

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	Longtong Turshak
Project title	Fire and herbivory impacts savanna woodland vegetation: saving the largest protected woodland in the guinea savanna region of Nigeria
RSG reference	11617-2
Reporting period	2012/2013
Amount of grant	5896
Your email address	Longtonturshak@yahoo.com
Date of this report	22 July 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
1			√	
2			√	
3			√	But with more conservationist questions to answer for future research
4			√	Looking forward for possible implementation

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

A lot of efforts was required to generate the needed variables from the field, base on the original design of the project, this necessitate an additional field assistant to meet up with data collection. Therefore, an additional field assistant was added and subsistence paid from contingency. There was fluctuation in the exchange rate of the British Pound Starling (GBP). In the local market, the Great British Pound Starling (GBP) fluctuates for between 230 and 240 Nigerian Naira (NGN) per GBP. This was handled for by a minor adjustment in the budget to accommodate any deficit or surplus. Again, the 10% contingency was very useful in coping with the differences.

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

1. Few tree species browsed by elephants and other herbivores were negatively affected by fire. *Combretum glutinosum* and *Combretum fragrans* were adversely affected by fire which are in turn browsed largely by elephants compared with other woody plants
2. A fire return interval of between three and four years suggests a stable and suitable fire return interval for the Yankari Game Reserve.
3. Fire generally had negative effects on woody plants as compared with herbivory and the large size classes of trees were found to be critical to the recruitment of wildlings at the Yankari Game Reserve.

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

Not applicable, although the driver who was a member of the team is from the host community. Some game rangers time to time took advantage of our field work to learn some techniques involved.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Absolutely, Yes

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

This work has already been presented to the management and staff of the Yankari Game Reserve for possible implementation. It is also hoped that the findings will be published in a relevant journal,

presented in a scientific conference. In addition to this, copies of this finding will be presented to local libraries for references.

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

The timeframe used for this project was adequate. The project was successfully completed within fifteen months; May 2012 to July 2013. The completion of this project compared adequately with the anticipated timeline originally design 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
HP Laptop	£450	£460	-£10	Local exchange rate: N230
Telescope	£525	£545	-£20	Local exchange rate: N230
Local travel (Fuel and vehicle maintenance)	£1320	£1320	0	Local exchange rate: N240
Subsistence (for 4 persons @ £ 55 per month for 12 months)	£1980	£2640	-£660	Local exchange rate: N240. There were 3 individuals collecting data and a driver
Internet Search	£200	£155	£45	Local exchange rate: N240
Stationery (Rain gears, Field notebooks and files)	£100	£100	0	Local exchange rate: N240
Hall (hiring of hall for a day for workshop/meeting)	£300	£300	0	Local exchange rate: N240
Publicity and communication	£365	£230	£135	Local exchange rate: N240
Measuring tape/poles for measuring vegetation	£25	£65	-£40	Local exchange rate: N240
Matlab Software	£45	0	£45	Local exchange rate: N240
SPSS Software	£50	£65	-£15	Local exchange rate: N240
10% contingency of total	£536			10% contingency was used to account for deficit
TOTAL	£5896	£5880	-£520	

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

The important next step is to further carry out a predictive modelling of the survival of the woodlands community. Determine the importance of the difference woodland communities supporting herbivores and bird population within the reserve. This should be carried out over a period of three to five years as modelling will be an integral part. This will assist to predict the fate of the woodland between 10 and 100 years.

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.

11. Any other comments?

Team work during this study has ultimately made especially data collection and analyses successful. It was also a wonderful experience working with other people in a project like this. Many thanks to Rufford Small Grant Foundation for their positive impact on our global ecosystem.