

## Final Evaluation Report

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Your Details	
Full Name	Aghah Valery Binda
Project Title	Advancing Community-driven Conservation of Great Apes and Elephants in the Campo Ma'an National Park, Cameroon
Application ID	33162-2
Grant Amount	£6000
Email Address	bindalery16@gmail.com
Date of this Report	1 <sup>st</sup> March 2022

**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 carry out pre-project survey in 3 target villages surrounding the Campo Ma'an National Park (CMNP).				This survey was very vital to help us ascertain the impact of the project upon completion.
To assess the extent, distribution and impacts of HGCs				It will be interesting to know that it is only upon disseminating the findings that the conservation service realised the already devastating effects of the ongoing destruction of 60,000 ha of prime forest for a monoculture plantation by the CAMVERT project. The findings thus, served as an eye-opener for rapid intervention. Interestingly, surveys revealed certain plant species which indigenous people think could be strong deterrents to elephants. Research is currently ongoing to test these claims. A scientific paper is currently being prepared for publication
To foster sustainable behaviour, improve public support for conservation and reduce vandalism/poaching in the CMNP				Though this activity initially targeted only local forest users, the sensitisation campaign later was extended to include secondary school students, supported by the conservation service and partially by the ABOYERD office
To mitigate Human Wildlife Conflict through nature-based solutions, while improving on the livelihoods of local forest users.				Although the project has successfully come to an end, the impacts are not yet to be visible as some beneficiaries are yet to witness colonisation of beehives. However, it is more promising as those who have witnessed colonisation, have as well witnessed a significant drop in HECs. By combining chilli pepper and beehives, the effect on deterring elephants was greater than just the

			cases in the previous project where only beehives were being used.
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**2. Please explain any unforeseen difficulties that arose during the project and how these were tackled.**

- Just like during the pilot phase of the project, although these communities with mostly primary forests appeared to be rich in honeybees, natural colonisation of hives turned out to be very low. Since it was already anticipated, beneficiaries were thereafter, provided with skills on baiting methods which turned out effective in promoting colonisation. Once again, it was observed that a long-lasting solution would be to promote agroforestry as the presence of flowering plants will foster bee reproduction and consequently, increasing bee population in the area.
- Secondly, the fact that this was a second phase project implied that most of the activities were improved based on lessons learnt from previous execution. Improved activities implied the new beneficiaries had better training facilities/resource persons, better material support and extra livelihood activities included in the implementation process. This resulted in conflict between the new and previously targeted communities of Nko'elon, Mvini and Aka'ak. To tackle the situation, in collaboration with the Conservation service, resources were provided to transport, lodge and feed interested persons from Nko'elon, Mvini and Aka'ak to training grounds of the new target communities.
- In August 2021, there was torrential rainfall which led to the destruction of the first set of chili pepper seedlings. The situation was however, resolved by roofing the nursery and re-introducing more seeds. However, success was registered for the other species except for Moringa seeds whose germination rate was quite slow.
- Lastly, the year 2021 was a sad year for ABOYERD as I lost my local focal point to the cold hands of death. This made communication and the general implementation of our activities very challenging at least until his assistant eventually became verse with smooth running of affairs.

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

- a) At the end of the project, the percentage of local forest users ignorant about existing wildlife laws had decreased from 77% to 15% (based on pre and post project surveys). Meanwhile through "The Green School Project", over 200 students have gained knowledge on environmental challenges and solutions, with two functioning clubs created. Similarly, based on the success of HWC-mitigation strategies and awareness raising, the number of people who now believe in the possibility of co-existence between humans and wildlife has increased from 8 to 30%.

- b) Out of the 60 indigenous people concretely trained on beekeeping, 40 of them were supported to commence honey production. As of November 2021, 30 of the supported forest users had started their individual farms with 18 persons reporting colonisation of hives. Out of those trained but not supported, four people are currently practising bee farming and three reporting colonisation.
- c) Lastly, through nature-based-approaches (apiculture and agroforestry), the livelihood of local forest users has been improved. Though no scientific testing backs up this assertion, it is eminent from the yields and gradual interest developed by the people in the activities. Thus, target villages are now developing sustainable management practices of their forest land.

#### **4. What do you consider to be the most significant achievement of this work?**

#### **5. Briefly describe the involvement of local communities and how they have benefitted from the project.**

At its core, the project has been entirely community-based, ensuring local communities participate as much as possible. The project thus, involved as many stakeholders as possible from the target villages i.e., local authorities, community leaders, hunters and farmers' representatives.

Other stakeholders (such as WWF and African Wildlife Foundation-AWF) actively participated in providing both technical and financial support.

The target audience (mostly farmers and hunters) were involved in providing local labour such as clearing of demonstration farms and construction of beehives during which they learned through practice. Community members also provided demonstration farms and locally sourced materials such Indian bamboo and grass during training on beehive construction. And once again, three local assistants, one from each target community were trained on data collection and other project protocols. They now serve as conservation focal points/local resource persons in their respective communities.

Community members in turn, gained robust techniques in protecting their farms and property from elephants and gorillas crop raids through the use of live fences (beehives, chili pepper and citrus fruits). They also gained knowledge and skills on how to sustainably cultivate NTFPs and not only rely on nature; by this, it is hoped that in a few years to come, they will be the availability of NTFPs of high economic and medicinal value for the benefit of forest users. Lastly, community members gained knowledge on the ecological, socioeconomic and cultural importance of their forests and how/why they must protect it especially from foreigners thereby, protecting their natural heritage and cultural values. They equally gained knowledge on Cameroon's forestry and wildlife laws which when put in practice, will greatly minimise the constant conflicts between forest users and the conservation service (eco guards).

## **6. Are there any plans to continue this work?**

Initially designed as a pilot, this project has become promising as the number of local parties (the conservation office of the park, local councils, other NGOs and other neighbouring communities) has all become very interested and have pledged their support for project activities due to the impact and promising future so far.

Sadly, as of 2021, the ongoing CAMVERT project which aims at destroying 60,000 ha of prime forest for a monoculture plantation is presently causing enormous damage to both local communities and wildlife of the CMNP. As of December 2021, more HWC has been registered in affected communities. This warrants a greater challenge for conservationists presently intervening in the CMNP. Thus, we are even more committed and motivated to moving on with this project and this time, drawing the attention of both local and international bodies to intervene in the protection and conservation of this biodiversity rich site.

We therefore plan to scale up this project to involve other communities surrounding the park and to include further innovative activities realised in the course of the project such as agroforestry and regeneration of degraded forest patches.

Interestingly, the goals/activities of the project are also integrated into long-term initiatives of the conservation service and as well, falls within ABOYERD's larger conservation programme-The Campo Ma'an Great Ape and Elephant Protection Program (CAMGAEPP) which has a 10-year plan of action for the park. With these in place, the continued and smooth integration of future project activities eminent.

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

Just like it was in the pilot phase, post-project (restitution) workshops were held with various stakeholders during which project results (successes and failures) were presented. During these workshops, copies of the end of project reports were handed to the conservation office of the park (Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife), to the mayor of Campo, and to the three HWC warriors clubs created by the project.

## **8. 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 between December 2020 to November 2021. There is no significant difference however, between the anticipated and actual length of the project.

**9. 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
Reports preparation (printing of 20 copies and purchase of digital storage devices)	80	80		
Organization of 2 pre-project stakeholders' meetings (hall preparation, generator, meals, stationery, printed items, transport reimbursement to participants)	200	280	+80	
Production and printing of 300 posters for conservation education and awareness raising	282	210	-72	
Purchase of writing pads, pencils, rulers, erasers, registers to empower new CMWGs (at £30/club x 3 clubs)	98	100	+2	
Organization of radio programs (production fee, broadcasting fee, prizes for radio quizzes)	800	600	-200	
Training in chili fencing (purchase of seed, saw dust, waste engine oil and sisal ropes).	400	800	+200	The conservation service assisted financially to support this activity.
Training in agroforestry (purchase of tools, nursery bags, seeds...).	300	810	+210	The conservation service assisted financially to support this activity.
Purchase of beekeeping equipment to assist new club.	200	320	+120	
Training in beekeeping and beehive fencing (purchase of materials for beehive construction and installation).	850	1600	+750	
Per diem for local assistants during village visits	570	570		
Per diem for local assistants/guides during surveys	580	580		
Printing of questionnaires and	165	150	-15	

purchase of writing materials (pencils/erasers)				
Feeding of team members (3 personnel) throughout project	289	989	+700	
Printing of 50 T-shirts	150	150		
Production of 1200 fliers	42	80	+38	ABOYERD supported financially to support this activity
Per diem for 6 local assistants during training session	240	240		
Cover files, photocopies, printed items, writing pads, pens for each local assistant for taking notes during training	41	40	-1	
Organization of post-project workshops (hall preparation, generator, meals, stationery, printed items, transport reimbursement to participants)	200	145	-55	The conservation service assisted materially to support this activity by preparing the hall and ensuring a standby generator.
Production of booklets on relevant wildlife laws and bushmeat hunting regulation	300	300		
Local travel within the area	300	200	-100	
Long distance travel (to and from site).	213	250	+37	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>6000</b>	<b>8494</b>	<b>+2494</b>	

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

There is a huge opportunity here which if successfully harnessed, would be very beneficial to both conservation and local communities. For a successful conservation story in the CMNP, we must ensure that:

- Within the scope of this project, follow-up visits are further made during which forest users will receive more training on chilli pepper and honey harvesting, processing, preservation, packaging and marketing. Similarly, there is need to gradually and effectively replicate similar activities in other communities across the entire park.
- With the unprecedented increase in threats within the CMNP arising especially due to the destruction of over 60,000 ha of prime forest by the CAMVERT project, one very important step to take is to engage many more stakeholders (both national and internal) to intervene in this highly threatened landscape.
- There is urgent need for reforestation activities through active community engagement in degraded forest areas and constant sensitisation on bush fire



control measures. This is to compensate in the near future, the great loss of forest by the CAMVERT forest.

- Although the site is an excellent site for beekeeping and sustainable agroforestry, these activities are still largely unexploited. These activities should thus be harnessed. These activities are strong nature-based tools in fostering conservation activities in protected areas while at the same time, improving on indigenous people's livelihoods.

**11. 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, as will be seen on project pictures (and videos if requested), the Rufford Foundation logo was used as promotional material on all project materials including species factsheets, posters, t-shirts, notebooks, wildlife law booklets, PowerPoint presentation slides, and end-of-project reports. Once again, we also had a TV talk on Canal 2 Television during which The Rufford Foundation was mentioned as main partner and funder.

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

**Aghah Valery Binda:** Served as project leader. He was in charge of coordinating all project activities and budget execution.

**Slyvie Nguedem Fonkwo Ph.D.:** She served as main project advisor.

**Tantoh Bazil Tume:** He was the main outreach officer and was also in charge of monitoring and evaluation.

**Mouafo Takoune Alain:** He was in charge of social research activities determining the extent, distribution and impacts of HWCs in target communities.

**13. Any other comments?**

We remain grateful to The Rufford Foundation for this seed grant that has not only permitted us to launch the first phase of a grand conservation project but has also allowed us to gain field experience and identify many opportunities in the area which we could take advantage and design better conservation approaches for the future. The grant has brought hope to many.