

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.

Josh Cole, Grants Manager

Grant Recipient Details	
Your name	CERCOPAN (Centre for Education, Research, and Conservation Of Primates And Nature)
Project title	Conservation of a primate community in Cross River State, Nigeria through an integrated approach including research, patrols, and community involvement
RSG reference	12375-1
Reporting period	18 th December 2012 – 18 th December 2013
Amount of grant	£5994
Your email address	info@cercopan.org
Date of this report	18 th December 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
<p>Reduction in illegal practices</p> <p>- Reduction in illegal practices in the community forests due to the deterrent effect of apprehension and prosecution by patrols.</p>				<p>We are highly encouraged by the clear and continued reduction in illegal practice in our community forests. This is undoubtedly down to the presence of our patrols and awareness-raising among the local community. As well as the details in the attached report, there has been a significant reduction in the number of active hunters (from 400 to 15 since 2007), cessation of logging and farm clearance in conservation areas. The map in the attached detailed report shows that farm clearance has even been insignificant in agreed clearance areas. This is in stark contrast to surrounding rainforest communities where logging, clearance and primate hunting continue to be a major issue.</p> <p>At our primate sanctuary too, we have noted a reduction in primates admitted to our facility as confiscations from the hunting and pet trades (none in 2013) – we believe this reflects the success of our conservation messages, which are effectively disseminated through our rainforest community outreach.</p> <p>In the attached detailed report is the record of our overnight & 4 day poacher patrols from April-Sept 2013. This shows that illegal hunting still occurs – however the incidents were all down to members of rainforest communities that had not signed up to the conservation measures promoted by CERCOPAN in our three forest areas.</p>

<p>Distribution maps of primates - Distribution maps of primate species within the community forest, presence/absence counts and relative abundance estimates.</p>			<p>Attached is the first ever primate species distribution map in our region. Even though we are in the early days of mapping, the data shows a clear trend for an increase in both numbers and species of primates in the area. For example a group of 10 Mona guenons were observed in December 2013 – a species that had been hunted to extinction in 2007.</p> <p>As data are gathered, results will be able to display statistical significance. The current information is a baseline of information on which future comparisons can be made – therefore relative abundances cannot currently be measured statistically.</p> <p>Therefore we have categorised this as partially achieved.</p> <p>Primates seen include drill, red eared guenon, putty nosed guenon (rare ludio subspp) Mona guenon, red capped mangabey, potto, Calabar angwantibo, Demidoff’s galago, pallid needle-clawed galago, Thomas’ galago, Allen’s galago. We are investigating possible sightings of Critically Endangered red colobus and crowned guenon; and tracks of chimpanzee were found.</p>
<p>Species List - Updated wildlife species lists.</p>			<p>The species list continues to grow. We record plants and animals – and we have recently identified a number of bird species new to the area region (awaiting record approval). We also suspect the presence of one or more new shrike subspecies – further work will confirm this.</p> <p>This data further confirms the exceptional biodiversity of our core area – we have more butterfly species than anywhere in Africa, for example, with more predicted to be found. We also have the highest mammal diversity in Nigeria. Our area is in the oldest and most diverse rainforest in the world (IUCN Irreplaceable), being home to a record 18 primate species alone. The area has the highest mammal diversity in Nigeria. Notable records were Golden Cat & tracks of wild elephant.</p>

<p>Long term rainforest research</p> <p>- Analysis of phenological cycles.</p>				<p>Ongoing analysis proceeds with continuous data collection to add to our dataset, producing a unique long term study dating from 2007. This dataset shows unexpected variations in fruiting of rainforest trees – varying significantly from year to year; and even different for individual trees. This has major implications for the animals that rely on these food sources and is essential information for understanding how many primates can be supported in a forest area</p> <p>– invaluable for our planned primate reintroductions.</p> <p>The data also informs us about long term climate change impacts on the forest, and about how our restored rainforest develops to form an effective buffer zone to the contiguous Cross River National Park – all being an IUCN Irreplaceable Protected Area.</p>
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2. Please explain any unforeseen difficulties that arose during the project and how these were tackled (if relevant).

A tiny number of viable conservation organisations function in Nigeria, due to the widely recognised challenges of poor security, endemic corruption, and very limited available capacity and infrastructure. These circumstances mean that unforeseen difficulties are a continuous event in project management! Having functioned effectively in the project area since 1995, CERCOPAN is highly adept at meeting these significant challenges, and was able to effectively deliver the project objectives despite them.

As noted in the text here and the detailed reports, there were issues in apprehending illegal hunters who are from neighbouring rainforest communities that have not signed up to existing conservation bylaws. The community Chiefs in our three partner communities have not had historic rights to impose penalties; and some of the borders of community lands are in dispute, or difficult to locate. CERCOPAN has responded to this by intense awareness raising among all the relevant communities, and by facilitating dialogue between local villages. We are optimistic that our efforts will continue to demonstrate the value of sustainable rainforest resource to non-participant communities, and encourage their adoption of conservation practices in the future.

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

- **Continued protection of area** – having worked in the rainforest project area since 1995, CERCOPAN has seen the project area transformed from largely cleared primary forest, to restored rainforest that is now the focus of our primate reintroductions to bring back the unique multi-species primate assemblages that are key to seed dispersal and forest ecology. This has been achieved by our being able to demonstrate the benefits of intact rainforest to local communities – and this can only be done by maintaining the forest we have. So thank you to Rufford Foundation for the support that has enabled us to do this.

- **We are a rare success story in Nigeria** – Nigeria has a very poor international reputation, and a terrible record in terms of rainforest loss, illegal logging and hunting, and destruction of biodiversity. CERCOPAN’s success in not only stopping rainforest loss, but actually reversing it and restoring associated biodiversity is an essential positive message that will serve to encourage others to do this - in one of the largest countries in Africa, and home to the IUCN Irreplaceable Guinea rainforest.
- **Expanding protection, REDD+ and future rainforest sustainability** – CERCOPAN has expanded the protection of Nigerian rainforest from 400 ha in 2003, to 20 000 ha in 2008, and then to 40 000 ha in 2012 with the assistance of Rufford Foundation. This success, and our engagement of local communities, has been the catalyst for UN REDD+ to come to Nigeria. This brings the prospect of expanding our successful model to the remaining threatened community rainforests in our area.

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

As described throughout our project reports, local community involvement is integral to the success of this project. Protecting the rainforest has enabled us to demonstrate the practical value of sustainable rainforest to local people. This has enabled us to engage individuals, civil organisations and authorities I wanting to partner with us to protect their forest resource. This enabled us – during the project period – to double the area of effective protection from 20 000 ha to 40 000 ha.

Sustainable NTFP extraction means that individuals and the community get direct benefits. Members of the community are employed in forest protection, research and management. Our ecotourism facility demonstrates that the forest can attract alternative income sources and pay royalties to the communities.

The success of our partnership has been the attractant for REDD+ in Nigeria, which offers the possibility of a sustainable income for the local communities in return for conservation of their forest resource – with the potential for long-term sustainability for people and environment.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

As a long term programme undertaken by CERCOPAN since 2000 (with a presence in the area since 1995) we have learnt that effective conservation can only be achieved through committed engagement with local users and owners of the natural resource. We shall be continuing this programme, and maintaining the success achieved to date. Funding from Rufford has enabled us to do that, and to actually progress forward in conservation success – e.g. in the doubling of rainforest under effective protection during the project period.

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

As noted above, we present material in a monthly policy-level report to the State Governor and Forestry Commission. This is widely read across Nigeria as well as the state.

We produce monthly community newsletters for each partner village, and monthly newsheets for our Education Centre in Calabar (receiving 30 000 visitors per year for free entry). Our findings are used in our Schools outreach to partner community schools and 70 schools in Calabar; and our 20 Conservation Clubs.

Materials are regularly disseminated through social media (FB, Twitter, Blog, Pinterest, website)

Results are shared in the 22 PASA organisations across Africa and with partners in primate and rainforest conservation

Specific results are being prepared for publication in academic journals, and we are collaborating with our academic partners on that.

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

18th Dec 2012 – 18th Dec 2013

The grant was spread effectively over the given time period, and the capacity built during grant implementation is being effectively used to continue work where funding allows.

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
Protected Area and Research Mgr (PAR)	290	373	+83	Increases in expenses used to judge time – remains at 25% of total PAR expenditure
Research Coordinator	559	608	+49	Mid-project staffing change incurred additional expenses
Research Assistants	2920	2800	-120	Overestimation of Cost Of Living Increase for end 2013
Patrol Coordinator	559	569	+10	
Forest Patrol	1029	1139	+110	Additional unforeseen medical expenses for staff member
GPS	320	312	-8	
Uniform/Boots/Raincoats	205	63	-142	Logistical issues buying higher quality materials from outside Nigeria meant cheaper versions were bought in-country, and repairs made to existing equipment to extend product life.
Interest/Bank Charges	61	69	+8	
Communication	51	70	+19	Due to power problems at field site, analysis had to be conducted remotely (in Calabar), thus more communication between sites was required.

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

Maintain integrity of core area, research area – via direct CERCOPAN patrols and research patrols. This quality rainforest resource is key to demonstrating benefits of conservation practice to rainforest communities and forest users.

Maintain protection of community forest areas – joint and community-led patrols and surveillance teams demonstrate the commitment of local people to valuing and protecting their rainforest resource. It also ensures they possess the capacity to maintain that resource in perpetuity and to oppose external exploitation.

Continue to engage surrounding communities in dialogue and demonstrate the tangible benefits of adopting sustainable practices in using their forest resource. We have high hopes of continuing our expansion of rainforest effectively protected from 400 ha (2003) to 20 000 ha (2008); to 40 000 ha during the course of this grant. We are in discussion with a neighbouring community that would add another 10 000 ha of contiguous protected area; but this requires intensive commitment and engagement, and a fully integrated approach.

Continue to support REDD+ as a longer term mechanism of protection and sustainability of the rainforest area. We have acted as the main catalyst to bringing REDD+ to Nigeria, and the forest reserve we have maintained represents the asset which our partner communities have in order to gain from this carbon mechanism. The process offers potential long term sustainability to rainforest conservation by local people, and so our support is essential for progress.

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?

Dec 28th 2012- Facebook Fan page post about award

Oct 2nd 2013 – Facebook Fan page post about Rufford as partner in conservation

Oct 2nd 2013 – www.cercopan.org blog post about Rufford as partner in conservation

Used in emails to funders to explain current conservation partners and practice – monthly 2012-13
November 2013 – CERCONews international newsletter article.

11. Any other comments?

I would like to take the opportunity to thank Rufford Foundation for their support. As I hope can be seen from our report, what we have achieved together represents a major and significant success in conservation of rainforest and of rare primates. Our approach, through effective community engagement, is proving the success of a model that has the potential for replication throughout the rainforest region we work in. Our own project has had significant success in conserving 40 000 ha of rainforest. If this can be rolled out through being an effective example, we have the potential of making a major impact of the massive rate of deforestation currently being felt in the region.