

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	Levi Yafetto
Project title	Fungal Biodiversity and Conservation in the Kakum National Park, Ghana
RSG reference	13045-1
Reporting period	June 2013 – July 2014
Amount of grant	£5620
Your email address	lyafetto@ucc.edu.gh
Date of this report	9 th 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
Objective (i): To understand the level of ethnomycological knowledge within local communities around the Kakum National Park			✓	There were successful interactions with members of the local communities through one-on-one interviews and administration of questionnaires. The activities under this objective revealed insightful, interesting information on the level of indigenous knowledge in the local communities about mushrooms
Objective (ii): To determine the scope of fungal biodiversity in the Kakum National Park			✓	The fungal biodiversity of the Kakum National Park is amazing! A Field Guide for Mushrooms Kakum National Park is completed and being reviewed for final publication.
Objective (iii): To create an inventory on fungal biodiversity in the Kakum National Park			✓	This objective has been largely achieved. Voucher specimens of some interesting fungal species have been collected from the Kakum National Park and deposited at the School of Biological Sciences, University of Cape Coast.
Objective (iv): To evaluate the impact of mushroom hunting on fungal biodiversity and conservation efforts			✓	This objective was successfully achieved. Members of local communities were educated on the ecological importance of fungi to facilitate fungal conservation efforts. Mushroom cultivation workshops were organised for communities.

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

Unforeseen difficulties include the following: (i) Inclement weather during the wet season made access to the Kakum National Park difficult, and (ii) There was a little bit of difficulty in persuading some members of communities to partake in interviews and responding to questionnaires.

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

Three most important outcomes of this project are:

- (i) Education of local communities on the importance of fungal conservation in the wild, and the prospects of domestic mushroom cultivation.
- (ii) Creation of an inventory of fungi of the Kakum National Park.
- (iii) Production of field guide of Mushrooms of Kakum National Park.

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

Local communities were generally educated to better understand farming practices that impact negatively on the conservation of fungi and the prospects of domestic mushroom cultivation. More members of the community and staff of the National Park were actively involved in data collection and community interactions to further enhance their understanding of issues of fungal conservation in the communities and the Park, respectively.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes, because, there is still a lot of work to be done to fully understand the scope of fungal diversity in the Kakum National Park and its conservation.

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

Results of the project will be shared through publication of field guide, articles, and seminars with the communities, Rufford Foundation, the University of Cape Coast, and the Forestry Commission of Ghana, from whom permission was sought to conduct fieldwork in the Kakum National Park.

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

The funding for this project was approved on 24th June 2013. The project started in July 2013 and was implemented in 12 months. The anticipated length of the project was quite flexible.

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
Cost of transportation for four trips (including fuel and vehicle maintenance), during duration of project to Kakum National Park to conduct interviews, administer questionnaires, organize community workshops and collect fungal specimens	£600	£600	0	
Cost of hiring Public Address System, Canopy and allowance for operator for community workshop	£200	£150	+ £50	Some support received from local communities

Cost of motel accommodation and meals for P.I., two Research Assistants and driver for four trips to conduct interviews, administer questionnaires, community workshops, and collect fungal specimen	£1000	£1200	- £200	More Research Assistants were involved in the project than what was indicated initially to build capacity in the area of conservation efforts in the communities, eventually spending less per person.
Cost of developing and printing 50 colour posters and banners to advertise workshops in communities	£500	£500	0	
Cost of developing and printing questionnaire	£200	£200	0	
Cost of production of field guide on Mushrooms of the Kakum National Park	£600	£600		
Cost of protective gear (overalls and wellington boots) for P.I., two Student Research Assistants, two National Park Staff, and three members of the community to be hired to undertake project	£320	£500	- £180	More Research Assistants, Staff of Kakum National Park, and members of the communities were involved in the project than what was indicated initially
Cost of mushroom collection kits (two medium-sized ice chests, 30 pressing materials, labels, three medium sized baskets, six trowels, six knives, three large notebooks, field guides, etc)	£300	£400	- £100	Prices of items were higher than what was initially budgeted for; More
Cost of digital camera	£300	£300	0	
Cost of laptop computer	£400	£400	0	
Allowances for two national park staff and three community members to be hired for the project	£500	£800	- £300	More staff of the Kakum Park and members of the communities were involved in the project than what was indicated initially to build more capacity in the area of conservation efforts in the communities, eventually spending less per person.
TOTAL	£4920	£5650	- £730	

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

Looking ahead, the important next steps to be taken include the following:

- (i) More local communities surrounding the Kakum National Park should be included in the study to further expand and sustain the conservation efforts started in some of the communities.
- (ii) A more thorough work should be done to further understand the scope of fungal diversity in Kakum National Park.

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, the RSGF logo was used in all printed materials used and/or produced during the course of this project. In equal measure, the RSGF was given a lot of publicity as the sole funding agency for the project during the course of this work.