

The Rufford Foundation Final Report

Congratulations on the completion of your project that was supported by The Rufford 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	Achille Ephrem ASSOGBADJO
Project title	Promoting the domestication and the sustainable use of the endangered and multipurpose baobab tree in West Africa
RSG reference	8224-2
Reporting period	August 2010-July 2011
Amount of grant	£5950
Your email address	assogbadjo@gmail.com
Date of this report	09/08/2011

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
Building capacity of NGOs, local farmers on how to grow and propagate baobab tree within the traditional agroforestry systems			x	Based on the information provided in technical manuals, local people have been trained through workshop on how to sample germplasm to be propagated, the germplasm origin to be considered based on the targeted objectives (leaves or fruits production), the suitable substrate to be used and the various propagation techniques.
Producing a technical manual on the genetic diversity, distribution, uses and various propagation techniques of baobab			x	Editing manuals and pamphlets have been produced and distributed to local people, local based organisation and NGOs throughout the country.
Establishing a short-term seed bank and some home garden of baobab to ensure the availability of plants for locals and seeds for further research			x	Based on the found genetic variation in baobab, germplasm have been collected throughout the country for conservation in the fridges already available for that purpose in Laboratory of Applied Ecology (Benin). Moreover, demonstration plots have been established in each climatic zone to show and train locals on how to set up home gardens for baobab leaves production.

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.

- Production of technical manuals related to baobab propagation, conservation and management
- Establishment of demonstration plots for baobab production throughout the three climatic zones of Benin
- Storage of baobab seeds from different provenances to be used for further research

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

Through workshop and field demonstrations, local people have been involved and fully trained on how to propagate baobab for leaf production and on how to sample baobab germplasm from different ecologies. In a broad sense, the project helped to promote increased awareness of farmers and stakeholders on the need for conservation and sustainable utilisation of baobab genetic resources through income generating activities (win-win scenario).

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes. It will be interesting for the project continuation to design appropriate environmental friendly methods which can help increasing baobab leaf production through home gardens at village and community level in order to lower damages to natural baobab tree stands by unchecked pruning.

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

The results of my work will be shared with others through RSG website and through the pamphlets and technical manuals developed in the framework of the project.

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

There is no difference between the proposed period of the grant implementation and what was performed.

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.

There is no discrepancy between the proposed budget and the expenses. In fact, proformat invoices have been already requested from our suppliers before the project was submitted to RSGF. The differences were already predicted when the project was submitted and are covered by my home institution as initially indicated in the submitted project.

Item	Budgeted Amount	Actual Amount	Difference	Comments
Domestic travel for germplasm sampling and workshop with local people	2000	2500	-500	This difference has been covered by my home institution
Per diem for field work (Lodging & Food)	1000	1000	0	-
Local labor costs (Field guides and interprets)	300	300	0	-
Dissemination of Propagation techniques through demonstration plots	500	1000	-500	This difference has been covered by my home institution

Publication, edition, and dissemination of the outputs through extension manuals	1500	2000	-500	This difference has been covered by my home institution
1 laptop computer (Dell E5500, Intel Centrino inside)	650	650	0	-
TOTAL	5950	7450	-1500	

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

In the future, it will be relevant to design appropriate environmental friendly methods which can help increasing baobab leaf production. This can be achieved through research on how to use integrated, ecological agricultural practices to improve the production of the daily used baobab leaves in the home gardens. It will also be interesting to continue this work by using and testing baobab germplasm from other West African regions where I have already relevant scientific data and scientific publications which can be used as basis for the project continuation.

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 for all produced technical manuals related to the project. Moreover, RSGF will be acknowledged for all scientific publication to be produced from the project outputs. Also, for any scientific conference/meeting I will attend to disseminate the outputs of the project, RSGF will be acknowledged for its financial support.

11. Any other comments?

I thank very much RSGF and its donors for having provided me with a financial assistance for this project. This is very useful for my scientific career development and will allow extending my scientific network in the field of wild edible trees. The project outputs were relevant and will surely help to improve the curricula I will develop the coming years for my teaching activities at university since the project outputs can be used as case studies for teaching activities.