

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.

Thank you for your help.

Josh Cole, Grants Director

Grant Recipient Details	
Your name	Osemwegie Isimemen
Project title	An Assessment Of the Effects Of The Presence Of Mangrove Vegetation On Surface Water Quality. The case of the Ébrié lagoon, southern Côte d'Ivoire.
RSG reference	14352-1
Reporting period	Final report
Amount of grant	£5940
Your email address	isiosemwegie@yahoo.com
Date of this report	30 December, 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
Mangrove habitat assessment			X	Two research sites were chosen for comparison; a natural forest in the village of Elokato and a degraded mangrove forest stands in Anan village.
Mangrove vegetation structure (population structure, basal area, and leaf area index and carbon storage potential).		X		Data are presently being analysed.
Soil/water quality determination		X		Surface water and adjoining freshwater bodies were analysed. However, soil samples could not be collected and analysed due to high tides. Instead rock samples were analysed to determine the contributions of the surrounding geology to the lagoon water quality.
Social survey		X		Social survey using questionnaires was carried out on a total of 100 households in the two rural communities - Anan and Elokato. Data are being collated and analysed
Dissemination of results		X		Presentation of results to the local environment committee of Anan village is planned for January 2015.

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

The original sampling schedule was modified because the preliminary social survey data revealed that a high percentage of the respondents believed the incidences of change in water quality and others like the sudden mass death of fishes in the concerned bodies of water and vegetation were due to natural causes such as seasonal changes in the salinity and temperature of the lagoon waters. This made it necessary to carry out second sets of sampling and analyses of the lagoon water quality during the wet season in addition to the one done for dry season.

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

- Baseline data on the monoecious mangrove vegetation structure in both rural communities.
- Sensibilisation of the rural populace on the importance of the mangrove vegetation to the immediate environment, water quality and therefore sustainability of their wellbeing and existence and as a result,

- Reforestation of some selected mangrove stands.

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

People from the local communities were part of the working team and benefitted from training on how to count, measure and replant mangroves.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes. Continued creation of awareness on the importance of the mangroves and publications.

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

Results will be shared during the planned interactive meeting in January 2015 with local chiefs, including their cabinets and the environment protection committee of the villages concerned. In addition, a scientific article will be published in a scientific journal, where the results of the analyses will be put at the disposition of the scientific community, organs of government and international development agencies.

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 project was initially planned for 1 month (April - dry period). However, it spanned a period of 1 year as the following wet season (September) for reasons mentioned above, had to be included in the work. Also included subsequently is the time to prepare for the January 2015 interactive meeting with the village chiefs and local environment committee.

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
Field materials (Lux meter, multi-parameter water tester, refractometer, leaf area meter, soil sieve test, soil corer, soil pH meter) and laboratory analyses.	2360	2205	+ 155	The soil corer and soil sieve test kits were no longer required. However, costs were incurred for second sets of laboratory analyses.
Transportation (car hire, fuel and driver)	960	1140	- 180	Increased transportation cost due to increase in fuel prices and longer field work period.
Feeding and accommodation for field personnel.	918	1048	-130	Difference due to extra 5 days of field work.
Man-hour for field personnel (4)	1293	1610	-317	A total of 35 days of field work.

Questionnaires, photocopy, communications	245	195	+ 50	Printing of t-shirts with the Rufford Foundation Logo and entertainment during meetings with the chiefs and local environment protection committee.
Contingency	164	164	0	Extra man-hour and transportation cost.
Total	5940	6362	-422	The deficit of 422 Pounds Sterling was financed from other project funds.

* The local exchange rate is 1 pound sterling = 769 XOF (FCFA)

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

The important next steps are to prepare and publish the resulting data. It is recommended that concrete steps be taken to sensitise the affected population of these two villages and others hosting these mangrove vegetation. Efforts should be made to provide alternative sources of energy to fuelwood for cooking.

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, the questionnaires had the Rufford Foundation Logo and at the planned meeting in January 2015, t-shirts with the logo will be distributed to all members of the organising and local environment protection committee.

11. Any other comments?

I want to express my sincere gratitude to the Rufford Foundation for their financial support in the successful completion of this project.