

The Rufford Small Grants Foundation

Final Report

Congratulations on the completion of your project that was supported by The Rufford Small Grants Foundation.

We ask all grant recipients to complete a Final Report Form that helps us to gauge the success of our grant giving. 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. 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	Martin N. Etone
Project title	Tackling the Bushmeat Crisis Through Wildlife Conservation Education
RSG reference	26.07.07
Reporting period	January-November 2008
Amount of grant	£4,889
Your email address	cad_action@yahoo.com
Date of this report	23 November 2008

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
Identify and sensitise actors in bushmeat collection and Trade		Partially achieved		Not all hunters have been identified in the project area. This is true even in the communities we are currently working with. Many hunters view field staff as forest guards, so they hide their identity for fear that they will be punished. This makes the identification process difficult.
Organise campaigns against unsustainable hunting		Fully achieved		5 community sensitisation meetings have been organised as planned in the project document involving 11 villages. 116 hunters have been fully sensitised.
Explanation of the 1994 Wildlife law to local populations		Fully achieved		One workshop on the 1994 wildlife law has been organised in Tombel under the auspices of the Divisional Officer for Tombel Sub-Division. 59 participants representing hunters, community chiefs, NGOs, Councils and government departments gained knowledge about the law.
Carry out alternative activities to hunting of Wildlife		Partially achieved		Though all alternative micro-enterprises (snails, beekeeping and pig farming) have been introduced to our target population, not all hunters and bush meat traders involved in illegal wildlife hunting have been engaged in these activities.
Collaboration with Relevant Government Ministries		Fully achieved		We worked very closely with technical Ministries such as the Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife, Environment and Nature Protection and the Limbe Wildlife Center. The previous two served as resources persons in meetings, while the Limbe Wildlife Centre us with posters with information on endangered species which we distributed in communities.

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

During project implementation we faced the following difficulties:

2.1 Project Staff Viewed as Forest Guards

Most local people viewed CAD staff as forest guards and so hide their identity as hunters and bushmeat traders. This has made identification of this target population pretty difficult. However, we continued to sensitize these people about the role of hunters in wildlife management as well as explained that CAD staffs are collaborators rather than guards.

2.2 More request than we can support

We received lots of request from the public, particularly in the area of alternatives such as snail and livestock farming. But we have been unable to satisfy all identified hunters with the necessary equipment and inputs as a result of limited resources.

2.3 Lack of extension means

Despite the difficult terrain and vast area of coverage, CAD has no means of extension (no extension motorcycles, no vehicles) to follow-up project activities. So we resorted to hiring motorcycles/cars at exorbitant costs, otherwise we trek over long distances to the field. This did not only reduce staff efficiency (when they get exhausted before reaching the communities.) but also limited activity expansion to other needy communities. In addition the long-term cost of hiring bikes and vehicles is far more than the cost of purchasing one or two motorcycles.

2.4 Poor Communication Network

We operate in an area where communication is still difficult. For instance we can access internet/e-mail facilities only in Nkongsamba; a town situated over 45 km away from Bangem. Hence, it is difficult to receive or send very urgent information or letters on time. Though this makes communication expensive we subscribed to an internet account with ISMAM Internet Center in Nkongsamba.

2.5 Open Resistance from some people to desist from Hunting and Human-Wildlife conflicts

Most people frown at Cameroon's wildlife law because it totally prohibits trapping and sale of bushmeat. This coupled with increasing wildlife-human conflicts over food crops and forest products provoke people to go into illegal hunting, thus violating the law. However, based on people's request, CAD came up with a draft proposal for local hunting arrangements between the Administration and local populations. This document will be presented and discussed by various stakeholders in subsequent meetings.

2.6 Inadequate staff remuneration.

CAD staffs do not receive salaries. What they earn as allowances is practically impossible to keep them satisfied with the work they do. This poor remuneration might lead to job dissatisfaction, low efficiency and loss of work spirit. However, while we only work with volunteers, CAD is trying to contact other donors for possibilities of increasing our funding base.

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

3.1. Explanation of Wildlife Policy and Regulations to Target Populations

We organised one workshop on Cameroon's 1994 Wildlife Law in April 2008 under the auspices of the Division Officer for Tombel Sub-Division. During this workshop we raised awareness and improve local understanding about the content of the law and its legal provisions in wildlife exploitation. Over 60 participants representing hunters, bushmeat traders, traditional rulers, councils, NGOs and relevant government departments such as the Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife. Besides, the disadvantages of poor hunting practices were explained and participants came up with strategic recommendations on better community wildlife utilisation and management to enhance improve local livelihoods in the project area.

In addition, we prepared and distributed 650 fliers on the law as well as 70 posters with information and pictures of some endangered species of primates and the legal implication of hunting them. Over 1500 people currently have an idea about the law as people pass on information to others in the project area.

3.2. Formation of Village-Based Wildlife Groups to Check Illegal Activities

Following a series of village-based sensitisation meetings and workshops against unsustainable hunting practices and the plight of endangered wildlife species, we identified 116 hunters and *Pepper Soup Sellers* (those selling cooked bushmeat) from 19 villages. With assistance from CAD these hunters have been

organised into five functional wildlife groups. The groups, which have been officially installed by the Divisional Delegate of Forestry and Wildlife for Kupe-Muanenguba, are given the responsibility of monitoring and checking illegal hunting and sale of bushmeat at community level. However, these groups need to be further strengthened by way of legalisation and capacity building in monitoring such illegal unsustainable practices.

3.3. Introduction/Promotion of Viable Alternative Micro-enterprises to Hunting

In a bid to tackle poverty that drives illegal wildlife exploitation, we introduced a series of micro-enterprises as substitutes to hunting and bushmeat trading. Our intention here is to provide local communities, particularly hunters with alternative sources of income and nutrients that could reduce pressure on wildlife resources. Our achievements here include:

SNAIL FARMING

Training of Trainers on Snail Farming Techniques

- ✓ With the hired services of a snail specialist, we organised a training of trainer's workshop on snail farming in May 2008 during which 35 group representatives gained practical knowledge and skills in snail farming techniques.
- ✓ In addition, 56 people (26 men, 19 women and 11 youths) have been trained through five on-farm training sessions. Aspects treated include: the importance of snails, steps in snail farming, housing and farming methods, installation feeding, farm management, record keeping, reproduction and pest management. Trainees are currently sharing their skills and experiences with others in villages.
- ✓ 5 group snail farms with 9,621 snails have been established with hunters groups in Akid, Muandon, Ngolleh and Muantah villages. Local people are already generating income from the sale of snails.
- ✓ 50 forest users with interest in snail farming have been identified for eventual training and assistance.

BEEKEEPING

Beekeeping forms an important aspect of our work due to the socio-economic potentials of this innovation. We have organised five on-farm training sessions on hive installation and management with the wildlife groups put in place in the project area. 31 people including 18 men, 6 women and 7 youths have been trained and gained skills in beekeeping techniques. In addition, 5 bee farms (with 20 hives) have been set up with some identified hunters.

PIG FARMING

Our approach here is that of *Passing over the Gift*. In this case, when a beneficiary group produces piglets, at least one piglet is passed on to a newly created group with interest in hunting or sale of bushmeat. We have so far trained 30 local people (14 men, 9 women and 7 youths) on pig farm construction and management. In addition we set up 5 pig farms with hunters and CAD has donated at least one piglet to each of these hunters groups.

It is worth noting that we tried to mainstream issues of HIV/AIDS in our conservation works. During hunters meetings, brief lectures were given on HIV/AIDS transmission and prevention as well as the need for voluntary screening. 100 packets of condoms were distributed to villagers in the course of this exercise.

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

The local communities have been very interested and involved in the implementation of this project. We planned out activities together prior to implementation. They attend and contribute to meetings and sometimes they have hosted smaller meetings. The idea of alternative micro-enterprises is most welcomed as indicated in the number of request we receive in our office. In addition, people are particularly happy to learn about the wildlife law but criticise the complete prohibition of the sale of bush meat and failure for the law to clearly state the benefits local populations could derive from sustainable wildlife management.

In the course of project implementation local communities have derived meaningful benefits. Among these are the following:

- ✓ Local communities are more aware and informed about national forest and wildlife regulations and better understand the legal implication of hunting/trading in endangered and protected wildlife species;
- ✓ Many people are now equally aware about the dangers of current hunting practices and methods on wild animal species, particularly the primates;
- ✓ Local populations are forming grassroots structures (small wildlife groups) to check illegal activity, thus, enhancing their participation and contribution in policy influence and implementation at community level. The existence of such organised structures can easily attract national and international recognition and support.
- ✓ Based on knowledge gained from the project, local people have defined strategies to foster community wildlife management and curb pressure on endangered species. If these ideas are translated into concrete actions and properly followed up, then, wildlife populations will definitely rise to the advantage of forest dwelling communities in the project area;
- ✓ Local capacities have been built in alternative micro-enterprises (snail farming, beekeeping, and pig farming) other than hunting. These enterprises are contributing to poverty alleviation as people already engage and generate income and nutrients from them.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes. We plan to continue because:

- During the pilot phase of this project local people were receptive in learning about the wildlife law and approaches that reduce pressure on wildlife. However, only 19 of the over 150 village communities relying on hunting and forest resources have been reached. We therefore plan to consolidate these activities in previously reached communities and expand the campaign against unsuitable hunting and bushmeat trade to new communities in the project area. So when many more people are informed of suitable practices as provided by law, then, they will be able to take responsibility over use and management of their endangered species especially as it takes time and resources to change attitudes.
- In the course of project execution, 5 wildlife groups have been formed and more will emerge in future as grass root structures to monitor and control hunting and bushmeat trading in various communities. We need further strengthen the capacities these groups by assisting them in obtaining legal recognition as well as training them in monitoring and controlling illegal hunting and sale of bushmeat from threatened species in their respective localities.
- The alternative hunting options (snail, beekeeping and pig farming) introduced to local populations have been very much welcomed. Now that CAD is persuading people to decline from hunting, we need to intensify, expand and ensure the sustainability these newly introduced alternative sources of

income and nutrients so that people spend more time doing them than going hunting. This will not only reduce current pressure on endangered species but also ensure long-term contribution to biodiversity improvement.

- Local communities criticized that the existing wildlife law does not take much cognizance of local people's reliance on wildlife resources. So they advocate for local hunting arrangements that would enhance both policy implementation and community wildlife management. CAD, together with local communities will therefore need to lobby the administration to agree and sign an MoU to this effect, defining the roles and responsibilities of each actor in the management of endangered
- Finally, we plan to introduce an environmental education component of this programme to school children who might grow up to become hunters when they drop out of school for poverty or poor academic reasons. In this way we shall be building an informed new generation that takes interest and leadership over wildlife protection at an early age.

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

We plan to share our results by:

- Sharing our Webpage contact given us under the Rufford Website. In fact this is already working marvellously as staff from organisations such as WWF send us appreciation based on what they see and read about our work on this page;
- Producing and distributing project reports to other stakeholders such as the Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife, Environment and Nature Protection, Councils and Traditional authorities;
- Presenting our experiences during network meetings and workshops when we have such opportunities.
- Producing and publishing articles about our work in the print media;
- Highlighting our previous achievements when making new project proposals.
- Request Rufford to host CAD permanently under her Website.

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

The Rufford Small Grant was used over a period of 11 months (January-November 2008). This is one month shorter than the anticipated duration 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
Note 1: Administrative Cost				
Electricity/water	74	37	37	Negotiated free water
Telephone	60	52	8	
Internet	40	24	16	
Fax	5	5	0	
Scanning	0	2	-2	
Photocopy	50	33	17	
Office rents	223	223	0	
Equipment maintenance	103	0	103	No maintenance as our computer did breakdown

Bank charges	0	56	-56	charges as deducted by the bank
Sub-total	555	432	123	
Note 2: Consumables/Logistics				
Training materials/leaflets on wildlife law	136	138	-2	
Lodging	186	155	31	Negotiated for reduced cost of lodging people during workshops
Workshop hall	31	10	21	Bargained for a cheaper cost
Local community participation	0	453	-453	This cost was not foreseen, but necessary to keep villagers longer during meetings/workshops
Resource persons/incentive to Administrative Authorities	93	181	-88	Paid incentive administrators to enlist their participation in the project
Office stationery	257	179	78	
Banners	0	26	-26	Produce public banner during workshop in Tombel
Project pictures	0	23	-23	Made pictures to increase project visibility
Sub-total	703	1,165	-462	
Note 3: Travel Cost				
Hiring of bike/extension	804	372	432	Reduced cost of hiring bikes by using same riders all the time
Vehicle hire for transportation of equipment	52	61	-9	Transportation cost increased due bad roads
Participants transport to project meetings	258	276	-18	Had more participants attend meetings than expected
Sub-Total	1,114	709	405	
Note 4: Field Equipment				
Initial stock of snails	206	165	41	
Snail farm nets	103	114	-11	
Bee hives	247	330	-83	
Piglets	206	134	72	
Beekeeping veils	186	82	104	
Smokers	124	41	83	
Bee suits	186	62	124	
Wheel barrows	111	102	9	
Watering cans	36	34	2	
Cutlasses	61	58	3	
Nails	26	15	11	
Disinfectant/vaccines	41	0	41	Lost some money as bank transfer charges not previewed.
Sub-total	1,533	1,137	396	
Note: 4 Food				
Food for workshop on law	150	104	46	

Food for snail farm workshop	67	21	46	
Food for meetings with WWF,GTZ,MINFOF)	0	6	-6	We used these meeting to share our experiences with international organisations and government officials
Sub-total	217	131	86	
Note 5: Reporting				
Field/progress reports	77	39	38	But for field reports that were printed, most of our reports were sent by internet, so we spent little on printing and distribution of hard copies.
Final report	72	14	58	
Sub-total	149	53	96	
Note 6: Office material				
USB Flash	0	23	-23	Bought s USB flash to serve as back up to our project information in our computer
Sub-total		23	-23	
Note 7: consultancy for training on snail farming	0	103	-103	Hired the services of a consultant to train both hunters and CAD staff in snail farming techniques)
Sub-total	0	103	-103	
Note 8: Staff allowances				
Project Coordinator	206	341	-135	Volunteer allowances were earlier budgeted for 9 months, but paid for 11 months because we had to complete construction of 4 snail farm cages
Wildlife Technician	206	227	-21	
Bee Technician	206	227	-21	
Sub-Total	618	795	-177	
TOTAL	4889	4,548	341	
Actual Amount received	4,558			
Balance		11		11 is in bank to keep the current account running

Note:

The amount actually transferred into our account is 4,414,608 FCFA, equivalent to £4,558. After spending £4,548, we have a balance of £11. from the statement, about £330 went as payment of receiver's charges and due to fluctuations in currency exchange rate. This was not previewed at the time of budgeting. So we managed the money such that quantities of some items were reduced to make up the cost of others in the project document, the reason for many plus differences.

The exchange we used is 968.47 FCFA per Pound Sterling. We also send a financial report in local currency to clearly show what we received (4,414,608 FCFA) and how it was spent.

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

Most project activities such as sensitisation against poor hunting practices, explanation of the law are process-oriented. Therefore important next steps will be:

- Sustained campaigns against unsuitable hunting practices and continuous explanation and simplification of the content of wildlife policies and regulations, particularly in newly identified hunting communities. By so doing there will be widespread knowledge of the law and the plight of endangered species.
- Capacity building of village wildlife groups formed to check illegal activity. This is going to be by way of legalisation, training and equipping these village structures to better effect control.
- Continue assisting hunters groups engage in viable alternative micro-enterprises (snail, beekeeping and pig farming) so that they can expand in these new lines of activities, earn significant household incomes and reduce current pressure on endangered species;
- Produce and distribute sensitisation materials such as leaflets, posters, banners and billboards carrying information about wildlife regulations and sustainable hunting methods.
- Conduct Primate Surveys as well as Bushmeat Market surveys to generate baseline information about existing primate population, bushmeat production and contribution household income, marketing chains, and actors involved in this sector.
- Carry out habitat restoration activities via tree planting and agroforestry;
- Advocate for local hunting arrangements that would enhance both policy implementation and community wildlife management and signing an MoU to this effect, defining the roles and responsibilities of each actor in the management of endangered
- Introduce wildlife conservation education in schools and colleges. This is because children form the hope for the future and might grow up to become hunters when they drop out of school for poverty or poor academic reasons.
- Produce a video to increase the visibility of project activities.

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

Yes. We used the RSGF logo on the Wildlife leaflet and all our project reports produced. For publicity, a press release was prepared bearing RSGF as the sponsor and read over the Provincial Station of the Cameroon Radio and Television in Buea. In addition, RSGF financial support is acknowledged in all our reports, copies of which we extend to partners such as the Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife, Environment and Nature Protection etc.

11. Any other comments?

We sincerely thank the Rufford Small Grant Foundation for the financial support given us to make this pilot phase of the project a success. It is our wish that this collaboration grows from strength to strength to the advantage of marginalised communities and endangered species. In addition we extend our thanks to local communities and other conservation organisations that have assisted us in one way or the other in the course of this project.