

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	Fifanou VODOUHE
Project title	Promoting Value Chains for Non-Timber Forest Products to support Biodiversity Conservation in Benin (West Africa)
RSG reference	15989-2
Reporting period	November 2014 to November 2015 (12 months)
Amount of grant	£4990
Your email address	vodouhefifanou@yahoo.fr ; vodouhefifanou@gmail.com
Date of this report	May 10, 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
I- NTFPs contribution to local people livelihood		✓		Twelve months was too short for us to assess all NTFPs contribution to local people livelihood. We redefined this objective and analysed the three most important NTFPs economic flows.
I-Value Chain Analysis			✓	Value Chain Analysis has been performed on the three most important NTFPs marketed in study area.
III- Policy intervention			✓	Some recommendations were addressed to policy makers and a policy brief is currently writing.

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

Our main difficulties during the project implementation were time and budget limit. In the project original objectives, we expected to assess all NTFPs Value Chain but finally we focused on the three most important of them.

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

- In the study area, NTFPs are commercialised through four major marketing channels.
- The large part of products (seeds) collected (80%) were sold without any transformation.
- NTFPs marketing channel is poorly organized and harvesters and primary collectors do not have information about marketing system especially the market price.

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

Local communities were involved at each stage of the project. For data collection people from local villages were involved as field guides to translate project objectives and questionnaires into local languages. The study also helped local communities to expose their marketing difficulties which reached the authorities in charge of this sector through study recommendations. We hope that these recommendations will be used by responsible in charge of natural resources management to improve NTFPs marketing system.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes, we hope to extend study objectives to other NTFPs in view to map all NTFPs marketing channels in study area. The upcoming stage will be medicinal plants marketed by local communities.

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

We are writing a policy brief to share project results with decision makers and responsible in charge of natural resources management. We also planned to produce some posters which will be given to park responsible to improve their sensitisation on biodiversity conservation. We are also writing a paper to share the results with scientific communities. This manuscript will be submitted soon to the Journal of Forest Policy and Economy

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 activities took more time than was expected. During data collection, we were obliged to wait each species production period to carry out field activities. This and explains in part our delay in report submission. Moreover 12 months was too short for us to assess all NTFPs contribution to local people livelihood as expected in former proposal.

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
1. Local transportation	£ 1,500	£ 1,500	0	No
2. Field assistants	£ 1,900	£ 2050	−£ 150	We have an cost overrun due to the local guides involvement
Laptop with windows 8	£ 650	£ 525	+125	The laptop was less expensive than expected
Printer	£ 50	£ 45	0	No
Supplies: ink cartridges, paper, etc.	£ 120	£ 125	0	No
Digital recorders	£ 180	£ 155	+£25	The digital recorders were less expensive than expected
Local communication	£ 90	£ 90	0	No
Report and workshop organisation	£ 500	£ 500	0	No
Total	£ 4,990	£ 4990	0	No

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

For next steps, I hope that it will be interesting to extend researches on other species to map all NTFPs value chain. Personally, my upcoming activities will be on medicinal plants marketed by local communities.

**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?**

We used the Rufford Foundation logo on project activities presentation and will use it on policy brief and posters presentation to share project results during local, regional and international conferences.

