

May 2026 Update Report

We ask all grant recipients to complete a project evaluation that helps us to gauge the success of your project. This must be sent in **MS Word and not PDF 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 – remember that negative experiences are just as valuable as positive ones if they help others to learn from them.

Please DO NOT fill in and submit this form until the project has been completed.

Complete the form in English. Note that the information may be edited before posting on our website.

Please email this report to jane@rufford.org.

Your Details	
Full Name	Serge Alexis Kamgang
Project Title	Innovative conservation technologies to assess habitat use and threats to chimpanzees in Mbam Djerem National Park, Cameroon
Application ID	50084-C
Date of this Report	May 15, 2026

1. 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
Strengthened local capacity in conservation technologies			X	A five-day capacity building workshop was organized in Mbam Djerem National Park from 12–16 February 2026 with 15 conservation actors trained on passive acoustic monitoring, detector algorithms, and data management. Rangers, wildlife managers, and conservation practitioners improved their technical skills in innovative biodiversity monitoring tools.
Improved understanding of chimpanzee habitat use and occupancy		X		Ten Song Meter Mini acoustic recorders and 15 camera traps were deployed at Ganga station in MDNP and have now been relocated to the park's western sector to assess road and community impacts on chimpanzee habitat. After two additional two-month sampling sessions, acoustic and camera trap data will be jointly analyzed to assess chimpanzee occupancy and anthropogenic threats.
Clear assessment of anthropogenic threats		X		Reconnaissance walks and Passive Acoustic Monitoring are being used to collect data on wildlife signs, illegal hunting, and human activities, including gunshots and chainsaw noise. The data will be analyzed to

				assess anthropogenic threats.
Enhanced community engagement and awareness		X		Community engagement activities started through collaboration with park authorities and local conservation actors. Outreach sessions and awareness campaigns are planned for May 2026.
Contribution to long-term conservation strategies		X		Preliminary findings are strengthening long-term biodiversity monitoring in MDNP and enhancing collaboration between BEDD, the MDNP Conservation Service, and conservation partners. Scientific publications and policy briefs will follow data analysis.

2. Describe the three most important outcomes of your project.

- a) Successful deployment of 10 Song Meter Mini acoustic recorders and 15 camera traps in the Ganga sector of MDNP to monitor chimpanzees and anthropogenic threats.
- b) Enhanced technical capacity of conservation practitioners, park rangers, and researchers through hands-on training in passive acoustic monitoring, camera trapping, and data management.
- c) Strengthened collaboration between BEDD, MDNP Conservation Service, and conservation partners to support long-term biodiversity monitoring and conservation planning.

3. Explain any unforeseen difficulties that arose during the project and how these were tackled.

Field operations in MDNP faced logistical challenges due to difficult access, long travel distances, river crossings, and equipment exposure to humidity and wildlife. These were mitigated through improved planning, collaboration with local guides and eco-guards, and protective installation measures. The large volume of acoustic data was addressed through additional training in data management and the acquisition of external storage devices.

4. Describe the involvement of local communities and how they have benefitted from the project.

Local communities, eco-guards, and conservation actors contributed to field surveys, equipment installation, environmental education, and local ecological knowledge sharing. The project strengthened local capacity in biodiversity monitoring and will support improved conservation planning and reduced illegal activities.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

The project is progressing well and will continue with long-term acoustic and camera trap monitoring across additional sectors of MDNP to assess seasonal variation in chimpanzee activity and anthropogenic threats. Future activities will include advanced sound analysis, automated detection tools, community outreach, and scientific collaborations and publications.

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

Project findings will be shared through reports, scientific publications, workshops, conferences, and training at the Garoua Wildlife School, targeting park managers, MINFOF, conservation NGOs, and local communities. The acoustic datasets and lessons learned will support future biodiversity monitoring and conservation strategies in Cameroon and the Congo Basin.

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

The next important steps include:

- Expand the acoustic monitoring network to western sectors of MDNP;
- Complete the analysis of acoustic and camera trap datasets;
- Finalize the local ecological knowledge study on chimpanzee–community coexistence;
- Increase community engagement and awareness activities;
- Strengthen collaboration with universities and conservation partners;
- Integrate PAM data into protected area management and law enforcement strategies.

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

Yes. The Rufford Foundation logo was included in workshop materials, reports, presentations, and communication documents related to the project. The Foundation

was acknowledged during the training workshop and in reports shared with conservation partners and stakeholders

9. Provide a full list of all the members of your team and their role in the project.

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10. Any other comments?

This project marks an important step in integrating Passive Acoustic Monitoring into biodiversity conservation and protected area management in Cameroon. Support from The Rufford Foundation strengthened local technical capacity and generated valuable baseline data for long-term monitoring of chimpanzees and anthropogenic threats in MDNP.