

## 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](mailto:jane@rufford.org).

Thank you for your help.

**Josh Cole, Grants Director**

---

Grant Recipient Details	
<b>Your name</b>	Tiwonge I Mzumara-Gawa
<b>Project title</b>	Status, distribution and conservation of the Baobab tree in Liwonde National Park: Implications for Brown and Grey headed Parrots.
<b>RSG reference</b>	15962-1
<b>Reporting period</b>	Final
<b>Amount of grant</b>	£5000
<b>Your email address</b>	birdsmalawi@gmail.com
<b>Date of this report</b>	17 July 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
<p>1. Map showing the distribution of baobab trees in the park. The maps will also highlight trees being used as roost by parrots and the different levels of elephant damage currently present on the trees. This will be given to park management for action</p>			Yes	<p>Map currently being finalised and will be printed for park management.</p>
<p>2. A quantified understanding of the impact that elephants have on the baobab trees and an understanding of the possible impacts on cavity users in the park.</p>			Yes	<p>We currently have the estimate of number of baobabs and the percentage of trees with different levels of damage both inside and outside the park. We also have a list of species that were recorded to use the baobab cavities</p>
<p>3. A measurable response as to whether the suggestion of protecting some of the baobabs in the park with a stone boundary is a workable management recommendation and should be up-scaled or not.</p>	Yes			<p>During the phase of this project the park was taken over by African Parks for management. They are moving 300 elephants out of the park thus they believe this will relieve the pressure on baobabs. They felt there was no need to try the stone boundaries at this time</p>
<p>4. An understanding of whether the baobab Tree resource is readily available outside the park and can be used by Parrots</p>			Yes	<p>Baobabs within a 5 km radius of the park boundary have also been mapped</p>

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

The floods that occurred in Malawi Jan – April 2015 made it impossible for us to get into the park to look for parrot nests. By the time the park was accessible the breeding season was complete. Therefore the number of used cavities recorded and likely less than the reality.

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

- The map of all the baobabs recorded in this project is very informative. It was very clear that many of the highly damaged baobabs are the ones that are close to the main river. Also most nests recorded were away from this main river.
- Through this project we have also learnt that not only big baobabs are eaten by elephants even small and newly growing trees are take, stunting them at a small height.
- Interaction with the communities showed that they are aware of the existence of the parrots. Mainly recalling them as the birds that come to eat Mangoes. This is a good starting point for conservation talks.

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

Sadly we were not able to involve the local communities as much as we had planned. We distributed folders with information on the parrots. However we were not able to actively work with them in looking for nests due to the floods.

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

Yes. I would particularly like to look at two areas

1. Community interaction – I would like to work more with primary and secondary school pupils to identify foraging and breeding areas of the parrots outside the park
2. After the 300 elephants have been moved I would like to go back and see the if indeed there will be some relief on the baobabs

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

The map of baobab trees will be given to the park and the department of wildlife. I hope to present this work at an appropriate conference and hopefully publish a short paper in the future.

**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 for just over 18 months. This is longer than was anticipated. However the failure to do work due to floods was the main reason for delay

**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
Stationery	20	50	30	Extra materials for the added work in 2015
Armed Scouts	2534	2500	34	
Fuel	453	640		Part of the tractor money was added here
Accommodation & meals	1612	1800		Part of the tractor money was added here
Tractor	377	0		There was no need to do the rock protection as the park is moving 300 elephants out of the park.
<b>Total</b>	4996	4990		

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

Firstly I would like to attempt again looking for more nests in the coming breeding season. Then I would like to look for any new baobab damage 6 months after all the 300 elephants have been moved. Lastly I would like to work with the wildlife clubs in the schools surrounding the park to assist in monitoring parrots in their areas. Hopefully launch a 'Liwonde Parrot Count' Day.

**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 we used it on the small brief on parrots that was given to the schools visited. This is all the publicity that was done.

**11. Any other comments?**

This project has been very exciting and informative. Despite the setbacks with floods and the like we have learned so much about the issue with baobabs in the park. It came at the right time as the park is now under new management that will actually do what was thought to be an impossible mission... they will move 300 elephants from the park which is such a positive move for all cavity nesting species.