

## Final Evaluation Report

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We ask all grant recipients to complete a project evaluation that helps us to gauge the success of your project. This must be sent in **MS Word and not PDF format**. We understand that projects often do not follow the predicted course but knowledge of your experiences is valuable to us and others who may be undertaking similar work – remember that negative experiences are just as valuable as positive ones if they help others to learn from them.

**Please DO NOT fill in and submit this form until the project has been completed.**

Complete the form in English. Note that the information may be edited before posting on our website.

Please email this report to [jane@rufford.org](mailto:jane@rufford.org).

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Your Details	
<b>Full Name</b>	Hiral Naik
<b>Project Title</b>	Snake education and conservation to reduce human-snake conflict in the greater Hoedspruit area
<b>Application ID</b>	43392-2
<b>Date of this Report</b>	08/09/2025

**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
Visit five communities and educate 200 members				Visited three communities and educated 100 community members.
Train snake champions to rescue and relocate snakes				Successfully trained community members to rescue and relocate snakes through training at Hoedspruit Reptile Centre.
Conduct basic surveys for reptiles and amphibians and map data				Our training went very well and from the surveys conducted, we managed to record 50 reptiles and amphibians during the survey period.

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

**a).** Our team successfully visited three communities to provide talks on snakes and their importance including demonstrations on the behaviour of various snakes. Providing rural communities in Limpopo, South Africa with information on snake safety and basic snake awareness is crucial to mitigate snakebite incidences and providing a space for respecting snakes without killing them. We created a poster on the common snakes of Hoedspruit which was shared with the community. Additional printed resources were not provided but we provided details to our website (secap.info) to access additional resources.

There was no prior knowledge of snakes other than a general dislike for snakes based on information they have heard from their family/community etc. There was a positive response to the education sessions as the community members were willing to learn and touch the non-venomous snake after the session.

**b).** We provided training to eight snake champions from the communities that we visited, and this was a great success. Four of these snake champions were women. The snake champions learnt to rescue and relocated snakes and had a reduced fear of snakes. They received an initial course to introduce the topic and become familiar with snake biology; snakebite etc. and then received a full day of training with 4 champions per training session. These were done by Hoedspruit Reptile Centre. Two additional sessions were held to further elaborate on reptiles and

amphibians and their larger ecosystem importance. They have used that training to rescue and relocate snakes within their own community. Seven snakes have been rescued – all non-venomous as they would still prefer Hoedspruit Reptile Centre to rescue venomous snakes such as the black mamba.

A resource hub at the Reptile Centre was created, with educational resources for the snake champions to use.

**c).** Keeping records of the reptiles and amphibians through our surveys was an important part of teaching community members the value of data collection, research and learning as it allows us to appreciate the natural world better.

The surveys were conducted by both the snake champions and myself, and any other team member when available. We largely focused on road cruising and walks in and around residential areas between nature reserves and this was approximately in the range of 35 kilometres over a few days. We found 5 brown house snakes, 2 red-lipped herald snakes, several red toads and guttural toads, geckos including turner's thick toed gecko and tropical house geckos. Most records were of frogs and lizards, so we did not make maps of the few snakes that we found.

Human-snake interaction data was collected by snake champions when snakes were rescued from people's homes and this included the location of the rescue, if the snake was killed and what the snake was doing. No snakebites were reported during the project period.

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

Our project went quite smoothly, and the only challenge was not being able to visit all the communities that we would have liked as they were unavailable on the dates that we were available. Posters were still shared with those communities via our existing conservation partners that work in those communities.

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

The local communities have been trained for the first time in snake relocation, and this will be highly valuable as the community will have a contact person within their own community/area to rescue and relocate a snake. For any snakes that they are not comfortable rescuing, Hoedspruit Reptile Centre will still be able to assist. The communities have directly benefited from having their own members trained to learn about snakes and can more easily pass of this knowledge to others.

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

Yes, we will continue to apply for funds to continue this work. Snake education is crucial to mitigate human-snake conflict and snakebite incidences, and we will continue to educate where we can.

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

The results of this project will be shared at various conferences as well as social media channels. Posts will be on Facebook and Instagram. Below is an example:

<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1Cg2r4qmMv/>

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

The most important steps are to continue training more snake champions to expand knowledge on snakes, reduce the spread of misinformation and promote coexistence between people and snakes. As we continue to build valuable relationships with the communities that we have worked in, we believe that mitigating human-snake conflict is possible.

**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, a poster on the common snakes of Hoedspruit was created with the Rufford Foundation Logo. From our previous work, the Foundation also received publicity at several conferences.

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

Hiral Naik - Project leader (Planning and coordinating the project and presenting to the communities and snake champions)

Christopher James Cooke - Project Co-leader (Planning and presenting to communities and snake champions)

Given Ndlovu - Project assistant (Assisting with snake demonstrations, snake trainings and communicating all work into the local language where necessary)

Jessica Joubert – Project assistant (Assisting with snake trainings)

**10. Any other comments?**

It has been a great privilege to have this project funded by the Rufford's Foundation and to carry out important education and conservation work on snakes. We look forward to further contributing towards positive changemaking.

**ANNEX – Financial Report  
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