

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	ACHE NEH ACHA
Project title	Ethnomycology and conservation status of macro-fungi in the kilum-Ijim Forest Reserve Cameroon.
RSG reference	16409-1
Reporting period	November 2014-October 2015
Amount of grant	£4880
Your email address	arch237@yahoo.com
Date of this report	November 12 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 make an assessment of the threats and conservation status of macro-fungi		X		80% achieved. Most of the information was gathered from community members on threat and conservation status of macro-fungi. Information on assessment based on IUCN criteria is very limited. However report from International Society For Fungal Conservation (ISFC) says the process for coming out with Red Data List for Fungi is ongoing.
To assess the socio-economic importance of macro-fungi through ethno-mycological studies.			X	100% achieved. Information was gathered through semi-structured questionnaires and focus group discussions. Community members had wide knowledge on the use of macro-fungi as food, but very limited knowledge on their role in ecosystems and medicine. Sales of edible macro-fungi also serve as a source of income to most households. Data from this study is currently being analysed for publication.
To raise awareness on macro-fungi conservation			X	100% achieved. Awareness on macro-fungi conservation was raised through educational talks with students and community members. Community sensitisation was done through banners and t-shirt distribution to students and community members with macro-fungi conservation slogans.

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

S/N	Problem encountered	Solution
1	We had a car accident during our reconnaissance survey of the study site due to brakes failure. Six team members were involved.	We encountered minor injuries and received first aid treatment from the nearest district hospital. The vehicle was seriously damaged. Vehicle repair was facilitated with fund from contingency allowance and deduction of allowances to research assistants.
2	We encountered some difficulties	They were however enlightened on the

	interviewing and discussing with some of the community members.	benefit of the study by their village heads and also encouraged by the motivation we offered to them.
3	Most project sites were inaccessible by cars and some of the roads were very bad especially during the rainy season. This led to an increase in the transportation cost. Most of the journey to the forest reserve was done by motor bikes or trekking which resulted to fallings with mild injuries.	Road maintenance on some parts within the forest reserve is presently being carried out by the government. We always carried basic first aid requirements when going for field survey.
4	One of our team members (Mr Morris) died just after we effectively started the project.	May his soul rest in perfect peace.
6	Some images and information got lost from the camera and GPS as a result of water damage caused by rains during survey.	We repaired the equipment and were able to use them again though we lost some pictures.

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

- 1) Conservation education campaigns raised awareness to the students and community members on the need to conserve the macro-fungi not only for food and medicine but also for the health of ecosystems. Community members expressed satisfaction on the information gained and high interest to conserve the macro-fungi.
- 2) Information from ethno-mycological studies revealed that the macro-fungi population is currently being threatened by climate change, deforestation and anthropogenic activities resulting in serious threats to species existence.
- 3) Data from ethno-mycological survey is currently being analysed for journal publication.

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

The active participation of community members, and students during educational talks, focus group discussions and awareness raising campaigns indicated their high interest towards conserving the macro-fungi. Some local community members were part of the project team and they showed active participation throughout all the stages of the project. Responses during focus group discussions and semi structured questionnaires indicated that community members around the Kilum-Ijim Forest Reserve (KIFR) have very good knowledge on the role of macro-fungi as food but very limited knowledge on their role as medicine and in ecosystem health. Therefore through the project, community knowledge on macro-fungi as key players in ecosystem health has been greatly improved.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

The team plans to continue the project. Though the local communities around the KIFR are now aware of the importance and need to conserve the macro-fungi, it is important to carry out a diversity survey to produce a checklist of the macro-fungi in this region. From this study, red data species can be conserved. Additionally with the ongoing climate change, deforestation and increased anthropogenic activities in and around this forest reserve, there is bound to be loss of some of these macro-fungi species if conservation strategies are not reinforced. Therefore, it is important to also continue conservation educational programmes.

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

- 1) Journal publication.
- 2) Seminar presentations.
- 3) Awareness programmes within local communities.

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 12 months as anticipated. However data analysis is still ongoing on ethno-mycological study. The project fund was disbursed on November 19th 2014 and the project started effectively on December 1st 2014.

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.

Local exchange rate used: 1 GBP = 821.86 CFA Francs (November 2014)

Item	Budgeted Amount	Actual Amount	Difference	Comments
Training of project members	250	250	0	
Contact meetings with village heads, local councils and school authorities.	200	200	0	
Field assistance for ethno-mycological and conservation education campaigns.	1640	1460	+180	Funds were reduced to meet up car maintenance.
Lodging, transportation to field and conservation campaigns.	800	973.2	-173.2	Bad state of roads increased transportation cost. Funds were provided from stationaries and media coverage.
Conservation education.	700	700		
Stationaries, brochures and teaching aids.	238	153	+85	
Communication	550	501	+49	

Vehicle maintenance after accident.		576.8	-576.8	Funds were provided from deductions from field assistance and contingency allowance.
Contingency allowance	437.8			
TOTAL	4815.80	4814	+1.8	

N.B. Funds approved: 4880, Funds received after bank charges deduction: 4815.8

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

- To carry out diversity study of the macro-fungi in the kilum-Ijim forest reserve so as produce an inventory of macro-fungi in this forest. This will enhance conservation of threatened species.
- To continue conservation educational campaigns.

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 RSGF logo was used during seminar presentations at the University of Buea Cameroon and BecA IIRI-Hub Nairobi-Kenya.
- The RSGF logo was used during conservation education with the local communities.
- The RSGF logo was also used on t-shirts and banners produced during macro-fungi conservation campaigns.
- The RSGF will also be acknowledged in the publication article being prepared.

11. Any other comments?

The team and village community members are very appreciative to the RSGF for the capacity building acquired during the course of this project. The experience was very good, though faced with a lot of challenges. The team is however very happy that we met our objectives despite the challenges. We are enthusiastic to continue the second phase of the work if the second grant is awarded. Attached are some pictures of the project.