

## Final Evaluation Report

---

Your Details	
<b>Full Name</b>	Ahissa Laurent
<b>Project Title</b>	Abundance, distribution and conservation of the critically endangered Wimmer's shrew ( <i>Crocidura wimmeri</i> ) in the Banco National Park, Côte d'Ivoire
<b>Application ID</b>	32300-2
<b>Grant Amount</b>	£ 5801
<b>Email Address</b>	laurentahissa@yahoo.fr
<b>Date of this Report</b>	02/12/2021

**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
Determine the relative abundance of <i>C. wimmeri</i> in the different types of BNP habitats				
Determine the distribution of the species in the BNP				
Assess the threats to the species and				
Sensitize all users of the park, whose activity impacts the habitat of the Wimmer shrew.				Awareness raising should continue with other tools to reach the maximum number of people

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

We did not notice any major problem during the implementation of this project. All the activities were carried out as planned. We would like to continue the sensitisations in the next steps.

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

The three main results we would like to describe are: 1) the abundances of shrews captured, 2) the distributions of *C. wimmeri* in the park and finally 3) the awareness forms.

- Regarding the abundances, our device recorded 57 individuals of shrews belonging to two genera (*Suncus* and *Crocidura*). Of this number, only three individuals of *Crocidura wimmeri* were obtained. This testifies of its very rare and discrete character.

- This critically endangered species is not distributed throughout the park. It has only been observed in primary and secondary forest habitats. It is a species that is very attached to natural forests and avoids any degradation actions.

-Our third major outcome of the project was the success in environmental awareness and education. Many primary and secondary school students took part in the teachings on the conservation of the Wimmer rattlesnake and its habitat which is the Banco National Park (BNP). The local populations have agreed to support any project aimed at conserving the BNP.

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

The local communities were strongly involved in the implementation of this project. They granted all authorisations for the holding of the activities of the project. Local leaders assisted the team in the organisation of meetings. They relay awareness messages during their traditional meetings.

**5. Are there any plans to continue this work?**

Yes, we plan to continue this work at several levels. First of all, we must continue the sensitisation of the populations whose activities impact the park. We must also continue environmental education in all the surrounding schools. A monitoring plan for the Wimmer shrew population is in place to follow the dynamics of their population on a periodic basis. Those aspects are debated in our NGO.

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

- At the national level, the results will be presented to the stakeholders of the project, namely the scientists of the NGO ACB-Côte d'Ivoire, the park managers and the local communities.
- At the international level, we plan to write a scientific publication in a peer-reviewed journal.

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

The grant was collected in the June 2020. Already in July 2020, we have started to use the project funds through campaigns to present the project to stakeholders. The use of the funds has been done in the indicated periods of the project. The end of the project is scheduled for December 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
Cost of managing the project fund by NGO ACB-CI	277	277		
Fuel	158	158		
Vehicle rental	2013	2013		

Flyers	134	134		
Purchase of projector	403	403		
Assistants guides salary	536	536		
forest guide salary	268	268		
Molecular identification of specimens	1610	1610		
Buckets for pitfall	134	134		
Tarpaulin for pitfall	268	268		
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>5801</b>	<b>5801</b>		

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

- We plan to focus on raising awareness by adding other tools such as radio messages, television messages, print media and online media.
- We would like to do periodic monitoring inventories of Wimmer's shrews in Banco National Park to see the population trends.
- We plan to investigate several urban forests to identify potential population of Wimmer's shrews.

**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 of course, the logo has been used on all our media. The foundation has received enough advertising during the implementation of this work.

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

**Ahissa Laurent**, PhD student, project Principal Investigator. My responsibility is at several levels. First, the management of interactions between external and internal partners of the project. I supervised all the activities of the project. I conducted all the work of environmental education and awareness campaign around the park. I trained students (Monnet N'DA and Vayé Fred) on the sampling of Wimmer shrews.

**Dr. Akpatou Bertin**, Lecturer at the FHB University of Côte d'Ivoire. Zoogeographer, specialist in ecology and systematics of small mammals, expert in biodiversity conservation and sustainable development. His main role in the project was the identification of shrews and their ecological roles.

**OIPR** (Ivorian Office of Parks and Reserves). This institution is responsible for the management of protected areas in Côte d'Ivoire. OIPR will help us activate foresters and will be involved in their capacity building. It will provide all the necessary access permits to the park.

**12. Any other comments?**

I would like to take this opportunity to thank The Rufford Foundation for its support of endangered species conservation around the world.