

The Rufford Foundation

Final Report

Congratulations on the completion of your project that was supported by The Rufford 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	Prince Kiswele Kaleme
Project title	Habitat Preference and Distribution of Small Mammals In and Around Kahuzi Biega National Park (KBNP), Eastern DRC
RSG reference	N/A (was not given at that time)
Reporting period	April 2004
Amount of grant	£4900
Your email address	pkaleme@gmail.com (previous mail was princekaleme@yahoo.co.uk)
Date of this report	20 September 2013

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
Assess small mammal species diversity across different type of forests, elevations and seasons			x	Small mammals were sampled in all habitat types, elevation gradients and seasons. A paper was published in Integrative Zoology. Students (5) were also taken to learn techniques to work on small mammals
Environment education: - Establishment of wildlife clubs, - Community conservation programme (with stakeholders)		X	x	Activities held were: - Wildlife clubs were created in 4 schools in the vicinity of KBNP. - Workshops (two) with stakeholders (park warden, four schools' principals and four zoology teachers). Strong links were created.
Research on global biodiversity		x		Apart from small mammals, large mammal species (sighted or encountered) were recorded. List is underworked to be published as part of a larger dataset for the whole eastern DR Congo.
Collaboration with local communities to provide advice to reduce poaching in the park (through workshops)		X		Two workshops with local people's representatives to discuss issues related to poaching in the park where park representatives were invited at Miti village and Lwiro research station. We focused on causes of poaching and how to overcome or eradicate it in KBNP

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

During the time the activities were about to start, I was attacked in my home and kidnapped by Rwandese rebels "Interhamwe". The park was also a hiding place for rebels that raided villages and made the work difficult. Our research station was a target for years. However, we could conduct the work and carry out the sampling in and around the park. Sometimes, fieldwork was cancelled because of security issues

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

1. A list of the small mammals (added to it, other large mammals recorded) of the park was obtained and published in an international journal. The list of large mammals is being prepared in a larger dataset that will be published for the entire eastern DR Congo protected areas.

2. Four wildlife clubs were created with different activities ranging from sites visits to the discussions at the museum at CRSN Lwiro on a few mammals that are of importance for the local populations.
3. Two workshops were held with villagers on poaching (one at each location). The results of each workshop were sent to the local radio for a programme on conservation. Calls were received from peoples congratulating our efforts.

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

Schools targeted for this project and visits in sites as well as discussions on the ecosystem services were held. The first step was visits to schools to select some of them for activities. The teachers and principals gave ideas on how to work with children and this was used as a guide on excursions in the park (two) and visits to the museum (each school had its days).

Two workshops were held on the problems related to poaching in the park where representatives of the park and local peoples were invited. During the closing of the teacher's workshop, the county Administrator and a few other officials were invited and a meeting (in a form of a forum) took place. In wildlife club, emphasis was placed on importance of protecting mammals for trees disseminations and other services. Parents were delighted on learning their children were working to protect nature and have orientations for the future of their carrier as zoologists. Four students (targeted then) are now pursuing zoology studies in universities at Bukavu (the nearest city) and still in close contact with us.

With the local peoples and park representatives, discussions were on poaching and how to overcome it. A popular article was also published in a local newspaper on the importance of rodents and bats in the functioning of ecosystems.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

There is a plan to continue this work on the bat colonies in Kahuzi Biega NP and some nearby sites such as Itombwe reserve. We intend to focus on migratory species of bats and breeding colonies that are found in the area. Work more with wildlife clubs and local peoples stakeholders to tackle conservation problems.

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

The results were published in a scientific journal "Integrative Zoology" with the title: SMALL MAMMALS DIVERSITY IN KAHUZI BIEGA NATIONAL PARK, EASTERN DR CONGO. Copies were provided to the park, NGOs working on conservation in eastern DR Congo and other colleagues working in the area. Some other topics were discussed in local radio programs.

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

The money was granted in 2002, but I was undertaking my MSc programme in South Africa and requested to start activities when I am back from that, which was granted. The activities started in

May 2003 until April 2004. Derogation was granted and the report was sent then in June. Not sure how it cannot be found.

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
Computer	400	400	0	
Printer	150	140	10	
Equipment	250	250	0	GPS, Compass, sleeping bag, tent
Fieldwork	1400	1410	- 10	Students training was added before fieldwork
Workshops (stakeholders; school principals and teachers)	1000	985	- 15	
Communication	200	250	- 50	It became important to disseminate results using local press
Visit to schools & sites	500	500	0	
Wildlife clubs' activities	700	715	- 15	
Stationary	350	300	50	
Total	4950	4950	0	

A computer and printer were purchased for the project in 2003 to record all the activities of the project.

Equipment purchased was mostly for fieldwork and comprised a GPS, a compass, a tent and two sleeping bags to conduct fieldwork. GPS is out-dated but the others are still in use until now. Fieldwork was carried out in six sites in the park to collect small mammals (rodents, shrews and bats) using a variety of (live) traps adapted for each group. The fieldwork was done by laboratory staff used to this kind to avoid damaged on individuals that had to be released. Five students were also taken from university and colleges in Bukavu and nearby towns to allow them to learn these techniques. Before the fieldwork, a training was held for the students to allow them to get used with animal handling techniques. Two of them are now staffs in the laboratory and one was recommended in an international NGO with activities in Kahuzi – Biega NP. A list of small and large mammals was recorded.

The small mammal list was published while that of large mammals recorded since that time is now available for the region (eastern DR Congo) and ready to use. A paper is in preparation and will be sent in press soon.

Two workshops for stakeholders and two for school principals and teachers took place to discuss various subjects related to each group. They focused on collaboration between all the parties in conserving ecosystems and species; highlighting the importance of small mammals in ecosystem

functioning (peoples tend to think that rodents, bats and shrews are just useless and destroyers of their goods such as crops and food stocks). Focus was placed on their importance in regeneration of forest and seed dispersal (for the terrestrials) and pollination (for the bats).

Communication comprised phone calls and internet use for emails and other means. Transport also for peoples reaching places that were not covered by phone networks was also put into this category. To disseminate the results, the local press (radios and newspapers) were also targeted and this raised the amount slightly. A motivation was also included for the reporters.

Visit to schools/wildlife club activities: comprised fees used for transport, contribution to the stationary of the school (papers, pens and notebooks for teachers). Other things included here were a cocktail given to teachers that were active in activities to encourage/ motivate them. The wildlife club activities comprised car rental to take school delegations (pupils and teachers) to sites for visit or discussion sites. Children were requested to bring own food, but something was purchased for those that could not afford it by themselves.

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

The important next steps are:

- Control of the sites that were sampled if the same species can still be recorded because of the change of climate. We cannot talk of habitat degradation because the location where sampling took place is safe and habitat destruction does not occur.
- Focus on bats and a few rodent species to study population dynamics and see if there are breeding colonies and roosts of bats in the area and/ or migration movements in the park to study the biology of some target species of local or global importance for conservation. Population trends can also give information during the evaluation of vulnerability of some species.
- Compare the lists with the previous one made in 2006 (published in 2007) to evaluate species compositions change and the factors that lead to these changes.
- Implicate more stakeholders and schools in the activities, increase the number of wildlife clubs and diversify activities in schools.

10. Did you use The Rufford Foundation 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 used all the time in meetings and was acknowledged in the paper that was published. Even in radio programs, the RSG was acknowledged. In the radio programmes, each should end with a word of acknowledgement to RSG for funding these activities.

11. Any other comments?

The report was due in 2004 and was sent but I am not sure how it got lost and I have been (this year) requested to provide another after about 10 years. This one was compiled from notes as the computer crashed. Fortunately, notes were kept secure.