

## The Rufford Foundation

### Final Report

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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](mailto:jane@rufford.org).

Thank you for your help.

**Josh Cole, Grants Director**

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Grant Recipient Details	
Your name	John Kannah
Project title	Participatory Assessment for the Opportunities and Challenges of Harvesting Mangroves in Lake Piso, Liberia; synergy among the local users and the current governance
RSG reference	23102-1
Reporting period	September 2017 to September 2018
Amount of grant	£5000
Your email address	Forkpajr2013@gmail.com
Date of this report	September 14, 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
Understanding the conflicts that exist between protection and mangrove use;6				The results from Jornii and Mandoe show that NGOs were the closest institutions known to the two communities in term of mangrove protection. While Buluma consider the Forestry Development Authority (FDA) to be the responsible institution to protect mangrove and Falie town consider the Ministry of Agriculture to play key role in mangrove protection. The Forestry Development Authority stopped the communities from cutting the mangroves for charcoal and firewood without providing alternative livelihood options for the communities. However, Falie, the only town surrounded with mangrove forest said, the Ministry of Agriculture should play leading role in the protection of mangrove by providing live skills training in farming methods which will help the community to be self-sufficient.
Understanding the views of communities in term of management;				The results show all the four communities ranked FDA as the one institution to play key role in the conservation and management of mangroves. Although, Jornii, and Falie towns ranked community as the number one institution that should play key role, the two other ranked community as number two institution that should work along with FDA to ensure the management and conservation of mangroves in Lake Piso.
Understanding their priorities in the management and their participation in the				The communities outlined and listed their priorities to be, their participation in the management of mangrove forest, sources of livelihood to support

management;				their families, and they proposed proper engagement by FDA.
If there is a need to form locally managed mangrove area.				<p>All the communities said yes there is a need to have locally managed mangrove areas. When we asked them why? They gave the following reasons;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. that each community will be able to have a portion of the mangrove forest which will reduce the conflict,</li> <li>2. if mangrove forests are given to each community, they will now see it as their own properties and will take better care of them and prevent outsiders from cutting mangroves; and</li> <li>3. that if mangrove forests continue to be a government's properties, the communities will not have the right to stop any unwise users from cutting mangroves.</li> </ol>

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

At mid-way of the project implementation, Sandra Samuels found a job and she left the project. We had to bring on board Prince Gboneh to continue the project especially the data collection which took us up the rainy season. However, we were able to complete the data collection and started the PRA exercises in the four project communities. Buluma was inaccessible by road we had to use the canoe to cross Lake Piso and walk 45 minutes to the town.

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

The three most important outcomes of the project area;

1. The four project communities are sensitised about the importance of mangrove conservation and management. They expressed their willingness to cooperate with the existing management.
2. The communities see FDA and NGOs as true partners and are willing to help protect mangroves in their communities.
3. The community perceived limited involvement in the conservation of mangroves. They hence see locally managed mangrove areas (LMMA) as an effective way to better help FDA and the EPA to protect mangrove forests in Lake Piso.

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

The local communities were very much involved with the project from the beginning up to the end. The chiefs and elders of each town helped to mobilise and talked to the community members to spend a day with the project team for the PRA exercises. Fishermen and hunters in each town were helpful in providing some information about the kind and type of fish and animal species that occur in their water and forest areas.

**5. Are there any plans to continue this work?**

- We plan to replicate this project to eight mangrove communities in Margibi and Grand Bassa counties and make a follow-up on the management plan of the locally managed mangrove areas in Lake Piso. In Margibi, we will work with four mangrove community along the Robert's Field Highway from Monrovia and four Mangrove community in Grand Bassa District # 1. We will conduct similar exercises and compare our findings with that of Lake Piso and engage stakeholders on the importance of considering locally managed mangrove area as an effective way to protect mangroves since communities will continue to depend on them.
- We also plan to begin following up the process of starting LMMA using legal procedures. This will also need to train some of the communities' member to understand how to run the project.

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

We are currently setting our results for publication into a reliable open access journal. We will invite the Executive Director of the Environmental Protection Agency, the Managing Director of the Forestry Development Authority and conservation managers for a one-day presentation and we will share our findings. Also, we will use the website of Green Globe Consultancy to post our findings and lastly, we plan to publish our results in a journal.

**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 project started September 2017 and was delay a bit due to the presidential and representative elections that lasted from October to December and a delay in the final report due to one of our members seeking other opportunities.

**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 to and fro the project site to Monrovia	£ 545.08	£ 545.08		
Motorbike and canoe hire between the communities	£ 266.64	£ 266.64		
Camera	£200.00	£200.00		
3 m Flip Chart, 25 X 30 -inches, white, 40-sheets/pad	£45.42	£45.42		
Rent projector	£222.53	£222.53		
Copic sketch Marker (6 colours)	£440.6	£440.6		
Cello Pinpoint Ballpoint pens (10 per pack)	£ 181.6	£ 181.6		
Astrobrights colour paper. 8.5" X 11	£38.6	£38.6		
A1 Flipchart paper pad-40 sheets (plain)	£15.96	£15.96		
3M Micropore paper tape-white 1"x 10yds (Box of 12)	£16.80	£16.80		
Multipurpose scissors 8-inches	£13.50	£13.50		
Black-lead pencils B2b with eraser End (12 per Box)	£7.65	£7.65		
Printing of posters with our findings	£197.28	£197.28		
Feeding (food) for 200 people for the number of days (50 ppl/comm x £5 per person/day x 4 days each = £1000/community)	£2808.00	£2808.00		

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

Mangroves are important biological resources for coastal communities not only for their livelihoods but also a huge carbon sink. The mangroves of Liberia are found along the coastline from Grand Cape Mount-Lake Piso to Maryland County Lake Shepperd. The protection and conservation of this important ecosystem would mean finding the best way to work with the communities that are in close proximity to them. Their views and participation in the management will set a new road map for mangrove conservation in Liberia. The assessment of other communities will provide a greater platform in addressing the unwise usages of mangroves.

**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?**

All materials used in this project bear the logo of Rufford Foundation. Along side the logo of RF, we also use the logo of FDA since they supported components of the project.

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

**John Kannah** – lead researcher - provided the overall coordination of this project and reporting.

**Ali Swaleh Aboud** - co-coordinated and trained one local staff in PRA/RRA before we commence the project in the communities. Also contributed in the report writing.

**Sandra Samuels** who left and **Prince Gboneh** was brought on board to complete the field surveys and PRA/RRA exercises in the communities.

**12. Any other comments?**

Our team will forever remain grateful to the Rufford Foundation for this opportunity and the huge support we received during our project implementation. Especially we were late to submit our final report, but you considered our request to submit after two weeks. Our hope is that you will continue to work with us in reaching out to other mangrove communities in the future. See below pictures from our field activities.





