

Final Evaluation Report

Your Details	
Full Name	Emmanuel Barde Elisha
Project Title	Improving Afromontane Forest conservation through increasing awareness by forest-edge communities of ecosystem services montane forests provide.
Application ID	35763-1
Date of this Report	27 th July, 2023

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 promote a better understanding between the NMFP and the forest-edge communities				An interaction with these communities allowed us gain insight on their perception about the Ngel Nyaki Forest Reserve and their willingness to preserve it.
To work with the communities to plant useful forest tree species on farms and round Fulani compounds				Seedlings were raised and distributed to communities to plant around community and around their homes. The communities were taught how to raise the important trees from seeds.

2. Describe the three most important outcomes of your project.

- a).** Members from the eight communities visited have learnt to collect seeds and cultivate indigenous trees.
- b).** These communities have re-affirmed their commitment to partnering with Nigerian Montane Forest Project (NMFP) in protecting the Ngel Nyaki Forest Reserve.
- c).** We have identified key ecosystem services that these surrounding communities derive from the forest and now have information to strengthen our argument for the continued protection of Ngel Nyaki Forest Reserve.

3. Explain any unforeseen difficulties that arose during the project and how these were tackled.

It was proposed to work with five communities but the attention of I and my team was drowned to include three more communities that were also around the reserve. The number of trips increased with more fuel needed to cover the areas. Financially, it was challenging as it affected the budget.

4. Describe the involvement of local communities and how they have benefited from the project.

The willingness of the communities to be interviewed helped in achieving our objectives. Local communities gave us maximum cooperation through helping to collect seeds from the forest. The seedlings were in turn given back to the communities.

The leaders further re-affirmed their commitment in collaborating with Nigerian Montane Forest Project (NMFP) and made strong warnings against encroaching into the reserve.

Having some individuals propagating wild trees is a great achievement.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

There is a plan to empower the community with skills in raising more wild trees as individual or community forest to support their livelihood.

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

The result of the work has been shared with the Nigerian Montane Forest Project and this will be included in the next annual report. Additionally, these results will be published in a peer reviewed journal for the wider scientific community.

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

It is paramount to engage these communities in the conservation and management of the Ngel Nyaki Forest Reserve. Activities such as training of members to raise important native species that they have identified as having great financial and economic benefits would reduce dependence of the natural forest.

Additionally, these communities need to be empowered with the knowledge and skills for sustainable agricultural practices that reduces the conversion of landscapes to farmlands.

Other steps will be to encourage the ownership of beehives rather than continue with wild honey hunting that have negative impacts on the forest because of the destructive tendencies of the hunters.

8. 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 Rufford Foundation logo was used on the caps and t-shirts produced participants in the eight communities visited. The logo was used in the PowerPoint presentations made at the secondary school in Yelwa Community and A.P. Leventis Ornithological Research Institute (APLORI), Jos, Plateau State, Nigeria. Some photos of the project were shared on the Nigeria Montane Forest Project (NMFP) Facebook page report as well as in NMFP 2022 Annual report acknowledging Rufford Foundation for the Grant to carry out this project.

9. Provide a full list of all the members of your team and their role in the project.

Emmanuel Barde Elisha team leader

Usman Abubakar Help in translating Fulfulde and Ndola to English (He replaced Hadiza Sanusi who was inevitably away for studies).

Hammasumo Usman, assisted in data collection and herbarium specimen.

Alfred Christopher served as a contact person for the communities and the Project.

Helen Andrew, Translated Mambila to English.

Patrick Thomas assisted in data collection and translation of Fulfulde to English.

Adamu Hassan, an experienced field assistant who collected herbarium specimen and seed samples.

Dauda Abubakar A ranger who served as an escort.

Julius Tonto A porter who assisted in carrying most luggage

Prof., Hazel Chapman helped developing the ideas of the project and help with data analyses.

10. Any other comments?

Exchange rate affected the cost of purchasing and importing items. Other challenges encountered was the banking policies which could not permit collecting foreign currency. Funds were received at the official exchange rate from the organisational receiving bank.



