

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	Mbunya Francis Nkemnyi
Project title	Building local leadership on policy oriented research in the Cross River gorilla Landscape in Cameroon
RSG reference	18490-B
Reporting period	2016/2017
Amount of grant	£10000
Your email address	francis.mbunya@rcesdcam.org/nmbunyaf@gmail.com
Date of this report	01/05/2017

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 improve local expertise in the fight against poaching in the Tofala Hill Wildlife Complex and the Takamada National Park				
To ensure the availability of information to sustain effective wildlife policy implementation in the project area and beyond				
To contribute to scientific knowledge and local researchers visibility through collaborative peer-reviewed publications				A peer-reviewed publication has been developed and is under publication consideration in American Journal of Environmental Protection.

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

The project implementation was disturbed for about 3 months due to political unrest that arose in November 2016 in the western part of Cameroon. However, the tension has subsided and we were able to resume the project implementation in March 2017. Due to this, we were unable to meet up with the normal project report time line.

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

- Four recent graduates received training on project design and implementation in conservation science and are now recruited as volunteers to continue with the development of their skills with the Resource Centre for Environment and Sustainable Development (RCESD).
- Results of the field survey were presented in a workshop organised for drafting actions for mitigating threats to the Cross River gorilla conservation and actions for further consideration discussed by conservation practitioners and policy makers.

- Due to the professional training gained during the project, the trainees were retained as volunteers at the collaborating institution (Resource Centre for Environment and Sustainable Development – RCESD).

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

During the data collection phase, a participatory enquiry approach was adopted. This approach enables community members not to only respond to questions posed by the investigator but also to contribute to the solutions in solving the identified challenges. Through this approach, the local people together with the project implementation team were able to deliberate on the integrated community-led model for sustainable implementation and management of the Cross River gorilla conservation project.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

The project team in collaboration with the local community in the Takamanda National Park area are working to develop an integrated community-led model for conservation. This model suggests that the sustainability of gorilla conservation lies on how well conservation actions are integrated in the local development agenda of the local people and that building local leadership in conservation stands a chance to reduce project implementation costs and improve sustainability at the same time.

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

Firstly, we have been able to revisit the local communities that were involved in the project to share the main findings with them and to receive feedback based on the results of the project. This has motivated local interest on the subsequent phases of the project. The results have also been presented at a local workshop aimed at promoting the conservation of the Cross River gorilla. The results will also be shared through peer-reviewed publications prepared for the results. We are planning to promote some of the trainees to present the results in conferences and workshops that will be identified subsequently. Through the quarterly newsletter or the RCESD, the results will also reach a wider audience (locally and internationally).

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 over a period of 15 months compared to the forecasted 10-month period. This prolongation was due to political unrest in the project area that halted the project for more than 3 months. However, the project was still executed in line with the objectives that were highlighted in the 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
Planning meeting with stakeholders	114	98	+16	Differences in anticipated prices
Publicity to enable the recruit of 4 research assistant	114	108	+6	Differences in anticipated prices
Coffee and launch for 6 persons for 80 days of desk training and data analyses phase	2454	2475	-21	Differences in anticipated prices
Feeding for 6 persons for 60 days of field work	2045	2058	-13	Differences in anticipated prices
Transportation for 6 person for 4 months of desk training and data analyses phase	1364	1384	-20	Differences in anticipated prices
Transportation for 6 person during 60 days of field work	955	1102	-147	More trips than anticipated during field work
Production of 1040 copies of research protocol	117	120	-3	Differences in anticipated prices
2 field guides cost for 2 months	682	678	+4	Differences in anticipated prices
Accommodation for 6pers during 60 days of field work	1227	1298	-71	More days than anticipated during field work
First aid supply for 6 persons during 60 days of field work	341	338	-3	
Field supplies for 6 persons for 60 days	341	392	-51	More days that anticipated during field work
Total	9754	10048	-303	

Note: £1=880XAF

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

The next important steps will be to actively engage the community members as primary beneficiary of the capacity building programme. The project team in collaboration with the local community in the Takamanda National Park area are working to develop an integrated community-led model for conservation. This model suggest that the sustainability of gorilla conservation lies on how well conservation actions are integrated in the local development agenda of the local people and that building local leadership in conservation stand a chance to reduce project implementation cost and improve sustainability at the same time. Thus, the four primary beneficiaries of this project will work with local community member to build their capacity on conservation leadership and implementation.

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 featured in our all reports and public presentation to local stakeholders.

11. Any other comments?

The project produced significant impact in the career of the trainees as indicated by their individuals and project evaluation report. The participatory nature of the project also enable the local community member to participate in the planning of the next phase of the project.