

The Rufford Small Grants 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. 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	Martin N. Etone
Project title	Tackling the Bushmeat Crisis through Wildlife Conservation Education
RSG reference	14.12.08
Reporting period	April 2009 to January 2010
Amount of grant	£5,999
Your email address	cad_action@yahoo.com
Date of this report	3 rd January 2010

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
Continue identification and sensitization of actors in Bushmeat collection and trade		Partially achieved		During this period only 104 hunters have been identified. This brings the total number of hunters known to 220 since 2007. These have been fully sensitised against illegal hunting practices and wildlife regulation. However, all meetings have been held as planned, not all hunters have been identified as we still need to cover other communities in the project area. Also, some people hide their identity as hunters for fear that they could be arrested.(see separate report earlier sent)
Organize more public campaigns against unsustainable hunting			Fully achieved	We have organised 3 sensitisation campaigns in Mahole, Bekume and Ngusi involving 12 village communities. Over 800 people have been kept aware of the dangers of illegal hunting and the plight of endangered species.
Produce and distribute sensitization tools			Fully achieved	We have produced and distributed 100 posters, 650 leaflets (350 on law and 250 on as checklist of protected species) to various stakeholders in the bushmeat industry, including hunters, bushmeat sellers, chief palaces, forestry administration, councils and the communities concern. These tools are helping us to reach may more people with information about wildlife policy and management. Though we could publish up 1500 leaflets as planned due to the almost unbearable cost, we made photocopies of these to make up the required number.
Organize more workshops on wildlife policy and regulations			Fully achieved	One workshop has been organised on the 1994 wildlife law in Ngusi under the auspices of the Divisional Officer for Tombel, His Royal Highness Chief Ekwoge Joseph on the 24-25 th July 2009. 51 participants including hunters, pepper soup women, government officials, NGOs and traditional rulers have been kept informed and aware of the law and its legal implication in killing protected and endangered species of wildlife. A major outcome of this workshop is a strategy to foster community wildlife management in the Bakossi landscape.
Train Wildlife Groups on monitoring and control			Fully achieved	One training workshop has been organised on monitoring of illegal hunting

of illegal hunting				for 3 wildlife groups. 30 participants (28 men and 2 women) gained practical skills and techniques of checking unsuitable hunting practices within their communities.
Carry out alternative activities to hunting of wildlife			Partially achieved	Hunters have been are currently engaged in alternative enterprises such as snails, beekeeping and pig farming. 57 hunters and women selling bushmeat are already benefiting from these activities. However, not all the targeted hunters and bush meat traders have been involved in these innovations.
Collaboration with other stakeholders			Fully achieved	All planned activities have been conducted in a participatory manner, involving relevant stakeholders. Staff of the Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife (MINFOF), Agriculture and Rural Development (MINADER) provided technical assistance and officiated in meetings while target communities hosted smaller meetings. In addition, the Limbe Wildlife Center provided us with educational materials at the initial stage prior to the production of our poster and leaflets on the wildlife law.

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

2.1 Double sending of project funds

The funds allocated to CAD were sent back to RSG and resent to us due to problems beyond our understanding. So we lost a considerable sum of project fund through receiver charges and other transfer charges. This however affected the implementation of some activities as the budget could not be executed as planned.

2.2 Project staff viewed as forest guards

Just like in the first phase of the project, some hunters still looked upon CAD staff as forest guards and so hide their identity. This has made identification of this target population pretty difficult. However, we continued to sensitize these people about the role of hunters in wildlife management as well as explained that CAD staff are collaborators rather than guards.

2.2 Open Resistance from some people to desist from hunting and human-wildlife conflicts

Most people frown at Cameroon's wildlife law because it totally prohibits trapping and sale of bushmeat. This coupled with increasing wildlife-human conflicts over food crops and forest products provoke people to go into illegal hunting, thus violating the law. However, based on people's request, CAD came up with a draft proposal for local hunting arrangements between the administration and local populations. This document will be presented and discussed by various stakeholders in subsequent meetings.

2.3 More requests than we can support

We received lots of requests from the public, particularly in the area of alternatives such as snail and livestock farming. But we have been unable to satisfy all identified hunters with the necessary equipment and inputs as a result of limited resources.

2.4 Lack of extension means

Despite the difficult terrain and vast area of coverage, CAD has no means of extension (no extension motorcycles, no vehicles) to follow-up project activities. So we resorted to hiring motorcycles/cars at exorbitant costs, otherwise we trek over long distances to the field. This did not only reduce staff efficiency (when they get exhausted before reaching the communities.) but also limited activity expansion to other needy communities. In addition the long-term cost of hiring bikes and vehicles is far more than the cost of purchasing one or two motorcycles.

2.5 Poor communication network

We operate in an area where communication is still difficult. For instance we can access internet/e-mail facilities only in Nkongsamba; a town situated over 45 km away from Bangem. Hence, it is difficult to receive or send very urgent information or letters on time. Though this makes communication expensive we subscribed to an internet account with ISMAM Internet Center in Nkongsamba.

2.6 Inadequate staff remuneration.

CAD staffs do not receive salaries. What they earn as allowances is practically impossible to keep them satisfied with the work they do. This poor remuneration might lead to job dissatisfaction, low efficiency and loss of work spirit. However, while we only work with volunteers, CAD is trying to contact other donors for possibilities of increasing our funding base.

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

3.1 Formation of wildlife groups

In order to improve local community participation in wildlife management, we legally constituted and functionalised three hunters groups (*30 courageous hunters and Pepper Soup women*) through registration as Common Initiative Groups in Bekume, Ngusi and Mbengmekoge. These village wildlife structures are expected to work in close collaboration with staff of Forestry Posts and CAD to monitor illegal hunting activities, provide periodic information on wildlife issues and engage in alternative income and bushmeat activities. Members of WMGs are being trained to undertake alternative livelihood options to hunting such as snail farming and organic vegetable production to limit their total dependence on illegal exploitation of wildlife resources. This is an important legacy for the project and a gateway for participatory management and decision-making power and the eventual gain in forest services.

However there is need for the wildlife group members to be given capacities in wildlife management. The groups and some of their achievements and benefits are highlighted in the table below:

Name of group	Location	Memb ership	M	W	Y	Achievements and Benefits
Bekume Wildlife Common Initiative Group (CIG). Reg No:	Bekume Village	11	9	2	0	✓ Minutes of constituent meeting established ✓ Executive elected

SW/GP/003/09/8371						<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Article of association elaborated and adopted ✓ Registration certificate acquired and gain in legal recognition ✓ Built group capacity in monitoring, organic vegetable production and sail farming ✓ Acquired knowledge about sustainable hunting, wildlife law and plight of endangered species; ✓ Improve chances to benefit from small grants
Ngusi Wildlife Conservators' CIG. Reg No: SW/GP/003/8381	Ngusi	11	7	3	1	
Helping the Poor to Live CIG (HEPOL-CIG). Reg No: SW/GP/002/09/8370	Mbengmekoge	8	5	3	0	
Total	3 legal groups	30	21	8	1	Great potentials for increase in membership

3.2 Engaging Hunters in alternative micro-enterprises

In addition to addressing the plight of endangered species such as chimpanzees and drills, CAD has been tackling issues of poverty through the provision viable micro-enterprises aimed at curbing uncontrolled exploitation of wild animal resources in the project area. These include snail farming, beekeeping and pig farming. This brief report highlights the achievements made so far in the above areas. We have recorded the following achievements:

Snail Farming

This activity is increasingly attracting local interest, particularly among women and children. Though snails serve as an important alternative bushmeat, it is worth noting that this resource is itself subjected to severe threats not only in our project area but in West Africa in general where it is heavily collected for food and income. So far:

- We have organized one training workshop on snail farming in Ngusi involving 32 group representatives from 5 village communities who gained practical skills and knowledge on snail farming techniques.
- 56 people from 5 groups including 31 men, 20 women and 5 youths actively engaged in snail farming.
- One central demonstration snail farm has been set up.
- 6 snail farms have been established in five villages with local people.

Name of Group	Location	No. of adult snails	No. of young snails	No. of eggs
Rom Orphans	Ngusi	896	0	81
Bekume wildlife group	Bekume	510	0	0
Ngusi wildlife group	Ngusi	1,099	40	257
Mbengmekoge wildlife group	Mbengmekoge	708	11	0
Unity group	Edizie	633	0	142
Slow and steady group	Mahole	324	0	54
Total	6	4,170	51	534

Beekeeping

- Three on-farm training sessions on hive baiting and installation have been organized.
- Nine beehives have been donated to 4 wildlife committees.
- Three of the hives have already been colonized by bees.
- Furthermore, over 120 litres of honey have been produced by old groups in the programme.

Group	Location	No. of hives
Ngusi Wildlife group	Ngusi	2
Mbengmekoge Wildlife group	Mbenmgmekoge	2
Bekume Wildlife group	Bekume	3
Slow and Steady group	Mahole	2
Total		9

Pig Farming

Our approach we use here is that of *Passing over the Gift*. In this case, when a beneficiary group produces piglets, at least one piglet is passed on to a newly created group with interest in hunting or sale of bushmeat. Some beneficiary groups include:

Group	Location	No. of pigs
Wildlife Committee	Mbengmekoge	1
Wildlife Committee	Ngusi	2
Wildlife Committee	Bekume	1
Pepper Soup Women	Mahole	2
Unity group	Edizi	1
Totals		7

3.3 Explanation of wildlife regulations to local communities

We have organised two-day sub-regional workshop on Cameroon's wildlife laws in Ngusi from the 24 to 25 July 2009 with financial support from the Rufford Small Grants Foundation in the UK. The aim of this workshop was to explain and simplify the content and legal provisions of the law to local communities with respect to use and management of local wildlife resources. Presided over by the Representative of the Divisional Officer for Tombel Sub-Division, His Royal Highness Chief Ekwoke Joseph, the workshop brought together 50 participants drawn from the Technical Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife, local administration, NGOs, Security Forces, Traditional authorities, hunters and bushmeat sellers. Some of the outcomes of this workshop include:

- Over 50 people representing 8 communities have been kept aware of the law and the legal implication of hunting wild animals.
- The elaboration of a strategy on community wildlife management in the Bakossi landscape.
- Over 150 posters and leaflets on this law have been distributed and are currently helping to reach the wider public.

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

Local communities took part in the conception of this project and regularly participate in project implementation. We planned out activities together prior to implementation, contributed to meetings and sometimes hosted smaller meetings. The idea of alternative micro-enterprises is most welcome as indicated in the number of request we receive in our office. In addition, people are particularly happy to learn about the wildlife law but criticise the complete prohibition of the sale of

bushmeat and failure for the law to clearly state the benefits local populations could derive from sustainable wildlife management.

Project Impact

- Hunters are aware of the dangers of their hunting practices on wildlife and the implication of killing protected species and they are now discussing wildlife legislation and plight of endangered species with others in the community. For instance, local hunters have recognized and acknowledged the fact that illegal hunting can affect traditional healing systems, marriages, traditions and cultures of people if certain animal species go extinct or become rare. They also recognised that hunting cannot be inherited as farms and other property.
- Hunters and bushmeat sellers are willingly organising into specialised village-based (wildlife CIGs) with interest in natural resources and environmental management at grassroots level. This is an important gateway to collective decision-making and participatory management of resources.
- All members registered in the newly formed CIGs (30 of them) have vowed to decline from hunting, selling of bushmeat and to collaborate with the forestry administration in ensuring wildlife conservation.
- Wildlife groups are using their registration certificates as a strong force to request financial support from small government grants and possibly expand in activities other than hunting, e.g. Rumpi and ACEFA programmes. CAD is helping groups to access some of this information.
- Local people are able to criticise the wildlife law, saying that it falls short of defining their responsibility rights and benefit from wildlife management. In fact some hunters requested that the law be revised to meet community needs.
- Hunters, through their wildlife groups have taken up other livelihood options than hunting. These groups are already generating additional income and nutrients from beekeeping, snail farming and pig farming.
- Local communities, including hunters, have defined community-based strategies to foster wildlife management and land use practices to curb pressure on wildlife resources in the project area.
- The project has realised an existing good rapport and working relationship with the government through local Forestry Administration (MINFOF) as well as with traditional authorities, wildlife groups and local communities in project activities. MNIFOF staff provide free technical assistance while communities host small meetings and shared ideas with others. Exchange of knowledge and skills enhances between project partners and beneficiaries.
- Thanks to the impact of this RSG-supported project, CAD was invited by the Government of Cameroon to participate at the International Conference on Forest Tenure, Governance and Enterprise: New Opportunities for Central & West Africa that took place in Cameroon in May 2009. During this conference, CAD became a member of the Society Net for Africa.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes. We plan to continue because:

- Since project inception in 2007 to date we have touched just 27 of the 150 villages comprising the Bakossi landscape. We therefore plan to consolidate these activities in previously reached communities and expand the campaign against unsuitable hunting and bushmeat trade to new communities in the project area. So when many more people are informed of suitable practices as provided by law, then, they will be able to take responsibility over use and management of

their endangered species especially as it takes time and resources to change attitudes.

- In addition, we need to build the capacities of the wildlife groups formed by way of training and equipment so that they can better monitor illegal activities in the project area.
- Hunters are progressively recognising the economic value of the alternative hunting options (snail, beekeeping and pig farming) being promoted among local populations. Now that CAD is persuading people to decline from hunting, we need to intensify, expand and ensure the sustainability these newly introduced alternative sources of income and nutrients so that people spend more time doing them than going hunting. This will not only reduce current pressure on endangered species but also ensure long-term contribution to biodiversity improvement.
- We plan to set up community pig farms to serve as multiplication and distribution units for piglets for onward extension to hunters and others relying on hunting activities. This too could be a good exit strategy for this project.
- Also, we intend to introduce cane rat domestication as an alternative livelihood option to hunters and community members in our target region.
- Finally, we plan to introduce an environmental education component of this programme to school children who might grow up to become hunters when they drop out of school for poverty or poor academic reasons. In this way we shall be building an informed new generation that takes interest and leadership over wildlife protection at an early age.

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

We plan to share our results by:

- Sharing our webpage contact given us under the Rufford website. In fact this is already working marvellously as staff from organisations such as WWF send us appreciation based on what they see and read about our work on this page.
- Producing and distributing project reports to other stakeholders such as the Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife, Environment and Nature Protection, councils and traditional authorities.
- Presenting our experiences during network meetings and workshops when we have such opportunities.
- Producing and publishing articles about our work in the print media.
- Highlighting our previous achievements when making new project proposals.

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

The Rufford Small Grant was used over a period of 10 months. This is two months shorter than the anticipated duration of the project.

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
NOTE 1: ADMINISTRATIVE COST				
Fax	0	7	-7	Fax was not earlier costed in project document.

Telephone	82	15	67	Spent little on calls
Internet /email	83	65	18	
Photocopy	71	24	47	
Scanning	0	5	-5	
Printing of project documents	0	19	-19	
Project pictures	0	15	-15	
Electricity	74	48	26	
Office rents	248	248	0	
Bank charges on running of current account	0	43	-43	
Total	558	489	69	
NOTE 2: CONSUMABLES/LOGISTICS				
Training materials	178	123	55	
Workshops Facilitation	0	41	-41	
Lodging	207	228	-21	
Resource persons	186	207	-21	
Workshop hall	31	0	31	
Office stationery	258	72	186	
Total	860	671	189	
NOTE 3: TRAVEL COST				
Extension/field visits	372	165	207	
Vehicle hire	361	81	280	
Participants transport of workshops and meetings	284	483	-199	
Fuel	0	36	-36	
Transportation of materials	41	0	41	
Total	1058	765	293	
NOTE 4: EQUIPMENT				
Snail farm nets	124	120	3	
Bee hives	190	182	8	
Smokers	112	74	38	
Bee suits	165	124	41	
Improved piglets	258	129	129	
Pig feed	0	33	-33	
Laptop computer	361	253	108	
Parent stock of snails	155	0	155	This cost could not be met so target groups provided snails.
Watering cans	43	0	43	This was suppressed and groups use home-based buckets to water snails.
Wheel barrows	103	0	103	In order to meet up with cost we had to cut down the budget since we lost much money for double sending of our funds.
vaccines	21	0	21	
Cutlasses/nails	81	0	81	
Printer	134	0	134	
Digital camera	139	0	139	

Voltage regulator	52	0	52	
Total	2050	915	1135	
Note 5: FOOD				
Breakfast for meetings/workshops	62	47	15	
Lunch for participants	186	226	-40	
Total	248	273	-25	
NOTE 6: REPORTING				
Field/progress reports	62	32	30	
Final project reports	31	15	16	
Distribution of reports	21	0	21	
Total	114	47	67	
NOTE 7: SENSITISATION TOOLS				
Posters	52	171	-119	
Flyers	155	139	16	
Designing of poster/flyer	0	26	-26	
Video Coverage	0	103	-103	
Banner	36	0	36	
Total	243	439	-196	
NOTE 8: CONSULTANCY				
Consultant for Training on snail farming training	0	62	-62	
Consultant for training on Monitoring	0	36	-36	
Total	0	98	-98	
NOTE 9: STAFF ALLOWANCES				
Project Coordinator	372	330	42	
Wildlife Technician	248	248	0	
Bee Technician	248	248	0	
Total	868	826	42	
Grand Total	5,999	4,523	1,476	

Note:

CAD actually received £4,372 which is equivalent to 4,233,781FCFA (968.47 FCFA per £). This means that CAD lost £1,627 as receiver's charges and fluctuations in currency exchange rates. Also note that we incurred this heavy cash lost due to problems we encountered during transfer of our funds. The funds were sent to CAD, then sent back to RSG for reasons beyond our understanding and explanation. So we paid receivers charges twice. However to meet up with the total expenditure of 4,523, CAD made a cash contribution of £151.

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

Most project activities such as sensitisation against poor hunting practices, explanation of the law are process-oriented. Therefore important next steps will be:

- Sustained campaigns against unsuitable hunting practices, dissemination of wildlife policy and regulations, particularly in newly identified hunting communities. By so doing there will be widespread knowledge of the law and the plight of endangered species.

- Capacity building of village wildlife groups formed, traditional councils and communities to check illegal activity. This is going to be by way of legalisation, training and equipping these village structures to better effect control.
- Advocate for the revitalisation of traditional wildlife management practices by assisting hunters groups, notables and traditional councils in defining and enforcing customary rules that favour sustainable wildlife conservation as well as discourage unsuitable hunting practices.
- Continue assisting hunters in viable alternative micro-enterprises (snail, beekeeping and pig farming) so that they can expand in these new lines of activities, earn significant household incomes and reduce current pressure on endangered species.
- Produce and distribute sensitisation materials such as leaflets, posters, banners and billboards carrying information about wildlife regulations and sustainable hunting methods.
- Conduct primate surveys as well as bushmeat market surveys to generate baseline information about existing primate population, bushmeat production and contribution to household income, marketing chains, and actors involved in this sector.
- Carry out habitat restoration activities via tree planting and agroforestry.
- Advocate for local hunting arrangements that would enhance both policy implementation and community wildlife management and signing an MoU to this effect, defining the roles and responsibilities of each actor in the management of endangered species.
- Introduce wildlife conservation education in schools and colleges. This is because children form the hope for the future and might grow up to become hunters when they drop out of school for poverty or poor academic reasons.
- Produce a video to increase the visibility of project activities.

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. We used the RSGF logo on the wildlife leaflet, posters and project reports produced. For publicity, a press release was prepared bearing RSGF as the sponsor and read over the Provincial Station of the Cameroon Radio and Television in Buea. In addition, RSGF financial support is acknowledged in all our reports, copies of which we extend to partners such as the Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife, Environment and Nature Protection, etc.

11. Any other comments?

We sincerely thank the Rufford Small Grants Foundation for the financial support given us to implement our wildlife project with local communities. It is our wish that this collaboration grows from strength to strength to the advantage of marginalised communities and endangered species. In addition we extend our thanks to local communities and other conservation organisations that have assisted us in one way or the other in the course of this project.