

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	Adams A. Chaskda
Project title	Increasing urbanization towards the Amurum Forest Reserve and the Jos Wildlife Park: where do we draw the line?
RSG reference	10641-2
Reporting period	November 2011 – November 2012
Amount of grant	£5857
Your email address	chaskda@yahoo.com
Date of this report	29 th June 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
Determine the limits for the rapid urban expansion towards the boundary of the two reserves by sampling birds, insects and small mammal diversity and abundances			√	
Canvass for the reservation of buffer zones around the two reserves from the relevant government agencies				Discussions remain ongoing and may not be achieved within a short time period. But the need for this is being communicated to the relevant agency through the final report. Reminders will also be sent subsequently.
Determine the habits and perceptions of old and new settlers that may have future consequences on the ongoing conservation efforts in the reserves through questionnaire survey.			√	
Enlighten old and new settlers about conservation efforts in their environment and how they may render support			√	
Encourage proper waste disposal through education and the provision of waste bins.		√		Distribution of waste bins still ongoing due to delayed commencement of the project.

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

The major challenges encountered were at the onset (late 2011 and early 2012) when the security situation in Jos became deplorable due to ethnic clashes making surveys in natural habitats a high security risk at the time. This delayed the commencement of the work by nearly 4 months (to allow for relatively stable working conditions). Secondly, along the line I also received examiner comments on my PhD thesis submitted just before grant application this diverted my attention as I had to make the corrections on the write up within a specified period of time (am glad that the PhD was eventually awarded by the University of Cape Town, South Africa but sad that I lost my Supervisor Prof. Philip R. Hockey early this year).

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

The three most important outcomes of the study are:

- i. Animal species surveyed from the boundary of the reserves were at their highest diversity and abundances within distances of about 400 m from the reserve's boundaries. While this is good for the Amurum Forest Reserve which still have potentials for areas to be carved as buffer zones as large areas are still not habited by humans. However, in the case of the Jos Wildlife Park rapid urban development has practically caught up with a large area of the boundary on its North-eastern/South-eastern flanks.
- ii. Eating of bushmeat was also discovered to be higher than expected particularly for the settlers around the Amurum Forest Reserve (up to 93.2 % of old settlers and 88.5 % of new settlers) and the type of animal most preferred was rabbit. This should be good news for the conservation effort in this area since rabbit has been domesticated in several places and for the fact that the Amurum Forest Reserve was primarily established for its avian diversity which includes two endemic species (the rock firefinch and its brood parasite, the Jos-plateau indigo bird). However, responses were not favourable to conservation in terms of energy type used for cooking. For example, around the Amurum Forest, up to 66.4 % of respondents use firewood for cooking and of these, 79.3 % use it daily with some respondents acknowledging collection from surrounding bushes.
- iii. Study also helped in raising awareness on the need to be environmentally friendly in terms of proper waste disposal.

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

Local communities benefitted in terms of education on proper waste management through door-to-door pamphlet distribution and also in terms of the waste bins distributed.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes particularly in the area of community education which needs to be continuous as new settlers are continuously being added to the settlements around the reserves.

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

Results are being shared through the pamphlets that have been developed. Also, seminar presentations of the work will be done in academic environments, relevant government agencies and reports presented to school libraries in the area.

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

In terms of when the work eventually commenced (March 2012), the study covered a period of 15-months (March 2012 – June 2013) which overshoot the anticipated period by 3-months due to reasons given earlier.

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
Binocular (Nikon Monarch)	260			
Global Positioning System, Garmin Dakota 20 (GPS)	235			
Digital camera	200			
Ethanol	50			
Glycerine	50			
Insect sample bottles	100			
Identification keys	300			
Internet search	100			
Publications (posters, pamphlets, questionnaire)	500			
Communication/publicity	200			
Waste bins (500 x GBP 2.554)	1277			
Local transport	800			
Subsistence (3-persons x 10 months x GBP 50)	1500			
Hall (for workshop)	170	0.00	170	Workshop was not held as door-to-door pamphlet distribution and was found to be more effective in spreading the information. This fund is still available pending advice from the Foundation however a suggestion is made on some outstanding funds below given the opportunity would want to apply it in the same manner also. Otherwise its available for refunds to the agency
Contingencies (2 % of the total amount of items above to cover unforeseen expenses)	115			Fund still available. But given the permission, would want to convert this into more pamphlets for community education particularly of new settlers
Total	5857			

At exchange rate of GBP 1 = Naira 235

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

Continuous community education as new settlers continues to add to the settlements around the reserves.

**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?**

Yes on waste bins, pamphlets and final report this is also expected to be carried unto the publication of the work in scientific journals (which would enhance publicity of RSGF).

11. Any other comments?

I am most grateful to the trustees of the Rufford Small Grant Foundation for the trust reposed in me and for helping my profile through this work.