

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 | Trang Nguyen |
| Project title | The impact of Traditional Asian Medicines on African Wildlife: The role of East Asian immigrants |
| RSG reference | 21961-2 |
| Reporting period | March 2017 – April 2018 |
| Amount of grant | £5000 |
| Your email address | trang.nguyen90@gmail.com |
| Date of this report | 30 th April 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 |
|--|--------------|--------------------|----------------|---|
| Conduct market survey at 4 major cities in South Africa | | | | After arriving to South Africa, I've changed one study site (proposed to visit Free state) to Durban. This was advised by TRAFFIC South Africa. Durban <i>muthi</i> market is one of the largest wildlife trade markets in South Africa, with approximately 400 stalls openly selling wildlife parts, includes endangered species, such as rhino horns, elephant tusks, pangolin scales, lion bones and others. |
| Identify consumer's profile, motivation and attitudes towards wildlife parts used in TMs | | | | A large percentage of current TAMs consumers in South Africa are black ethnic African people. As traditional African medicines also use wildlife parts, African consumers are very open to the use of wildlife parts in Traditional Asian Medicines. Many have exposed to the ideas - which have been circulated on medias, that rhino horn is a cure for cancer and can be used as aphrodisiac. Asian consumers in South Africa know a wider use of rhino horn, and also less likely to use rhino horn for aphrodisiac and cancer treatment. |
| Identify wildlife parts being sold in South Africa as ingredients for Traditional Asian Medicines (TAMs) | | | | The most popular wildlife parts being sold in muthi markets across South Africa to TAMs practitioners and consumers are lion bones, pangolin scales and rhino horns. Others such as tortoise and turtle shells, elephant skin etc. were also observed. It is important to note that African wildlife traders stated that they prefer to "make a business" with Asian people, as Asian buyers often "buy in large quantity". This |

| | | | | |
|---|--|--|--|--|
| | | | | indicates that the trade of endangered species at <i>muthi</i> market for local consumption (i.e. the Zulu in Durban) is now being used by syndicates to smuggle wildlife products out of Africa. |
| Identify TAMs being sold in South Africa to African and Asian people | | | | Several TAMs products originated from China and other Asian countries had been identified. Especially, dried bear gallbladder, bear bile crystal, pangolin pills and golden-coined tortoise shell powder were found in China towns in South Africa. This indicates that not only wildlife parts being smuggled out of Africa for consumers in Asia, (some) wildlife products are now being smuggled in Africa for the illegal trade and consumption of wildlife products as traditional medicines in South Africa. |
| DNA testing on Traditional Asian Medicines to identify species being used in TAMs | | | | This objective was not listed at the original proposal. However, I was able to secure funding from the US Fish and Wildlife Service to conduct DNA testing on several Traditional Asian Medicine products – which were seized by the police in South Africa and England. We will find out result of these tests by end of July 2018. |

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

As South Africa has a huge diversity in languages, and Asian communities, especially the Chinese communities in South Africa have very low English skills, but speak different Chinese dialects, it was difficult to conduct the survey.

I had to hire different assistants at different location, and make sure there is always a Zulu speaker present at every *muthi* market survey in Johannesburg and Durban; a Khoisan speaker at every market survey in Cape Town. A Mandarin or Cantonese speaker is required when visiting China towns and/or Chinese medicine clinics.

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

3.1. Creation of a handbook for police force in South Africa: I am in the progress of creating a handbook for the South African Police Services (SAPS) with clear

indication of commercial TAMs product for sale at the current market in China town which contains endangered species, such as pangolin scales, saiga horn, rhino horn, bear bile and gall bladders, and other protected wildlife species. It is hoped that the handbook will become useful for the SAPS in dealing with wildlife crimes in South Africa.

3.2. The DNA testing of wildlife products used in TAMs – which obtained from both UK and South Africa is important to identify the origins of species used as ingredients for TAMs, and whether African wildlife is conveniently being used as ingredients for Asian medicines in South Africa. This also will show the illegal trade contraband and can be used as important evidence to show that African could slowly transform into a consumer continent rather than a source continent as we once thought.

3.3. Report will be used as evidence to lobbying with South African government to crack down the trade and consumption of endangered Asian wildlife: As mentioned above, Asian wildlife products being sold in South Africa as TAMs. Unfortunately, the current law in South Africa only protects African species. Therefore, the domestic trade of foreign but endangered species, such as tiger, bear etc. are not yet classified as illegal. Thus, this loophole is damaging conservation efforts. I am collaborating with several NGOs in South Africa and lobbying with the South African environmental affairs to strengthen enforcement, stricter penalties and hope to close down this loophole in order to tackle the illegal trade of wildlife products.

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

N/A

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

I am planning to continue working with the Government of South Africa, particularly the Environmental Affairs and the South African Police Services to conduct further investigation into the illegal trade of wildlife products in and out of South Africa. In addition, I am hoping to work with Chinese, Vietnamese and Thai embassies in South Africa, and South Africa embassy in Vietnam to provide information on wildlife crimes to raise awareness amongst Asian communities in an effective way. I am also looking into working with travel agencies in Asia to reach Asian tourists regarding this issue.

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

Currently I am in the write up process and planning to get four scientific papers published on Biological Conservation, Conservation Biology and PLOS one within 2018. Once the paper published, I am also planning to write an article on Mongabay to reach the public.

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 Rufford Foundation Grant were used between 21st March 2017 – 30th September 2018. This is the actual fieldwork period 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 |
|---|-----------------|---------------|------------|---|
| Accommodations | 1800 | 1786 | 14 | + \$14 extra were used for stationaries |
| Food and drinks | 1800 | 1973 | -173 | - \$173 extra comes from another grant |
| Transport to Pretoria, Cape Town, Durban and Johannesburg | 400 | 720 | -320 | - \$320 extra comes from another grant |
| Bus and car rental for local transportation | 1000 | 1250 | -250 | - \$250 extra come from another grant |

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

The most important next steep is to collaborate with different sectors in South Africa and several Asian countries (Vietnam, China etc) to get them involved. It is very important to close the loophole that is being used by syndicates to smuggle wildlife parts in and out of South Africa/Asia. This pattern has been seen from the ivory trade project in Cambodia – which also funded by the Rufford Foundation, where the Government of Cambodia do not protect African elephant and therefore African ivory were openly for sale in the domestic market. In South Africa, Asian endangered wildlife such as bears, Asian pangolin etc are also being smuggled into South Africa and openly sale across the country.

Training is urgently needed in South Africa to increase chance of seizures at airports, ports and across border when wildlife parts being brought in as TAMs. Most TAMs products are no longer have wild animals picture on the package but written in Asian languages (Chinese, Vietnamese, Thai etc) – which makes it more difficult for South African authorities. The identification handbook of TAMs in South Africa hopefully will play a vital part in increasing prosecutions of illegal wildlife products in and out of the country.

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, I am presenting the results of this project at the 55th Annual meeting of the association for tropical biology and Conservation (ATBC) in Kuching, Sawarak Malaysia. In addition, Rufford Foundation will be mentioned and logo will be attached (when possible) with every publication of this project.

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

Trang Nguyen – Principal researcher
Organised, managed, designed and implemented the project.

Dr David Roberts - Project advisor
Support Trang in designing the project and co-writing articles for publication.

Professor Nigel Leader-William - Project external advisor
Support Trang in designing the project and support her in making contact with relevant parties in South Africa.

Brovan, Manesi, Sheila, Faizel, Grant, Karen, Diesel, Mongi, Hilare, Anthony, Erwin, Di and Lam: Volunteers – translating the questionnaires and collecting data at the sites.

12. Any other comments?

N/A