

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. 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	Peter Lukwiya
Project title	Sustainable community conservation of endangered l'hoest monkey primates in Palabek-Kal forest reserve in Kitgum District, Uganda
RSG reference	42.06.09
Reporting period	Nov 2009-Oct 2010
Amount of grant	£ 5,898
Your email address	lukwiya@yahoo.co.uk
Date of this report	17 th Oct 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
Mobilise the rural people living in and around Palabek-Kal forest reserve and increase their awareness to effectively engage in this project.			X	Four radio talk shows and spot messages community meetings were conducted. A community drama and music group participated in most community meetings with plays and songs on nature conservation.
Determine population density, ranging patterns and distribution of the L'hoest monkeys and other primates in the forest reserve.		X		Data collected include; distribution, ranging patterns and population determined by censuses. Other data regarding activity budgets and feeding frequency of the primates were not fully gathered due to limited resources.
Set up model conservation centre which will also serve as nature education centre for local communities and institutions.			X	Small one roomed house (semi permanent) was built near the forest. Communities helped in its construction. It's now being used for local communities and stakeholders training; documentation of relevant experiences and recommendations on nature conservation.
Strengthen village forest sustainable management programmes to combat deforestation and bush burning.			X	Village forest sustainable management plans to combat deforestation and bush burning was developed. Communities' participatory workshops were organised. And Information, Education and Communication materials (IEC) were developed and distributed. Community-based information and activity centre was established.
Create strong community-government partnerships to ensure participatory community involvement in conservation management programmes.		X		Through Interactive meetings, activity of community-government partnerships to facilitate participatory community involvement in conservation management programs was created. There is however, need to strengthen this partnership in the future by conducting such meetings and information sharing frequently.

Restore destroyed habitat		X		With the help of 2 nd RSG, additional group of communities around the forest land were supported with tree seedlings and 50 beehives. Partially achieved because only 500 out estimated 5000 seedlings were distributed.
Monitor and evaluate project progress and write final report			X	Additional three field visits conducted at end of project. Over 76 people were got involved in self reporting and responding to questions in questionnaires.

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

In February 2010 because of dry period most of the primates migrated towards the green valleys of the unhabituated and undisturbed wilderness of southern Sudan. They were thus not accessible; this interrupted carrying out some of our activities. We postponed some of these activities until the animals resumed activities in April 2010 following the resumption of growth of vegetation, abundant of food (mostly fruit). The numbers of days for data collection were short compared to activities to be done. Additional 7 days were spent.

Another usual problem was the unstable exchange rate of pound sterling to Uganda Shillings. This affected purchases of equipment, materials and transport in terms of numbers and time. See *expenditures below!*

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

The first RSG supported activities that empowered rural people in community with skills, knowledge and ability to recognise the importance of forest conservation in the national economy.

During the first RSG, we found out that L hoest's monkey as one of the primates presence in the forest reserve were highly threatened due to habitat loss and modification due to human activities, these posed the greatest threat to their continued survival. The second RSG focused on conservation of these primates in particular while sensitising the rural people living around Palabek-Kal forest reserve, and also conducted conservation education to enable the rural communities collectively participate in habitat restoration that would provide strategies for managing the ranging patterns, habitat use and food requirements of these monkeys for sustainable usage (eco-tourism).

a) The capacity of local communities was built and 89% of the population acquired knowledge on importance of wildlife conservation (eco tourism), habitat restoration and food requirements for the primates.

The communities were sensitised and their awareness increased about the importance of conserving nature in general e.g. habitat restoration or protection etc and protecting the primates in particular. Some of the topics presented during training workshops included current understanding of the species' behaviour, feeding and ecology. The capacity of the rural people through conservation

education and communication were built. This is a very effective practice to ensure direct participation in decision-making, planning, organization, coordination, and management of forest ecosystem. The knowledge in conservation acquired by the local people has consolidated the effective management and conservation of forest reserve which was initiated with help of first RSG. It will also go along way to help protect and conserve L'hoest's monkeys and other wildlife for sustainable usage(eco-tourism).

b) Community conservation measures to promote the sustainable conservation of l'hoest monkeys and other forest ecosystems in Palabek-Kal forest reserve were strengthened. Community conservation management committee was formed and trained so that they play leading roles in mobilizing of the rural communities as well as further disseminating relevant information. Free tree seedlings were again distributed to rural people to restore habitat loss. The capacity of local people to conserve and manage natural resources and lands was increased.

c.) Project also monitored and assessed the vulnerability and the resilience of this species as a result of the habitat loss due to encroachment on the forest and illegal hunting by local communities.

d.) Conservation and habitat management strategies was be established, abundance and distribution, dietary preference and ranging pattern of l'hoest monkey were determined. Following the determination of population density, ranging patterns and distribution of the L'hoest monkeys and other primates in the forest reserve, some best conservation strategies were designed. Biologically important habitat was selected; this was maintained and increased through conservation and education. Forest routes within the forest are under increased protection, this will reduce illegal hunting, modify ranging pattern and feeding habits of the monkeys. Technical skills of community and indigenous organisations in and around Palabek Kal to manage subsistence hunting and implement forest management plans for local community enterprises were built. Informal land-use planning by examining and describing wildlife distributions and the range of human activities was introduced.

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

Over 150 households from over 33 villages worked on the project. Participation of the local communities was very vital for successful implementation of this project. Their benefits range from attaining knowledge in sustainably conserving of the L'hoest's monkeys currently facing extinction to obtaining tree seedling and beehives to restore habitat loss. The communities participated in all interactive meetings, activity of community-government partnerships and this facilitated their participation and involvement in conservation management programmes. Community groups also participated in local radio talk shows and drama/music groups, this helped to disseminate information and created awareness about significance of this project other members of the public, and thus how people can derive economic benefit from such conservation without destroying the nature.

Over 70 farmers are now engaged in beekeeping, tree planting and growing food crops for income. About 30 men and women participated in building a semi permanent house meant for conservation centre, which will now serve as nature education centre for local communities and institutions, the local communities including students can learn a lot about nature conservation.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

- a) While the 2nd RSG achieved most of the objectives, there is however, still need to sort the land rights of indigenous groups for the hundred of acres of wild habitat adjacent to protected areas.
- b) Following the 2nd RSG a series of recommendations were also made by the participants. One of the main recommendations was that continuous and periodic surveying of major forest blocks be done in order to establish and monitor the number of the primates in each of the forests block.
- c) Continue working in partnerships with other conservationists, and the forest department, I would like to engage in further developing a long-term strategy to ensure that viable populations of the primates are maintained.

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

The result of this project is a very vital data/document for the local communities, the students, local government and the scientific community. The project findings will be submitted in libraries of universities, colleges and environmental conservation organisations to help in promoting ecotourism in Kitgum District. The information shall also be published in my project webpage through which communications have been done with various institutions and conversationalists of the world. Summary of the report whil be posted at the conservation center and publication of the outcome in newsletters and brochures for use by other people/institutions.

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 over 13 month's period more than the anticipated time.

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
Data Collection	200	236	+36	7 additional days were spent in the field to the planned 60 days.
Consultative meetings	90	106	+16	Difference mainly due to high fuel price.
Community mobilisation and sensitisation	475	621	+146	Costs for training materials were increased due to increased fuel price
Incentives for community facilitators/ field assistants	1080	1080		
Education and Training	972	1339	+367	Costs for training materials were increased

Establishing nature conservation centre	71	390	+319	High costs for building materials.
Strengthen community forest sustainable management programs	174	16	-158	Some of the training materials were re-used.
Support activity of community-government partnerships in Palabek –Kal forest reserve	90	109	+19	2 more additional follow up meetings were held
Running costs (Communication-Internet, phone; Hire and Fuel for Motorcycles (Transport), M/cycle maintenance)	1229	1340	+111	Fuel shortage and Increased price per litre made transport very expensive.
Transport and distribute tree seedlings to farmers	300	302	+2	
Project equipment and materials (1 binocular; 50 modern beehives)	1003	1003		
Indirect support costs (Monitoring and Evaluation, project reporting)	215	198	-17	
TOTAL	5,899	6740	+841	

NB: Exchange rate of 1-pound sterling equals 3,360 Uganda shillings was used during the budget preparation, however, actual rate used during the project was averagely 1 pounds=3,010.30 Uganda shillings. The difference (£991.39) is my personal spending on the project. The grant request to Climate Frontlines of US \$ 4,967. 20 was not successful.

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

My next step is to work on a project that integrates conservation practices among rural communities with natural resources management. And to improve animal husbandry to reduce disease transmission and mitigate human-primate conflict through integrated rangeland activities.

My next project should also help in maintaining the established nature conservation training centres In Palabek –Kal forest reserve and build the capacity of the local community to be managers.

My next activities should help to develop an ecotourism facility to generate income for local community development initiatives. Income raised from sale of permits (for forest visits) and other fees from conservation should continue to fund the project well beyond the end RSG grant.

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?

RSGF logo has been used in every material produced and, in every training, seminar and presentations.

11. Any other comments?

Once again, I am so grateful to RSG, for providing the funding opportunity to support the implementation of this significant project in Kitgum, Northern Uganda. I look forward to maintaining the collaboration and network during my next planned project and beyond.