

The Rufford Foundation

Final Report

Congratulations on the completion of your project that was supported by The Rufford Small Grants Foundation.

We ask all grant recipients to complete a Final Report Form that helps us to gauge the success of our grant giving. 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. 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	Kouakou Hilaire Bohoussou
Project title	Conservation of the Endangered Nimba Otter Shrew (<i>Micropotamogale lamottei</i>) in Mount Nimba Strict Nature Reserve (MNSN), West Côte d'Ivoire
RSG reference	18148 - 1
Reporting period	2015 - 2016
Amount of grant	£5000
Your email address	kbohousouhil@yahoo.fr
Date of this report	November 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
Conservation education and awareness campaign			x	<p>Our conservation education and awareness has been carried out in 10 fringe communities of the project areas. This activity was a great success with the participation of village chiefs, young people, women and children. During this activity the nation and IUCN statutes of the Nimba otter shrew were well explained to local populations. Populations through their chief decided to join our project and take part in the conservation of the Nimba otter shrew. So, they decided not to kill and eat again the Nimba otter shrew. We successfully trained 50 conservation committees to help protect Nimba otter shrew. Conservation education was in the form of focus group discussions, doorstep campaigns and picture presentations.</p>
Radio Discussion Programme			x	<p>The radio programme named "BEAMON" (Nimba otter shrew in a local dialect, "Yacouba") going on every Wednesday at 10 am and Sunday at 3 pm. Programmes have allowed us to make a wide diffusion of the Nimba otter shrew conservation message in Tonkpi district. Callers into the radio programme from several villages have confirmed the presence of the Nimba otter shrew in their locality and wished the extension of</p>

				the project to their village.
Design and Erect Billboards			x	One billboard has been erected in each of the 10 villages selected for this project. The conservation messages on the billboard are « Je ne tue plus et ne mange plus le micropotamogale ou « Beamon ». Je m'engage à participer à sa conservation » or I don't kill and don't eat any more the Nimba otter shrew. I promise to involve into its conservation.
Habitat restoration		x		With the involvement of the conservation committee members, young people and the project team, we planted 2000 tree seedlings in 7 ha degraded habitats of the Endangered Nimba Otter shrew. Seven (07) native tree species were used for this restoration: <i>Entandrophragma</i> spp, <i>Parinari excelsa</i> , <i>Berlinia confusa</i> , <i>Cynometra ananta</i> , <i>Piptadeniastrum africanum</i> , <i>Zanthoxylon gilletii</i> , <i>Schumanniphyton problematicum</i> .
Provide information on the Nimba Otter Shrew for National Conservation Action			x	During 12 months surveys in 20 forest relics, only three specimens of Nimba otter shrew (one female and two males) were recorded. The specimens were recorded in the reserve, Yealé and Danipleu forests.

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

Many of native tree seeds sown didn't germinate, therefore we didn't achieve our habitat restoration objections.

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

1) In all the villages, populations have actively participated into the awareness campaigns, especially village leaders and the youth chiefs who have effectively contributed to these campaigns. Due to the work of the conservation committee members, the illegal activities in the reserve have significantly reduced during the project period.

2) Seven hectares of the suitable habitat of the Endangered Nimba otter shrew were planted with 2000 trees; this will ensure the long term persistence of this species.

3) After intensive field surveys, we recorded three individuals of Nimba otter shrew, one in the reserve and two in local forestlands. We are happy to know that Nimba otter shrew still lives in the local forestlands which are more degraded. This study has allowed us to learn more about the ecology of the Endangered Nimba otter shrew.

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

Local communities were involved in all the activities of the project. They were actively involved in awareness campaigns and habitat restoration. Four of the conservation committee members received training in collecting data on the target species and help us during field studies.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes. We plan to continue this project.

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

We have already presented our results to local communities, reserve staffs, and at our laboratory meeting. We also plan to publish the first results in an international journal.

7. Timescale: Over what period was the RSG used? How does this compare to the anticipated or actual length of the project?

The RSG was used in a period of one year: from October 2015 to October 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
Community education and awareness campaigns:	525	725	200	Awareness campaign has taken more months than expected
Capacity building of conservation committee	200	200	0	
Workshops with the stakeholders:	345	345	0	
Design and erection of 10 billboards	290	300	10	billboard cost was just a little higher
Radio discussion program	350	400	50	Due to the success of the radio program, it has taken more weeks.
Habitat restoration	675	675	0	
Sherman live traps	800	850	50	£ 50 for customs duty
Bow-nets	250	250	0	
Genetic analysis	770	370	-400	We haven't get enough data for DNA analysis
Foods for team members and per diems for field assistants	270	270	0	
Renting car and communication	525	625	100	100 were used for fuel
TOTAL	5000	5010	10	

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

For next steps of this project we plan to:

- Extend the awareness campaigns to others villages in the Endangered Nimba otter shrew range.



- Provide an alternative livelihood to local communities.
- Plant 5000 more trees on local people lands.
- Teach basic knowledge on species conservation to school children to help them to be good ambassadors for the conservation of the Endangered Nimba otter shrew in particular and whole ecosystem in general.

**10. Did you use the RSGF 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 on the billboards and on all document used during the awareness campaigns.

11. Any other comments?

We are very grateful to the RSGF for funding and support the conservation of the Endangered Nimba otter shrew in Côte d'Ivoire. We thank all populations from Yealé, Danipleu, Gbèta, Bontro, Dropleu II, Gbapleu, Gbanhouyé, Dankouompleu, Gbantapleu, and Guianhouye for their involvement in the project activities.