

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	Timothy Snow
Project title	Building a community of practice to address and minimise wildlife poisoning
RSG reference	18551-1
Reporting period	Final report for Small grant
Amount of grant	£ 5 000
Your email address	snowman@bundunet.com
Date of this report	17 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
<p>We intended to develop a training course to build a Community of Practice of rangers and enforcers to address the scourge of wildlife poisoning in South Africa and Limpopo National Park, Mozambique</p>				<p>We developed a training manual of about 105 pages of relevant content. By an agreement with a local school we were able to print 100 manuals ourselves (there were a few rejected because of binding or printing problems), and we collated and bound them in our office with our own staff and volunteers. Photographs of the manuals were submitted with an interim report. The course curriculum is attached with this report. We are grateful to Janet of Envirolearn & Teach for inputs to the androgogical/pedagogical content and for guidance on trainee and course evaluation processes. We had to reprint a revised manual (100 copies) commercially once we exceeded our target of 100 trainees for the year. We also started supplying post-mortem toxicology sampling kits which enable investigators to put their training into practice.</p>
<p>Train 30 rangers and enforcers</p>				<p>We wanted to train 30 rangers, but have trained 55 in our first outing and we trained 193 rangers and enforcers for the year. Nineteen of these were in Limpopo National Park at Massingir, and 36 were in Kruger National Park. We had some difficulty with Portuguese translation in Mozambique but will in future add an appendix which translates key biological terms.</p>

				In total, using this grant and other donor funding for this project we are very proud of our 2016 result.
Community involvement				We focussed full attention of the ranger corps, although our training in Massingir Village did get community attention, we failed to engage directly with the community. Our training supported local economies of various scales. Zimbabwe trainees have already made successful arrests.
Logistics				We commenced with some budget uncertainty, with loaded project management costs, and we are most grateful for donor lenience in this regard. Roads are variable, from highway to terrible (we had vehicle damage in Zimbabwe) and temperatures reached 44 degrees C. We were able to get the Mozambique course mostly indoors, but the air-conditioning failed dismally. We also engaged a local community caterer for lunches for delegates. Other course venue varied from halls to open sided lodge buildings, but all were great. We are grateful to BirdLife Botswana, Birdlife Zimbabwe, Peace Parks Foundation (Transfrontier Conservation Areas), SANParks, ANAC Mozambique and others

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

Because many poacher incursions happen over full moon periods we had to adjust course timing around the rangers. We trained at four different venues in Kruger Park and in Mozambique (Limpopo National Park) Botswana and Zimbabwe and the “moon phase issue” meant a break between courses one/two and course three/four in Kruger Park. The diversion added to travel costs, but we were able to accommodate this within the allocated budget.

The practical component of the first course 1 in Kruger was conducted at an actual poisoning crime scene, where a poached elephant carcass was laced with *aldicarb* and resulted in the death of two lions, two jackals and 109 endangered African white backed vulture. We were inadequately equipped for the scale of post mortem necropsy work, but were able to offer trainees the real-life practical.

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

- We have developed a baseline course and a course manual which, with small adjustments can be used repeatedly in the future.
- We have firmly established a group of knowledgeable rangers at Limpopo National Park and at Kruger National Park.
- We have established a lasting contact with the enforcement management group.

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

We engaged the services of the local eating house in Massingir, Mozambique to provide refreshments and lunches during the training there. This was a small but meaningful injection to the village economy; and made matters much easier for trainees, who normally cook over open fire.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Following the success of this project we intend to increase our training and expand into southern and East Africa. We have submitted several funding proposals to donors for this. We have enough funds to train rangers in Zimbabwe during July 2016, but we would like expand to Namibia, Botswana and Zambia. We also need to reach Mozambique but are very aware of military/ rebel activity in some areas there and so will ensure that we do not place our staff at risk. We will consult with contacts during planning to minimise risk.

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

Each training course presents new questions and new challenges and so we refine it as we go along. We also hope that, by providing an online or telephone backup support; we will be able to develop this community of trainers. We hope the management group may become future trainers. We are discussing sponsorship of communication equipment with a donor at present, to facilitate field communications and reporting.

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

Funds were used over a 6-month period and that is what we anticipated. Our training team was first brought up to standard by refresher training at the Onderstepoort Veterinary Institute of the University of Pretoria, and Assessor training at the Southern African Wildlife College. The course training content and manual were developed and printed and the actual training of rangers and enforcers took only about 1 month of the total. With hindsight, we feel that the timing and execution of the project worked out very well.

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.

Please note that figures are taken from our cash book, which is subject to verification for annual report by our accountants at time of reporting.

Item	Budgeted Amount	Actual Expenditure	Over = -	Comments
			Under = +	
Travel to collect training materials	15	18	-3	Underestimated distance
Prep work	75	75	0	Accurate
Communications	45	6.95	38.05	Supported by other sponsor
Advisory education NGO support	75	255.87	-180.87	Underestimate of cost
Book keeping	100	150	-50	Underestimate
Equipment and Resources	440	270	170	Saving by printing in-house plus kits below
Training aids (kits)	50	100	-50	Over but saved above
Travel and vehicle costs	450	740	-290	Trained 193 vs 30 intended
Accommodation & subsistence	450	246.47	203.53	Over estimate
Travel time	450	450	0	On target
Project execution	2250	2250	0	On target
Trainee accommodation	375	119.18	255.82	Minimal requirement
Training facilities	150	0	150	Provided
Reporting	75	75	0	On target
Total	5000	4756.47	£243.53	Request to retain balance

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

We intend to apply for further funding to continue and expand this work. We are operating with a vehicle which has done 300 000 km, and can continue but need to renew our equipment timeously.

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?

The Rufford Foundation logo features prominently on the front cover of all 193 training manuals used.

11. Any other comments?

We remain extremely grateful for the Rufford Foundations confidence in us as a new NGO just embarking on a new project



