

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. 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. 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	S. Olawolé S. Oke
Project title	The vulnerable white–thighed black and white colobus (<i>colobus vellerosus</i>): re assessment for its conservation status and factors threaten its population in Benin
RSG reference	64.02.09
Reporting period	August 2009 – August 2010
Amount of grant	£5745
Your email address	instidac@yahoo.fr
Date of this report	26 th December 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
Inventory of <i>Colobus vellerosus</i> population in all its natural habitat		Achieve at 90%		Because of worst flooding the country has known this year (still under international assistance), the work in some areas was very slow and difficult. Access in some few areas impossible.
Analysis of the criteria: reduction in population size; reduction in geographic range;			Achieve at 100%	Results are clear: the population of <i>Colobus vellerosus</i> declining seriously, considering Nigeria and Ghana data used as benchmark. The number of mature adults is under 280. The reduction was noticed too in geographic range.
Bring up to date, all factors threatening <i>Colobus vellerosus</i> populations in Benin			Achieve at 100%	1/ Ancestral practice (hunting for bushmeat, trading of species, items need for traditional medicine). 2/ Habitat destruction (for medicinal uses, take out of leaves for wrapping food, wood for cooking, construction). 3/Intensification of agriculture. 4/ Lack of awareness of importance of all ecosystem conservation, by the major local communities. It's not for them a heritage for mankind but a property for their personal needs.
Make a quantitative analysis showing a high risk of extinction at wild state.			Achieve at 100%	Our model shows at level of 5% a real risk of total extinction in the next five and ten years of the species.

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

We don't face real difficulties; the main problem was at the end of the work; floods never seen since more than 100 years ago. This contributes to make longer the timescale.

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

1. A map distribution of the white-thighed black and white colobus (*Colobus vellerosus*) in Benin.
2. First large inventory, to give an exact approach of evaluation, **of the real population** of the white-thighed black and white Colobus (*Colobus vellerosus*) in Benin.

3. Our quantitative data considering the case of Benin, have showed that the white-thighed black and white Colobus (*Colobus vellerosus*) can be considered as Endangered now and Critically Endangered within few years.

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

Local population involvement usually consists to help us in logistics (providing guides for fees), participation to workshop and focus groups. The main benefit is gained by young and students. They are the future and are more aware. Knowing that the species is endemic to few countries in West Africa, and its extinction will be a lost, we increased their awareness. Posters displayed, used and distributed, will leave in their mind repetitive information. After our departure they will remember and discuss about the species and tried to understand their role of guardians of a heritage.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes, we plan to continue this work. Data we have collected are more interesting than those expected. Before sending our results to IUCN board, we plan to collect for 1 year more data especially new inventory (2011-2012).

This next phase:

1. Will allow focusing on some specifics and relevant areas (the last work covers the country).
2. Will erase many cases in inventory, due to human error.
3. Will allow us to correlate quantitative data of reduction in population size and geographic range.

One year is short to make a comparison but flooding we never have in the country for months, can be a factor to take in consideration (damage of habitat, lack of foods, can influence more evolution of *C. vellerosus* population).

The next year data collecting will be fully support by our institute.

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

At this time, we are writing a final general report of this mission. This report will be sent to the two Universities of the country, to some organisms as: INRAB (National Institute of Agronomic Research of Benin) which has department of Protection and Conservation; to the Direction of Forestry and all National agencies of Environment and Territory Survey.

Researchers involved in conservation are few and all or their institutions are present at the INRAB's national scientific week. This is a moment to share, send or present communication. We will make proposition of research to the different organisations mentioned above. Articles from this research and from next year mission will be published.

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

The project covered August 2009 – August 2010. But 4 months were added, and the inventory was completed at 90%, due to floods. The timescale is a little limit considering the target of a possible re-assessment. The year we add, will definitively resolve the problem.

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
Travel	£ 1236	£ 2090	+ £ 854	4 months were added due to floods.
(fuel)	£ 578	£ 700		
(cars – maintenance)	£ 276	£ 300		
Dugout (rent)	£ 960	£ 1090		
Equipment	£ 2648	£ 2676	+ £ 28	
GPS	£ 570	£ 570		
Binoculars	£ 260	£ 260		
ATN material	£ 600	£ 530		
IGN Maps	£ 360	£ 400		
Lamp torch	£ 36	£ 36		
Tents	£ 414	£ 500		
Oils skins	£ 180	£ 180		
Anti-venom	£ 228	£ 200		
Consumable	£ 54	£ 54		
Batteries Lamp T.	£ 27	£ 27		
Batteries Cameras	£ 27	£ 27		
Education	£ 344	£ 290	- £ 54	
Poster printed	£ 344	£ 290		
Secretarial work	£ 785	£ 909	+ £ 124	
Questionnaires for investigation	£ 625	£ 700		
Insert for investigation	£ 18	£ 20		
Report production	£ 138	£ 138		
Send report	£ 104	£ 51		
TOTAL	£ 5013	£ 5965	= £ 952	

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

We think that the next steps will be:

In Benin: Large diffusion of results.

Support of the IUCN as support the *Cercopithecus erythrogasyer*, *erythrogaster* had benefit in the country; to make other independent missions to correlate our results, to set up protection missions.

More preservation of habitat for the benefit of all species.

In Ghana and Nigeria: encourage any study of this species, to get actualize data, because the two countries are used as benchmark.

These steps will allow definitively the re-assessment of the species, which is widely threatened.

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?

Yes.

11. Any other comments?

The present mission has its limits. Its goal is not to save directly the *Colobus vellerosus*. It's a mission to collect data. These data have showed a critical situation about the species and, must be correlated again by other independent works.

Our suggestion to the RSG will be to help any study on this species in West Africa.

We don't have in our universities and research centres usually some specialists focusing their attention on a group as primatologists but conservationists in general. Primatologists will concentrate their effort on a group but conservationists as we have, must take care of all groups. So when people will put eyes on the *Colobus vellerosus* again, it will be definitively late.

Finally, we thank Rufford Small Grants and all its generous unknown donors, which allow us to be on field and work. Our gratitude is great and sincere. We hope that your reward will be to really convince that you are very involved in protecting the biodiversity of our planet.