

## 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](mailto:jane@rufford.org).

Thank you for your help.

**Josh Cole, Grants Director**

Grant Recipient Details	
<b>Your name</b>	Jennifer Arubemi Agaldo
<b>Project title</b>	Survey for population status of Nigeria-Cameroon chimpanzees and habitat threat assessment in the Oban Hills of Cross River National Park, Cross River State.
<b>RSG reference</b>	10727-1
<b>Reporting period</b>	November 2012- December 2012
<b>Amount of grant</b>	£6000
<b>Your email address</b>	<a href="mailto:arubemi@yahoo.com">arubemi@yahoo.com</a>
<b>Date of this report</b>	6th December 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
Determine the population status of the Nigerian-Cameroon chimpanzees in Oban Hills using guided reconnaissance method based on the line transect survey method (Kühl et al., 2008).		X		All chimpanzee nests encountered were encountered on rocky forest hills of the Oban of the lowland forest. Some was such sites were difficult to survey due to inaccessibility of some of the hills because they were too steep.
Assess the threats to the chimpanzees and biodiversity in the Oban Hills			X	A high rate of illegal anthropogenic activities was observed in this forest and signs of these encountered, were recorded.
Assess the local attitudes towards the chimpanzees and their habitat			X	Community leaders around the study area gave the team their cooperation and permission to interact with members of their communities. As such, interviews/questionnaires were administered and local attitudes assessed.
Based on this assessment develop and implement a conservation education campaign to improve levels of conservation awareness of the chimpanzee.		X		There are over 15 different communities around the Oban hills of the Cross River National Park, out of which seven communities were interviewed. My team was able to carry out conservation education and outreach workshops in four of these communities during the time frame and within budget.
Develop the knowledge, skills and abilities of the three team members, national park rangers and local people involved			X	My team was able to gain firsthand experience on chimpanzee survey, identified an appropriate method for the study area. National Park rangers involved learnt for the first time how to take note of, and assess threats of anthropogenic activities to the study area and local people involved gained knowledge on negative effect of anthropogenic activities to the forest from their interaction with the team.

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

Unpredictable weather conditions such as heavy rainfall slowed down the pace of the team during the field survey and some time difficulty in accessing some parts of the forest as a result of over flooded rivers.

Some members of local communities refused to be interviewed demanding money as an incentive to give information. The team also experienced some antagonism from local communities due to existing conflict between their communities and management of the Cross River National Park in charge of securing protection of the study area.

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

Fourteen chimpanzee nests were encountered and chimpanzee calls were heard on three different occasions during the survey. All nests encountered were found in the rocky forest habitat suggesting it is the preferred habitat of chimpanzees in the Oban. This confirms the presence of chimpanzees in the Oban forest of the Cross River National Park though at very low densities.

Thirteen threats to the Oban forest, other species and the chimpanzees were identified. These included: spent cartridges, presence of hunters sheds, chainsaws heard, animal carcasses encountered (bushmeat), gunshots heard and snares; these were classified as direct threats to the chimpanzees and other faunal species in the Oban, while threats such as trails, farms, logged wood, signs of non-timber forest product (NTFP) collection, fuel wood collected, individuals encountered and other signs of human presence which are signs of habitat degradation were classified as indirect threats to the chimpanzees and other faunal species.

From interview/questionnaires administered, 80% of individuals from (15 individuals from each community) in seven communities (Osomba, Aking, Mpkot, Old ndebeji, Oban Okoroba, Eknonanaku and Neghe) had no knowledge of the status of the chimpanzee as an endangered species with a declining population. Ninety-two percent admitted eating bushmeat; 5% of this group said they ate all kinds of meat except chimpanzee while 88% ate all kinds of bushmeat including chimpanzee. As such a conservation education and outreach workshop was organised in four different communities during which leaders and members of these communities benefited from a workshop on “Protecting the Nigeria-Cameroon Chimpanzee and the Oban Forest”. A community secondary school (Aking comprehensive Secondary School) which is a host school to children from six communities around the study area had a talk /discussion session on the topic which has lead to the establishment of the first conservation club in the school.

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

Local communities living within and around the study area were actively involved in the project as the various communities provided field porters and field guides. Interviews and guided structured questionnaires were also administered to members of these communities in accessing their attitudes towards the chimpanzees.

Three important communities were selected due to their close proximity to chimpanzee occurring areas of the study area and one community within the study area were targeted for conservation education and outreach programme which took place through interactive workshops with community leaders and members on raising local awareness on the Nigeria-Cameroon chimpanzee as an endangered species and the importance of the Oban forest as a global biodiversity hotspots.

Secondary school students and children in these communities were targeted through an interactive session on “Protecting the Nigeria-Cameroon chimpanzees and the Oban forest”. This lead to the

initiation of the first conservation club in Akin Comprehensive Secondary School; a school known to host children from six surrounding communities around the Oban

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

I would like to continue monitoring of sites where chimpanzee nests were encountered and sites which seem like potential chimpanzee nesting sites of the forest to be able to have a better picture of the population structure at these sites.

Conservation Education will continue with young people of the surrounding communities through the newly established conservation club to increase their awareness on the importance of conservation of the Oban Forest and getting them involved protection of the Oban forest. I would like to be able to get educational materials to the teacher coordinating the club so he can provide more interesting material and information to the students. These will depend on the availability of funds.

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

Results of this project will be shared with the different stake holders (such as the management of the Cross River National Park CRNP, Nigerian National Park Service’s NNPS, Wildlife Conservation Society WCS Nigeria and other interested conservation NGOs in the region) involved in form of a detailed report on the project and its outcomes.

Two papers highlighting the findings of the project on where chimpanzee nests occur and habitat threats will be published in peer reviewed journals. This is expected to help draw attention for further research in the Oban forest. An article will be published in National daily newspaper within Nigeria to raise public awareness on the alarming status of the chimpanzees in the Oban forest.

I hope to be able to present the findings of this project will at conferences within and outside Nigeria. I am currently considering the Ecological Society of Nigeria conference and the Society for Conservation Biology conference coming up in the United States in 2013.

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

December 2011 – November 2012 (this was the actual time anticipated for the project)

**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
Communication (Telephone/Internet/postage)	£70	£70		
Production of questionnaires before and after conservation	£150	£59	£56	Bank charges were unbudgeted for; as such the difference of this amount was used to offset bank

education and awareness programme.				charges.
Photographic equipment (digital camera with good video recording)	£600	£600		
Camping equipment	£250	£250		
Laser Range Finder	£125	£125		
GPS	£200	£200		
Accommodation for team members at Calabar off field station (three people for 9 months)	£750	£750		
Stipend for principal researcher and two team members	£1700	£1700		
Conservation education workshops	£910	£910		
Allowance for four field assistants and guides for 6 months of field work.	£1050	£1050		
Report production and result dissemination	£60	£60		
Air time for Radio /TV programme on the project	£135	£135		
Bank Charges		£55.94		Not budgeted for
<b>Total</b>	£6000	£5,965	£35	Bank charges

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

Strategic Conservation Education and Outreach Programme is one of the important steps required for the conservation and protection of the chimpanzees and the Oban forest. Community leaders and management of the Cross River National Park need to be involved so as to curb the illegal anthropogenic activities in the study area. This is very important if the present population status of the chimpanzees is to be improved.

Monitoring of sites where chimpanzee nests were encountered is an important step to understanding the chimpanzee population occurring in the area for informed conservation decisions and actions.

**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 RSGF logo was used on T-Shirts and notebooks produced for conservation education and outreach activities which were distributed to participants and management of Cross River National Park and members of the media involved in raising awareness on the endangered status of the Nigeria-Cameroon Chimpanzee in Nigeria.

An awareness talk programme on conservation of the chimpanzees was aired on TV and the RSGF was mentioned as funders of the project.