

## 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](mailto:jane@rufford.org).

Thank you for your help.

**Josh Cole, Grants Director**

Grant Recipient Details	
<b>Your name</b>	Mr. Iregi Mwenja
<b>Project title</b>	Conservation of rare primates in Samburu, northern Kenya
<b>RSG reference</b>	RSG I; 06.08.06, RSG II; 17.11.07 and RSG Booster: 48.12.09
<b>Reporting period</b>	2006-2011
<b><sup>1</sup>Amount of grant</b>	RSG I + RSG II + RSG Booster = Total £ 17,925
<b>Your email address</b>	<a href="mailto:iregim@gmail.com">iregim@gmail.com</a> , <a href="mailto:iregim@yahoo.com">iregim@yahoo.com</a> ,
<b>Date of this report</b>	26 <sup>th</sup> August 2011

<sup>1</sup> Reporting for RSG 1 and RSG 11 done in 2007 and 2009 and posted on the Rufford website:

[http://www.ruffordsmallgrants.org/rsg/projects/iregi\\_mwenja\\_1](http://www.ruffordsmallgrants.org/rsg/projects/iregi_mwenja_1); [http://www.ruffordsmallgrants.org/rsg/projects/iregi\\_mwenja\\_0](http://www.ruffordsmallgrants.org/rsg/projects/iregi_mwenja_0)

**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) To determine the population, distribution and conservation status of the De Brazza's monkey in the Mathews Range.			✓	There are approximately 1,000 De Brazza's monkeys in Mathew Ranges. A total of 24 De Brazza's monkey troops were seen and mapped during the survey. Some of the indentified threats are forest fires, harvesting of medicinal plants and livestock pasture were identified as some of the threats.
2) To draw recommendations on possible conservation options for the De Brazza's monkey in the Mathews Range.			✓	Nine conservation recommendations were made and some have been acted upon.
3) To assess the status and distribution the de Brazza's Pata's, and Sykes' monkey, Mt Uarges guereza, and lesser galago in Samburu to guide future conservation actions.			✓	Mt. Uarges guereza inhabit Samburu and face threat of local extinction while Senegal lesser galago is one of the most widespread primate in Samburu. However, there are no Pata's and Sykes monkeys in Samburu.
4) To identify local threats and opportunities for conservation of de Brazza's Pata's, and Sykes' monkey, Mt Uarges guereza, and lesser galago in Samburu.			✓	Poaching of Mt Uarges guereza for their skin is the key threat. Other threats are overgrazing, deforestation, forest encroachment and forest fires.
5) To build the capacity of local scouts and local research assistants in primate's ecology and data collection methodologies.			✓	18 local scouts and research assistants were trained, assisted in the survey and are applying the gained skills in various areas of wildlife conservation.
6) To increase awareness on the conservation of De Brazza's monkey and the Endangered Mt Uarges guereza among key stakeholders in the Mathews Range Forest Reserve			✓	In May 2010, a decision makers' training workshop was held. In addition, an estimated 35,000 locals were reached directly through promotional materials, public film shows, talks in schools and talk shows on local Serian FM radio station.

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

At the beginning, the local people's poor knowledge of most of the primate species in the being studied affected the survey work as it was difficult to secure good guides familiar with the primate and its ecology. This demanded extra training of the scouts and guide on the species ecology which was a drain to our resource and time. In addition, poor infrastructure in the undulating and rough terrain in the study area made movement very difficult especially during the rainy season. Some areas were virtually inaccessible hence the scouting had to be rescheduled for the dry season.

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

- i. The ground breaking discovery of De Brazza's monkeys was the biggest achievement of this project. A total of 162 De Brazza's in 24 troops were seen during the survey. Through extrapolation, the total numbers were thought to be between 400 and 600. The report of the discovery, which has been published in a scientific journal, generated a lot of interest from primatologists and conservation practitioners. This also increased knowledge among the local people concerning their rich and unique biodiversity as well as opening the area to eco-tourism as more people come to see this newly discovered population of de Brazza's monkey.
- ii. The understanding of the local threats that face the Mt Uarges guereza monkeys and other wildlife in Mathew ranges and Samburu district in general was also a big conservation milestone. The indentified threats, such as poaching of Mt Uarges guereza monkeys for their skin, an act which threatens the species with local extinction, spurred local action that resulted in mainstreaming of primate conservation in ongoing conservation effort.
- iii. The wildlife conservation awareness supported by the project made big impacts. Several movies including Mizoga, PACE and AEFF were interactively screened. A total of 1,200 pupils together with their teachers and over 30,000 community members were reached during the education outreach. The local community is now more enlightened on the benefits of the local wildlife as well as their role in it conservation. Students are now more enlightened on the importance of wildlife as a natural resource and source of income. The enlightened and motivated school heads have become board members in the conservancies in the area. The elders vowed to give their total support towards the conservation of primates by enforcing taboos on poaching.

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

The local community was involved in every phase of the project. During the primate survey, scouts and research assistant were recruited from *Manyattas* around the survey sites and trained on basic primate's ecology and data collection. In addition, Samburu community elders, who are the custodian of Samburu culture, were enlightened on the value of their rich and unique wildlife resources. The workshop facilitation was done by two of local wildlife managers who conducted it in the local Samburu dialect. The elders gained knowledge that empowered them to advocate for primate conservation in their areas of jurisdiction. Interactive sessions and screening of films in densely populated centres neighbouring important wildlife habitats was also done.

Furthermore, the local learning institutions - primary and secondary schools were also targeted for awareness rising. About 1,200 pupils were informed of wildlife conservation through films and interactive sessions. The enthusiastic pupils received promotional materials such as T-shirts while teachers were given copies of the films to carry on with awareness creation.

**5. Are there any plans to continue this work?**

Yes, it is important to continue sensitising and supporting the local community so that they can continue with long-term monitoring of the de Brazza's and Mt Uarges guereza.

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

The project results for RSG 1 and RSG 2 were publicised in NatGeo news, local wildlife magazines, wildlife blogs and websites across the world. We will continue to be publicise RSG Booster results in various conservation platforms such as workshops and publication in print media. More awareness on the need to promote conservation of these rare primates will be created through electronic mediums such as social media and blogs. Some of the project results have been uploaded in various blogs such as [www.samburumonkeys.wildlifedirect.org](http://www.samburumonkeys.wildlifedirect.org) and <http://www.flickr.com/photos/mwenja/sets/72157623913595731/>

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

May 2006 – April 2011. The first (RSG 1 2006) was for 10 months. The second (RSG 2 2008) was for 12 months. The third (Booster grant 2010) was for 12 months, though I extended with 2 months due to professional commitments.

**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.**

<sup>2</sup> Item £ 11,755	Budgeted Amount	Actual Amount	Difference	Comments
Promotional materials	850	1190	-340	More T-shirt produced that initially planned
Workshop - Elders	1830	2120	-290	Travel costs increased due to inaccessibility of the some area
Workshop – organised groups	2375	2310	65	Almost went as planned
Project administration	2700	2560	140	Administrative cost minimised by eliminating wages when not on duty
Education outreach	4000	4280	-280	Born Free subsidised partially cost of transport
	11,755	12,460		

<sup>2</sup> Financial accounting for RSG 1 RSG 11 sent in 2007 and 2009 respectively together with a technical report.

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

There is need to continue the outreach programme especially among the youth in order to sustain the enthusiasm and heightened interest in primates. This should go hand in hand with promotion of conservation friendly cultural lifestyle while discouraging the use of dancing costumes made of guereza skin. In addition, there is a need to promote generation of alternative livelihoods in order to reduce the growing pressure on the primate habitat.

**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?**

RSGF logo was used in all project reports and blogs. RSGF support was acknowledged in all project reports, stories, articles such as in *Swara* magazine and short films produced by the project on the project.

**11. Any other comments?**

When the news of a new population of de Brazza's monkey population out of the species known geographic range emerged, everyone doubted. I thank RSGF for being among the first few who believed in me and funded my proposal. Today, the IUCN Primates Specialist Group – a high authority in primates' research, recognises the existence of this population. The Deputy Chair of the group said when I published my findings;

"We need to research, document, understand the nature of the wildlife around us in order to save it. Iregi Mwenja's work may well, we hope, have saved this population just by documenting its existence". *IUCN/SSC Primate Specialist Group Deputy Chair Dr. Anthony Ryland, a pioneering primatologist and editor. National Geographic News, Nov. 5<sup>th</sup> 2007*  
Thank you RSGF for putting your money where it was needed most!