

Final Evaluation Report

Your Details	
Full Name	Nziza Julius
Project Title	The conservation of diverse bat species (Mammalia: Chiroptera) in volcanic caves at Musanze District, Northern Rwanda
Application ID	24845-2
Grant Amount	4980
Email Address	nzizavet@gmail.com
Date of this Report	1 st July 2020

1. 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
Local communities involved in guano harvesting will be sensitized about bat conservation, their ecological significance and sustainable guano harvesting procedures through seminars and community meetings.				
Knowledge about the population status of the bats in the tourism and non- tourism zones of the caves through bat counts.				
Knowledge about seasonal breeding patterns and movement patterns of resident bats				Movement patterns were not easy to establish as we didn't use collars. However, we recorded times of emergence and also entrance and noted directions taken by majority of the bats.

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

N/A

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

- Data on the estimated population density of the bats in the Volcanic Caves including their breeding pattern/ seasons.
- A sensitised community about bat conservation and how to live safely with bats attitude of the local communities including the leaders and school children.
- Established a systematic way of guano collections: established cooperative focussing on this practice. Also formulating mechanisms and guidelines for the established cooperatives near the caves for bats conservation efforts.

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

The local communities were sensitised in detail about bat species and conservation and the community benefited from the having knowledge about bats and bats conservation strategies and practices.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes, this bat - human interface is very critical for both bat conservation and socio-economic and health aspects of the surrounding human communities. Therefore, I have plans to continue this work depending on the availability of funds. I am also considering collecting data especially on diseases pathogens to health bats conservation and public health efforts.

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

I have written formal report to wildlife authority (Rwanda Development Board) and local district authorities. At same time I had a stakeholder meeting on the findings.

7. Timescale: Over what period was the grant used? How does this compare to the anticipated or actual length of the project?

I used 15 months and I had anticipated 12 months.

8. Budget: 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. It is important that you retain the management accounts and all paid invoices relating to the project for at least 2 years as these may be required for inspection at our discretion.

Item	Budgeted Amount	Actual Amount	Difference	Comments
Camera	160	163	+3	
Binoculars	240	235	-5	
Monthly counts and breeding behaviour assessment (4 working days every month for 8 months period): 2 observer allowances	640	650	+10	
Sensitization and educational training for the cave tourism staff; Refreshments and lunch	240	235	-5	
Sensitization and educational training for the cave tourism staff;	80	85	+5	

Training materials				
Sensitization and educational training for the cave tourism staff; Venue hiring for the training workshops for 30 participants	250	250		
Daily allowance for the assistant project coordinator (2 persons) to sensitize the local communities through workshops, trainings and community meetings	480	480		
Daily allowance for the Project Coordinator to follow up the activities and monitoring progress of the project activities	300	300		
Bat conservation talk on 10 community services days in the surrounding local community	480	500	+20	
4 working meetings with local guano harvesters about the improvement and challenges in Quota harvesting system	400	385	-15	
3 local training seminars in sustainable guano harvesting (affordable venue, refreshments, didactic materials)	1050	1050		
Conservation Stakeholders, local leaders Workshop; Workshop teaching supplies	50	48	-2	
Conservation Stakeholders, local leaders Workshop; Refreshment for workshop participants	60	65	+5	
Conservation Stakeholders, local leaders Workshop: Venue hiring for 1 workshop (conference room and audio system)	250	250		
Conservation Stakeholders, local leaders Workshop: Transportation for 30 participants	300	300		
TOTAL	4980	4996	+16	

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

Now with COVID 19 pandemic, bats have attracted a huge backlash from human communities. Around the Musanze Caves, the residents have grown more wary of the bats and although we sensitised them about the conservation benefits, COVID-19 has caused more worry about bats.

So there need for continuous engagement of the local communities including updating them about the research I did on the bats that showed that the viruses they have don't affect people and also need for biosecurity in areas where there is cave tourism.

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

Yes.

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

Dr. Julius Nziza

Julius was the project coordinator overseeing all the project activities and finances. He supervised the field teams, liaised with project partners and reported to the funder and relevant stakeholders.

Ms. Promesse Mbaraga

Promesse participated in bats counting, observations and data aggregation.

Mr. Mboneza Jean Bosco

Jean Bosco mobilized the communities about bats conservation and participated in bats counting and observation.

Mr. Kagiraneza Joseph

Joseph mobilized the communities about bats conservation and participated in bats counting and observation.

12. Any other comments?

I would like to thank Rufford Foundation for the support of the project. Due to the nature of the bat-human interactions in this ecological niche, this work is a continuous process where we have to advocate more bats conservation efforts and educating about the myths that have to be clarified so that there is long term harmonious co-existence between bats and people. My apologies for late submission of the final report as I have been involved in pre- and post-COVID-19 response.