

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	Prince K. Kaleme
Project title	Bat Conservation in the Mount Hoyo Forest Reserve, eastern Democratic Republic of Congo
RSG reference	17332-B
Reporting period	May 2016
Amount of grant	£9600
Your email address	pkaleme@gmail.com
Date of this report	02 June 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
Supplement the species list by adding new records to the previous ones				
The monitoring of roosts and the numbers recorded from each roost will inform on the effects of sensitisation about the need for bat conservation.			✓	Rangers and students from local universities were trained in bat capture and identification. The rangers will monitor the roosts to inform on potential periods of migrations during the year. Two honour students produced reports of their projects in the reserve and will continue to work closely with the rangers under our supervision.
The implication of local populations in bat conservation and reduction of threat on bat species (mostly those used as food).		✓		<p>More discussions with local stakeholders on the importance of bats in the long-term conservation of the forest, the plants pollination (mostly the crops) or the importance of bats in reducing the pest insects.</p> <p>An important meeting took place in February 2016 where the representative of the local administration officers was implicated and important decisions communicated to local chiefs, that of asking peoples to reduce bat hunting in the caves.</p> <p>However, the fact that bats constitute the main local</p>

				traditional menu, it is a challenge to try to convince them to change this habits.
Sensitisation in schools for conservation by training teachers and principals			✓	A 2-day meeting took place with teachers and principals. Additionally, a poster was drawn and distributed in schools around the reserve and other schools of the eastern DR Congo.
Measure of the threats by increase or decrease of the number of peoples hunting in caves		✓		According to the reserve management, after meetings with stakeholders and schools, there seem to be a decrease in peoples hunting bats.

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

Security has become a challenge for the area, not the sampling site but the way to access it as too much killing is happening on the way. Rebel groups operating in these areas have increased the extent of trouble that accessibility to the site is now difficult. But, if the team is there, working is not a problem. That is why, monitoring the security conditions was very important.

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

1. A list of species for bats and other mammals is provided as well as the seasonal changes in species composition.
2. Local chiefs are now aware of the importance bats as well as the forest for their wellbeing. Meetings with this category have proven very important for the conservation of the reserve.
3. Science teachers and principals have understood the importance of the training their career and how to use the knowledge in their teaching.

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

1. The local community has benefited from the workshop in raising awareness as their representatives could learn on the harm that can be caused by bats (that they use as a traditional meal).
2. They learned on the importance of bats for agriculture as the bats reduce crop pests in fields and also for plants pollination.
3. Schools have obtained posters of the bats of the region.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

For the future, our plans are:

1. Continue the work on species composition change across the seasons.
2. Continue to record the species occurring in the reserve as well as training rangers on species identification.
3. Add new students from Shalom University to work on bats that can continue to work with rangers on monitoring the bat populations.

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

1. A report to be sent to ICCN is now ready for this project.
2. Provide the species lists to ICCN as well as the scientific community.
3. Analyses are being carried out for a paper in a peer reviewed journal.

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 Rufford grant was used from July 2015 to June 2016. But it should be used from May 2015 to April 2016.

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
Ration	2500	2550	-50	There were more activities than expected to cover more sites by rangers

Field equipment	800	800	0	-
Transport to and from the field	2500	2400	100	This supplemented to stakeholders meeting and the ration.
Meetings with stakeholders	1800	1950	-50	To the chiefs, ICCN suggested some other environment officers attend to benefit from the meeting
Student's transport	1000	1000	0	-
Meeting with school representatives	500	550	-50	Supplemented by local funds from institution (CRSN).
Posters printing and distribution	500	530	-30	
Total	9600	9780	-80	

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

From this step, we have worked with chiefs and schools through meetings and poster that are to be distributed at the schools opening in September 2016. Some will also be given to the Environment offices in the three provinces (North Kivu, South Kivu and Ituri) at the vicinity of some parks and reserves. After the (up-do-date) species list that has been sent to the Scientific direction of ICCN (even if it still needs to be complete), our goal is to finalise the management plan for the reserve and have it discussed in an ICCN meeting.

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?

Rufford logo was used in a conference at Madagascar where results of past steps and part of this project were presented. It is also present in the poster that was made to be distributed in schools near the reserve as well as in both North and South Kivu provinces (included in this report).

11. Any other comments?

Globally, all went well. Some activities consumed less than budgeted and other took more. But some of the activities were compensated by the less consumed ones while other were just covered by the institution (CRSN).

There is much to do at Mt Hoyo and ICCN is delighted as there is no other organisation interested in research in the reserve. The data generated are helping the authorities to prepare the management plan that we are working together to make the draft. This can be discussed further in a larger audience before being approved.

More efforts are needed to collect additional data and work with stakeholders in order to improve the conservation activities in the reserve.

