

The Rufford Small Grants Foundation

Final Report

Congratulations on the completion of your project that was supported by The Rufford Small Grants 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 | Jacinta Abalaka |
| Project title | How important are figs in the conservation effort at the Amurum Forest Reserve, Laminga? |
| RSG reference | 32.12.07 |
| Reporting period | 17 months |
| Amount of grant | £5000 |
| Your email address | ilewigs@yahoo.com |
| Date of this report | 03/07/09 |

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 |
|--|--------------|--------------------|----------------|--|
| To estimate the population density of the various fig species in the Amurum forest Reserve. | | X | | We are yet to identify all the trees that we encountered during the project. This was because we could not get plant and wasp samples from these species throughout the period of the project. |
| To determine which <i>Ficus</i> species is utilized most by the frugivore community of the Amurum Forest Reserve. | | | X | |
| To recommend to the management of the Amurum Forest Reserve two <i>Ficus</i> species that should be included among the trees that are used for the ongoing reforestation programme in the Reserve. | | | X | |
| To subsequently increase the number of useful keystone species of trees in the Amurum Forest Reserve. | | | X | This may not happen immediately, but with time, it will, as the management has accepted my recommendations. |

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

I expected to get done everything I needed to do in this project within 12 months, but some unexpected situations arose

- a. Line transect method was not suitable for the fig tree count as mentioned in the proposal, as some of the trees of different species looked similar from a distance. We therefore used point count, which gave us the opportunity to carry out the count, and afterwards mark every tree counted at a point using a GPS, and take snap shots of the trees and collect samples from those that have leaves. All these were to help in properly identifying the figs.
- b. The fig trees did not fruit during the rainy season. This contributed a lot to the project being extended beyond the expected time. Majority of the figs fruited during the dry season

(October - March). We had to wait for the figs to fruit. This compacted most of the work we had to do into this time.

- c. We had problems with the plant samples collected: The leaves kept falling off. This delayed the sending of these plant samples to Simon in South Africa, who helped in identification. We had to collect the samples over and over until we got what we wanted. Also, rather than collect for every plant, we collected for only those that we were having difficulty identifying from pictures only. We still have some plants we have not been able to collect samples from yet.
- d. Identifying the fig trees was not as easy as we expected. To identify some of these figs, we needed to collect wasps from them. This was not possible as some of them did not fruit all through the period of this project, and some that fruited we did not get wasps. This made the identification of these figs impossible for now. But this did not interfere with the objectives of this project. We will still keep watch over these trees until we get the wasps for identification.

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

- a. We have been able to identify 12 species of fig in the Reserve. Before this project, only 5 species of fig were identified in the Reserve. This is an addition to the checklist of plants of the Amurum Forest Reserve.
- b. This project has been able to suggest to the management of the Reserve two fig trees that should be included in the reforestation programme, and this suggestion has been gladly accepted.
- c. This project has given birth to another 'project': The challenge of raising seedlings of the suggested fig tree species. The Institute is working on this.

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

Not relevant.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes.

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

Already, I have submitted to the management of the institute a report of this project which they have started working with. I also intend to present the result of this project at a conservation biology conference, probably next year.

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

16 months.

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 |
|--|-----------------|---------------|------------|---|
| Laptop | £650 | £ 650 | - | - |
| Digital Camera | £250 | £250 | - | - |
| Laser range finder | £200 | £200 | - | - |
| Two pairs of binoculars | £660 | £660 | - | - |
| Local transportation | £576 | £764 | - | Contingency covered the difference. |
| Subsistence for 2 at £50 per month for 12 months | £ 1440 | £1706 | - | This was used only in the months that we worked, which added up to 12 months. During the period of the project, the rate of pounds to naira dropped. We had to make this up from contingency. |
| Literature | £150 | £150 | - | - |
| Expendables | £320 | £320 | - | - |
| Communication | £300 | £300 | - | - |
| Total | £4546 | £5000 | - | |

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

I will follow-up with the Institute to ensure that the plan to propagate the suggested species is successful and the planting of the trees is done.

10. Did you use the RSGF logo in any materials produced in relation to this project? Did the RSGF receive any publicity during the course of your work?

Yes, the report submitted to the management of the institute.