

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	Mbunya Francis Nkemnyi
Project title	The Environment-Development Nexus and Great Apes Conservation in Western Cameroon: the case of the proposed Tofala Hill Wildlife Sanctuary
RSG reference	12438-1
Reporting period	2013
Amount of grant	£5986
Your email address	nmbunyaf@gmail.com
Date of this report	29 th November 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
To evaluate conservation strategies and draw important lessons from them in order to contribute to sustainable solutions on the human dimensions of environmental challenges and great apes conservation			X	
To identify different stakeholders and their interest in the great apes conservation in the THWS,			X	
To assess livelihood support as a tool for improving great apes conservation in the THWS			X	
To develop an integrated strategy for livelihood implementation for the THWS			X	
To discuss the findings of the research and the current debate on the crisis of CBNRM to benefit the THWS case and beyond			X	

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

No measure constraints were recorded during the execution of this project

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

The find of this project shows that:

- Local perceptions and believes do not support conservation. In this line conservation strategies must be able to capture the interest and values of these perceptions and believes to enable conservation success
- The main gap between great apes conservation and local development is the lack of community trust, poor conflict management and poor strategies in targeting livelihood support.
- Insufficient capacity of field staff in managing conservation conflict has also contributed to poor conservation strategies.

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

This project used a participatory approach were we have in-depth discussion and interaction with the local people. Through the exchange of ideas and opinions, some participants were able to gain new insight on sustainable livelihood options and benefits of sustainable collaboration in resource management.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes. In the next phase, we plan to;

- Carry out a detailed assessment/evaluate alternative livelihood options that will comparatively yield more conservation success and what implementation strategies are needed.
- Assess which cultural and traditional practices will best accommodate and give a boost to conservation values and strategies.
- Carry out a capacity building workshop for field staff working for conservation projects in collaboration with the local conservation organisation on conflict management and adaptive collaborative management.

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

Firstly, a video documentary was produced during this project which put together some of the main views and worries of the local community. This video was shared with the implementing organisation and official. This video will also be integrated into subsequent public dissemination of the result of this study. Secondly, planned to share this results in conferences and workshops; for the meantime, part of the results have been approved to be presented at the Student Conference in Conservation Science, in Cambridge next March 2014. Other medium of presentation will be identified subsequently. Thirdly, we have carved out two manuscripts for scientific journals that will develop from these results.

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

The period of execution of this project was between January and September, which coincide with the anticipated period of this 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
Pre-project sensitisation meetings	387	462	-75	More participants than anticipated
Field staff/assistants Food/lodging	2640	2640	0	-
Field supplies/material	902	948	-46	Actual prices differ from anticipated prices
Communication	112	100	+12	-
Contingency	120	120	0	Covered the unforeseen
Food/Lodging	1825	1908	-83	-
TOTAL	5986	6178	-192	-

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

Based on the results of this study, we believe the following recommendations are urgent for the next actions and will go a long way to contribute to conservation success:

- Enhancing alternative livelihood options to yield more or equal returns as forest dependent livelihood activities. However, a detail assessment of alternative livelihood options that will comparatively yield more conservation success will add more value to implementation success. Notwithstanding, this study recommends support attention toward sustainable agricultural activities, which integrate traditional knowledge and modern technology.
- The gap between local views and conservation views need to be addressed. This can be handled in two possible dimensions. Firstly, by implementing a more incentive conservation strategy which support indigenous needs and values as stated above and secondly integrating conservation education into culture and traditional practices. In this line, it is also important to assess which cultural and traditional practices will best accommodate this strategy.
- Conflicts should be revisited and re-addressed in a bottom-up management approach where community members are empowered to play leading roles in conflict management. Through this approach, key informants in each community with conflict can be lobby and motivated to revolve such conflicts internally without much external influence. This approach will also at the same time empower community members and improve their participation toward conservation success.
- Capacity building of staff on collaborative management and conflict resolution will also significantly contribute to conservation success.

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, in the pre-project workshop, a presentation of the project was made to representative of all local stakeholders (University of Buea, Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife, The Environment and Rural development Foundation and the Resource Center for Environment and Sustainable Development). The RSGF was clearly acknowledged as the principal funder of the project and the logo was used in the PowerPoint presentation. After the presentation, most of the participant contacted me to learn more about how to receive support from RSGF for their various projects.