

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	Sylviane Volampeno
Project title	Combining Ecological Research and Local Community involvement to Achieve Long-term Conservation of the Critically Endangered Blue-eyed black lemur
RSG reference	13927-1
Reporting period	12 months
Amount of grant	£ 6000
Your email address	svolampeno@yahoo.fr
Date of this report	August 19, 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
Estimate the population of the blue-eyed black lemur (<i>Eulemur flavifrons</i>) within the entire main habitat				In Anabohazo forest, one of the block forests of the Sahamalaza-Iles Radama National Park, groups are still wild so at least we need 1 month to habituate the groups prior the data collection. Our funding did not allow us to stay longer than the expected schedule in one place. However, our field work allowed us to reveal a new distribution of the Sambirano mouse lemur 5 (<i>Microcebus sambiranensis</i>). This was a discovery because this is the first time to find a species of mouse lemur in the area as any researcher who conducted lemur field work did not find any species of mouse lemur previously. We learnt during our project that the Analavory forest was completely burnt there is no forest left there anymore.
Describe the forest habitat of the blue-eyed black lemur				We collected data about the forest characteristics and recorded some anthropogenic activities within the Park such as selective logging and clearance for slash and burn agriculture.
Train the Park Local Committees (PLC)				In collaboration with the park (Madagascar National parks), we provided training to the 20 PLC working in the Sahamalaza-Iles Radama National park. The training included park regulations, use of research equipment such GPS, and use of the data sheet during the forest patrol.
Increase the local community awareness about the need of the conservation of the blue-eyed black lemur				This objective is the most successful, during the project we managed to conduct five different activities of education and outreach for all sex-age classes. It is noted that we are first organisation who conduct awareness rising in the main habitat of the critically endangered blue-eyed black lemur since the inauguration of the area as a national park. However more activities are needed in order to measure the local

				communities' perception about the need of the protection of the blue-eyed black lemur and its forest habitat.
--	--	--	--	---

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

Overall, the project did well. The main difficulty that we met was the transport to the field site. It is noted that the Sahamalaza-Iles Radama National Park which is the project site is situated in a remote area. A car is only available during the dry season (4WD car) and a boat during the rainy season from the nearest town to the park. In addition, at least 2 hours of hike is needed to reach the nearest forest. For our first field work in Anabohazo forest, we were able to go until the Ambinda village, the village nearest the forest by car but we could not find zebu cart to carry our equipment and food supply so we had to find porters. It was a bit difficult to find porters because not only our stuff was heavy but also the distance between the village and the forest is far, about 2 hours of walking. Therefore, the cost of the porters was a bit higher than the expected budget. The second field work coincided with the rainy season thus we were not able to go there by car. The team found an alternative way to reach the Anabohazo forest from the east part by taking a pirogue and then did a hike of 4 hours. We booked prior the field work a pirogue and asked for porters to avoid bad surprise. In general, we managed the transport and the budget.

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

1. Research:

Through our lemur field work, we submitted an article "Rapid Assessment of Lemur Species in Anabohazo Forest, Sahamalaza-Iles Radama National Park" at the Lemur News journal. Another short communication about snake predation is also in preparation. We discovered a new distribution of the Sambirano mouse lemur. We also found a place to build a research station in Anabohazo forest.

2. Capacity building:

Park Local Committees (PLCs) who are the park rangers paid by the park manager (Madagascar National Parks) gained knowledge through the training. PLC from the commune (Maromandia) and local tourist guides also asked training.

3. Education and outreach:

We are the first conducted education and outreach programme in the area, it was very successful and attracted many audiences. We distributed 30 handbooks to the teachers from 18 villages, 300 t-shirts and 50 posters. We also provided prizes to the school children during the quiz, and organised song and contest (related to the biodiversity) during the annual lemur festival held in the area and World Environmental Day. We also engaged youth students for the city cleanup and broadcasted information about the blue-eyed black lemur at the Radio Andrea in Antsohihy (one of nearest cities of the project site).

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

The success of the awareness rising events was a result of the involvement of local communities. We introduced our project to the local stakeholders including primary school teachers, president of local

environmental association, mayor, head of villages and head of ZAP (administration and educational zone). We provided jobs for them such as porters, guides during the field work. We conducted awareness rising during the environmental and school events such as annual lemur festival, world environmental day and school inauguration.

Because our project was the first conservation activity in the region, the local communities were very interested about our work. They received knowledge about the target species and the importance of the biodiversity of the park. The primary school teachers received the environmental education handbook that they use as subject during the class.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

We aimed to reach a long-term conservation of the blue-eyed black lemur and its forest habitat thus we plan to continue our work. A 1-year project is not enough at all to reach our goal. The blue-eyed black lemur is ecologically important as seed disperser thus it contributes to the forest regeneration. Protection of the blue-eyed black lemur means protection of the forest. Therefore, we will make sustainable our project.

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

We created a Facebook page, few months after the beginning of the project. We regularly posted information and uploaded pictures related to this project in our Facebook page. We submitted one paper about lemur at the Lemur News Journal. We did an interview at the Radio Andrea. We are planning to do a press release soon. A detailed technical report will be submitted to the RSG by the end of this month illustrated by pictures.

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

Start date: August 2013 / End date: July 2014 as originally planned.

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
Travel cost: hire vehicle; porters and pirogue	900	1500	-600	We had to hire vehicle to the village close to the study site, so we have to pay the round trip. In addition, the price of fuel increased twice during the project.
Food allowance (food during the field work and the education and outreach activities)	3000	2000	+1000	The majority of foods were bought in Antananarivo so that the cost is less than in the town close to the study site. In addition, the length of the field work was less than the planned at the proposal.
PLC Training	800	500	+300	This budget is less than written at the proposal because we did not pay the transport of the PLC and we did not hire a

				conference room for the training
Education and outreach (T-shirts, posters, banners, Radio broadcasting, prizes)	1300	2000	-700	We performed many activities to allow maximum involvement of local communities thus the budget was increased. In addition, we had to print more T-shirts and provided prizes for the school children during the environmental quiz and contest.
TOTAL	6000	6000	0	

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

The blue-eyed black lemur species is classified as a critically endangered species due to the ongoing threats mainly from human activities such as slash and burn agriculture and selective logging. Urgent actions are needed in order to save the species from extinction and to protect its forest habitat. Looking ahead, I feel the following actions are the most important:

- Implementation of alternative livelihoods project is needed in order to stop unsustainable exploitation of the forest and its natural resources.
- Establishment of a research station in Anabohazo forest will allow continuing research and controlling the anthropogenic activities within the Park.
- Education and outreach project should be continued and sustainable. The local communities need to learn taking responsibility for conserving and managing the natural resources in their vicinities.
- Capacity building of the local stakeholders and PLC will enable them taking responsibility over the conservation of the endemic lemur, its forest habitat and over wildlife.

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 used the RSGF logo in all materials produced in relation to this project including poster, t-shirt, environmental education handbook and banners. We also acknowledged the RSGF in our publication. We are preparing our website and we are planning to put our funders' logo in our website including the RSGF. Some of our colleagues asked us how we get funding from the RSGF and more information about the RSGF including the criteria and eligibility.

11. Any other comments?

The RSGF was the first proposal that I wrote for a non-academic long-term project on the blue-eyed black lemur species. It was a great experience. In addition, through this grant we were able to conduct the first education and outreach activity within the Sahamalaza-Iles Radama National Park.