

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	Maxwell Kwame Boakye
Project title	Pangolins in peril: A perspective of their use as traditional medicine and bush meat in Ghana
RSG reference	13600-1
Reporting period	September 2013-present
Amount of grant	£3000
Your email address	Maxwell_boakye@yahoo.com
Date of this report	29 August 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
Determine the bushmeat commodity chain in Ghana			√	We covered the Ashanti, Brong-Ahafo, Central, Eastern and Western regions of Ghana to determine stakeholders in the pangolin bushmeat trade. Farmer hunters, wholesalers, market traders and chopbar operators were identified as the main actors in the pangolin bushmeat trade.
Assess the volume of bushmeat trade in Ghana			√	This was challenging initially because the actors were aware of the Wildlife Conservation Act of 1972 that prohibits the hunting or being in possession of pangolin. However, through constant visitations they actors revealed the volume of trade in these regions.
Determine the bushmeat commodity chain in Sierra Leone			√	The Northern and Southern Province of Sierra Leone were covered. Farmer hunters were the only actors identified to be the main actors in pangolin bushmeat trade in Sierra Leone.
Assess the volume of bushmeat trade in Sierra Leone	√			This was challenging because the actors were prepared to give volumes of pangolins harvested.
Determine the use of pangolin for medicinal purposes in Ghana			√	48 traditional healers from the Kumasi metropolis who consented were interviewed using semi-structured interview. Data obtained revealed that knowledge about pangolin as medicinal animal was very widespread among the traditional healers.
Determine the use of pangolin for medicinal purposes in Sierra Leone			√	We interviewed 68 traditional medical practitioners in the Bombali district of Sierra Leone. We found knowledge about pangolin body parts for medicinal purposes to be widespread among the traditional healers. Pangolins were used to cure folk illness as well as prevalent diseases in Sierra Leone.

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

Funding was received from RSGF for studies to be undertaken only in Ghana but we decided to include Sierra Leone due to the lack information on the medicinal use and prevalence of bushmeat trade on pangolins in that country that incurred additional cost. The second was simply the logistical difficulty of getting to actors who were inaccessible by car. Hiking with the assistance of a local who knows the terrain was used to reach such actors.

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

- a. We have managed to provide information about the most sought after pangolin body parts and the level of knowledge dissemination among traditional healers in both Ghana and Sierra Leone that was not previously known.
- b. We have been able to use our pangolin bushmeat commodity chain to determine the volume pangolins traded as a bushmeat in Ghana.
- c. Using data generated from this study, we are currently in corroboration with the African Pangolin Working Group (APWG) to develop conservation strategies for pangolins across West Africa.

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

During the survey local people were hired as field assistants and key informants who assisted in identifying actors relevant to the objectives of this study. Local community members therefore, have been the backbone of this project in terms of sharing their knowledge about relevant stakeholders.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

We plan to determine the abundance and distribution of pangolins in these countries because such data is currently lacking for these countries in order to assess the effect of medicinal use and as a source of bushmeat on their population. Such a work will serve as a framework for policy level development of pangolin conservation strategies.

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

Three manuscripts are currently under preparation for peer-reviewed publications. One article has already been submitted to the Journal of Ethnobiology and Ethnomedicine.

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

The RSG money was used as anticipated in terms of time scale.

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
Air ticket	600	800	+200	There was an increase due to the inclusion of Sierra Leone
Transportation in the field	1500	1800	+300	There was an increase due to the inclusion of Sierra Leone and subsequent field travels.
Notebook computer	600	600	0	
Printing, photocopying, scanning	150	150	0	
Phone communication	150	150	0	
TOTAL	3000	3500	500	

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

This project is the first of a long-term conservation initiative in the West Africa for pangolins. It is anticipated that, the publication in a scientific journal from this project may be beneficial for stressing the importance of conservation, behavioural and ecological research of pangolins in West African sub-region.

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?

We plan to use the RSGF logo in all our presentations. RSGF has been acknowledged in all our submitted manuscripts.

11. Any other comments?

We look forward to continuing working with the Rufford Small Grants Foundation to further research into the conservation, behaviour and ecology of pangolins.

Field Photographs



Picture 1: Pangolin bush meat in the fridge of a wholesaler in Ghana



Picture 2: Smoking of a pangolin by a chopbar operator in Ghana



Picture 3: Panholin bust meat on display in Ghana



Picture 4: Sale of pangolin along a major highway in Ghana



Picture 5: Pangolin scales in a traditional medicinal market in Freetown, Sierra Leone



Picture 6: Smoked pangolin in a village in Kailahun district, Sierra Leone