

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.

Thank you for your help.

Josh Cole, Grants Director

Grant Recipient Details	
Your name	Akomian Fortuné Azihou
Project title	Local communities involvement in the conservation of five endangered multipurpose tree species of gallery forests in the Biosphere Reserve of Pendjari
RSG reference	11208-1
Reporting period	February 2012 – February 2013
Amount of grant	£5850
Your email address	fazihou@gmail.com
Date of this report	February 18 th , 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
Assess the socio-economical importance of gallery forest trees for local communities			X	Ethnobotanical survey of 100 households in five villages provides data on gallery forest services and the main uses of targeted species.
Investigate the degree of "natural" regeneration (seedlings, suckers, ground layers, root cutting, stump sprouts) of focused species based on field observation			X	The four identified regeneration methods included true seedling, seedling sprout, root sprout and water sprout. Their abundance varied across targeted tree species.
Raise awareness of local communities on the economic and ecological benefits of vegetative propagation of multipurpose tree species			X	During awareness campaigns, local communities suggested that we include in future projects some species extinct in villages but still recorded in the reserve such as <i>Kigelia africana</i> , <i>Piliostigma thonningii</i> and <i>Pseudocedrela kotschy</i> .

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

Due to farming activities, it was challenging to get the four members of each working group participate in field observation during the middle of the rainy season. To keep farmers involved in data collection, we worked daily and alternately with two representatives of each working group and keep the two other members updated through 15-minutes daily exchange at the end of observations.

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

First, we initiate a platform of discussion among local communities, local leaders, NGOs, managers of the Biosphere Reserve of Pendjari and scientists on sustainable use of resources in community forests. Second, the 100 local delegates who participated in "farmer field school" are trained to monitor regeneration methods of tree species. Finally, we reach out more than 300 farmers during awareness campaigns on propagation methods and conservation of gallery forest multipurpose tree species.

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

Local communities provide traditional ecological knowledge on the use, commercialisation and conservation of targeted species. They participate in field work during the farmer field school and discuss the implication of their findings during the workshop. Finally, local communities attended

awareness campaigns in great numbers. Local communities also provide local guides who received per diems for their involvement in activities.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

This project provides an overview of propagation methods used by targeted species. The next step is to implement field experiment on survival probability, growth and recruitment of young individuals resulting from various propagation methods to establish a handbook that farmer can directly use for *in situ* conservation of gallery forest tree species and restoration of degraded gallery forests using native species.

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

A copy of awareness raising poster is put up on the notice board at headquarter of the Biosphere Reserve of Pendjari. Based on survey and field data collected during the project, two scientific manuscripts will be published on leading conservation journals. Findings will also be shared during national and international conferences on ecology and conservation.

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

The RSG was used from February 2012 to February 2013 (12 months). The anticipated length of the project was 14 months. We finished 2 months earlier because we undertake activities in time. Moreover, 1 month was enough to raise awareness in 10 villages instead of 3 months as stated in 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
Scientific literature	£100	£0	+£100	Field books for identification for regeneration methods were kindly provided to the team by Dr Ronald Bellefontaine, one of our referees.
Questionnaire sheets and field guide	£200	£200	£0	
Communication: internet, phone	£100	£100	£0	
Travel to research sites	£1400	£1850	-£450	The research area is supplied in fuel by smugglers. Intensification of customs checks lead to increase in fuel price than expected.
Research assistant and local workers	£1000	£1000	£0	
Hiring room for analytical workshop	£500	£0	+£500	The analytical workshop was organised in the meeting room at the Headquarter of the Biosphere Reserve of Pendjari. This allowed us to mitigate the impacts of

				increase in fuel price on the implementation of the project.
Transport per diem for participants	£500	£700	-£200	Fuel price increased during the implementation of the project.
Foods	£500	£500	£0	
Awareness materials: poster, technical papers	£200	£200	£0	
Communication: town crier	£100	£100	£0	
Awareness, education and lobbying implementation	£1250	£1250	£0	
TOTAL	£5850	£5900	-£50	

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

This project provides an overview of propagation methods used by targeted species. The next step is to implement field experiment on survival probability, growth and recruitment of young individuals resulting from various propagation methods to establish a handbook that farmer can directly use for *in situ* conservation of gallery forest tree species and restoration of degraded gallery forests using native species.

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?

RSGF logo is used on all posters designed for awareness campaigns. During analytical workshop, participants were informed that the project is funded by Rufford Small Grant Foundation. This financial support will also be acknowledged in the scientific manuscripts that will be published to share the findings of the project.

11. Any other comments?

I would like to thank the Rufford Small Grants Foundation on behalf of our team for giving us an opportunity and capacity to implement this project.