

## The Rufford Small Grants Foundation Final Report

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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](mailto:jane@rufford.org).

Thank you for your help.

**Josh Cole, Grants Director**

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<b>Grant Recipient Details</b>	
<b>Your name</b>	Stephen Marcus Philip Spawls
<b>Project title</b>	Production of a free downloadable Atlas, at quarter-degree square level, of Kenya's reptiles.
<b>RSG reference</b>	14081-1
<b>Reporting period</b>	August 2013-August 2014
<b>Amount of grant</b>	£3820
<b>Your email address</b>	stevespawls@hotmail.com
<b>Date of this report</b>	30 <sup>th</sup> 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
Set up a website with species accounts of Kenyan reptiles			Yes,	Free downloads for all, <u>Rufford logo on every front page</u> . See it at <u>www.kenyareptileatlas.com</u>
Produce atlas (photos, maps, accounts) and put accounts for all 272 species of Kenyan reptile on atlas		yes		So far, 64 species uploaded to atlas, but includes all medically important species (i.e. vipers, elapids and burrowing snakes), also has all chameleons; and two complete illustrated checklists uploaded.
Visit Kenya and show museum herpetological team how to atlas and enthuse herpetologists there.		yes		Spent 3 days at museum showing Kenyan team how to atlas, and they are now checking accounts. Distributed maps, flash cards and atlasing packs; physically examined a number of crucial specimens, including many new acquisitions.
Heighten awareness about Kenya's reptiles and plug conservation aspects.		yes		This sort of thing is never complete but see my comments at right. All four Nairobi museum herpetologists now on board and enthusiastic about atlas. I gave a talk on the atlas to an audience of about 100 Kenyan scientists at the National Museum, at the 4th National Museums Biennial Science Conference. I also spoke to the East African Wildlife Society, and at the Kenya Wildlife Service. A stock of flyers (and some posters) about the atlas were left at Nature Kenya, Kenya Wildlife Service, the National Museum and the East African Wildlife Society office. (Electronic copies of flyers attached separately; all carry the Rufford logo prominently). I also spoke with Damaris Rotich (ex-director of the Nairobi snake park) and had a morning's meeting with Anthony Childs (ex-Bio-Ken snake expert, who is now assisting us with localities for the atlas from his own research). An article about the atlas has been published in the latest

				SWARA magazine (magazine of the East African Wildlife Society). As each instalment of the atlas is loaded up, we spread the news via three fora on Facebook (East African herpetofauna, reptiles of southern Africa, Kenya friends reunited; total over 10 000 members) and an increasing mailing list. The news spreads all the time.
Field Work: Lolldaiga Report and field trip; Rift Valley.		yes		The team were able to make a 3-day field trip to Lolldaiga Hills Conservation Landscape, northwest of Mt Kenya, aided by Dr Tom Butynski, resident zoologist. Ten species of lizard, nine species of amphibian and two species of snake were found; the lizard fauna included a new species of gecko that is presently being described. A report on the trip is being disseminated through Nature Kenya. A brief trip to the central rift valley to survey the distribution of the Kenya horned viper was less successful, but local residents positively identified the species from flash cards at a couple of new localities.
Work on collection, checking specimens, new records, old ID's		Yes		During atlas training, team were alerted as to the importance of checking all localities and identities.
Provide baseline data on Kenya's reptiles, for free, to all		Yes.		Gradually being achieved through the website.

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

What I was unprepared for was an initial low level of enthusiasm from some members of the museum herpetological team (I state this in confidence, as my work with them is ongoing). Herpetology is my hobby and passion. I know all the team, and their initial responses were enthusiastic. On arrival, I had asked them to set aside at least 3 days for some routine initial work. However, although I handed out some nice packs (maps, grids, prepared sheets, flash cards etc), initial attendance was very patchy, one herpetologist preferred to sit in his office, others missed half days, or wandered off during work. However, this was countered by the arrival of some of the snake park staff and some university students, who showed enthusiasm. But it took longer to ensure

everyone had the basic skills. However, enthusiasm is growing, and when I submit accounts for checking and upgrading now, they are thoroughly checked and turned around fairly quickly.

I was also somewhat startled to be asked to pay fairly hefty per diems to the team members, despite the fact that our field trips were at no cost to them (I provided vehicle, fuel, all food and drink and organised accommodation; at Lolldaiga Hills the management gave us free board). However, the head of the team, Dr Patrick Malonza, did point out that despite being a professional team of herpetologists, they were not well paid (compared to western scientists) and the per diems was a way of supplementing their income.

The team also didn't want to work on weekends, and hence did not accompany me on a brief survey of Rift Valley localities of the Kenya Horned Viper. They were also very slow when it came to writing anything; I have found it simpler to write the accounts myself and send them to the team for checking; but this they do expeditiously.

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

- (1) Showed team how to atlas.
- (2) Website set up and attracting interest, highly praised on Facebook.
- (3) As a result, naturalists in Kenya making use of the website, others contributing to NMK collection and many suggestions that we should do one for amphibians, reptiles of Uganda, Tanzania etc...

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

The Kenyan herpetologists are aware of the benefits, and we are all plugging the use of the website. The nice thing is, the website is continuously available and the news only spreads further. University students and school students are starting to make use of it, as are safari guides.

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

Yes, it's ongoing. Provided that the team of herpetologists at the museum continue to assist, we will eventually get the whole lot done. It would be nice to also do something for amphibians, and maybe neighbouring countries, especially if where almost nothing exists, for example South Sudan and Sudan.

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

Through the website, through Facebook and magazine, by word of mouth and in journal articles. At present I am trying to list e-mail address for Kenyan schools, to let them know about the atlas.

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

Actual field time in Kenya = 2 weeks. Since then, I do a few hours every week, as do the Kenya museum team.

**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
Return flight to Kenya	£ 900	£ 733	- £ 167	Cheap flight with KLM
Care hire in Kenya 14 days	£ 980	£ 970	- £ 10	Needed 4 x 4 for fieldwork
Food and drink	£ 800	£ 650	- £ 150	Ate locally
Nairobi Hotel	£ 560	£ 650	+ £ 100	Two days longer in hotel
Fuel	£ 300	£ 250	- £ 50	Didn't go so far
Publicity, consumables, posters, discs, paper, misc. etc.	£ 180	<b>£ 540</b>	+ £ 360	Museum team wanted per diems for each day in the field, so an extra £ 240, also posters cost £ 54, and 500 flyers cost £ 125. I also provided set of maps.
Medical, drugs (malaria prophylaxis), insurance	£ 100	£ 92	- £ 8	
<b>TOTAL</b>	£ 3820	<b>£ 3885</b>	= £ 65	

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

Complete the accounts (so far, about 25 % of all species on website). Some updating. Maybe think about something similar for amphibians, or neighbouring countries. Keep spreading the word, maybe though a newspaper advert.

**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?**

Yes, the Rufford logo is prominent on the front page of the website, on the first page of every file/account, on the flyers and on the posters (electronic examples attached); also prominently mentioned in the magazine article, and we will continue to ensure its prominence.

**11. Any other comments?**

What I like about this is that it never stops and it will be always available (provided we maintain the website); a free and expanding resource for all, and it costs nothing, or at most just the cost of paper if you print your downloads. It will heighten awareness, increase enthusiasm about the natural world, and downloads on the medically important snakes will save lives, we hope! I shall be talking about it at a forthcoming conference in Kenya on snakebite.