

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	Chifundera Kusamba Zacharie
Project title	Using conservation education as a tool to increase public awareness and change behaviour for the conservation of lowland gorilla in Itombwe Natural Reserve (INR)
RSG reference	59.02.08
Reporting period	January 2009- August 2009
Amount of grant	£4990
Your email address	chifundera@yahoo.co.uk
Date of this report	30 November 2009

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
1. Education: creating Community-Based Conservation Working Groups (CBCWG) in three villages surrounding the Itombwe Natural Reserve (Miki, Irangi, Mboko)			X	- One CBO was created thanks to local education committees through CBCWG. - Meetings and talks were held at Irangi Mboko and Miki villages - Training sessions were organized at Miki, Mboko and Irangi
2. Increase public awareness and change behaviour through meetings, talks, workshop and media		X		Unfortunately participatory activities were not implemented but: - A discussion forum was created at Irangi. - A workshop was organized at Mwenga. - A Survey on behaviour and attitude changes has been carried out in order to know the level of cooperation of local communities, and as results 63% accept to the conserve the Itombwe Forest through a well organized structure.

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

Persistent war between the Congolese Army and the Rwandese Armed Groups known as Interahamwe-FDLR was a serious handicap to the project development and a danger to workers. One of our educators (Mr Asukulu M'mema) was killed in August 2009 just at the end of the project. This worse situation was cause of delay of our activities. We tried to work when there was not fighting.

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

- Women from Mboko village have acquired knowledge and skills through training and talks good practices of mushroom collecting, processing and conservation.
- Community representatives accepted to participate in discussion forums at Irangi, Mwenga and Miki. This is an evidence of their interest in the Itombwe forest conservation initiative.
- Local people have accepted the creation of the Itombwe Natural Reserve (INR) and presently a map for delineating the area is under production by WWF.

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

Local education group committees were created and are led by community representatives. Women from Mboko benefited from training in mushroom collecting and sustainable natural resource use.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

There is a follow-up action plan. We need continue conservation education campaigns until the IRN is managed and local communities are involved. The Congolese Government has designated a Warden who is based at Mwenga and local young people were recruited in order bring people to support the conservation actions. Accordingly, we intend enhance in the future, the cooperation with local communities by implementing some integrated conservation and development projects including small scale livestock breeding, tree planting and sustainable mushroom harvesting.

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

We intend to organize a workshop with stakeholders at Mwenga the Headquarters of the INR under the auspices of the Congolese Wildlife Authority (Institut Congolais pour la Conservation de la Nature, ICCN).

News from the field will be published in the local Magazine called Kivu Safari (DR Congo) and the CLP News Letters (UK).

Report will be sent to the Congolese Wildlife Authority called ICCN in Kinshasa and to other partners.

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

Previous timescale (9 months): April-December 2008. But the fact that we have received the funds in August 2008, the timescale was modified. Moreover, due to the war in Eastern DR Congo, we really started the project activities from January 2009 and finished in September 2009.

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
Field equipment	1040	1040		
Education material	1050	1050		
Subsistence	1800	1300	-450	We used three persons instead of four in the team composition
Hire a car	300	300		
Workshop	500	1000	+450	The number of participants was higher than the foreseen one
Report	150	150		
Dissemination	150	150		
Total	4990	4990	0	

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

To create a women organization for the protection of forests and train people in good practice for collecting mushrooms around the Itombwe Natural Reserve, and results will help to implement integrated conservation and development projects.

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?

The RSG logo was not used yet, but we will use it in a detailed report that will be sent to our partners (local communities, NGOs, governmental authorities, etc).

11. Any other comments?

We request from RSG supplementary grant to achieve the project goal, especially to implement integrated conservation and development projects.