

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

Thank you for your help.

**Josh Cole, Grants Director**

Grant Recipient Details	
<b>Your name</b>	Prince Kaleme Kiswele
<b>Project title</b>	Bat Conservation in the Mount Hoyo Forest Reserve, eastern Democratic Republic of Congo
<b>RSG reference</b>	13502-2
<b>Reporting period</b>	July 2014
<b>Amount of grant</b>	£6000
<b>Your email address</b>	pkaleme@gmail.com
<b>Date of this report</b>	06 October 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
We will provide the foundation and bat conservation organisations with checklists of species recorded			✓	The list of bats recorded in the reserve is available. Given to the Nature conservancy agency in the DRC through the reserve management and also local conservation NGOs working in the region. We are working on the paper to be published in a scientific journal.
The monitoring of roosts and the numbers recorded from each roost will inform us of the effects of sensitisation of the local communities about the need for bat conservation.		✓		Rangers and students from the region were trained in bat capture and identification. The rangers will monitor the roosts to inform on potential migrations and at what time. The students requested to work their honours projects in the reserve and will work closely with the rangers while we will assist them to achieve the goals.
If roosts have more individuals and the threat, measured by the increase or decrease of the numbers of individuals and species will tell of the success of our activities.	✓			There are no baseline data on the situation of caves or roosts. It is impossible to evaluate if there is a decrease or increase in individual numbers. But for the four trips, we have information on some movement of species, which is not enough for 1 year. We intend to monitor this for 2 more years to give evidence of the migrations: which species migrate, when and where they go.
The implication of local populations in bat conservation and reduction of threat on bat species (mostly those used as food).		✓		We had time to discuss with local stakeholders on the importance of bats in the long-term conservation of the forest, the plants pollination (mostly the crops) or the importance of bats in reducing the pest insects. First, the chief of the sector was met in December 2013. Then, three local chiefs surrounding the reserve were met with some of their collaborators in April 2014. The last (third), very important meeting took place in September 2014 where the administration officers were implicated and important decided taken. All of them were encouraged to sensitise populations on reducing the threats on bats and the caves.

			Bats constitute the main local menu and it is difficult to convince them to change this habit. However, they promised to harvest sustainably with assistance (control) from the reserve management and the Environment officer.
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**2. Please explain any unforeseen difficulties that arose during the project and how these were tackled (if relevant).**

Security concerns were the main unforeseen. The area is close to a bastion of the Ugandan rebels "ADF-NALU" and sometimes, there were attacks on the road that led to more caution because there has been reported some terrorist attacks despite the efforts of the army and the UN troops. Another problem was the security in the reserve. A rebel faction, not targeting the reserve, at times passed by to loot into villages. In July 2014, there was an army patrol following a group where some rebels were killed, and some others arrested.

The consequence of this is that, during our last trip, we had to be secured by the army associated to rangers. The northern section is out of the reserve is under the control of "Cobra Matata", chief militia operating in the neighbouring areas.

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

The most important outcome of the project:

1. Species checklist: this has been the first data collection in this reserve (gazetted since 1937). The project provided the Congolese Institute for Nature Conservation (ICCN) as well as conservation agencies with a list of not only bats, but also large and small mammals as well as some birds.
2. Guarantees from local chiefs and administration as well as army officers to collaborate with the ICCN staff in the conservation of bats and other biodiversity within the reserve. The implication of local authorities to get implication in the reserve management and security (as stated in the last [September] meeting).

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

1. The local chiefs were sensitised on the importance of bats in the forest dissemination, on crops for reducing the pest insects; they were sent to meet their own peoples, which they did.
2. The local peoples were incorporated in our teams and during this time, were paid money for the work. The money was mostly used to prepare the school materials for their children.
3. The local state administration was implicated in the planning and the holding of the last meeting where important decisions were taken. The local Administrator led the meeting and sent the outcomes to the hierarchy (the District). The workshop was held for 2 days.
4. Local peoples were given the opportunity come and participate in a discussion on the importance of bats in the forest conservation and also for agriculture. Using bats' feeding habits, they understood that insects form the large set of bats diet and can reduce pest

species. When eating fruits, bats disseminate the tree species into the forest where the species did not occur (this can expand the range of some species).

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

Yes, despite the challenges linked with security, we found it important to continue because some parts of the forest and the savannah were not sampled. We intend to continue in order to have a complete idea on the biodiversity of the site.

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

We have a collaboration with WCS and WWF. Also, we worked with ICCN (DRC nature conservation agency). We intend to provide them with the species lists. I will also present the results at an international conference where the proceeding will be published.

We are planning to have a workshop with both NGOs (cited above) as well as Hope in Action (that is working in the site) where we will share our species list.

Some of the specimens will be sent to the Field Museum of Natural History at Chicago and University of Johannesburg for confirmation of identifications.

We are preparing a poster of bat species with scientific names, local names and French names to distribute in schools for the children to learn on the local biodiversity.

**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 grant was to be used from July 2013 to June 2014. But because of an unforeseen (especially security), some activities were postponed with the permission from RSG management. The last bit (meeting and sampling) took place in September 2014, which is now completed.

**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
Ration/ fieldwork	3200 \$ US (2000 £ UK)	3040 \$ US (1900 £ UK)	+ 160 \$ US (100 £ UK)	The remaining was used to supply the workshop.
Field equipment	960 \$ US (600 £ UK)	960 \$ US (600 £ UK)	0	Printer, a computer (Toshiba) and a printer were purchased. Two mist nets were also purchased. Two tents and two sleeping bags were also purchased.
Transport from and to field	1600 \$ US (1000 £ UK)	1600 \$ US (1000 £ UK)	0	Here, all the expenses were as planned.
Community meetings	2400 \$ US (1500 £ UK)	2240 \$ US (1400 £ UK)	+ 160 \$ US (100 £ UK)	Everything was used according to the budget. The remaining

				supplied the workshop.
Workshop with stakeholders	1440 \$ US (900 £ UK)	1760 \$ US (1100 £ UK)	- 320 \$ US (200 £ UK)	There were more peoples (than expected) invited, there was need to have more food, accommodation and transport for two days.
<b>Total</b>	9600 \$ US (6000 £UK)	9600 \$ US (6000 £ UK)	0	- Exchange rate was 1 £ UK = 1.60 \$ US. As stated in the proposal, in the DRC, US dollar is used as reference money and thus, for transactions.

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

The important next steps are to give a report to the ICCN in the DRC, provide the NGOs with species lists, also plan to cover the whole reserve for a survey. Another step is to plan for the monitoring of bats in caves to find out the real migration time for bats: what species migrate, when to they leave and when they come back, if possible, and where do they go?

**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. You can see the poster used for this end.

**11. Any other comments?**

I am grateful to the RSG for this second funding. The RSG has much contributed to the knowledge of the biodiversity of this site that has never been sampled. The ICCN, through the chief warden, acknowledged the RSG for this fund that can provide the first set of data for one of the Albertine Rift's site and thus, contributing to its knowledge.