. Individual household survey, focus group discussion, key informant survey, etc., was done with local people who have spent their whole life in and around Maputo Special Reserve. The invasive plant species management policy will be drafted based on these finding will also have implications for local people as their perception were capture by the project and these will be integrated in invasive plant species management plan of Maputo Special Reserve and the entire communities around the reserve.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

I do not intend to continue with this work because the objectives of this project were successfully achieved, a comprehensive report regarding the state of invasive plants species in Maputo Special Reserve was submitted to the reserve management team, believe, this information will be key in the further future interventions that may arises from changes in reserve ecosystem.

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

- The results of this project have already been shared on different platform, on research gate, social media (Facebook, LinkedIn).
- Project reports have been shared with different institutions including, University Eduardo mondlane, Maputo Special Reserve management team and Peace Parks Foundation.
- The project results will also appear on my Uganda Martyr's University portfolio that is currently being developed.
- For better visibility of this project results, I have published one article with international journal of biodiversity conservation. The second article is also under review by Journal of Ecology and Natural Environment. I believe through all these ways people will be able to have access to my project results.

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

The project was completed with in the 12 months period which does not vary from the anticipated project time scale.

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
Stationary (cost of printing, photocopy, flip charts and boards, questionnaires printing, notebooks, pencils and pens	£225	£225		
Accommodation	£550	£850	+£300	The accommodation costs in the project areas was high as all the team were charged as tourists, this made the price to vary from the budgeted. This was attributed to Maputo special reserve hotel being expensive

Food (covered, meals, breakfast, lunch and super, plus refreshment for field teams and other people engaged in the project activities)	£680	£680		
Publicity (communication, data, manuscript handling fees and charts.	£700	£700		Was successful used, and included Manuscript handling fees
Allowance for team (Research assistants Principle investigator allowance,	£800	£1000	+£200	The variation was caused by change in the field allowance policy in Mozambique from 2000 meticaais to 6000 meticaais per day
Community engagement costs (workshops, focus group discussions.	£845	£845		
Transport	£750	£750		
Equipment camera, GPS. Field boat and gear for team,	£900	£900		
Fuel and car hiring	£550	£1340	+£790	The cost of hiring a car to field varied from the anticipated in the previous budget.
Total	£6000	£7290	+1290	The exchange rate was £1=95.02 Mozambique meticaais and 1USD =62.26 at the time of exchange.

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

As I look forward, I intend to continue engaging in conservation projects, I see there a lot of need to save our species and their ecosystems globally. Given the fact that Rufford Foundation has boosted my capacity project implementation and management, I have much hope to be an advocator for nature conservation through research and other conservation related projects both at local, national and global levels.

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, I used the logo of the Rufford Foundation in different presentations that were made at different conference for example at University Eduardo Mondlane virtual conference on the role of research in conserving Mozambique ecosystems, held in July 2020, The Rufford Foundation received publicity in all the areas where the project was implemented ,I shared with different people that the work is being

sponsored by Rufford Foundation, a UK-based nature conservation organisation, several acknowledgement were made through out all the project report documents. At intra Africa mobility exchange for fragile ecosystem management presentations, Rufford Foundation was acknowledged for funding work activities. In the two manuscripts, the one accepted and published by International Journal of Biodiversity Conservation and the second one under review by Journal of Ecology and Environment, Rufford Foundation has been all acknowledged as the funder of the work. I believe people who will read all documents from this work will get to know the might role the foundation is playing in conservation sector and in all my social media and other platform like ResearchGate, I have published Rufford Foundation

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

Members	Role
Mr Byabasaija Syliver	Was the overall supervisor of the implementation of the project activities, I was responsible for producing reports to Rufford foundation on the progress of the project, project data analysis, writing of manuscript, as well as community mobilization for involvement in project activities.
Prof Natasha Ribeiro	Responsible for guiding the progress of the work, her expertise was also important in mapping of invasive plant species on the reserve
Mr Molovo Fernando Poulino	Assisted in data collection and language interpretation. Community training and discussions
Mr Banda Sitwell	Assisted in community mobilization and characterization of the invasive plants during the project implementation.
Ms Rhanto Fanoro	Documentation and imaging during the field activities.
Eng. Matola Salimo	Was part of data analysis and data management team, production of reports and data collection in field.
Mr Rudolf Combane	Maputo special reserve ecologist, was very key in the field surveys and documentation of invasive plants and community household mobilization during project activities.

12. Any other comments?

I am profoundly honoured and exceedingly humbled to the Rufford Foundation for funding this noble project work that has greatly contributed to conservation. I addition, being a Rufford grantee gave me the opportunity to gain experience in leading a research project, which plays a great role in my conservation professional career development to become an independent researcher. I would like to thank again Rufford Small Grant for funding this project research and I hope other applications that I will make in future will be honoured and granted by the foundation.