

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	Djagoun Chabi Adéyèmi Marc Sylvestre
Project title	Evaluation and implementation of conservation strategies for the sustainable exploitation of wildlife resources used as animal based medicine in Benin
RSG reference	8291-1
Reporting period	July 2010– August 2011
Amount of grant	£5810
Your email address	dchabi@gmail.com
Date of this report	

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
Evaluate wildlife species used in traditional medicine in Benin			x	The taxonomic group most represented are the mammals (42 % of the species inventoried) followed by birds (25 %), reptiles (25 %), amphibians (3 %) and fishes (1%). Some species such as chameleon, Gambian rat, bird and turtle were found sold alive.
Highlight the economic and cultural importance,			x	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ We managed to gather information on the monthly incomes generated from the selling of the species sold on the medicine markets, which varies from 25,000 to 120,000 XOF (note that 1£ equals 750 XOF). It was very surprising to find that rare species were more costly and this constitutes an economic motivation for sellers to develop strategies for the availability of threatened species on their displays. This findings raise out the urgent question of a sustainable awareness campaigns and need to continuous this project to achieve our conservation goals.
Identify actors involved, trade chain			x	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ We identified a total of 10 ethnic groups acting in the traditional medicine markets as seller and the most presented ethnic group are FON (50%) the most populated ethnic group in southern Benin where this activity is well developed. We notice that that ethnic group has the most diversity of cultural and cultural practices in Benin. The most targeted customers are the healers. ➤ Traditional medicine based on animals and their products is of high importance to urban livelihood in Benin; in particular, the traditional medicine markets are more developed in the southern Benin, the sparsely populated part of the country. All the main cities in southern Benin have a traditional medicine market with up to 15 traders per market.

				Some of the countries found to be supplying the traditional medicine market in Benin are known to harbour exotic species such as <i>Equus zebra</i> , <i>Gorilla gorilla</i> and <i>Pan troglodytes</i> .
Awareness, education, lobbying, implementation		x		The awareness sessions were conducted towards 25 animal based medicine sellers and 20 hunters. These sessions This was an excellent occasion for us to show them how their daily activities are impacting on the wildlife survival, especially the rare and threatened species and how their striving to improve living conditions could paradoxically reduce prospects for a better life. We have also gathered their opinion about our work in order to set up a better approach for the next step of this research project. It was noticed that this project need a permanent and long term action to set up a sustainable sensitising action among different stakeholders. While the question about the mediatisation of awareness campaigns was also raised up through flyer distributions, radio talks session, audio-visual, written press coverage of our activities and more posters displayed in the populated places.
Restitution of the results to the all stakeholders and identification together what can be done, how and when and the role of each actor			x	The results were examined through a workshop which brought together several stakeholders: forest officers, tradi-practitioners, animal merchants, and useful recommendations were proffered through working groups on the way forward for greater sustainability in medicinal wildlife by stakeholders.

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

- i. Because of the secret and illegal character of the trade of animal for medicinal purpose it was difficult in a first time to have the commitment of the traders for fearing to be arrested. To solve this problem and collect a good data it was necessary before the field work to organise an exploratory survey to choose and inform targeted traders. During this phase, we contacted actors, explained the aims of the study, its relevance for universal research,

conservation and sustainable management of the targeted resources, put in confidence and explained the interest and the reliability expected for data collected. We have also discussed the global methodology and the relevant parameters or variables collected, defined in a participative approach their contribution to the data collection.

- ii. Although it was previously established we missed several appointments due to the busy time of our respondents. When needed we have given them some gifts considering the fact that the sellers served as the healers and several of questions was considered as a consultation. Also, due to the fact we cover all the country during the questionnaire activities we have engaged on the need a local interpreters.

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

- i. Generally the abundance of species sold in the traditional medicine market follows the same trend of species abundance in their natural habitat, because the species listed as abundant in the traditional medicine market were also commonly recorded in their habitat from the literature. However, this did not follow the conservation status as some species, although highly threatened at national or international level, were found as abundant on the market (see: *Loxodonta africana*, *Atherurus africanus*). Many of the less represented mammal species on the traditional medicine market are of conservation concern. Most of the recorded species (4 out of 6) are on either the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.
- ii. Traditional medicine based on animals and their products is of high importance to urban livelihood in Benin; in particular, the traditional medicine markets are more developed in southern Benin, the sparsely populated part of the country. All the main cities in southern Benin have a traditional medicine market with up to 15 traders per market. From this study we also concluded that rarer species were more costly and this constitutes an economic motivation for sellers to develop strategies for the availability of threatened species on their displays.
- iii. Most of the animals sold on Benin markets come from our national parks or classified forest; we found that 68% of the mammal species sold in the traditional medicine markets was provided locally by the hunter, while 32% come from elsewhere. Some individuals were also imported by the traders; the main source of provision was Nigeria (34.1 %), followed by Burkina Faso (15.9 %), Ghana (13.6 %), Niger (10.7 %), Togo (7.9 %), Gabon (5.6 %), Ivory Coast (4.7 %), Mali (2.8 %) and Congo (2.3 %). Cameroon, Egypt, Guinea, India, Kenya country were all represented with only 0.5 %. Nigeria was targeted by most respondents (65%) as the first country supplying the traditional medicine market in Benin and this may be linked to the proximity of the country.

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

Local people were directly involved in this project implementation during the market survey because we have employed a casual workers at least one by market visited. Therefore these employed guides and interpreters benefited cash payments. Due to the number of the markets sampled at the country level transport vehicle and motorbike taxi operators benefited also from the project. At least, local communities (sellers and hunters) participated in all steps of awareness sessions and also during the restitution workshop.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Our study is a snap-shot in time and given the extensive country-wide trade in animals for traditional medicine, future monitoring is necessary to prevent over-exploitation of threatened species. This is particularly true for the animals considered as the rarest and unfortunately highly prized for traditional medicine. While we need to respect the individual's need to access traditional medicine, it is in everyone's interest to ensure that these age-old practices are sustainable. Moreover, it is important to promote research which will integrate all factors (including traditional medicine) affecting species listed in this study in order to develop a model to assess the sustainability of the current exploitation strategies.

As far as awareness is concerned, it is necessary to develop some tools for long term awareness and to share them with NGOs, Public administration, etc.

It is also important to follow the revision of the law on fauna in Benin in order to consider the main output of our project.

We plan also to elaborate brochures on which we will highlight the species which are threatened and their legal status in order to sensitize sellers and other stakeholders on the negative impact of their activities. Moreover, to have an important impact, it will be necessary to develop and reinforce an awareness plan towards school kids around protected areas used as provision sources.

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

- We prepared a book chapter titled "Mammal trade for zootherapeutic and mythic purposes in Benin (West Africa): Capitalizing species involved, provision sources and implications for conservation" to contribute to the book edited by Rômulo Romeu Nóbrega Alves and Irecê Lucena Rosa on "ANIMALS IN TRADITIONAL FOLK MEDICINE: IMPLICATIONS FOR CONSERVATION" and acknowledge was given for the Rufford Foundation for funding this project.
- The main outputs of the project were also put on the National Clearing House Mechanism (bj.chm-cbd.net) of the CBD.
- The results were shared through a workshop which brought together several stakeholders: forest officers, traditional practitioners, and animal merchants.
- A part of the project output related to the small carnivores medicinal species was presented as oral communication at the 11th Small Mammal Symposium which was held at University of Swaziland in Swaziland from July. 3-8, 2011.
- We will follow workshops and symposiums opportunities to present as oral or poster the main output of the project at national and international level.

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

The grant was used over a period of 16 months instead of the anticipated 13 months, mainly due to Coordinator's change of work station in October 2010. However, the extension was mainly for the planning for the workshop restitution which also depended on the time schedule of some forestry office personalities. It is also important to consider the political atmosphere in Benin

which was not in the favour of the work. Two elections were done in Benin during the project implementation period and it was not possible to go ahead in the project during that period. More time in the field usually implies more and better data and therefore more accurate monitoring, managing and conservation measures.

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
Collection and identification materials	300	300	0	Some body parts have been sampled for future study and also used in combination with the picture to identify the given habitat with the specialists. This exercise has been done for the birds, frog and insects species. The amount was used to buy the material a their conservation
Digital camera: OLYMPUS Camedia C-750 Ultra Zoom	120	150	-30	This cost more than it was expected because priority was given to the quality of the pictures to be taken
Office furniture (CD, paper, floppy disk, flash disk, etc.)	100	100	0	
Data collection papers (questionnaire, etc.) and field guide	200	190	+10	Used to conceptualize the questionnaire, print and multiply.
Scientific literature	100	150	-50	This amount was used to buy field Guide Books on Mammals, Birds, Reptiles, Amphibians, Fish and Insects of Africa.
Communication : Internet, Fax, Phone	100	100	0	
Travel to research sites	700	700	0	
Research assistant and local workers	1140	1140	0	The project required a local field assistant who helped in field surveys, contacting voluntary groups and keeping touch with the leader on regular basis.
Hiring room for the workshop	500	300	+200	
Transport Perdiem for participants	500	550	-50	
Accommodation	350	450	-100	
Food	500	500	0	

Communication (TV, Journals, radios)	150	100	+50	
Awareness materials (posters, technical papers, etc.)	200	280	-80	
Awareness, education, Lobbying implementation	850	800	+50	
Total	5810	5810		

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

- Support some local people to obtain Hunting Licences and Collection Permit (for trading in wildlife products) by which tradi-practitioners can legally acquire medicinal wildlife products
- Reproduce/multiply the Medicinal Wildlife Poster for greater awareness raising and to satisfy the apparent high demand for it;
- Produce a short film on the sustainable management/use of medicinal wildlife to highlight Benin's wildlife legislation on the issue;
- Organise a training seminar for tradi-practitioners on the sustainable use of medicinal wildlife.
- Monitoring and evaluation of awareness raised and level of sustainability achieved.
- Promotion of the Sustainable Use of Indigenous Wildlife Resources as Medicinal Wildlife, in Benin and establish a joint collaborative project with others conservationist who are working on the same topic in Africa.

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 RSGF logo had the pride of place in our working documents like the questionnaires and the flyer messages. It also had the pride of place at any restitution workshop and training and awareness materiel. In our letters we specified that the activities are funded by the Rufford Small Grants Foundation. Also during the oral communication at the 11th Small Mammal Symposium which was held at University of Swaziland in Swaziland from July. 3-8, 2011 the RSGF logo has been used to acknowledge the Rufford Foundation. But also at the end of the communication an interest to RSGF was noticed by several conference participants who asked us to have more precision about the foundation and some explanations were given on the application procedure with an indication of the Rufford website for more details. Finally the Rufford Small Grants Foundation was also acknowledged in the manuscript prepared and submitted as a book chapter to contributed to the book edited by Professor Rômulo Romeu Nóbrega Alves and Ierecê Lucena Rosa on "ANIMALS IN TRADITIONAL FOLK MEDICINE: IMPLICATIONS FOR CONSERVATION"

11. Any other comments?

Rufford Small Grant Foundation, a prestigious charity organisation grants conservation awards to address pressing conservation problems and the entire process from the application to final report submission is at very ease. Jane and Josh Cole were fantastic and have been extremely cooperative throughout the study.