

Final Project Evaluation Report

Grant Recipient Details	
Your name	Balembe Balagizi Emmanuel
Project title	Community awareness improvement and habitat restoration of Iyondji Community Bonobo Reserve
RSG reference	24099-1
Reporting period	February 12 th 2018 - February 2019
Amount of grant	£ 5000
Your email address	balembe@gmail.com
Date of this report	2 nd 03 2019

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
Community awareness improvement				Planned activities achieved at 90% but there is a long way to go. It will take time to change social habits.
Workshops on conflict prevention and resolution, Climate change, Gender.				10 local chiefs and 10 Nkumu (elders), 22 women and 22 girls trained
Echo School Network				"Bilya Class Project" signed MOU Bilya, vernacular name, means bonobo.
Football Championship				10 villages of lyondji connected through football outreach "Score for Bonobo".
Slush and burn of habitat control (1100Km ²)				35% of slush and burn of habitat controlled. Still intense human activity observed from neighbouring territories (Ikela and Yahuma).
Illegal hunting camps stabilization				82 camps registered. 29 (35%) abandoned after sensitisation. Hunting regulations have been set up. Hunting will be closed 3 months per year (September - October - November) according to the law.
Big mammals survey updated				Identification of 17 species belonging to five orders (Artiodactyls, Carnivores, Primates, Pholidota, Proboscideans) and nine families (Bovidae, Cercopithecidae, Colobidae, Felidae, Elephantidae, Manidae, Pongidae, Suidae, Tragulidae)

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

Unforeseen difficulty that arose was a strong resistance of Yangonde village. The most violent poachers come from that village. Their argument is that they were ejected from their forest where they used to get food, medicine, etc. Most peasant farmers are unable to deal with the problem of elephant damage themselves and

government doesn't offer any compensation. Elephants can destroy a field in a single night raid.

Conservation goals often come into conflict with the goals and aspirations of local people, their livelihoods, traditional resource use, and their desire for development projects. Recognising that this dichotomy is a shared problem, and that sustainable solutions can best emerge through engagement, dialogue, and negotiation is an important step in effective conservation and human development (Redpath et al. 2013).

We tackled it through negotiation. I have to admit we were inspired by Charudutt Mishra, Ph.D. "The Partners Principles for Community-Based Conservation" from Snow Leopard Trust.

I remember sitting around a fire and talking to the head of anti-poaching unit, four staff representatives and six local community members. We were debating about the desire to start a conservation partnership in order to clear the protected area boundaries and end violence. I had happened to discuss the idea with some of the village youth earlier, not as a negotiation tactic, but simply because seeking their inputs was a natural thing to do. I used to interact with them much more, join them in football game and, and occasional impromptu contests over consumption of locally brewed alcohol « Agene ». As discussions with the elders unfolded in my first-ever formal community meeting, something fascinating happened. As the elders voiced their rather legitimate concerns, unexpectedly and without any prompting, many of the youth decided to take upon themselves the challenge of convincing their elders. I distinctly remember largely becoming a mesmerised spectator, speaking only occasionally when clarifications were sought. The negotiations soon culminated in an agreement.

Regular meetings were organised:

- Disclosing our purpose and clearly communicating conservation goals to the community,
- Reiterating our desire for beneficence and non-maleficence,
- Maintaining transparency whenever making choices, such as the selection of households for a pilot, intervention (livestock project), or hiring of community members as labour.
- Interacting periodically with a broad set of community members, not just leaders.

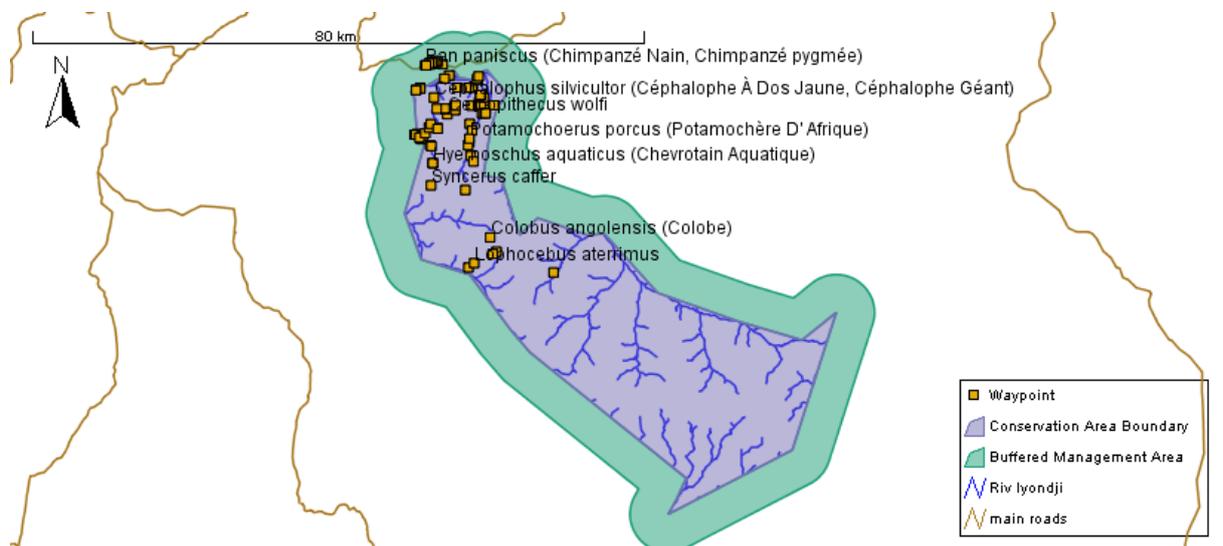
3. Briefly describe the three most important outcomes of your project.

- Bilya class project: teaching environmental education and art of conservation in 3 pilot primary schools of Iyondji (Nsomo, Yangonde, Bisandu),
- 35% of illegal hunting camps abandoned after community awareness,
- Big mammal's data updated through bio-monitoring survey.

Big mammal species found

Order	Family	Specie
Artiodactyls	Bovidae	<i>Cephalophus callipygus</i>
		<i>Cephalophus dorsalis</i>
		<i>Cephalophus nigrifrons</i>
		<i>Cephalophus sylvicultor</i>
		<i>Cephalophus monticola</i>
		<i>Syncerus caffer</i>
		<i>Tragelaphus eryceros</i>
		<i>Tragelaphus spekei</i>
	Suidae	<i>Potamochoerus porcus</i>
Proboscideans	Elephantidae	<i>Loxodonta africana</i>
Carnivores	Felidae	<i>Panthera pardus</i>
Primates	Pongidae	<i>Pan paniscus</i>
	Cercopithecidae	<i>Cercopithecus ascanius</i>
		<i>Cercopithecus wolfi</i>
		<i>Lophocebus attermus</i>
	Colobidae	<i>Colobus angolensis</i>
Pholidota	Manidae	<i>Manis gigantea</i>

Fauna distribution generated from SMART software (sample)



The next step will be the analysis of data by calculating kilometric abundance indices, the ratio between number of observations and effort to make these observations. (White & Edwards 2000, Walsh & White 1999).

The most species hunted for food or trade.

Scientific Name	Vernacular Name/ Longando
<i>Cephalophus callipygus</i>	Bofala
<i>Cephalophus dorsalis</i>	Bombende
<i>Cephalophus leucogaster</i>	Mpambi
<i>Cephalophus monticola</i>	Mboloko
<i>Cephalophus nigrifons</i>	Bongudju
<i>Cephalophus sylvicultor</i>	Lisoko
<i>Tragelaphus spekei</i>	Mbuli
<i>Potamochoerus porcus</i>	Nsombo
<i>Cricetomys emini</i>	Motomba
<i>Atelerix albiventris</i>	liko
<i>Cercopithecus ascanius</i>	Nsoli
<i>Cercopithecus wolfi</i>	Mbeka
<i>Lophocebus aterrimus</i>	Ngila

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

Iyondji is the first community based-conservation area in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Three schools benefited environmental education, next generation leaders. The project hired four local from local communities. Boys and girls were actively involved in a global community games (football, marathon, nzango "local game dedicated for female only").

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

We were granted transitional funding (see point 10), post period performance, to consolidate learning experiences of this project. Iyondji is a newly and successfully gazetted protected area. There are a lot of activities to be done. Apart from Djolu Territory, two others (Ikela and Yakuma) will be involved at phase 2 as part of Iyondji Forestry Bloc. Last year, Yahuma expressed at annual gathering its desire to expand its forest into Iyondji protected area.

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

At annual RESAP (Congo Protected Areas Network) in partnership with Congolese Wildlife Authority board meeting in June 2019, Iyondji annual Gathering in September 2019 and University of Mbandaka of the DR Congo.

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 from 12th February 2018 to February 2019. The project was designed for 12 months, but the reality on the ground encouraged us to extend it to at least 36 months because it generated great enthusiasm within local community.

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
Communication (internet, cell phone)	960	973	+13	
Transportation for local assistants	180	172	-8	A wooden boat rented for assistants to easily sail on Luo river.
Fuel and Lubricant	300	283	-17	
Motorbike maintenance	120	105	-15	
Miscellaneous (trophies, gifts, sports equip)	200	199	-1	
Bio-monitoring equipment	840	840		GPS map 62 and batteries, CyberTracker®, SMART software for data interpretation, Camera, Printer
Administration	480	487	+7	
Food for local assistants	480	442	-38	
Subsistence payments for team	1440	1415	-25	
Bank fees		49	+49	
TOTAL	5000	4965	-35	

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

- Pursuing community awareness and expand "Bilya Class Project".
- Bio-monitoring research.
- Land use and socio-economic surveys.
- Capacity building focuses on the partner's principles for community-based conservation.

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?

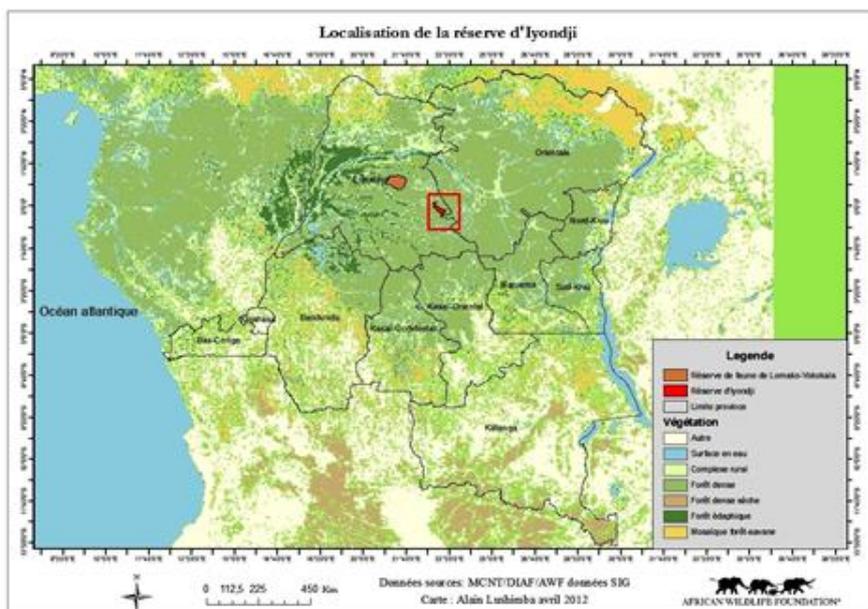
Yes we did use The Rufford Foundation logo during community football championship (see our first report). Yes The Rufford Foundation received publicity at Iyondji Annual Gathering. Also, the publicity allowed us to get extra 3,000 EUR to cover post period project performance (before second RSG, if granted) from Fonds Léopold III pour l'Exploration et la Conservation de la Nature (Leopold III Fund for Exploration and Conservation of the Nature)-Rue Vaultier 29, B-1000 Brussels, Belgium Kingdom.

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

Name	Role
Mr Louison Boloto	Local assistant and support technician
Mr Dieu-Merci Lotsulu	Local assistant and support technician
Ms Lydie Nkoy	Local assistant and support technician
Ms Marie Bolafa	Local assistant and support technician
Mr Jacques Batuafe	Bio-monitoring specialist and Head of Wamba Ecology and Forestry Research Center in partnership with Luo Scientific Reserve
Mr Balemba Balagizi	Project Lead

12. Any other comments?

In the course of running this project, we have had many positive experiences. But we have also made mistakes. There are several things we would do differently if we did them again. While our experiences have been mixed, one thing has remained unchanged. We continue to remain strong advocates of local community involvement in conservation.



Iyondji Community Bonobo Reserve and Surrounding Landscape