

Final Evaluation Report

Your Details	
Full Name	Kaleme K. Prince
Project Title	Protection of caves, forests and roost sites of Bat in the north-eastern Democratic Republic of Congo
Application ID	26805-C
Grant Amount	£15,000
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Date of this Report	31 October 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
Bat checklist from explored sites.				Some of the sites in the south of the range were sampled twice because of the ADF war in the region. But sites in the north were well sampled and list available.
Community awareness				We held meetings with all categories of people from provincial governments, local stakeholders and schools. Meetings were held and plans made for forest and roost sites protection.

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

The date of the report was changed because of the occurrence of Covid-19. All activities including travels were cancelled, which led to extension of the activities we had to undertake in the field. Hopefully, we could catch-up and undertake the remaining activities in all the sites as initially planned.

In the southern part of the area, there was an extension of ADF activities near Mount Hoyo Forest Reserve and surroundings. The rangers were requested to leave and relocate to Okapi Faunal reserve, which made it difficult to continue in this site. Kibali Gold Mining sites and Isiro were well sampled, and meetings held. The mining company accepted to reduce bat roost site disturbance according to their environmental policy (that was not fully respected until then). Initially, they were planning to blast some of the bat caves but this was cancelled.

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

1. Bat checklist from explored sites is ready: the list is being sent to an international journal for publishing. Here, a poster of the bats of the region is made and printed. This one, a supplement of the previous one, printed in 2018, will also be distributed in schools and offices (Ministry of Environment, ICCN and others).
2. Three provincial governments have accepted to work for forest and roost site protection in agreements with local stakeholders, school principals and pupil representatives.

3. Local chiefs from villages near our bat sites accepted to sign contracts for the protection of their forests. Requests were submitted to provincial governments. We are assisting to have the processes get to the end and have all the needed papers work for implementation.

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

The local communities were implicated in decision making. Knowing the problem to work with ministries only, we required the local people (owners of the forests and beneficiaries of the goods and services) to be represented in the discussions so that the decisions are endorsed at all levels and all agreements made with them instead of the province. Excursions to see caves and other bat roosts were organised with local chiefs, principals and school pupils and teachers. Municipality environment officers were the key point of the activities as they were very active. Students from Shalom University at Bunia (Ituri Province) and University of Haut Uele (in the Haut Uele Province) were active. Four students had their final year theses on the bats of the region. Two more are doing fieldwork now.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes. We have plans to continue this work with schools and local chiefs in agreement with the provincial governments and municipalities that are the closer authorities to reach. Environment officers have submitted requests to provinces for the continuation of the activities. Two more students have requested to be supervised for their Honour's theses (we have already agreed).

A female PhD student is enrolled to study the bats in field crops and compare bat species richness with the nearby Kahuzi-Biega National Park.

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

The results will be share in three ways:

- A paper is being submitted for publication in an international peer reviewed journal.
- Bat posters have been made to be distributed to schools and environment offices as well as ICCN.
- Workshops are planned to take place soon this year to share the results of the project. During the conference, bat caves and roost sites visit will also take place to encourage the local peoples to keep protecting forests and the roost sites and caves.

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

The project was meant to be completed in 18 months from April 2019. The project started normally on time. But some trouble in the region, unforeseen, disturbed the course of the project. After ADF trouble in the southern part, Irumu, near Mount Hoyo Forest Reserve, we would depend on news from the chief warden to do some of the work. But the occurrence of Covid-19 in late 2019 and the course of 2020 was the major problem that stopped the work for more than a year before ICCN allowed again the work in parks and reserves in late 2021 (August 2021).

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
Ration/ fieldwork	3000	3000		No change in the amount.
Field equipment (harp trap)	2000	2000		No change
Transport to and from field	3500	3500		Same amount
Meeting with local stakeholders	2500	2500		
Students' support and transport (from and to the field)	2000	1500	-500	The support to students was reduced as accommodation on site was free
Meetings with school principals	1500	2000	+500	Many of the attendees were coming from far, which increased the amount.
Posters of bats and mammal species (to distribute to schools)	500	500		
TOTAL	15000	15000		

The equipment obtained with this fund will serve our laboratory; while some nets were given to the students and some universities to continue the work we started together.

Equipment was purchased but most of the time the dates of delivery were postponed due to unforeseen situations. All the meetings were held, but additions

were covered by additional funds from other project here at CRSN/ Lwiro. Some other situations are well explained in the table above.

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

This was my last chance to get RSG grant. But the area covered is rich in bat caves and it is one of the parts of Africa with very high species richness in bats. We intend to continue sampling bats in this part and other forested areas for a better understanding of bats distribution in the country. It is noteworthy to state that the DRC is among the countries where bats are not well studied and need more efforts for bat studies and conservation.

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. The Rufford logo was in every presentation, as in the posters made for the bats of the studied area. We also mentioned the RSG when acknowledging contributors in the bat paper (in press now).

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

Prince K. Kaleme - Project head. Led all activities of the project from fieldwork, meetings (workshops and conferences). He worked for making things together and the compilation of the data for the next steps.

Mwanga M. Jacques - Participated in fieldwork for bat sampling and cave as well as roosts visits. He made all the maps of the study area for reports at different levels and led stakeholders' meetings.

Martine N. Matondo, BSc. - Conducted the data compilation as she is working in making the database of the CRSN Museum. She also did some data analysis.

Students - 4 students working for their projects from Shalom University at Bunia, universities at Watsa and Isiro) - were trained on bats sampling, the use of SM4 bat detectors and other materials such as mist nets, harp traps. Two of the students are now taken as intern at the Okapi Faunal reserve to monitor bats. We also recommended one student at Kibali Gold Mining for monitoring bat caves. The managers and the head of Environmental component agreed about the principle. But there need to be some more formalities for him to start.

12. Any other comments?

The series of RSG has been helpful for us to work in countries where resources are not sure for conservation. It permitted us to work in an area that is not well known, while being in a region that is of importance for conservation for species richness in all taxonomic groups.

This part has been a very big gap when depicting species occurrence in Africa. Now, we have some interesting information on the biodiversity of this part, especially bats.

We will see how to get additional funds from other sources to pursue this work. We are really grateful to RSG for what we could do with this fund.



During a meeting with Kibali Gold Mining officials at Doka, Haut Uele Province, DRC.



left: Inspection of caves with the KGM team. Right: Jacques, KGM assistants in front of a cave, Mwanga (second left) and Prince (right).



The meeting with Désiré NESOBANGE (right), Ituri Province Minister of Environmental Affairs, with the Chief Warden (left) and his deputy in charge of monitoring.



Chief Paul Andibgo (Seated with a jacket) of the Walesse county, Prince Kaleme (left), Honoré Balikwisha (Chief warden - right).



Students in a site visit having explanation on different monitoring equipments. Here, we were explaining on the use of bat detectors (on the ground near the papers).



Demonstration on. Left: Different pieces – Right: The setting up of a HARP TRAP (for bats trapping).



Pictures with the Administrator of Irumu Municipality. With the Provincial Minister of Environmental Affairs



Work with the students in the forest, setting up different devices for monitoring animals with students. Here, one shown, the SM4 - bat detector. After this, set-up the nets.



Showing the students how to handle of specimens (removal and release) from nets and harp trap. Photo at the left, how are specimens in the harp trap after they are caught. Right, how to remove them and take measurements.