

## 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. 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. 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**

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#### Grant Recipient Details

<b>Your name</b>	Dennis Rentsch
<b>Project title</b>	Bushmeat Hunting In The Serengeti Ecosystem: Nutritional and Socio-economic Drivers
<b>RSG reference</b>	
<b>Reporting period</b>	July, 2007 – June, 2008
<b>Amount of grant</b>	£4696
<b>Your email address</b>	<a href="mailto:rent0044@umn.edu">rent0044@umn.edu</a>
<b>Date of this report</b>	June 12, 2008

**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
Initiate Village Protein Survey in 8 study villages			X	16 Village Protein Surveyors conduct monthly protein consumption surveys in 132 households to help assess changes in bushmeat consumption, and livestock health.
Initiate Newcastle Disease vaccination program			X	In March, 2008, 20 participants from 4 of the 8 study villages received training in the vaccination of village chickens. The first round saw more than 6,000 chickens in the 4 villages receive vaccine. The vaccination will continue in July and November before the impact on protein consumption can be assessed.
Determine viability of poultry as an alternative to bushmeat		X – data is being collected and analysed, but no conclusive results yet		The VPS will allow for measurements of the consumption of bushmeat before and after the poultry vaccination program. However, as this is a longitudinal study, the results will not be available until December to be able to determine whether poultry is a viable alternative.

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

The biggest difficulty was securing the funding for and organizing the Newcastle vaccination campaign. Kyeema Foundation was not able to fund the project as initially planned. However, Frankfurt Zoological Society eventually provided funds, and I was able to go forward with the campaign. While it was somewhat delayed, the new schedule allowed me to collect several months of consumption data prior to the initiation, which will provide better tools for measuring the impact. In the end, this delay turned out to be a positive for the study overall.

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

1) Training the Village Protein Surveyors to carry out the monthly data collection in the villages was one of the biggest achievements of this project. It allowed for reliable data collection in a cost-effective manner, and helped to provide more accurate data on a sensitive topic (illegal wildlife hunting). I have been pleasantly surprised by the diligence of the 16 VPS who are working with me. Their efforts have provided a unique and important data set on seasonal changes in bushmeat consumption.

2) Initiating the Newcastle disease vaccination campaign had a large and immediate impact on the communities I've been working with. First, it provided a direct benefit, as many households

complained to me of losing chickens in the previous months to this disease. Second, the community vaccinators received training (and bicycles) to allow them to continue the training on a fee-for-service basis, and hopefully make the campaign sustainable.

3) Perhaps the most important outcome of this project has been the success in using scientific research to provide tangible benefits to the communities. Research has been going on in this region for decades, and many of the communities were tired of researchers asking questions and leaving without giving any feedback. By making it clear that the data they were providing me lead directly to the implementation of the Newcastle vaccination campaign, I was able to encourage further participation in the program, and increase the understanding of the potential benefits of research.

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

As mentioned above, communities were involved in every step of this project. First, 16 village protein surveyors participated in data collection of monthly surveys in 132 households. Second, the Newcastle disease vaccination campaign held in four of the study villages provided training for 20 Community Vaccinators, who now vaccinate chickens at a cost-for-service basis, earning income by vaccinating more chickens. The campaign takes place three times per year. The first round of vaccinations included more than 6,300 chickens throughout the four villages. Outbreaks of Newcastle disease are common and devastating in this area, so the impact of the vaccination may be substantial.

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

The VPS surveys are scheduled to continue through at least November 2008, and the vaccinations were designed to be sustainable beyond the scope of this study. However, extensive follow up is required to ensure that this is the case. I intend to continue the data collection, and present the results of the study back to the communities in December. At that time, I will search for further funding to provide vaccination campaign to the remaining villages, and perhaps more communities within the ecosystem.

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

First, I intend to share the results of my work with the communities themselves. The vaccination training we provided can easily be replicated, and the vaccine is easily available to nearby communities. I invited local Government Officials, NGO's, local tourism companies and Serengeti National Parks staff to attend the vaccination training in March, in an effort to demonstrate the impact of this project to other local stakeholders. I intend to present these results at the Tanzanian Wildlife Research Institute's (TAWIRI) semi-annual conference in 2009.

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

The initiation of this project was delayed due to delays in research permits, funding delays, and vehicle malfunctions. However, the VPS portion began in September 2007, and is scheduled to continue until at least November 2008. The Newcastle vaccination portion was delayed several

months, but has been successfully completed at this time. Follow up will continue until November 2008 (and hopefully beyond).

**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
VPS salaries	£2880	£2698	+£182	This budget item worked out nearly as anticipated. This in part was due to the favourable exchange rate for GBP.
Field Assistant Salary	£1200	£1543	-£343	The salary structure changed substantially, with higher salary paid for fewer months. I was able to use some additional funding to cover the difference.
Research Permits	£616	£616	0	This was paid upfront, and used as planned.
<b>TOTAL</b>			-£161	

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

It is important to see the data collection through until at least November, and determine the impact of the Newcastle disease vaccination campaign on the consumption of bushmeat. Regardless of the results, the next step is to provide feedback to the communities, to try to educate on the importance of conserving wildlife, and the potential benefits of research.

**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 was presented during the acknowledgements of a presentation given at the Society for Conservation Biology conference in Port Elizabeth, SA last July, the Conservation Biology seminar at the University of Minnesota, and at the Lincoln Park Zoo in Chicago in March.