

Project Update February 2026

Rufford I.D.: 45038-2

Project Title: Assessment of Biological Productivity and Habitat for the Conservation of the Genus *Cantharellus* (Cantharellales, Basidiomycota) in the Republic of Congo

Update:

Scientific	Day	on	Legumes
Marien Ngouabi University	February 10, 2026	–	Main Library

1. Background of the Event

On February 10, 2026, a Scientific Day on Legumes was held at the Main Library of Marien Ngouabi University (Republic of Congo). The event was organized in partnership with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

The scientific meeting brought together lecturers, researchers, PhD candidates, students, and institutional stakeholders to discuss ecological, economic, and environmental issues related to legumes.

2. Presented Communication

During this event, we presented a scientific communication entitled:

“Legumes as Partners of Wild Edible Mushrooms in the Northern Part of Congo”

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The presentation addressed:

- Ecological interactions between legumes and wild edible mushrooms;
- The role of legumes in forest ecosystem functioning;
- Implications for biodiversity conservation and local food security.

The data presented were collected through fieldwork conducted with the financial support of The Rufford Foundation, which enabled field missions, species identification, and data analysis.

3. Recognition of The Rufford Foundation

During the presentation:

- The Rufford Foundation logo was displayed on the introductory and acknowledgment slides;
- Financial support from The Rufford Foundation was explicitly acknowledged orally before the audience;
- The contribution of the Foundation to data collection and project implementation was formally recognized.

This acknowledgment took place in the presence of:

- The Dean of the Faculty of Science and Technology, who was a member of the organizing committee;
- Institutional representatives;
- FAO and UNDP partners;
- Researchers and students attending the event.

Participants received certificates of participation at the end of the Scientific Day.

4. Outcomes and Perspectives

The scientific discussions generated important perspectives, including:

- Transforming research findings into practical recommendations;
- Promoting the integration of legumes into local conservation strategies;
- Enhancing the sustainable valorization of wild edible mushrooms as socio-economic resources.

These recommendations will be further developed and shared with academic and institutional stakeholders.

5. Conclusion

The Scientific Day on Legumes provided an important platform for disseminating research findings.

The financial support of The Rufford Foundation was publicly acknowledged and significantly contributed to the successful data collection and visibility of the project within the Congolese scientific community.