

## The Rufford Foundation

### Final Report

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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](mailto:jane@rufford.org).

Thank you for your help.

**Josh Cole, Grants Director**

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Grant Recipient Details	
<b>Your name</b>	Harnon W. Garbo
<b>Project title</b>	Manatee Protection through Community-Led Actions in Lake Piso Multiple Use Reserve, Liberia.
<b>RSG reference</b>	13400-1
<b>Reporting period</b>	December 2014- February 2015
<b>Amount of grant</b>	£5998
<b>Your email address</b>	farmers.associated@yahoo.com
<b>Date of this report</b>	February 9, 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
<p>To contribute to the effective protection and management of the West African manatee and its habitat in Liberia through community empowerment–targeting the major drivers of the threats to these species (fishermen, hunters and firewood collectors); establishment of community-led management schemes; and improvement of the existing database on manatee in the Lake Piso Multiple Use Reserve by initiating a biomonitoring and camera trapping programme.</p>			X	<p>Awareness was initially carried out in 14 communities including Messima, Tallah, Kebah, Kumea, Weima, Sinje, Sawelor, Bendu, Kpallan, Jornii Sambolah, Tosor and Sembehum. The communities were selected based on past data collected about the presence of manatee in the area. Town hall meetings were held in these communities and participants were enlightened on the reasons for manatee protection and that the animal is protected by law in Liberia. Awareness raising on manatee protection continued throughout the project period. All the communities visited confirmed the presence of manatee in the area and agreed to help conserve and protect the animal.</p> <p>A mechanism was developed to enable local community dwellers actively get involved and participate in monitoring the manatee. The mechanism included training of selected community members in sustainable fishing practices, determining the ability of trained community members to produce eco-stove through a refresher course, and training selected community members in biomonitoring techniques.</p> <p>The sustainable fishing training was intended to build the capacity of the local communities to sustainably manage their marine and freshwater biodiversity resources. The eco-stove refresher course was done to determine the ability of previously trained community members in producing eco-stoves to produce the materials by themselves. Production, distribution and use of eco-stoves can help reduce the wood harvesting pressure on the mangrove and terrestrial forest, thus contributing to mitigation of climate change impact in the LPMSUR. The</p>

				<p>biomonitoring training was mainly focused on monitoring manatee and documenting information on the animal.</p> <p>Raphia pine fence traps used by local people to hunt the animal were set by the project team purposely to make the animal visible for filming at specific points, but the team was not fortunate to photograph the manatee. Nevertheless, the project team received information that a manatee was reportedly trapped and killed by some local people outside of the project traps area. Some local people admitted the killing of the animal while others persistently concealed the information for fear of being arrested and penalised, a situation described by the field team as deceitful.</p>
<p><b>Sustainable fishing training:</b> Objective: To build the community members capacity to sustainably use their marine and forest resources through knowledge / information sharing and to reduce their poverty level by creating job opportunities</p>			X	<p>A total of 36 fishermen including males and females within the Lake Piso Multiple Sustainable Use Reserve (LPMSUR), in Grand Cape Mount County, North Western Liberia, were trained in sustainable fishing practices and methods to help protect their marine environment which was supported by the West African Regional Fisheries Project (WARFP) in Liberia. The training programme was designed to mitigate marine resource depletion and improve marine ecosystem in the LPMSUR. The trainees were taking through various good fishing practices which include types of specified fishing gears / nets, awareness on protected marine species and breeding site of fish, productive fishing, and fisheries management practices. The training program was held in three separate strategic locations in and around the LPMUR. The training programme was intended to build the capacity of the local communities to sustainably manage their marine and forest resources.</p>
<p><b>Ecostove Refresher Course training:</b> Objectives: To build the capacity of local community people in awareness , sensitisation</p>			X	<p>The Ecostove Refresher Course was also a continuation of the propagation of fuel efficient ecostove by a group of selected community members who were trained in 2012 by FACE, with financial assistance from the Disney Foundation through Fauna</p>

and monitoring methods and procedures				& Flora International (FFI), in the production of the eco-stove to help tackle climate change impacts in the area. The refresher course was designed to ascertain whether those selected community members trained grabbed the concept and can practically produce the eco-stoves by themselves. Production, distribution and use of the eco-stove are likely to help reduce the harvesting pressure on the mangrove and blocks of terrestrial forests in the LPMSUR. The result yielded positive as the trainees were able to produce the ecostove themselves and were able to train other youths from the various selected communities to produce the stoves.
<b>Biomonitoring Training:</b> Objective: To develop local community dwellers technical capacity in biomonitoring to work with local communities to reduce threats to manatee in the area.			X	Fifteen community members consisting of 11 males and four females were selected from eight local communities of the Lake Piso basin and trained in manatee biomonitoring techniques. During the course of the training, six individuals were singled out of the 15 trainees for further capacity building in biomonitoring. The six individuals were observed to have the potential for biomonitoring if their capacity can be further developed. The balance of nine trainees were placed into a biodiversity conservation/protection awareness group for the Lake Piso region.
<b>Awareness raising</b>				Through a social survey, awareness was raised in eight target communities known to be manatee communities. However, the awareness process continued during the entire project implementation period.

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

Liberia is currently undergoing an outbreak of the deadly Ebola virus that has led to the loss of many lives in the Country. Impacts of the virus became visible in Liberia around June 2014 and began to increase. On September 6<sup>th</sup> 2014, Liberia was placed under a state of emergency which lasted for 90 days. This state of emergency was declared to help fight the deadly Ebola virus. The state of emergency also brought restriction to movement in and around the country (including the project area), thus causing delays in the implementation of the project activities. The monitoring exercise was planned for 3 months (August, September and October), the heap of the raining season when the manatee movement reportedly occurs. The restriction on people's travel due to the Ebola

invasion affected assessing and monitoring manatee movement. However, the project team took the risk and opened the FACE field office sometime, and organized and conducted the project training activities. Unfortunately the Ebola effects gradually advanced to some communities neighbouring the project area from September to November 2014. Thus the FACE field office was temporarily closed again until the 8<sup>th</sup> December 2014. Also FACE Monrovia office which has internet access came to an abrupt closure during the state of emergency period. Another problem was accessibility of the project site. The area is accessed from the main Monrovia- Bo Waterside Highway to the Sierra Leonean border. An unpaved road branching at a point called Daniel Town (about 170 km NW of Monrovia) enables access to Jorkorni Sambolah and Madiana villages, the main project target communities. This unpaved road was difficult to ply even with a 4WD vehicle. The project team sometimes used Yamaha motorbikes to get to these villages or sometimes hired a 4WD pick-up to get to the site.

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

Three most important outcomes of the project are:

1. *Lake Piso communities sensitized on the importance of manatee:* Community sensitisation carried out by the project indicate that people are aware of the importance of manatee and that it is protected by law.
2. *Local people capacity built:* The skills and knowledge of five local community dwellers were built in the use of basic field equipment, such as digital camera, video camera, camera traps and GPS. Their skills were also built in the collection of field data that will provide them the opportunity to participate in the management of the site, which form a major part of the protected area management scheme. Their skills were also built in sustainable fishing and ecostove production to mitigate marine resource depletion, to tackle climate change and promote marine ecosystem in the Lake Piso Multiple Use Reserve.
3. *Relationship between FACE and the local communities improved:* The working relationship between FACE and communities was strengthen by the project in terms of information sharing and data collections, thus provided FACE immense information on its bio-monitoring exercise being carryout at the project site. Additionally reducing poverty alleviation by creating job for the youth through capacity building and sustainable alternative livelihood programs by FACE in the area has also brought cordial working relationship between communities and FACE. As a result, the communities have developed strong confidence in FACE as a situation intervention NGO.

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

The local communities were involved in the project implementation from start to end. The project is a follow-up to the 2010 Rufford Small Grant (RSG) manatee protection project implemented by FACE which investigated the presence of the animal in the Lake Piso basin. During the implementation of this follow-up project, the local communities were trained to monitor the manatee and in sustainable fishing method. These training exercises enhanced their ability to collect field data and some of them were involved in collecting information on the manatee. In terms of benefit, the local people acquired substantial skills and knowledge in manatee protection and received money as fee for services rendered.

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

FACE plans to continue this work but this time through the establishment of a community-based environmental club (CBEC). The club will consist of the community members who received training under this project and those who are interested in biodiversity conservation. The aim of the CBEC is to promote the conservation/protection of biodiversity, mainly coastal biodiversity (such as manatee and sea turtles). This group should begin receiving support immediately in capacity building and livelihood improvement initiatives. Although the foundation for conserving the animal has been established through the RSG project, the challenge for continuation of this work will be fund raising and to put in place a mechanism that will attract the involvement of other local and international conservationists. Another basic reason for continuing this work is to disprove the perception of some community members that the attempt to photograph manatee was intended to blackmail manatee hunters, arrest them and send them to court for criminal offense. This perception surfaced when a manatee was reportedly killed in one of the villages outside of the project traps areas but some community members agitated against taking a photograph of the dead body by FACE trained community members who heard about the act and went there to photograph.

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

FACE is currently working towards establishing a website where it will post valuable information such as those acquired by this project. Until then, the results will be posted on the webpage of the RSGF. Also the results of the project will be shared with local partners (i.e. Forestry Development Authority, Society for the Conservation of Nature of Liberia and Environmental Protection Agency) through emails, publication and presentation in local meetings. Finally, FACE intends to share the results with local communities through Village/Town hall meetings and posters.

**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 project implementation began from the first week of January 2014 to the second week in February 2015. The reporting period extended to February due to the Ebola outbreak in the Country which brought delayed in the project implementation period.

**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
<b>A. Awareness</b>				
Hotel Accommodation for research team	278.57	278.57	0	
Feeding for research team	229	229	0	
Workshop for participants	150	150	0	
Feeding for participants	185.71	185.71	0	
Village guard stipend	142.86	149.9	(7.04)	
<b>Sub Total:</b>	<b>986.14</b>	<b>993.18</b>	<b>(7.04)</b>	
<b>B. Transportation</b>				
Vehicle hire	892.86	892.86	0	

Fuel	428.57	428.57	0	
Canoe Hire	100	100	0	
<b>Sub Total:</b>	<b>1421.43</b>	<b>1421.43</b>	<b>0</b>	
<b>C. Logistic/Materials</b>				
GPS	214.29	214.29	0	
Video Camera	428.57	428.57	0	
Tent	857.14	857.14	0	
Digital Camera	285.71	285.71	0	
Flash Light	10.71	8.57	2.14	
Batteries	28.57	25.81	2.76	
Wellington Booth	53.57	53.57	0	
Rain coat	657.14	657.14	0	
Cutlasses	67.76	67.76	0	
Sharpening Files	10.71	8.57	2.14	
<b>Sub Total:</b>	<b>2614.17</b>	<b>2607.13</b>	<b>7.04</b>	
<b>D. Communication</b>				
Phone Cards	250	250	0	
Internet Stick	50	50	0	
Internet modern card	250	250	0	
<b>Sub Total:</b>	<b>550</b>	<b>550</b>	<b>0</b>	
<b>E. Report Writing</b>				
Computer services	55	55	0	
Report production	100	100	0	
<b>Stationeries</b>	271.26	271.26	0	
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>426.26</b>	<b>426.26</b>	<b>0</b>	
<b>Total(A+B+C+D+E)</b>	<b>5998</b>	<b>5998</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>Exchange Rate 1.574</b>

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

The presence of manatee in the Lake Piso region and the need to protect them from dangerous human activities (e.g. use of fishing nets, dynamite and hunting manatees stranded in mud and paddy farms) justify community conservation action as the main next step. This will require the establishing of a community-based environmental club (CBEC) consisting of the previous trainees and other community members in the Lake Piso region interested in biodiversity conservation. The aim of this group is to promote the conservation/protection of biodiversity—mainly manatee/wetlands biodiversity of the region. This group should begin receiving support immediately in capacity building initiatives.

### 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?

Indeed, the RSG logo was used on the local community sensitisation poster produced and the two field reports sent for publication on the FACE webpage. During the project period, the RSGF received two publications and were published on the FACE webpage. The two publications were the reports on the eco-stove refresher course, the sustainable fishing training and the biomonitoring training

carried out by the project. FACE intends to also produce a two-page publication for local use which will carry the logos of the RSGF, FACE and the Forestry Development Authority (FDA). FDA is the institution of the Liberian Government responsible for managing the nation's forest and biological resources and is a key partner of FACE. FDA participated in implementation of the field activities of the project.

#### 11. Any other comments?

FACE is very grateful to the Rufford Small Grant Foundation for the level of support received during the project implementation period. FACE hopes for a stronger bond and partnership between the two organizations in the fight against bio degradation/extinction in Liberia. Although the hope to photograph a Lake Piso Manatee was not realised during the project implementation period, FACE will do all possible to collect this important information in the very near future, with the help and cooperation of the Lake Piso CBEC.



Fish trap at the end of the manatee trap

Manatee trap

Back view of the manatee trapping fence

Entrance of the manatee trap



Front view of the manatee trapping fence