

Final Evaluation Report

Your Details	
Full Name	Abdoul Razack Moussa Zabeirou
Project Title	Conservation status and socio-ecological characterization of Dama gazelle metapopulation in Niger
Application ID	35293-1
Date of this Report	09/01/2023

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
Ecological monitoring				Three ecological monitoring missions were carried out, whereas only two were initially planned in the framework of the project.
Human dimension study				113 people were interviewed, including 32 women and 81 men from over 20 locations.
Analysis				60% of the data collected has been processed and analysed, two scientific papers are in progress.

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

- a).** Confirmation of the presence of a dama gazelle population in the study area (Air and Ténéré National Nature Reserve ATNNR).
- b).** Understanding of the perception of local population on biodiversity and specifically on dama gazelles.
- c).** Identification of the threats to dama gazelles.

Critical data were compiled with this work and will help support the design of specific conservation measures in the area. Specifically, the survey on the perception of local population was a significant achievement as it provided unprecedented and overlooked information.

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

No difficulties were encountered that prevented the planned activities from taking place.

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

Local communities living within the protected area (ATNNR) have a direct impact on the preservation of its ecosystems and their support is crucial to implement relevant conservation actions. However, until now they have been only little involved in the management of the reserve and the conservation efforts. For the first time with this project, their perception has been valued and taken into consideration and will enable future communication and adaptation of conservation measures.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

This project is part of a broader program led by SaharaConservation in collaboration with Nigerien wildlife authorities on the conservation of wildlife and mostly dama gazelles in the Air and Ténéré National Natural Reserve. The work will be pursued as additional camera traps will be deployed in the dama gazelle distribution area and four community guards will continue sensitisation and contact with local communities. Conjointly surveillance efforts will be ensured by monthly patrols. It is also planned to develop a conservation strategy for the dama gazelles in this protected area for which the data collected through this work will be very useful.

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

The results of the work have been shared throughout the project through dedicated reports and have been included in SaharaConservation's quarterly activity reports. Presentations were made at the annual meeting of Sahelo Saharan Interest Group (SSIG) 2022 and the 6^e European Congress of Conservation Biology at the University of Prague in August 2022.

Two dedicated scientific papers have been planned as part of the project leader's PhD and a presentation for the annual meeting of the Sahelo-Saharan Interest Group (SSIG 2023).

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

The data collected in the framework of this project, completing the existing database on the species, provided valuable and unprecedented insights. Their analyse will help design and propose adapted conservation measures for the dama gazelle in Niger.

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?

The logo has been used in all reports and conference presentations (SSIG 2022, ECCB Prague august 2022), in the framework of the work led under project.

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

Abdoul Razack Moussa Zabeirou: Project leader

Abdoul Razakou Abdou: Assisted in 2 field work missions to collect data

Moussa Elzey: Ecological monitoring guide

Algabid Gabdou: Field assistant

Alimane Akouhine: HDS guide

Mourata Saley: Reserve manager

Ismaguil Effred: Ranger (provided security for the team during mission)

Soufianou: Ranger (provided security for the team during mission)

Laouli Rabiou: Ranger (provided security for the team during mission)

Abbagaya Balil: Driver

Ahmed Oumarou: Driver

10. Any other comments?

