

Final Evaluation Report

| Your Details | |
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| Full Name | Rachel Ashegbofe Ikemeh |
| Project Title | Protecting a unique group of chimpanzees and its habitat in Ise Forest Conservation Area, Southwest of Nigeria. |
| Application ID | 33642-C |
| Date of this Report | 28 th July 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 |
|---|-----------------|-----------------------|-------------------|---|
| Facilitate stakeholders' forum | | | | We increased the spectrum of stakeholders' interest and involvement in the project by facilitating a workshop that included the executive, legislative and judiciary arms of government including all security agencies, while also increasing participation of members of community by involving various groups in the community in workshop. |
| We will invest in human and social capital so that there are improved benefits for local communities in conservation | | | | We implemented various livelihood projects from providing capital/equipment for small businesses, livestock production and trainings. We were unable to provide the fuel-efficient stoves as the results of NEEDS assessment indicated that there was minimal use of firewood in Ise community, so we scaled up efforts in alternative livelihood programme which is still ongoing. |
| We are increasing efforts in public education/enlightenment/ outreach on conservation issues that will both provide better access to information on the conservation activities being implemented and also increase local knowledge of the species and support for conservation | | | | We instituted conservation education programme in 24 community and public schools using tailored curriculum. We also erected billboards and had messages aired on radio channels popular in the community and neighbouring urban/sub-urban areas. |
| Coordinate rangers' anti-poaching patrols and collect more species-specific data that will increase scientific knowledge of this distinct group of chimpanzees | | | | There were 315 patrol days in 12 calendar months reducing threats to wildlife and forest by 95%. |

2. Describe the three most important outcomes of your project.

- a). Significantly increase protection for chimpanzee and other wildlife, as well as for the of Ise forest.
- b). Increased stakeholders' interest/participation in forest and wildlife conservation.
- c). Provided benefit for local stakeholders linked to conservation efforts.

3. Explain any unforeseen difficulties that arose during the project and how these were tackled.

One major unforeseen difficulty the threats to life posed by marijuana planters. This problem was tackled by a close collaboration with government authorities especially with the exceptional support of the State Governor – His Excellency Dr. Fayemi.

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

The communities are practically involved in the project, firstly, by recruiting 98% of staff from the community and also by making regular reports to the council of elders quarterly. When problems are encountered, the community leaders were relied on for support, collaboration and advice in tackling the problem. Benefits accrue to the community in livelihood programmes, conservation education and even varying level scholarships to 550 children in the community.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

This work is an ongoing effort, and we just entered the 2nd year of a 5-year management agreement with the Ekiti State Government. Even though, a new governorship administration is about to commence, we believe that there will be continuity and that the incoming administration will not only respect the agreement but also support the project in all ramifications.

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

We are doing presentations of our work at every level, with local stakeholders and at international level. We have just recently presented the results of our work at the inaugural IUCN African Protected Areas Congress (APAC) in Rwanda in July 2022. We hope that the results of our work will form part of a new paper we are writing on primate conservation in Nigeria.

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

The most important next step is ensuring project sustainability.

8. 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, in presentations, signposts, outreach and all media.

9. Provide a full list of all the members of your team and their role in the project.

| Name | Role |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Rachel Ashegbofe Ikemeh | Project Director |
| Hakagbemeh Olalekan Michael | Head Administration and Logistics |
| Oluwasegun Sunday | Programme Manager |
| Seun Adejuwon | Senior Programme Officer for Community Engagement |
| Bamidele Olajuyigbe | Species Monitoring Officer/Science Prog. coordinator |
| Adeola Adebayo | Programme Officer for Conservation Education |
| Ayeni Jomiloju Joseph | Ranger |
| Adekunle Ogunmuyite | Ranger |
| Oni Omotolani | Ranger |
| Alaje Adewale M | Ranger |
| Akere Sola Olaolu | Ranger/Logistics Officer |
| Ekundayo Busayo Ronke | Ranger/Camp Administrator |
| Alabi Abayo Felix | Ranger |
| Oloruntola Ebenezer Ige | Ass. Head of Protection |
| Alabi Odunayo | Ranger |
| Ayodele Kehinde Timothy | Head of Protection |
| Ogunleye Tope Vincent | Team Lead (Rangers Unit 1) |
| Tijani Abraham Ojo | Team Lead (Rangers Unit 3) |
| Ojo Jegede | Ranger |
| Sunday John | Ranger |
| Ashaolu Joshua | Ranger |

10. Any other comments?

This is a completion grant. This whole effort since 2012, our organisation and the wildlife that survive today in Ise forest would have not been possible without the seed grant and continued support of The Rufford Foundation through the years. I will eternally be grateful.