

## The Rufford Small Grants Foundation

### Final Report

Congratulations on the completion of your project that was supported by The Rufford Small Grants Foundation.

We ask all grant recipients to complete a Final Report Form that helps us to gauge the success of our grant giving. The Final Report must be sent in **word format** and not PDF format or any other 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. Please be as honest as you can in answering the questions – remember that negative experiences are just as valuable as positive ones if they help others to learn from them.

Please complete the form in English and be as clear and concise as you can. Please note that the information may be edited for clarity. We will ask for further information if required. If you have any other materials produced by the project, particularly a few relevant photographs, please send these to us separately.

Please submit your final report to [jane@rufford.org](mailto:jane@rufford.org).

Thank you for your help.

**Josh Cole, Grants Director**

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#### Grant Recipient Details

<b>Your name</b>	Romain Glèlè Kakaï
<b>Project title</b>	Understanding Ecology, threats assessment and conservation of <i>Afzelia africana</i> Sm in Benin (West Africa)
<b>RSG reference</b>	46.01.08
<b>Reporting period</b>	July 2008 – July 2009
<b>Amount of grant</b>	£5500
<b>Your email address</b>	<a href="mailto:gleleromain@yahoo.fr">gleleromain@yahoo.fr</a>
<b>Date of this report</b>	January, 2010

**1. Please 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
Estimate the current density of <i>A. africana</i> in Benin forest reserves			X	Tree-density of the species was estimated in Lama Forest reserves (Guinean zone), Wari-Marou Forest Reserve (Sudano-guinean zone) and Pendjari Biosphere Reserve (Sudanese zone). Moreover, the structure of natural habitats of the species was described in each forest reserves.
Ethnobotanical investigations among local people to assess, rank and describe the main threats on the species			X	
Educational activities targeted at schoolchildren in each zone, to educate them about the species conservation		X		Only five saplings of the species were planted especially in the Sudano-guinean and sudanian zones because of the scarcity of the saplings in the regions during forest inventories.

**2. Please explain any unforeseen difficulties that arose during the project and how these were tackled (if relevant).**

None.

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

- Forest administration is now more aware of the scarcity of *A. africana* in Benin Forest through scientific publications on the species that have been sent to the institutions.
- Schoolchildren know about *A. africana*, its importance for people in Benin and the necessity to conserve it.
- Colleagues of my laboratory often use the materials purchased with the funds of RSG.

**4. Briefly describe the involvement of local communities and how they have benefitted from the project (if relevant).**

They participated in the forest inventory targeting *A. africana* trees. They discussed with us about possibility of conservation of the species. They give us many uses and use forms of the species.

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

Yes. I plan to describe the actual habitat of the species in West African countries, especially Burkina Faso, Ghana, Togo, Niger and Ivory Coast. The measures proposed in the reports for the conservation of the species are also of great importance.

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

One article is already published in *Forest Ecology and Management* and is a key source of information on the species habitat and this publication is often required by the researchers of Benin.

I plan to do a presentation on the output of the study in an international conference in 2010.

As I'm lecturer in Forestry at the University of Abomey-Calavi, the research outputs were already integrated in the programme class of the students.

**7. Timescale: Over what period was the RSG used? How does this compare to the anticipated or actual length of the project?**

1 year 2 months.

**8. Budget: Please 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.**

Item	Budgeted Amount	Actual Amount	Difference	Comments
Local travel for forest inventories	2,500	2,500	0	
1 GPS	200	200	0	
1 digital camera,	250	250	0	
1 Digital voice recorder,	100	100	0	
Consumable (paper, ink, plastic bags, etc.)	100	120	-20	
2 USB device	100	80	+20	
Publication/information and dissemination of the outputs	2,250	2,250	0	
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,500</b>	<b>5,500</b>		

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

- Scientific research on its genetic diversity and propagation including ability to germinate.
- Permanent plots should be established in the natural habitat of the species in order to follow, model and analyze the dynamics of the species' populations.
- Artificial enrichment of degraded forests with *A. africana* trees should be carried in Benin forests and followed until the maturity of the trees. This will be done with the participation of the local people.

- Additional studies will help to improve knowledge about the modification of the species' habitat according to climatic changes. That action requires dendrochronology and climate data record.

**10. Did you use the RSGF logo in any materials produced in relation to this project? Did the RSGF receive any publicity during the course of your work?**

Sorry, up to now, I did not use it. But in the acknowledgements of the article I published in *Forest Ecology and Management* (Impact factor = 2.11), RSG cited and constituted in my opinion publicity for the Foundation. Also colleagues who used the materials purchased with the funds of RSG know the Foundation. Also, during ethnobotanical survey, local people know the Foundation.