

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	Fominka Tajoacha Nestor
Project title	Comparative Assessment of the Perception and Conservation Prospects of Nocturnal Primates in and around Mount Cameroon National Park
RSG reference	20119-1
Amount of grant	£4964
Your email address	nestoraz2000@yahoo.ca
Date of this report	28 th September 2018

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
Assess the diversity of nocturnal primates in Mt Cameroon National Park and four surrounding villages (Bakingili, Etinde, Woteva and Bokwango)				We successfully sampled four different elevations across the gradient of Mt Cameroon and the villages.
Evaluate the effects of human intrusion on the presence and activities of these primates				This was achieved using questionnaires.
Compare the effects of altitude and vegetation type on the existence of nocturnal primates				This was also achieved as we sampled on different gradients.
Make good photographs and videos of all studied species				It was quite challenging to make good pictures and videos because most of the animals were sighted far, engulfed in darkness and the thick forest.

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

The socio-political tension in Cameroon. Muyengue, a village in the other side of the mountain was seriously hit by the crisis and we had to switch it. It was replaced by Bokwango.

Some villagers were reluctant to be interviewed thinking we were some spies from the national park. So we used trustful local guides who explained our mission to them in their local language. Some wanted to be paid before they are interviewed.

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

- All the six species of nocturnal primates known to be found in the study area were sighted at least once although reduced in population.
- The locals use these primates as food but the rate of hunting them has reduced to the minimal in the past two to three decades, therefore not a serious threat.
- A lot of forest (natural habitat of nocturnal primates) is been cut down for agriculture in all the village community forests. This is a serious threat.

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

The local communities were directly involved as we exchanged a lot during the interviews. After administering questionnaires, they were schooled on the benefits of conserving and preserving the forest and its wildlife and in most cases the responds were positive.

We worked with some young men who gained some experience in identification of nocturnal primates. We promised to come back for subsequent projects to give them proper training on nocturnal primates identification and how they can market these least known primates to tourists.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes, plan to go back to the villages, organise general meetings to educate the locals on how to market nocturnal primates to tourists. If well marketed, nocturnal primates can generate revenue through tourisms.

We also intend to cover other areas of the mountain, like the site across the big lava flow which hinders elephants from crossing. It is known as the undisturbed forest. In this case we compare it with the elephant disturbed patch.

Do wet season sampling to compare seasonality.

We also plan to subsequently carry out radio tracking studies on nocturnal primates to study their territoriality behaviour.

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

We plan to publish articles in renowned journals, send hard copies to the Mount Cameroon National Park and also to all the community forest heads.

Oral and posters presentation will also be done both in national and international conferences.

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 between November 2017 and September 2018. It fits the actual length 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
Transportation (both in Buea and too and fro the villages)	230	215	15	Transportation to Bokwango is less expensive than Muyengue
Food for 3 persons for six months (24 weeks)	1260	1310	-50	Food became expensive with the worsening socio-political tension
Salaries/field staff & assistants, Porters	3024	3080	-56	More porters were hired for the highest elevation
Accident	90	40	30	I had several injuries but were managed somehow without a lot of expenditure
Communications	100	100	00	
Supplies: (Torch light, batteries, maps, etc.)	100	130	-30	We used so many batteries
Accommodation for two persons	110	100	10	
Miscellaneous: (5% overhead for administrative fees money transfer and changes in exchange rates of various currencies)	50	80	-30	Buying of Whisky as a gift for the chiefs in the villages and also payment of access to some community forests

The exchange rate is 1 GBP= 780 XAF

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

- Intensify more research on these primates.
- Do more community awareness campaign to get the communities more involved in the conservation of nocturnal primates.
- Analysing and publishing results from this project.

10. Did you use The Rufford Foundation logo in any materials produced in relation to this project? Did The Rufford Foundation receive any publicity during the course of your work?

Yes, the Rufford Foundation logo was used on some poster presentation during the University of Buea Science Expo.

The Rufford foundation has been widely publicised during the entire project and we will continue to do so in a way to encourage the foundation for its relentless effort towards conservation.

11. Please provide a full list of all the members of your team and briefly what was their role in the project.

Fominka Tajoacha Nestor: I was the head of the project. I organised and carried out the entire project.

Prof Eric B. Fokam: he oversaw and supervised the project with inputs on the quality of questionnaire and the design of data sheet.

Ewome Luma Francis: he was the main guide. He also assisted in the liaison between us and the Mount Cameroon National Park.

Mukuya Agbor, Martin Ngalle and **Derick Mba** were the other guides and middle men between us and the local communities

12. Any other comments?

I want to seize this opportunity to thank Rufford Foundation for funding this kick starter project on these less known primates and also to plead with the foundation not to end on such a good footing. I wish us to calf out more projects to fill the knowledge gap between nocturnal primates and their diurnal counterparts. Thanks very much and I hope to continue working with you.

It was a challenging project but we brave all the odds to go through it and we are not ready to end on such a good footing. Thanks!