

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	Hortensia Rasoanandrasana
Project title	Enhancing Community - Managed Conservation and Ecotourism in Bobaomby area, the North tip of Madagascar.
RSG reference	12354-1
Reporting period	12 months
Amount of grant	£6,000
Your email address	tensyreine@live.fr
Date of this report	

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
Provide a complete data list of all family groups of fauna and flora known in within the Bobaomby zone				The biological part of the project has been done in the village of Anjiabe and Ampombofofo and we were still able to record species of fauna and flora which are attractive to tourists. However, as the field project began from the dry season we were not able to describe the biodiversity there in rainy season. The faunal study was focused on the study of the mangrove ecosystem description.
Identify the ecotourism potentiality of the area				The villages of Anjiabe and Ampombofofo are a complete destination for ecotourism because the place is not only rich in biodiversity but also rich in culture and tradition and in close proximity to have three different types of destination (dry deciduous forest, mangrove landscape and beach). Tourists will walk through the main forest to see the different species of fauna and flora and will get to a mangrove forest before going out to nice beach on the east coast of Madagascar where they will admire the panoramic view of the Indian Ocean with a view of emerald sea and limestone (or TSINGY in Malagasy) and will have a nice place for picnics and doing participant observation of the villagers' traditional fishing.
Environmental education and raising level of awareness in conservation and ecotourism project.				Different focus groups with villagers of Anjiabe and Amponbofofo on relevant topics such as the negative impact of human practices on the environment, cutting down trees excessively for firewood and charcoal, and what the communities and individuals do to protect the environment were targeted. We organised an informal environmental education programme with the primary school in their classroom so that children will spread the information to their parents. The

				environmental education programme could not be completed due to the fact that this was the first environmental education that the community had, and a lack of time and resources.
Officially launch the ecotourism project for the benefits of the villagers				<p>A mini conference and a workshop have been held in order to maintain political support for the project.</p> <p>A community association that will be devoted to this project has been created and it is on the way to be legalised.</p> <p>English and French language class sessions on guest welcoming skills have begun and should be continued.</p>
Develop ecotourism pamphlet and conservation map of the area				<p>We were not able to finish the pamphlet but we have already have set up two interesting places for camping in the village of Anjiabe where our visitors will have access at the same time to the biodiversity and population.</p> <p>We have created seven different circuits which we called: circuit for bird watch, Tsingy, baobab, Ankarana tomb, lemurs, Ssa turtle Watching, and Ratabirano circuit where there is a long white sandy beach. It was not difficult to build trails with signs for these different circuits because there are already clear paths which villagers already use and which can be suitable for circuit paths too.</p>
Help villagers to identify alternative livelihood option apart from charcoal production.				<p>We have always been accompanied by representatives of villagers to guide us and to take part on the research. This allowed us to know the villagers capacity for guiding visitors and to train them to become local guides.</p> <p>Making Malagasy meals with high cleanliness and souvenirs have been done.</p> <p>We were able to define that the area is suitable for planting cassava and corn to be sent to the town of Antsiranana as an alternative source of income. They can also make hot sauce (mixture of lemon and chilli putting in a bottle).Villagers are willing to do so but the issue is to find customers for their products because many villages are already have</p>

				these activities as alternative source of income.
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2. Please explain any unforeseen difficulties that arose during the project and how these were tackled (if relevant).

The project did not meet much difficulty except for asking for research permission to the Ministry of Forest as the directory was traveling in Antananarivo. However, we were able to change our schedule and spend this time to go to the university to incite students to participate in the project and to create a Research Assistant Group of Diego-Suarez (RAGADs).

The second unforeseen difficulty that arose was that we were not able to do our field in the village of Ambatonjanahary as this site is strictly prohibited for outsiders except during traditional events because it has the tomb of villagers’ ancestors. This site is rich in biodiversity but the mayor informs us that it is “risky” due to the existing taboos. We changed our second site to Amponbofofo which is very interesting in biodiversity and in the same commune of Anjiabe.

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

The first outcome of the project is that a concrete data is now available for every category of people who want to get more knowledge about the area of Bobaomby especially the village of Anjiabe and Amponbofofo. The area of Bobaomby is not anymore considered as an “unknown” area.

When we first arrived villagers were not aware of the benefit they could get from using their forest except for making charcoal. The project activity on raising conservation and ecotourism awareness among the local people brings a total change on villagers’ perception and enlarges their knowledge and a village Ecotourism and Conservation Committee has been established.

The presentation organised by the project was a significant first step in tourism marketing. Most important tourism operators are now aware of Anjiabe and Ampombofofo as a potential tourist destination. It is expected that they will market the area for their clients as soon as its tourism facilities are improved.

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

Local people have played a major role in this project. They have been involved from the beginning of the project. We have always been accompanied by representatives of villagers to guide us and to take part on the research even though we had already have Louis-Phillip D`Arvisenet as professional guide and biological researcher. This allowed us to know the villagers capacity on guiding visitors and to train them to become local guides and to identify biodiversity species.

Local community members gave invaluable information on use availability and their present status of biodiversity. They have also given us detailed information especially during the socio-economic survey and the bird study.

Once we arrived in the village we asked for people who could help us in cooking even though we have already planned camp duty. This allowed us to train the person to cook for visitors. We trained

them to meet the high standard of cleanliness of cooking Malagasy meals. The villagers of the area are very conservative and very “closed” so we held the environmental education not just to sensitise them but to give a focus group where villagers could express themselves so that they could become more at ease with outsiders.

We have not created the community association by ourselves but we have let the local population choose the representatives by themselves. We want them to make decisions of their own. The aim of the creation of this association to make as many as possible villagers involved in the community project.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes, I would like to continue this work after this recent project which proves that the place is still important in biodiversity conservation and ecotourism project and that local community is willing to have such as project.

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

During the implementation of this project we worked to inform different categories of government and NGOs working in conservation, and we presented the project to local authorities.

We have also started to create a short video documentary from our work which is already show cast on my webpage in Rufford website and YouTube. I have already share the video into my Facebook pages and all of my friend already seen.

The result of the present work will be prepared in hard printed copy with and accompanying CD containing photographs and will be shared with NGOs working on similar project as well as schools governments and university. This will be accompanied by their comments and suggestions for further improvement in the future programmes.

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

As planned the project period was 12 months. The project was carried out after receipt of fund in January 2013. The Rufford fund was used during all period of the project since we did not get an extra funding from another organisation. Normally, I have to spend 3 months in town of Antsiranana from January to March then move to the field from April but due to the time that the field research permission takes we were started the field research from the beginning of June.

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
Tents for 9 people (4 x 2 person)	220	110	+110	We get two tents from Madagascar National Parks (MNP) of Antsiranana as work collaboration.

Digital Camera	188	188	0	
GPS Garmin International	212	0	+212	We get GPS Garmin International from the Missouri Botanical Garden (MBG) of Antsiranana.
Compass (4)	30	30	0	
Tape Measure(2)	08	08	0	
Fauna and Flora ID Book	65	0	+65	There was no available Fauna and the Flora ID Book. We were then borrowing them from the science Department of Antsiranana University and from our biological researcher Louis Phillip D`Arvisenet.
Food for Team: 8 people X 90 days(2£/day)	1440	1614	-174	The number of the team in field were increased because we had often have guest such as the Chief of the village,the Elders, the family of the guide. According to the local tradition it shows politeness to feed the guest even though you did not expected them.
Food for me: 1 person x 365 days (2£/day)	730	730	0	
First Aid supplies(emergency supplies,mosquito nets, anti-malaria medicine)	60	60	0	
Transportation – Dugout Canoe Rental Boat with Boatman(estimate based on occasional use	120	120	0	
Personal Compensation (minimal pay)- coordinator (365 days @ 2.5£/day).	912	912	0	
Personal Compensation- 6 Research Assistants (90days2.5£/day)	1350	1350	0	
Personal Compensation -2 local Guides(90 days' work @1.5£/day)	270	270	0	

Training and Workshop Supply Cost for Village participants	235	448	-213	The number of the villagers participated were more than expected and as it was the first time that they get training we have hold several training and workshop.The price of foreign language class session is also included.
Design and Printing Ecotourism Pamphlets	80	0	+80	We already have the needed information to put into the pamphlet but we were not able to design and to print it due to lack of time so that we used the bugdeted amount to the next activity.
Launch of Project with Government and Non-Government Officials-drinks, refreshment and hand-outs	80	160	-80	The research implementation have been included the insurance,research permission and the coast of the project official launch.
TOTAL	6000	6000		Local Exchange Rate - 1£ Sterling = 3,332.71 MGA

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

As the feasibility of the conservation and ecotourism project is recognised in the area, the future step of the project is the practical part of the different suitable and needed activities. However, several optional trail routes have been identified and the biodiversity richness is documented, communities have to increase capacity for development of tourism services. The first step is to increase the number of community members who give high priority to forest and coastal conservation, especially to the conservation of the habitats, and apply forest conservation techniques.

Biodiversity conservation through education programmes have to be reinforced by developing outreach material like posters, and small handbook on the biodiversity.

Long term professional training is needed to make them professional tour guides (e.g. tour planning and budgeting, first aid, catering services, financial management, nature conservation, communication and language skills etc.)

The area has to have better infrastructure for provision of tourism services. Due to limited funding, the project has not yet been able to start building even basic tourism infrastructures such as accommodation facilities (camp sites in minimum), signboards at the entry points and picnic sites would have to be developed.

Moreover the local community association has to be legalised in order to register it as a community-based organisation and officially recognised by other stakeholders as the first beneficiaries of the ecotourism activities in the area so that the formulation of operational partnerships with some

tourism companies and the local association will be done. The partnerships have to be based on clear written agreements which ensure sufficient economic benefits for the communities and include an assessment of environmental and social impacts of tourist activity. Moreover, a study tour will be arranged with these tourism companies and NGOs to promote that area as a new tourist destination.

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, RSGF logo is used on t-shirts and handouts, and has received local and regional publicity. The t-shirts and handouts were distributed to many volunteers from the target villages and general public who had been involved in workshop and environmental sensitization activities.

11. Any other comments?

This first Rufford Small Grant Foundation has brought environmental and social positive impact to the local community as well as to all the participants of the project. The entire team member of this project is indebted to RSGF for allocating the grant for us to realise this project. This project hones our skills in conducting and set up a conservation project and to work in group. It reinforced our research methodology, broadened our knowledge on conservation assessment, and gave us a chance to be trained, to share our experience, and to become involved in a long term conservation and ecotourism project.