

## 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](mailto:jane@rufford.org).

Thank you for your help.

**Josh Cole, Grants Director**

Grant Recipient Details	
<b>Your name</b>	Priscilla Anti
<b>Project title</b>	Cave Bats Crisis; Conserving the threatened West African Endemic <i>Hipposideros jonesi</i> in Ghana
<b>RSG reference</b>	12464-1
<b>Reporting period</b>	July 2014
<b>Amount of grant</b>	£5990
<b>Your email address</b>	priscilla.anti@gmail.com
<b>Date of this report</b>	29 <sup>th</sup> July 2014

**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
Population Estimation of <i>Hipposideros jonesi</i>	x			Field work was planned to estimate the population of <i>Hipposideros jonesi</i> in Forikrom Boten cave. Bats were sampled for 18 nights at the Boten Caves. Out of the 1,273 individuals from the 12 species recorded in and around the cave, there was no record of <i>Hipposideros jonesi</i> . We are certain that this species is not just a rare species but currently not found in Forikrom.
Questionnaire Administration			x	A total of 289 people were interviewed with questionnaires. More than 60% reported (178 respondents) to use the bat caves. Religious activities and recreation were the two dominant reasons for local people visiting bat caves. Weekly visits to the caves were higher than daily, monthly and annual visits. Bat hunting is evident in the Boten cave and mostly carried out by adults (>31 years). A total of 141 respondents reported eating bat meat but the culture of eating bat was popular among people older than 50 years. <i>Rousettus aegyptiacus</i> , <i>Eidolon helvum</i> , and <i>Hypsignathus monstrosus</i> were the bat species respondents identified to be eaten. There were no reports of hunting or eating <i>Hipposideros jonesi</i> from Forikrom.
Conservation Education			x	Our conservation education was geared towards both adults and children. We educated them about bats and the role they play through power-point presentations and video shows. We also embarked on household dialogues. We estimated about 350 people were directly educated in the village through our conservation activities.

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

This project was born to conserve the threatened *Hipposideros jonesi* by first estimating their population. As the project progressed, it became evident that our target species, *Hipposideros jonesi* was difficult to even find and there was no evidence of it roosting inside the Boten cave. We,

therefore, increased our sampling efforts in hope of recording the species. Also the project was supposed to focus on only the cave but since there was no record of this species from the cave, a change in methodology to sample farmlands was employed. This however did not yield the results we were expecting as there were no records of this species.

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

Though *Hipposideros jonesi* was not recorded, disappointing as it was to the project, nevertheless, an important conservation output of communication, education and public awareness of bats were achieved. This highlighted the need for future projects to commit attention to other areas in Ghana that might host this species for its conservation.

Another important outcome of this project is the behavioural change in perception about bats which was translated in the reduction of human activities in and around the caves. Members of the Forikrom community have become more appreciative of the role bats play in the environment evident through increased knowledge about bats. They welcomed the idea of protecting the bat caves by electing four people to monitor for illegal activities as well as future plans of protecting bats roosts in their community.

One of the most important outcomes of this project is the encouragement that bat conservation is possible in Ghana. Through this project, the capacity of two bachelor students were built in bat conservation and research. Also, we have been able to establish and register an NGO, BATlife Ghana to conserve bats in Ghana for the first time. With support of the project, a website ([www.batlifeghana.org](http://www.batlifeghana.org)) was created to promote this project and bat conservation in Ghana. We hope, this will have a long-lasting contribution to bat conservation in the long term in Ghana.

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

The local community benefited immensely from the execution of this project. Firstly, through our conservation efforts, the community became more informed about bats and the need for their conservation. Through video and power point presentations, local people had a first time opportunity to know all the different bat species resident within the caves and the role each bat played. Furthermore, they received educational t-shirts that helped to promote the project. Also two community members joined all our field surveys to learn more about bats to be the ambassadors of the project after its expiration.

**5. Are there plans to continue this work?**

N/A

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

A detailed technical report which we plan to submit copies to the Ghana Wildlife Division and Forikrom Community is currently in preparation. Further preparations are also being made to launch BATlife Ghana by the close of this year. This will include mainly a series of presentation on bats to all invited stakeholders. Also, a copy of the report will be made available at [www.batlifeghana.org](http://www.batlifeghana.org).

Important to note is that, all data is currently being analysed for submission for a journal publication.

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

We estimated a duration of 12 months for this project. We applied to Idea Wild for help in equipment including headlamp, projector, and camcorder to assist the project. These items reached us much later than expected and this led to us extending the project duration.

**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
Reconnaissance survey	200	200	0	
Mist net and mounting accessories	700	700	0	
Five Petzl Headlamps	200	200	0	Idea Wild awarded us with two Petzl Headlamps but we still had to buy more because our team size increased.
O-rings and bat bands	300	0	300	We had O-rings and bands from previous work. We ended up not buying more because we did not record the target species.
Rechargeable batteries and chargers	150	200	-50	We bought more batteries due to the team size
Field supplies (some expendable)	400	350	50	The sewing of airy bat bags were less costly than expected
One field folding table and 4 folding chairs	350	250	100	Items bought were less than the amount budgeted
Stipend for 4 people during population survey	800	800	0	
Cost of hiring vehicle for population studies for five trips	1000	1100	-100	Fuel prices increased about three times during project duration
Stipend for 2 people during questionnaires administration for 10 days	500	500	0	
Cost of hiring projector for conservation education	40	0	40	Idea Wild supported the project with a projector
Printing 100 T-shirts & bat souvenirs	350	350	0	

Item	Budgeted Amount	Actual Amount	Difference	Comments
Stipend for 4 people during conservation education for 10 days	1000	1000	0	
Stipend for 2 local assistance during population studies and work	200	200	0	
Support for two students	0	140	-140	Two students were selected as field assistance to build their capacity which was initially not budgeted for.
<b>Total</b>	6190	5990	200	Amount awarded the project was £5990. The total amount used for the project was £5790. The remaining £200 was used to support BATlife Ghana in creation of a website to promote bat conservation in Ghana.

1 GBP = GHS 3.0

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

We did not record a single individual of *Hipposideros jonesi* in Forikrom. Since this species is a West African endemic with largest population recorded in Ghana decades ago, nationwide survey is recommended to find where viable populations could be found. We also recommend complimenting mist netting efforts with acoustic methods in surveying for this species. We feel that places with confirmed records should be giving top conservation priority as they are known to be outside of protected areas.

#### 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?

The RSGF logo was used many times in the course of the project. We used the logo in our printed materials such as T-Shirts, power point presentations as well as on the website of BATlife Ghana. We plan to also use the logo in a video documentary that is currently being edited.

#### 11. Any other comments?

We are grateful to The Rufford Small Grant Foundation for first having the confidence in our team and supporting this work and most importantly, for supporting bat conservation in Ghana. We are also grateful that through their support of an individual project, an NGO was successfully established and registered to promote bat conservation in Ghana for the first time. We are grateful that through this project, we have gained conservation experience to continue our work to protect the bats we have in Ghana.