

## The Rufford Foundation Final Report

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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](mailto:jane@rufford.org).

Thank you for your help.

**Josh Cole, Grants Director**

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Grant Recipient Details	
Your name	Andrea Dempsey
Project title	Training of local community to implement SMART ecological monitoring system to ensure long-term survival of highly endangered primates in a community-owned rainforest in western Ghana
RSG reference	13940-1
Reporting period	2014-2015
Amount of grant	£1563
Your email address	Andrea.dempsey@wapca.org
Date of this report	12 <sup>th</sup> October 2015

**1. Please indicate the level of achievement of the project's original objectives and include any relevant comments on factors affecting this.**

<b>Objective</b>	<b>Not achieved</b>	<b>Partially achieved</b>	<b>Fully achieved</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Improved protection of a crucial wildlife corridor (the Kwabre Rainforest) between Ankasa National Park in Ghana and the Tanoé Forest in Côte d'Ivoire.			X	The training of the patrols to effectively patrol the Kwabre Rainforest to identify illegal activities has improved protection. Data collected from the survey showed that where the patrols had been active the longest primates were observed more and illegal activity was observed less.
Implementation of a pilot program for the utilisation of the Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool (SMART)			X	SMART was piloted in the Kwabre Rainforest and successfully analysed the data to highlight areas of success as well as areas which needed attention.
Improved sustainable management of the Kwabre Rainforest through long term ecological monitoring of natural resources and improved ability of communities to make informed decisions on the effectiveness and implementation of conservation actions		X		The project piloted the software that would see this objective fully realised however it would take further training and funding to implement SMART as a long term method of ecological monitoring and empower communities to make informed decisions.
Improved ability of the existing Community Forest Patrol Teams in the 12 communities surrounding the Kwabre Rainforest to document and halt			X	The project, which involved the communities patrolling every day over 5 weeks, enabled patrols to improve on their skills of primate identification and primate tracking through practical ground level training, it

illegal logging and bushmeat hunting being perpetrated by people outside the community				also gave them hands on training of GPS technology and compass reading. The patrol members too, assisted in a number of arrests and confiscation of lumber.
Improved data on the presence of roloway monkeys and other endangered fauna in the Kwabre Rainforest			X	The data not only confirmed sightings in 2012 of the previously considered extinct roloway monkey in Ghana, it was able to identify key areas of habitat range and areas of importance and possible camera trapping opportunities
Improved protection of roloway monkeys and other forest fauna in the Kwabre Rainforest			X	The project confirmed the existence of important primates in the Kwabre Forest. The data stands as evidence to obtain further support in order to improve the protection of the primates.
Improved ability of local and international NGOs to assess the effectiveness of conservation initiatives in the communities surrounding the Kwabre Rainforest			X	The project's data clearly demonstrated the effectiveness of the conservation initiatives in the Kwabre forest by showing a clear success in the high observation rate of primates versus low illegal activity where the patrols have been most active.
Establishment of formal collaborations between local Ghanaian NGO (WAPCA) and ZSL for long term conservation action in Ghana	X			Although a formal arrangement has not yet been established between ZSL and WAPCA it is hoped that SMART can be fully implemented over time.

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

- The forest was particularly difficult in areas to access due to high level of water. To tackle this the team had to survey in hip-high water or on one occasion use a canoe.

- The primates are very wary of humans and it was often difficult to get good sightings of the primates. To tackle this, the survey groups would reduce in size to two people only.
- The survey team at times camped in the communities, this meant that the patrol teams could go home at night. Unfortunately punctuality was poor, and the surveys were occasionally delayed whilst the survey team waited for the patrol team members. To tackle this the team camped in the forest as much as possible.

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

- The rolaway monkey was observed in the forest, confirming sightings in 2012.
- SMART technology worked well both in data collection but in data analysis.
- The data that were collected, showed that the patrols were making a difference in the amount of illegal activity conducted in the forest

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

The project took place in a CREMA – a community resource management area. The CREMA is a democratically elected body of community members which the government has given devolution of power to over the Kwabre Forest. Part of the CREMA initiative are the patrol teams which this project worked with to survey the forest. Two to four community members were part of the survey team each day over 5 weeks, improving skills in primate identification and apprehending illegal activity. All fines from such apprehension and all timber confiscated is given to the CREMA to distribute amongst the communities. The communities benefitted by hands on training to the patrol teams and from the financial income generated from the illegal activity the survey addressed.

**5. Are there any plans to continue this work?**

The CREMA and patrols continue to be active, and it is planned to replicate this survey again in 2016, using this survey as baseline data. It is also planned to collect data on the weekly patrols which can be analysed using SMART.

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

The results have already been shared at a number of international conferences, and is hoped to be presented at the IPS Conference next year in Chicago, funding pending. 2016 will also see a manuscript submitted to African Primates for publication.

**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 in April-May 2014 as anticipated

**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
Flight	613.0	668.34	55.34	Increase due to price increase between application and funds received
Visa	50.0	50.0	0	
Permit	100.0	0	100.0	Permit was not required
Field Assistant	800.0	936.29	136.29	Increase due to exchange rate fluctuation
<b>Total</b>	1563.0	1654.63	91.63	

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

This project has highlighted the importance of this forest for the primates that use it, but also that initiatives such as the CREMA are working and should be supported. Therefore the next important steps would be to maintain its protection through continued patrolling, alternative livelihood programmes, education as well as further studies into the ecological and population viability of this forest for the primates that are present now and for any future possible reintroduction.

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

Yes – the Rufford Foundation logo has been used in all presentations

**11. Any other comments?**

The project leader now works as the Country Coordinator for the local NGO WAPCA and because of this project has a substantial understanding of the work required to protect this forest but has been inspired by the communities she worked with during the project to dedicate herself to this.