

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	ZON DEMEANGO SERGE
Project title	Assessment of invertebrate biodiversity of the Lamto reserve (centre of Ivory Coast): the use of Collembola as bio-indicators for conservation
RSG reference	13056-1
Reporting period	November 2013-November 2014
Amount of grant	£5690
Your email address	Demeango2001@yahoo.fr
Date of this report	February 2015

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
Assessment of Collembolan biodiversity of the Lamto reserve according to the anthropogenic gradient			X	It was the sampling work in the field
Provide biological and ecological information that be used to convince policymakers and donors for conservation decisions		X		Highly disturbed areas within the reserve have been located using the results of Collembolan species richness, diversity and community structure investigation along the anthropogenic gradient. Some Collembolan species like <i>Xenylla villiersi</i> and <i>Sphaeridia</i> sp. have been identified as bio-indicators of disturbed areas
Promote the use of Collembola as bio-indicator in the biology of conservation in Ivory Coast		X		The project has shown that Collembolan communities reflect the invertebrate biodiversity conservation state of the reserve.
Contribute to the knowledge of Collembolan communities of Ivory Coast		X		Three new species of Collembola have been discovered and confirmed. One of them has been described: <i>Willemia tondoh</i> (paper in press accepted by Zootaxa but not published yet) and a key of some genus have been created. We took many pictures of Collembola species but we haven't put them yet on the website of the institution.

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

- The first difficulty was to obtain permission to enter into the reserve. Normally this permission is obtained in a month, but we got it in 3 months due to malfunction the administration.
- The second difficulty was the taxonomic work. It's was very long because we asked for help of the museum of Paris especially for confirmation of species. And it took plenty of time and required a trip to Paris funded by my institution.

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

- The project was able to provide a checklist of Collembola species from Ivory Coast and especially those from the Lamto reserve with three new species for science.
- The project has enabled the policymakers in charge of the management of reserves and the local authorities, to locate areas that are heavily disturbed and define a plan of restoration.
- A master student has begun his training in taxonomy of Collembola in the project

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

For this project, there were no direct benefits for local communities accepted their integration in the Lamto reserve management after the restitution workshop.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes. The future work will focus on public awareness around the reserve on the importance of the reserve for biodiversity protection especially the invertebrate, the establishment of bushfire surveillance teams in the three villages around the reserve. Then, the project team and the Naturalist Club of Municipal High School of Taabo will be trained on the biology of conservation as well as the bushfire surveillance teams.

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

The results of this project have been shared with the reserves managers and the local authorities through workshops. They will also be disseminated with the population around the reserve and to the public by NGO. I also welcome to share this experience with colleagues interested in conservation through emails and social networks.

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

The RSG was used from November 2013 to November 2014 corresponding to the anticipated length of the project. But I have about 3 months delay in the production the report due to the taxonomic work and the difficulty in obtaining the permission to begin the field work.

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
Material for the field activities and data treatment	£ 3477	£3542	-£65	The GPS was much expensive than the anticipated
Transportation	£773	£773	0	
Salaries and per diems	£860	£860	0	

Workshop	£419	£419	0	
Documentation	£161	£161	0	
Total	£5690	£5755	-£65	

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

- Monitoring the restoration plan for 1 year.
- The establishment of bushfire surveillance teams in the three villages around the reserve and their training.
- The training of the Project team and Naturalist Club of the Municipal High School of Taabo.
- Sensitise local people to the reserve protection.

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 I pasted the logo on my computer, on the GPS and in my presentation during the workshops. I didn't forget to acknowledge the Rufford Foundation in the manuscript of the paper in press.

11. Any other comments?

I would like to thank the Rufford staff for this funding that helped us to convince authorities on the threat of invertebrate biodiversity conservation of Lamto reserve and the need of reinforcing the reserve's protection and to restore the disturbed areas. This funding has greatly contributed to the knowledge of the Collembolan communities from Ivory with three new species discovered.



Exchange with after to launch workshop in Lamto for going to the field



Sampling activities



Meeting with the head of one of the villages around the reserve



Taxonomic activities



The presentation during the restitution workshop



Field visit with a village guide