

The Rufford Foundation Final Report

Grant Recipient Details	
Your name	Noumbissi Tenku
Project title	Farmer-supported Creation of Bat Sanctuary in the Ekona-Lelu Montane Forest
RSG reference	23438-2
Date of this report	27/01/2019

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
Secure existing habitat			✓	Objectives fully met as per progress report submitted.
Preventing future habitat loss			✓	Objectives fully met as per progress report submitted.
Restoring disturbed or compromised habitat			✓	Objectives fully met as per progress report submitted.
Training on pellets production, bee farming and marketing.			✓	Objectives fully met as per progress report submitted.

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

There was no unforeseen difficulty during the project.

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

1. Creation of a bat sanctuary in the Ekona-Lelu Montane Forest

This is the first bat sanctuary created in this area in particular and in the country at large, and it is hoped that bats will get prominence in the national conservation discourse. We are still waiting for the Ministerial validation of all reports and the subsequent official designation of the area as a protected area.

2. Develop farmers' capacity to implement bat-friendly farming practices

By creating forest buffers on the fringes of farmlands alongside crops, farmers are now able to carry out agricultural practices that afford bats an enabling environment for survival. These bats bring the mutual benefits of enhancing pollination and pest control for the farmers.

3. Alternative sources of income and fuel established for farmers

Farmers have been trained on both bee farming and the production of pellets from corn plant waste. While the latter provides a source of fuel and curbs destruction of bat habitat for firewood, the former provides a source of income that dissuades farmers from killing bats for sale as meat.

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

At every stage of the project, we had volunteers from the community who were interested in supporting the project after getting our sensitisation messages from the first project. The Ekona Bat Conservation Club was also a vital resource pool for volunteers.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes, there are plans to continue this work by setting up sanctuaries in other parts of the country.

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

The results of this work will be summarised and broadcasted on National Radio & TV in Cameroon during the Planet Watch programme, as well as published in two local newspapers in the Buea area. In addition to being shared on the website of the Rufford Foundation, the results of this initiative would be published on Eco Relief's website. The Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife will also get copies of all reports to support the decision making on designating the sanctuary a protected area. We will also search for publishing opportunities in national and international journals and magazines.

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

The grant was used from December 2017 to December 2018 and corresponded to the anticipated length of the project.

8. [Intentionally deleted]

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

The important next step will be to get the Ministerial designation of protected area, and a plaque will be erected at the entrance of the sanctuary with the Rufford Foundation logo, giving a brief background of the project.

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

Yes, The Rufford Foundation logo was used on material in relation to this project.

11. Please provide a full list of all the members of your team and briefly what was their role in the project.

Marie-Louise Engström was responsible for enabling members of the community understand the trends and processes of biodiversity loss, species extinction and the negative impacts such loss is having on human capabilities to sustain life.

Bunyui John Njabi is the director of GrEFCam and an environmental scientist with 22 years of experience in forestry management, water and soil conservation, wildlife protection and pollution control. He brought to this project his skills in nursery development, community mobilisation and people management. He played a key role in our box fermentation trial/training in the first project and was a key facilitator in the pellets production training.

Barnabas Njombe is a wildlife conservation expert and operations manager at Fako Conservation Network. He has undertaken several bird conservation projects in Cameroon and was responsible for supervision of creation of forest buffers.

Jean Ncheukoua is a conservation expert and social entrepreneur and was responsible for the creation of channels for marketing of pellets and honey by the farmers.

12. Any other comments?

No other comments for now.