

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	NJOUONKOU André Ledoux
Project title	Study of the diversity and the ethnomycology of wild edible fungi in the Noun division (Cameroon) for the preservation of natural ecosystems
RSG reference	10145-1
Reporting period	July 2011 – August 2012
Amount of grant	£ 5650
Your email address	alnjouonkou@yahoo.fr
Date of this report	02 August 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
Study of the ethnomycological knowledge of Bamoun people			Yes	Enquiries were made in 6 villages of 2 sub-divisions as it was planned. We discussed also with the population through the local radio. But as the Noun has nine sub-divisions with more than 50 villages, we think that there are other traditional knowledge that need to be revealed.
Inform local population on the importance of mushrooms and the good way to used mushroom for sustainable development		Yes		We made a seminar on the importance of mushrooms for sustainable development with delegates of many villages and distributed more than 300 calendars with pictures of local mushrooms and advices about their importance. Through local radio, we also informed the population about the importance of mushrooms and forests. We didn't distribute pamphlets because of the cost of calendars editing that were used as posters.
Take the census of useful mushroom in the area which is constituted by savannah and galleries forests			Yes	We made collection of mushrooms with local population in both ecosystems during the two main periods of mushrooms growing, but as it generally need many years to get access to all mushrooms of a zone, some species evoked by population during ethnomycological discussion were not found.

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

- At the reception of the grant, there was a drop of the currency rate of exchange between the assumed exchange rate at proposal submission (*1 £ sterling = 850 Francs CFA*) and the grant reception (*1 £ sterling = 711.99 Francs CFA*). To that problem we made an adjustment of the previous budget.
- Many traditional doctors did not want to participate to our ethnomycological discussion. As solution we contact their leader who convinces some to answers our questions.

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

- The project waken up the interest of populations on the importance of mushrooms that were progressively neglected and permitted many persons to consider wild useful mushrooms as important source of food and income. Then many persons promised to take care of their environment in order to keep the natural habitat of these organisms.
- Thanks to ethnomycological survey, field and laboratories works, the first check list of nearly 30 species of mushrooms used by Bamoun people is on the way to be published for the first time. Also, more than 10 popular expressions (proverbs, saying) using mushrooms to express situation of daily life have been censused. This will contribute to the preservation of Bamoun culture and could open a window on their anthropology.
- Discussion with population during ethnomycological survey and conference, permitted us to note that, due to human action, the environment in the Noun division is dropping down, with the risk of disappearance of forest gallery. This could jeopardise the food and drinking water safety of the population as well as the mushrooms diversity. Traditional rulers and leaders of associations promised to attract the attention of their country mate on the necessity of the preservation of the environment.

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

Local communities were involved in ethnomycological survey, collection of edible species in the field and identification of species with local names. They learned about the real nature of mushrooms, their diversity, their importance for the nature and the human being. They also have an idea about the diversity of fungi in their ecosystem.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes. We are planning to evaluate the productivity of edibles mushrooms in natural ecosystems for at least one year in villages were peoples where found more interested in mushrooms consumption and marketing while making a socio-economic study to know the contribution of mushrooms in the daily life of local communities.

We are planning also to continuous ethnomycological studies and mushroom collection in other subdivisions of the Noun divisions.

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

To share our result with others, we are preparing an article on mushrooms used by Bamoun people that could be published in an international scientific journal.

After reception of their samples of the mushroom almanacs of 2012, some elites of the Noun division proposed to finance the mushrooms almanac of 2013 that could be distributed to the population during the traditional ceremony of “Ngouon” in December 2012. So while hopping that they will sponsor the production of that calendar, we begin to mount it with pictures of new species collected during mushrooms trip in May and June of this year.

Our colleague of the linguistic department planned also to present results concerning linguistic in an international conference.

In addition, the 2012 almanac of mushrooms used by Bamoun people is published in the site of Global Taxonomy Initiative Belgium (http://www.taxonomy.be/gti_calls/grants_awarded/grants_other/njouonkou-andre-ledoux-cameroun/) and also in Cameroon CHM website (<http://www.biodiv.be/cameroun>).

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

12 months. This time was sufficient to make ethnomycological survey and to have idea on the diversity of useful mushrooms in a sample of least than 6 villages of a big region like Noun division that have more than 50 villages. As well as mushrooms are concerned, it is necessary to make census for more years and in many localities before having a complete list of mushrooms of the region.

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.

Exchange rate: 1 £ sterling = 711.99 Francs CFA

NB: Difference = Budgeted Amount - Actual Amount

Item	Budgeted Amount	Actual Amount	Difference	Comments
Travelling of staff members	740	717	+23	Due to difference of currency exchange rate between UK pound and Franc CFA and budget readjustment
Travelling of participant to workshop	300	358	-58	Due to difference of currency exchange rate between UK pound and Franc CFA
Housing of staff members during field work and workshop	1500	1432	+68	Due to difference of currency exchange rate between UK pound and Franc CFA and budget readjustment
Motivation for ethnomycological survey	150	225	-75	Due to difference of currency exchange rate between UK pound and Franc CFA; in addition, more persons participated at discussion than in our prevision
Per diem of participants to the workshop	300	358	-58	Due to difference of currency exchange rate between UK pound and Franc CFA
Coffee break and refreshment during workshop	350	418	-68	Due to difference of currency exchange rate between UK pound and Franc CFA
Per diems of guides after field works	300	358	-58	Due to difference of currency exchange rate between UK pound and Franc CFA
Renting of hall for workshops	100	25	+75	They gave us the hall free of charge as the King Palace contribution. We needed only to pay those who were arranging the all.
Materials of work during workshop	160	191	-31	Due to difference of currency exchange rate between UK pound and Franc CFA

Renting of a video projector for presentations	80	50	+30	We discussed the price and took the cheaper one
Editing and printing of posters	300	650	-350	Instead to print a few numbers of posters, we edited and printed 320 calendars to inform a greater population
Printing and photocopying of questioners and pamphlets	120	70	+50	Pamphlets were not printed
Numeric photo apparatus and accessories	250	299	-49	Due to difference of currency exchange rate between UK pound and Franc CFA
Equipment for field works	250	299	-49	Due to difference of currency rate exchange between UK pound and Franc CFA
Chemical and other small equipment of laboratory	250	200	+50	Part of identification works were done at the Botanical Garden of Belgium thank to a GTI grant. Chemical and other small materials were given by this institution.
Unforeseen	500	0	+500	Due to difference of currency rate of exchange between UK pound and Franc CFA and budget readjustments
Total	5650	5650	0	

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

We are planning to quantify the productivity of wild edibles mushrooms in natural ecosystem and study the socio-economic impact of mushrooms in the life of the population in some of these villages.

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 the RSG logo was used on the calendar of mushrooms distributed to local population and some colleagues and publishes on the web site mentioned above.

11. Any other comments?

The project permits us to inter in collaboration with many other researchers in Cameroon and in Belgium (National Botanical Garden of Belgium and Ghent University). This collaboration leads to the visit of Drs De Crop Eske (PhD student of Ghent University) in Cameroon with whom we make collection in May 2012.