

## 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**

Grant Recipient Details	
<b>Your name</b>	Mofat Mophat Phiri
<b>Project title</b>	Community participation programme for the conservation of threatened bat species and rehabilitation of their destroyed habitats, roosts and caves in Mpumalanga Region, South Africa
<b>RSG reference</b>	09.06.07
<b>Reporting period</b>	November 2007 to October 2008
<b>Amount of grant</b>	£4995
<b>Your email address</b>	<a href="mailto:Moffat62@gmail.com">Moffat62@gmail.com</a>
<b>Date of this report</b>	11 January 2010

**1. Please indicate the level of achievement of the project's original objectives and include any relevant comments on factors affecting this.**

<b>Objective</b>	<b>Not achieved</b>	<b>Partially achieved</b>	<b>Fully achieved</b>	<b>Comments</b>
1. To conduct and organise public environmental education and awareness on bats.	N/A	N/A		<p>The environmental education and awareness meetings and lectures that were conducted in the project area assisted the general public to fully understand the importance of conserving bats.</p> <p>At the end of the environmental education, about 97% of the people in the region supported the project and 30 took part in the implementation of project activities. The objective was fully achieved.</p> <p>A total of 30 public environmental education and awareness meetings held.</p> <p>18 sensitization meetings on ecological importance of bats were held with Government, NGOs and CBOs officials in the project area.</p>
2. To conduct environmental education of merits and demerits of bats.	N/A	N/A		<p>97% of the people living in the project area mentioned publically that they did not know that bats are also important in plant pollination, eat harmful insects which transmit disease causing organisms in human beings, livestock and plants, and facilitate seed dispersal thereby reducing plant competition for food and minerals.</p> <p>The impact of the project was that 20 pupils from the Eastern Cape Region joined in the implementation of the project. This helped the project team to gain support of many community members in the implementation of project activities.</p> <p>A total of 24 seminars were conducted to 1363 pupils, 108 teachers, 320 members of Mpumalanga Mining Association and 27 government officials in Mpumalanga gold and lime mining areas.</p>

				25 public lectures on ecological importance of bats conservation were conducted to 15 schools that are found in the project area.
3. To produce environmental education materials in English and local language to strengthen environmental awareness.	N/A	N/A		<p>Due to the messages that went out to the cross section of the general public, the Department of Environment and Tourism seconded two of its technical employees to assist the project team in disseminating the information to many South Africans as possible.</p> <p>Positive information that many South Africans received about the importance of bats helped them change their negative attitudes that they had on bats and many took part in the rehabilitation of the destroyed bats caves.</p> <p>A total of 5,500 posters and 10,000 leaflets containing messages about the importance of bats in our daily living were produced in both English and local languages and distributed to 18 schools in the project area and other parts of the country. 7,300 were distributed to local communities in the project area and the Mpumalanga Region and the Eastern Cape in South Africa.</p>
4. Organise three radio and three TV programmes on benefits of bats.	N/A	N/A		<p>The project team failed to organise all the three radio and three TV programmes in a year because the cost of airing one programme was expensive and the money allocated for the programme was inadequate. However, 90% of the population in South Africa benefited from the programmes aired and have fully understood the importance of conserving bats.</p> <p>Two phone-in radio and two television programmes on the importance of bats and why it is important to conserve them were aired across South Africa and beyond.</p>

<p>5. To mobilise and lobby community members to rehabilitate and restore destroyed habitats, roosts and caves of bats.</p>	N/A		N/A	<p>The planned activities were not fully implemented because of heavy rains which made it impossible to reach out some communities as roads were impassable because of mud. The project team tried to reschedule the programme which resulted in project delay and failure again to finish the activity of the ceaseless rain during that season.</p> <p>The objective was partially achieved as 16 out of 30 meetings planned were conducted in the project area. However, 15 Active Working Groups (AWGs) comprising men and women were established in the project area. 12 abandoned and destroyed caves for bats were rehabilitated/restored. About 1,000 threatened bats were protected from persecution.</p>
<p>6. Establish a network of nesting boxes and recovery centres to receive and treat injured bats.</p>	N/A	N/A		<p>About 500 bats have been provided with good shelter and are protected from persecution. This initiative will ensure the survival of the endangered bat species in the project area.</p> <p>A total of 100 nesting boxes to cater for bats whose their caves and roosting places were completely destroyed were constructed and installed in forest trees near Mpumalanga mines.</p> <p>The project team also set up two recovery centres in the area manned by the AWGs established in the area and 20 injured bats have been treated and taken care in these centres.</p>

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

- The first unforeseen difficult that arose during the project implementation was my sickness which derailed the implementation of some activities on time as being the project leader I had to make sure that I was always available to see the implementation of activities. This problem delayed the implementation of activities according to schedule.
- Heavy rains that South Africa received towards the end of 2008 and the beginning of 2009 also delayed the implementation of activities in accordance to schedule.

- Sudden increase in buying airtime at the SABC radio and TV stations made it difficult to implement all planned programmes as outlined in the project document. As a result, the project team had to slash down the number of environmental education programmes to be aired of the stations.

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

- Public education on the importance of bats had assisted about 90% of the South African people to appreciate the importance of the conservation of bats and take part in the restoration of destroyed caves where bats live at the old mining area.
- Restoration of caves and other roosting places, including construction of 1,000 bat nesting boxes where bats (can) live and breed has assisted to save the lives of about 60% of the remaining threatened bat species in the country.
- Establishment of Active Working Groups around the mining area will help take care of restored caves, constructed bat boxes and protection of bat habitats in the area. These programmes will help conserve the threatened species of bats and other wildlife species in the area.

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

Local communities started to support the project right away at the beginning. It was noted that pupils from various schools and other local communities from the project area took part in the implementation of activities. These people have benefited a lot as they have learned skills on how they can restore destroyed bat caves, construct bat boxes and hang them in trees. Further, they have gained knowledge on best practices in bat protection and information dissemination to lure other local community members to take part in project implementation.

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

Yes indeed, the project team is planning to scale out the project to other areas of the countries where bats persecuted because their caves and roosting places are destroyed because of the bad myths that community members have on bats. It is believed that when many people learnt about the importance of bats, they will support killing and destroying bats' caves. This can help to conserve bats for the benefit of the present and future generations.

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

- I shall write a detailed report and then several copies will be produced and distributed to many stakeholders involved in nature conservation so that they should be in a position to learn and know the results of the project.
- Secondly, I will present the results of the project to Pan African International Conference on Elephant Conservation and Research Symposium at Kwalata Game Ranch in South Africa and at National Zoological Garden.

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

The RSG had been used for a period of 19 months. In the project document, it was stated that the RSG would be used for a period of 12 months. However, the RSG had been used for a longer period than stated mainly due to unforeseen difficulties as mentioned in section 2 that the project team and I encountered during the implementation of project activities.

**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
Assorted stationery	738.00	738.00	0.00	Funds allocated were adequate.
Environmental education, communication and awareness materials	2,100.00	2,100.00	0.00	Funds were adequate for production of education materials.
Environmental education and awareness programmes	640.00	640.00	0.00	Funds were adequate for only two TV and two radio programmes not three and four as stated in the project document.
Transport costs (fuel and lubricants)	1,400.00	1,400.00	0.00	Funds were adequate.
Communication costs	750.00	750.00	0.00	Funds budgeted were adequate.
Cost of secretarial services	180.00	180.00	0.00	Funds budgeted were adequate.
Cost of production of four financial and 20 technical reports	187.00	187.00	0.00	Funds budgeted were adequate.
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4,995.00</b>	<b>4,995.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	

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

The next step that I would like to take is to scale out the project to other areas as this project has revealed pros and cons that cause community members to kill bats and destroy their roosting and breeding caves. Massive environmental education and awareness in the country will help to save the lives of many endangered species of bats and other wildlife.

**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, in some environmental education and awareness materials, the project team used the RSGF logo and many community members including government and NGOs officials were amazed with the logo and many came to us in order to learn more about the Rufford Small Grants Foundation, where

the organisation is and what exactly it does. I hope that many stakeholders will be contacting your office to learn about kinds of grants that they can benefit from your organisation for their projects.

**11. Any other comments?**

I would like to express my sincerely grateful to the Rufford Small Grants Foundation for financially and morally supporting our project which has helped to save the lives of many endangered bat species in the country. It is my sincere hope that in future, the RSGF will also support our projects despite the disappointments that have done to your office due to communication breakdown during the time I was sick.