

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.

Thank you for your help.

Josh Cole, Grants Director

Grant Recipient Details

Your name	Tajudeen AMUSA
Project title	Participatory Survey and Conservation of Endangered Savannah Elephants of Kamuku and its Environs, Nigeria
RSG reference	53.10.09
Reporting period	March 2010 – March 2011
Amount of grant	£5725
Your email address	teejayui@yahoo.com ; teejayui@gmail.com
Date of this report	10 th March 2011

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
1. Strengthen the capacity of Park rangers and locals			Fully achieved	<p>From June to August 2010, the project team organised capacity building programme /workshop on participatory survey, monitoring and reporting for recruited survey corps as well as park rangers on elephant survey procedure. Emphasis was placed on the need to use standardised methods for conservation objectives.</p> <p>The training focuses on two methods of elephant census/techniques: The Line Transect Survey Method (Barnes and Jensen, 1987) and the Short-cut or Reconnaissance ("recce") Method (Barnes, 1988). Outlines of procedure in each method were thoroughly discussed and analysed. The proper methods for making observations and recording data were covered. Participants were taught on the use of simple instruments employed in data collection. These include maps, compasses, GPS, meter tape and hip chain. Special emphasis was placed on distance measurements and elephant dung categorisation. We used power point presentations and hands-on demonstration to deliver training.</p>
2. Raise awareness and enlightenment of local communities on the need for conservation of wildlife species			Fully achieved	<p>Consultations, meetings and discussions were held with various stakeholders in the support zone communities of Kamuku National Park. These included women and youth groups, hunters, pastoralists and farmers. In collaboration with the community leaders and stakeholders, community-based elephant conservation/ monitoring committees were established in target villages. The project team in collaboration with the community-based elephant conservation/ monitoring committees among others sensitised and enlightened members of the communities on the need for the protection of elephants and other wildlife species in their provinces.</p>

3. Examine the conservation status of the elephant in and around Kamuku National Park			Fully achieved	Qualitative data on the range of local peoples' understanding and knowledge of elephant conservation status in and around KNP were collected. We elicited information through Focus Group Discussion (FGD) involving elders, farmers' group and youths from support zone communities.
4. Determine the population status and distribution of elephants in the area			Fully achieved	A first rigorous, participatory and systematic survey of the Kamuku elephants was conducted by the project team and survey corps for both rainy and dry seasons in 2010. Surveys were carried out at the two main ranges of the Park- Doka and Dagara. Recent footprints, trails, playground and mud bath site of elephants were observed and geo-referenced using GPS handset to obtain data on the locations for mapping, while diameter of footprints were measured in order to be able to determine the age as well as group size. Vegetation type and general habitat observations of survey sites were also noted.
5. Stimulate environmental sensitivity to elephant conservation through education and joint action			Fully achieved	Successfully implementing a participatory approach that shares the planning, research activities and use of results between different groups of people who have an interest in the sustainability of the project help stimulate environmental sensitivity to elephant conservation and other wildlife species.
6. Identify follow-up work that would lead to the establishment of effective protection for elephants in the project area			Fully achieved	The survey helped identify a number of activities and challenges that need to be taken up for effective conservation and management of elephants in and around Kamuku National Park.

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

Terrain, particularly in the Doka axis of the park, is more off-putting than envisaged. The entire road structure including major bridges and culverts are in a state of total disrepair. This was more worrisome during the rainy season. However, the difficulty was circumvented by navigating through alternative routes which usually involved longer distances and time. Likewise, the media could not be involved as planned due to time and logistic constraints. Major media outfits are too far from the project sites and being time conscious did not allow for perfection of logistics to the effect. We still plan to disseminate the results of the work to the press for wider sensitisation of the public.

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

1) Authorities of Kamuku National Park have now held a tête-à-tête discussion on elephant protection with the management of Kuyambana Game Reserve. This is because the Kamuku National Park forms a contiguous boundary with Kuyambana Game Reserve of Zamfara State, only separated by a major river- the Mariga River. The bilateral discussion centred on the need for trans-boundary joint patrol activities and sensitisation campaign within the reserve's support zone communities. This is very significant towards ensuring the viability of the Kamuku elephants as the game reserve and other areas have been identified as important haven of the elephants.

2) Given that the Kamuku Elephants are highly migratory, we have identified the Gwaska-Goron dutse-Nabango-Kuyambana axis as critical migration routes of the species. We have also produced a reliable geo-referenced map of the Park with special reference to the elephant route. We also identified other important locations such as Kirazo, Kiriyoji and Labi among others within the landscape (although widely cut off from the Park), as significant ranging areas for the Kamuku Elephants.

3) The establishment of community-based elephant conservation/ monitoring committees will be relevant for future conservation initiatives in the area. The committees have continued to help sensitise and educate members of their communities on the need for the protection of elephants and other wildlife species in their provinces.

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

Local communities were the fulcrum of the project. Sensitisation and planning meetings were held with community stakeholders in order to incorporate their views, perceptions, religious beliefs, interests, priorities and realities of the communities in project planning and design. Consultations, meetings and discussions were held with various stakeholders in selected support zone communities of Kamuku National Park. These included women and youth groups, hunters, pastoralists and farmers. In collaboration with the community leaders and stakeholders, community-based elephant conservation/monitoring committees were established in each of the target villages. These committees served as a village task-force for supervision of community responsibilities relating to organising, implementation and monitoring of project activities in the various communities. In specific terms the community-based elephant conservation/ monitoring committees among others helped to sensitise and educate members of their communities on the need for the protection of elephants in their provinces. They also served as the first contacts in any case of elephant raid of farmlands. In addition, the community taskforce units also served as focal points for recruitment of survey corps for the project.

Qualitative data on the range of peoples' understanding and knowledge of elephant conservation status in and around KNP were also collected from members of local communities. We elicited information through Focus Group Discussion (FGD) involving elders, farmers' group and youths from each of the communities.

The project team organised capacity building programme/workshop on participatory survey, monitoring and reporting for recruited survey corps as well as park rangers on elephant survey procedure. This project benefitted the locals in terms of wildlife management skill impartation. Clothing and footwear

for fieldwork were supplied to the survey corps/team. Throughout the course of the project, an important connection between wildlife management, ecotourism and local community economic activities was also stimulated. Given their experience from the project, some of the volunteers actually expressed willingness to join the Park service.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes, there is plan to continue the work. We plan to work with the Park Management Authorities and the community-based elephant conservation/ monitoring committees in implementing the recommendations from this survey.

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

The results, findings and outcomes of the work will be shared among students, colleagues and other conservationists. Detailed reports are already being prepared for the Nigerian National Park Service headquarters, the Kamuku National Park and the Federal College of Wildlife Management. Experiences and knowledge gathered from the work will be very useful in both teaching and research among students and colleagues. Extracts from the work will also be published in reputable journals with full acknowledgement of the Rufford Small Grant Foundation. We also plan to disseminate the results of the work to the press for wider sensitization of the public.

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

The RSG was used throughout the project duration, 12 months. The project compared favourably to anticipated time schedule.

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
1. Materials/Equipment	£2, 965	£2, 985	+20	More materials were acquired than planned because more park rangers were involved in the project
2. Travel and Accommodation	£555	£425	-130	Accommodation of project team was catered for by the Park Management Authorities
3. Subsistence and Refreshment	£1, 260	£1,400	+140	Since more rangers were incorporated in the project, more fund was expended on subsistence and refreshment
4. Stakeholders' workshop Kamuku National Park	£810	£600	-210	There is a reduction in cost of organising the workshop

Headquarters				since the media could not be invited
5. Co-ordination and Reporting	£135	£135	-	
Total	£5,725	£5,545	-180	
Local exchange rate used	₺ 240: £1			

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

It was quite exciting that we received an unusual level of communities' support towards protection of the Kamuku elephants as demonstrated in the course of this project. Looking ahead, we plan to disseminate the results of the work to the press for wider sensitisation of the public. We also plan to sustain the relationship with the Park Management Authorities and the community-based elephant conservation/ monitoring committees in implementing the recommendations from this survey.

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?

The RSGF logo was used in posters and project T-shirts given as incentive to volunteers and as souvenir for publicity of the project.

11. Any other comments?

We are very grateful to the Rufford Small Grants Foundation, without whose support this project would not have been possible. Experiences from this project have been very rewarding. It has helped built an improved relationship between the park and the people. It has equally helped in charting a new course for the protection of the Kamuku elephants. The project volunteers really felt excited and empowered to contribute to the course of nature conservation.