

Final Evaluation Report

Your Details	
Full Name	Balembe Balagizi Emmanuel
Project Title	Enhance Law Enforcement and Conservation Awareness at Iyondji Community Bonobo Reserve
Application ID	28310-2
Grant Amount	£ 5000
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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
To enhance law enforcement in the lyondji protected area				Several patrols were conducted and led to the confiscation of a range of illegal bushmeat such as 310 kg of giant pangolin meat. Both rangers and research team checked footprints and traces of digging evidence of large mammals such as African buffalo (<i>Syncerus caffer namis</i>), bongo (<i>Tragelaphus euryceros</i>), red river hog (<i>Potamochoerus porcus</i>), giant pangolin (<i>Manis gigantea</i>), leopard (<i>Panthera pardus</i>), bonobo (<i>Pan paniscus</i>) and aardvark (<i>Orycteropus afer</i>); middle mammals, blue duiker (<i>Cephalophus monticola</i>) and bay duiker (<i>Cephalophus dorsalis</i>) and diurnal monkeys such as red-tailed monkey (<i>Cercopithecus ascanius</i>) and Mona monkey (<i>Cercopithecus mona</i>), and less frequently black mangabey (<i>Lophocebus aterrimus</i>) and black and white colobus (<i>Cercopithecus angolensis</i>). There are also Braza monkey (<i>Cercopithecus neglectus</i>) and Salonga monkey (<i>Cercopithecus dryas</i>) inhabiting in the swamp areas along Luo River.
To update bonobo distribution through nests counting				We followed a group at Itéketa camp for 185 days with an average of 34 individuals. Different number of observations were recorded such as aggression (four), copulation (21), eating (104), grooming (27), moving (51), resting (193) and other (29). It shows that the group spent 45% in resting. Just like many other species, bonobos are resource driven. Group dynamics are characterised by fission-fusion processes. When resources are abundant, number of bonobos

				increase and when resources are depleted, bonobos break up into smaller groups. Results yielded marketed disparities in previous data (2015) from the biomonitoring team attributed to lack of equipment, standardisation of data collection, and possibly lack of active research. Also, an overlap between the bonobo home range and the hunting zone.
To promote environmental education in schools				<p><i>Bilya</i> class targeted three primary schools (Nsomo, Yangonde, Bisandu), benefiting approximately 320 kids through two short documentary films based on poaching in the bonobo landscape: <i>Le braconnage un fléau pour nos ressources</i> « Poaching a scourge for our resources with an emphasis on the exploitation of Bonobos as a food source » https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wOA-t4uQhk and <i>La Loi est pour tous</i> « The Law is for everyone » https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-NeThXYHGNC</p>
To implement community awareness				The sensitisation occurred during focus group meetings, five in total, with all the population stratum of 10 villages and neighbourhoods. During these meetings, many questions dealing with poaching intensification, slash and burn, climate change and deadly Ebola virus were treated and clarified by the expert of the protected area. At the end of these focus group meetings, local populations understood the importance for the conservation of lyondji biodiversity.

*Bilya means bonobo in vernacular

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

Unforeseen difficulty was the recent Ebola outbreak in the neighbourhood province of Equateur that led to a temporary suspension of activities by the Congolese Wildlife Authority until further notice. Fortunately, we were granted a moratorium to pursue surveillance activities as our protected area was isolated and the region (Tshuapa) did not yet record any virus case.

Heavy rains causing trees to fall disturbed eco-guards and research team to collect data, but thanks to a good team spirit within the group, it has been overcome.

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

- Improving bonobo conservation through law enforcement & research.
- Dissemination & raising awareness about tangible good practices for the long-term conservation of the lyondji protected area.
- Contributing to relationships improvement between protected area managers, local state representatives, chiefs and community members of 10 villages that form lyondji district.

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

lyondji communities were fully involved in the project. There were two implementing partners: Amis de la Conservation de la Nature d'lyondji, (ACN), a key local association for its contribution to the creation of the lyondji protected area (role: Awareness campaign against illegal bush meat trafficking (*Ne pas tuer* - No hunt, *Ne pas manger* - No eat, *Ne pas vendre* – No sales), and conflict resolution) and Réseau des Femmes Africaines pour le Développement Durable (REFAAD-Djolu), a local NGO that has been heavily involved in promoting women's empowerment and gender equality in the Maringa-Lopori-Wamba landscape. It has worked with women's groups to ensure that their voices are taken into account in decision-making processes. One of REFAAD's priority areas is former bush meat sellers who now benefit from literacy courses, training in family planning and small businesses.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes, we will continue at maintaining our current conservation activities: i) law enforcement and biomonitoring activities to protect last Congo's bonobos and their habitat; ii) building local capacities to improve community conservation skills; and iii) strengthening resiliency in lyondji communities through livelihood initiatives.

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

Results will be shared continuously to the National Protected Areas Network in the DR Congo. Also, at the 4th Africa Animal Welfare Conference in September 2020. Finally, at lyondji annual stakeholders gathering in November 2020 and local media "Radio Bolombo".

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

The Second Rufford Small Grant was used for the period July 2019 - June 2020. As we mentioned in previous reports, this is a long-term project for Iyondji protected area stabilisation.

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
Basic Field Equipment	480	480		
Meetings	500	500		
Transport (fuel & lubricant)	840	840		
Communication (internet, cell phone)	960	960		
Patrol Ration Pack	2,220	2,220		The ration pack is composed by smoked fish, rice, beans and other local delicacies to support local farming
Total	5,000	5,000		

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

ICBR is only 8 years old and little action has been taken by Congolese judiciary authorities despite our denunciations and suing well known armed poachers living and operating from neighbourhood. However, the Administrator of Djolu Territory has been receptive and will continue to engage with other officials to combat illegal wildlife trafficking.

Not ignoring permanent dialogue with the leadership of Civil Society of Djolu for peaceful coexistence between conservation and communities.

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, printed on billboard, materials and every time during an oral presentation, e.g. at Biodiversity & Security workshop « Addressing Wildlife Crime in Conflicts Zone Through Non-Violent and Community Conservation » organised by The University of

Sheffield, Sheffield Institute for International Development and University of Rwanda, Center of Excellence in Biodiversity and Natural Resource Management (CoEB) in Kigali, Rwanda from 12 - 13 March 2020.

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

N°	Name	Role
01	Ariana Lado	Law Enforcement Officer
02	César Botuli	SMART & Bio-monitoring Officer
03	Gérard Bofeko	Warden & Acting Officer at ICBR
04	Jacques Batuafe	Head of Wamba Ecology and Forestry Research Center (Centre de Recherche en Ecologie et Foresterie de Wamba) located at the Luo Scientific Reserve, adjacent to ICBR. He was in charge of supervising data (Analyze-Interpret-Present)
05	Louison Boloto	President of <i>Amis de la Conservation de la Nature</i> , a local NGO representative of the various communities which is officially recognized by administrative authorities of Djolu, to act as the spokesperson of the lyondji population and worked full time during all the phases of the project.
06	Balembe Balagizi	Project Lead

12. Any other comments?

The Rufford Foundation is a relevant support in our *in-situ* conservation work at lyondji Community Bonobo Reserve. More funding still needed to achieve more measurable conservation objectives. Also, my project findings will definitively help during ICBR management plan write-up. Thank you so much for your generosity and to be part of our fight to protect the last of Congo's bonobos and its habitat.

Below: Maringa Lopori Wamba Landscape

