

## 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	
Your name	DAKPOGAN Sèami Chrystelle
Project title	Conservation and valorisation of <i>Colobus vellerosus</i> through ecotourism in Kikélé forest, Benin.
RSG reference	13814-1
Reporting period	November 2013 to September 2014 and July to August 2015
Amount of grant	£5850
Your email address	chrystelledak@gmail.com
Date of this report	February 7 <sup>th</sup> 2016

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
Improve the knowledge on <i>Colobus vellerosus</i>			x	
Information, education and awareness		x		During the project, we found that the Geoffroy's colobus went out from the kikélé sacred forest and into a gallery forest in a neighbouring village called Manigri. In this village, the monkeys were sometimes hunted. We tried several times to meet the head of the village in order to implement awareness in schools and with local populations but were not successful.
Elaborate an action plan for Kikélé forest conservation and valorisation			x	

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

It was difficult for women to leave their homework and following the awareness sessions. To overcome these difficulties, we asked the head of the village who is also the secretary of the management committee and his advisers to send an invitation to people. As it was a call from the head of the village, people felt obliged to come and participate.

During the project, we found that the home range of Geoffroy's colobus extend in the neighbouring village where the monkeys were sometimes hunted. We tried several times to meet the head of this village in order to discuss and implement conservation awareness in schools and with local populations but were not successful.

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

#### Conservation education among school children

Outdoor activities such as visiting the forest and observing the monkeys and collecting garbage in the sacred forest in addition to conservation education classroom activities are tremendously beneficial to schoolchildren. Although the kids are living right outside the forest, they know little about the forest flora or wildlife. They know nothing about the important of the primates in seed dispersal and pollination, for example. They enjoy looking at the monkeys eating, resting, touching tree trunks, flowers, and leaves and learning something new. That is the beginning of creating future conservationists. This direct engagement opens their eyes to the unknown world of nature, and they

start to appreciate the uniqueness of their forest. In the long run they could potentially realise that what they have in the forest are so precious that they commit to protect the forests.

#### **Training of ecoguides and local management committee**

Through the training, the ecoguides and the local management committee see first-hand how to design and implement ecotourism tours. Two tours have been designed: one will permit the visitors to learn about the history of Kikélé village and discover the role and importance of every socio-cultural group in the management of the village; the second tour enables the visitors to observe the majestic colobine in the forest and learn about their feeding habits and how they use their habitat. The ecoguides were so proud to tell everybody and visitors the history of their village and all the richness of their culture. We also produced two documentaries which we made available for media to publicise information about Kikélé sacred forest and its colobines to help enhance public awareness.

#### **Action plan for Kikélé forest conservation and valorization**

With the stakeholders, we identified actions to be implemented in the short and middle term to sustain the conservation of Geoffroy's colobus in Kikélé sacred forest. We obtain the support of the Municipality of Bassila to extend the size of the forest by including the gallery forest adjacent to Kikélé village and located in Manigri village where these colobines were often hunted. This is an important step toward protecting the Geoffroy's colobus in all their home range at Bassila.

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

All awareness and education material was targeted to reach all the stakeholders (local communities, school children, local authorities, ecoguides and forest management committee) involved in Geoffroy's colobus conservation, habitat use and management and as a result, many people have become aware and interested in the species, its conservation needs and how to better protect these large-bodied monkeys. This has empowered them with the knowledge of the species, its habitat and its ecological importance.

The forest management committee members were very interested in getting involved in conservation programmes and to assist in research census activities. The ecoguides and the forest management committee have participated in all the education and outreach activities in schools and in the village. They play a major role mobilising local people.

The two ecotourism tours developed have done with preliminary assessment with local peoples and then the ecoguides and the instructor chose the suitable steps and attractions to be included.

Enhancing the capacity of the forest management committee is one of the most important outcomes of this project so that now, they can easily take decisions about the management of the forest and any activities toward the conservation of *Colobus vellerosus* and its habitat at Kikélé.

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

Yes, we will have a meeting with the forest management committee and the municipality of Bonou in February 2016 to develop a garbage management project in Kikélé village in order to stop the

pollution of the forest by domestic garbage. We are also developing a research project with foreign colleagues to study faecal matter parasites of the Geoffroy's colobus. These data will enable to measure the impact of the forest fragmentation and anthropogenic activities on the health of the monkeys. We will also continue monitoring of *Colobus vellerosus*, education and outreach activities, especially in Manigri village. The capacity of the other ecotourism stakeholders: restorers, camping managers will be enhanced. Furthermore, we had been marketing the Kikélé sacred forest as a primate behavioral-ecology research site so that students from Abomey-Calavi University in Benin have projects to study these majestic monkeys.

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

We created a Facebook page named "Colobus vellerosus" to provide information about the Geoffroy's colobus and Kikélé forest. We will follow up this project by: submitting a report to the Rufford; submitting a report to the Municipality of Bassila; publishing our work in a primatological journal (e.g., African Primates, Primate conservation); presenting our work in a primatological conference (e.g., ASP or IPS); and sharing our work in the form of images, tweets, and/or movies, with the public through social media, because we believe that sharing with common folks what we know about the Geoffroy's colobus in kikélé sacred forest, what makes them interesting, and what we do in the forests to conserve them could change people perception towards the wildlife and may change their attitude. The documentaries we have produced will also serve to share the results of this work.

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

RSG funds were planned to be used from November 2013 to October 2014. But the funds were used from November 2013 to September 2014 and July to August 2015.

#### 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
Equipment acquisition	635	635		
Expendable supplies (Office furniture, Data collection papers, and field guide)	300	250	- 50	Expendable supplies cost less than we expected.
Literature, documentation, communication	250	325	+75	Internet and telephone cost more than expected.
Local travel, additional manpower	1400	1620	+220	Transport cost more expensive than what was planned due to the fluctuation of fuel costs and the actual length of the project.
Information Education and	1300	1390	+90	We needed more fund to print

Awareness				the posters for the awareness session and to produce documentary.
Elaboration of action plan	1965	1800	- 165	Accommodation and food for workshop participants cost less than we planned.
Total	<b>5850</b>	<b>6020</b>	<b>+ 170</b>	<b>Additional funds were covered by ODDB NGO</b>

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

- Stop the pollution of the forest by domestic garbage.
- Include the gallery forest in Managri village used by *Colobus vellerosus* in the protected area.
- Continue education and outreach activities.
- Kikélé sacred forest must become an ecotourism site recognized nationally and internationally.

### 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?

The Rufford Foundation logo was used in all awareness and ecotourism material (poster, leaflet, environment education kit, training kit and banners). The logo was also used in the two documentaries and the CD produced to promote ecotourism and research in Kikélé sacred forest.

### 11. Any other comments?

Monitoring of primates at Kikélé allowed to observe one group of Geoffroy colobus composed of 13 individuals and one individual of mona monkey (*Cercopithecus mona*). These results confirm that for several years, the population of *Colobus vellerosus* never reached 20 individuals despite the recorded births. This led us to divide the documentary into two parts, one promoting Kikélé through ecotourism and the other giving a voice to researchers in order to better understand what is going wrong. More, the safety of the Kikélé forest enable other wildlife from neighbouring patch forest to establish in the Kikélé forest since the mona monkey were not recorded in the past in the forest.

The difference between the anticipated length of the project and actual length is due to the fact that the principal investigator gave birth.