

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	Georges NOBIME
Project title	Combining Ecological Research and Local Community Involvement to Achieve Long-term Conservation of the endemic red-bellied monkey (<i>Cercopithecus e. erythrogaster</i>) in Dahomey Gap
RSG reference	15808-1
Reporting period	29-10-2015
Amount of grant	£5000
Your email address	gnobime@gmail.com, gnobime@yahoo.fr
Date of this report	29-10-2015

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
To involve the local population in update the ecological monitoring research on the red-bellied monkey at the Lama classified forest.			x	An intensive field training programme was provided on primate population census methods for 3 days and practice in the forest for 2 days. The participants were from different villages and different backgrounds including local youngsters, forest staffs, village leaders and some district officials for a total of 34 participants.
To provide continuity to the first long term project on the study of the behavioural ecology and population structure of red-bellied monkey		x		Primate monitoring activity is implemented to keep longer on the field. As long as local communities are trained on various technique of monitoring a volunteered local villages together with the staffs from BCB-NGO are willing to continue these activities. However data collected together with the local population is being analysed for publication.
To build capacity of local communities to support conservation actions, goodwill, awareness programmes and long term conservation in Benin.			x	Several awareness programmes were done among local communities in the Lama forest. Environmental damage to enhance conservation of the endemic red-bellied monkey in the project area. Our educational strategy involved developing formal and informal programs that helped to: (1) increase awareness to the plight of the endemic red-bellied monkey and the biodiversity of the targeted region; (2) address farming practices to minimise impact to the remaining forest habitat of the endemic red-bellied monkey; (3) develop teacher training programmes to increase scientific literacy in the schools; (4) address pet trade issues for rural, urban, and enforcement authorities; and (5) suggested possible partnership with

				educational entities to integrate this information into existing school curriculum and established programming.
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2. Please explain any unforeseen difficulties that arose during the project and how these were tackled (if relevant).

During the wet season several areas in the Lama forest are flooded with difficult access. This delayed our effort to cover the same area during both dry and wet season to make comparison of behavioural ecology and population structure of red-bellied monkey at seasonal scale. However other adjacent zones were covered to make this objective feasible somehow.

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

- a. The baseline data, current status in the field such as distribution, threat status, interactions with humans, resources shared with humans, and the community's general perception of red-bellied monkey and conservation was gathered and short communication about our project have been given to the Lama forest management stakeholders.
- b. The capacity building of Lama Forest local committees; forest rangers gained knowledge through the training.
- c. We created through educational awareness about the value of the Lama Classified Forest and the need to conserve it and its wildlife. Three local schools in the Lama some lama primate guide handbooks of the Lama Forest primates to the teachers from villages, 200 t-shirts.

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

Local people were directly involved in this project implementation during the field work because the one who have received the training were volunteered to assist in the ecological data collection. The involvement of the local population was important during the awareness session and prior to the starting of the project small meeting was conducted among the local stakeholders to introduce the project and have the agreement of everybody. We provided jobs for some villagers who help as guide during the questionnaire survey.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Our study is a snapshot in time and given the extensive result on the behavioural ecology of the red-bellied monkey. A 1-year project is not enough at all to reach our goal. The red-bellied monkey is ecologically important as seed disperser thus it contributes to the forest regeneration. Protection of the red-bellied monkey means protection of the forest.

Therefore, we will make sustainable our project. As far as awareness is concerned, it is necessary to develop some tools for long term awareness and to share them which NGOs, public administration, etc. We plan also to elaborate brochures on which we will highlight the species which are threatened and their legal status in order to sensitise villagers and other stakeholders on the negative impact of their activities to the forest.

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

The sharing of results will be through:

- (i) Present outcomes of the work at the National Seminar on the Protected areas.
- (ii) Next year my country will host an international symposium on primate's conservation and I am also planning to attend this meeting to present the findings of this research.
- (iii) As lecturer at the University of Abomey-Calavi I am already using some outputs of this project at teaching sessions (my students).
- (iv) Publishing and/or documenting the 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?

The grant was used over a period of 14 months instead of the anticipated 11 months, mainly due to coordinator's change of work station in December 2014. However, the extension was mainly for the planning for the workshop restitution which also depended on the time schedule of some forestry office personalities. It is also important to consider the political atmosphere in Benin which was not in the favour of the work. One election was done in Benin during the project implementation period and it was not possible to go ahead in the project during that period. More time in the field usually implies more and better data and therefore more accurate monitoring, managing and conservation measures.

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 data collection	420	420	0	
Digital camera: Olympus	130	130	0	This is purchased and will be make available in my home institution for other researcher on the request
Office furniture (CD, paper, flash disk...)	200	200	0	Mainly use to prepare the questionnaire sheets
Scientific literature	300	300	0	This was used to buy some African primates field guide

				and papers need for the manuscript in preparation
Communication: phone, internet, fax...	300	200	+100	
Transportation cost to research sites	750	850	-100	The transportation cost more than the amount budgeted with the difficulty to meet the local authorities on the field for discussion. However some amount on the communication budget line was used to fill this gap.
Research assistance and local worker	1000	1000	0	The project required a local field assistant who helped in field surveys, contacting voluntary groups and keeping touch with the leader on regular basis.
Workshops organisation	750			This was essentially training workshop for local communities and forest rangers.
Awareness materiel (poster, technical papers...)	350	350	0	Poster was distributed to all stakeholder to sensitise them on red-bellied monkey conservation.
Publication fees	200	0	+200	The manuscript is in preparation for submission to International Journal for Biochemistry and Conservation. This amount is not used.
Public awareness through media (local radio channels)	600	600	0	Three awareness sessions were given on the local radio channels and each cost £200.
Total	5000	4800	200	Only publication fees is remaining

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

The red-bellied monkey is present in several forest patches in southern Benin and it important to develop some tools for long term awareness and to share them which NGOs, public administration in the whole existing areas of the primate species. I believe that with more support the villages will improve in their ability to adapt the action plans, keep records, and share their experiences with other villages.

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?

I had used the RSGF logo in the meetings and workshop. Also the logo was put on the first page of the field guide of Lama Forest primate species produced by this project.

11. Any other comments?

I am really very grateful to Jane and Josh Cole for their management and thank Rufford Foundation.