

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	KPERA Gnanki Nathalie
Project title	Enhancing the conservation of the West African Manatee (<i>Trichechus senegalensis</i>) in Benin
RSG reference	9314-1
Reporting period	February 2012
Amount of grant	£5750
Your email address	nathbiche@yahoo.fr
Date of this report	6 th June 2012

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
Improve the knowledge on <i>Trichechus senegalensis</i> distribution, ecology, behaviour, ethnozoology and threats facing manatees in Ouinhi.			✓	-
Create a group of stakeholders that will positively influence <i>Trichechus senegalensis</i> conservation and management at different levels			✓	-
Elaborate action plan for manatees conservation in Ouinhi		✓		Our goal was not fully achieved. The action plan is elaborated; it reminds the implementation of the plan by the service of Forests and Natural Resources management for sustainable conservation of manatees.

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

During the course of the project, we were faced to flood period that obliged us to delay the field work for 2 months.

Besides, the action plan is elaborated; it reminds the implementation of the plan by the service of Forests and Natural Resources management (DGFRN) which is a public service. A copy of the report is sent to the DGFRN and we are waiting for their contribution and their invitation to organize the meeting of approval of the action plan.

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

We were very impressed by the local people involvement in the project. They are aware that manatees are threatened and need particular attention to their conservation.

The involvement of all the stakeholders at different levels (local, municipal, national,) to biodiversity conservation to the benefit of local communities is high. Their challenge is to develop tourism on manatee in Ouinhi District.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes, as we haven't observed any manatee during our research apart the one captured by local people of Sagon. Then, we planned to continue observations in order to map manatee's area of occurrence base on our observation. We would also like to continue working with the stakeholders who are already motivated to manatee conservation.

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

- In June, our results will be presented to the Laboratory of Applied researcher monthly meeting to get their contribution.
- We also planned a meeting with the DGFRN staff to share our results and discuss the action plan.
- We planned to publish two papers. The first paper is in preparation.
- Finally, we will check national and international conferences and workshops to share our results with other researchers.

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

The project started in February 2011 and should end in February 2012.
Because of the constraints mentioned above, we over used 3 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
1- Equipment	300	350	-50	
2- Expendable supplies	250	225	25	
3- Literature, documentation, information	200	240	-40	
4 - Local travel, extra manpower	1700	2050	-350	
5-Elaboration and dissemination of action plan	2300	1990	310	
6-Implementation of the action plan	1000	700	300	The rest of £ 195 will be used for the meeting with the DGFRN
Total	£5750	£5555	£ 195	

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

The next step is the approval and the adoption of the action plan by the service of Forests and Natural Resources Management

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 le RSG Logo is the power presentation of the proposal at University of Abomey Calavi.