

Final Evaluation Report

Your Details	
Full Name	Tasse Taboue Geraud Canis
Project Title	Mainstreaming outreach and understanding habitat requirements to conserve the Goliath frog in Cameroon
Application ID	32566-2
Grant Amount	£6000
Email Address	geraudtasse@yahoo.fr
Date of this Report	January 17, 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
Obtain updated data on the occupation and population status of the Goliath frog across its range within Cameroon to assess population trends in localities where historical data is available				New sites were visited across the range of the goliath frog. New occurrences were recorded for the goliath frog.
Quantify habitat requirements, such as riparian vegetation cover and potential threats as deforestation adjacent to rivers and infrastructure construction;				Several habitats across the range of the goliath frog were visited. In places where goliath frog was spotted, habitat type and composition as vegetation cover were assessed. The various threats were also noted as various anthropogenic activities in these places.
Understand spatial and socio-economic drivers of frog hunting pressure across the Goliath range;				Various drivers of hunting of goliath frog were explored while discussing with the local population. Hunting is to fuel basic family needs such as serving protein to the table. In some instances, hunting was practised by youth ranging from 15-25 years. In such instances, this was mainly to make money as frogs are highly sought after especially in the littoral region. Meat is sold in most instances by the roadside to local resellers usually called byam sellam.
Explore solutions to alleviate hunting pressure through workshops with stakeholders across the range of the Goliath Frog;				Workshops were held with stakeholders across the range of goliath frog. It remains essential to include the local population for a sound conservation action for this frog. Although it might be necessary to go beyond, awareness-raising remains a key tool to let the highest amount of people know about the ongoing threats facing the goliath frog.

<p><i>Provide education sessions for various stakeholders to raise awareness on the need to conserve Goliath frog and amphibians in general</i></p>				<p>Various educational activities were provided to students across the range of the goliath frog. These activities involved mainly formal lectures with the help of visual tools, games and distribution of gifts and toys.</p>
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2. Please explain any unforeseen difficulties that arose during the project and how these were tackled.

The Covi-19 pandemic forced us to reconsider a certain number of points mainly concerning gathering a lot of people. Consideration had to be paid to the barrier measures implemented by the Government of Cameroon to limit the spread of the disease. We, therefore, had to organise a small gathering. Additionally, other difficulties were on the limitation of movement of people because of the pandemic. Also, some sites were really in the remote area making it difficult to reach them while others were inaccessible due to the state of the roads. We had to focus more on places that we could sample. Furthermore, due to ongoing inflation in the country, several goods were increased in prices. We had to reduce the amount of some goods to remain within the budget. Finally, some team members experienced sickness while in the field. Thanks to the medication that was brought, this was sorted.

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

1. This project threw more light on the goliath frog providing new insight into the presence of this giant across its range in Cameroon. Further through this project, we have had a better idea of the requirement of this frog mainly in terms of the water quality required for the frog to dwell. Additionally, new records of the goliath frog were found, and new volunteer/local guides were added to our network.

2. This project showed that consumption of the goliath frog is more acute in the littoral of Cameroon compared to the south region. People who practice it claimed that the meat is therapeutic, and their consumption is because it is readily available. Further, the availability of other meat at an affordable price might prevent them from eating the frog.

3. Awareness was raised across new students and the population on the need to conserve the goliath frog. The population listened and their aspirations were noted to protect the goliath frog.

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

The involvement of local communities was at various levels of the project implementation. First, through traditional rulers as they were the first entry point in the villages. They were in charge of gathering people for meetings and were consulted for the best sites to visit. Second, during formal meetings and focus group discussions, local communities were again involved in our project through participative talks.

Third, locals were used as volunteers and field guides/resource persons. In doing so, they could benefit from various incentives during different meetings and honoraria for serving as volunteer/local guides.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Well, the conservation of the goliath frog needs more than this project. We are just scratching the surface and need to go deeper to conserve this giant. There are several other initiatives planned to keep the flame burning and provide a brighter future for the goliath frog.

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

There are two manuscripts to illustrate better our findings almost ready for submission. Furthermore, there is a detailed report that will be submitted alongside this report to provide more details on what was done. Furthermore, photographs from this work will serve as the substance to populate several social media posts and publications highlighting our work.

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 used over 12 months. This period corresponds to the timeframe planned for this project.

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
Transportation to field sites	338	368	+30	The price of transportation was increased especially when getting to remote areas
Refreshment for participants at various sensitization events	200	190	-10	We could use less amount for this section by making a plan to have stuff not bought in retail
Supplies for Ecological survey	130	120	-10	We could use less amount for this section by making a plan to have stuff not bought in retail
Tracks and flyers	232	250	18	Prices to produce flyers had to

				increase mainly because of the scarcity of the raw materials
Tee shirts	726	700	-26	Ordering in bulk helped us to reduce the price of this item
Prices for outstanding students	44	40	-4	Ordering in bulk helped us to reduce the price of this item
Insurance for fieldwork	480	480		
Subsistence during ecological surveys	1708	1775	+67	There was a slight price difference mainly due to difficult working conditions. We had to provide the team with the best food for the project to be run at its best
Salaries for Field assistants	1556	1556		
Village libation	300	250	-50	Gifts to the traditional rulers were reallocated to other necessary sections
Miscellaneous	286	275	-11	This mainly covered unforeseen expenditures during the project like paying for extra displacement and medication for sick team members
Total	6000	6004	+4	

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

The most important next steps are to include the local communities in the conservation of the goliath frog. It is important to keep awareness of the need to conserve the goliath frog and try to limit the anthropogenic threat to these frogs by proposing new strategies and tools for the locals to depart from their dependence on this frog. Also concerning youth and pupils, there is a need to provide them with the necessary education to understand the importance of preserving the goliath frog. This will ultimately turn who will be the next hunter to be a protector for the goliath frog.

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?

The Rufford Foundation logo was used in several materials made for this project as flyers, booklets, t-shirts and posters. The Rufford Foundation received publicity in the course of our work as it was specifically pointed out that the work is being done thanks to the financial assistance of The Rufford Foundation.

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

Dr Ngueguim Jules Romain: He was instrumental in obtaining a Research permit from the Ministry of Scientific Research as our local collaborator. He further oversaw the work and actively participated in developing the manuscript ready for submission.

Youmsi Justin, Justin is a rural advocate and was a great help in getting close to communities

Che Everdine: Everdine was a Master Student at the University of Buea. She received training during the project on several tools like frog identification, camping and was instrumental in discussing with females in communities.

Kammogne Thibaut. Thibaut was of great help during the focus group discussion. He developed a framework for the exercise and assisted in moderating the exercise.

Oscar Ndifon: Oscar was in charge of collecting water parameters in various streams.

12. Any other comments?

We are very grateful to The Rufford Foundation for the support and assistance. Without their funding, this work would certainly have never been done. We are looking forward to collaborating again with The Rufford Foundation in the future and wishes to let them know that any further material produced emanating from our work under this project will be a new occasion to provide visibility to The Rufford Foundation.