

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	Hortensia Rasoanandrasana
Project title	Enhancing Community-managed Conservation and Ecotourism project in Bobaomby area, the northern tip of Madagascar.
RSG reference	18826B
Reporting period	15 months
Amount of grant	10,000 £
Your email address	tensyreine@live.fr
Date of this report	April 2017

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
The Development of ecotourism infrastructure (Sign board at the camping place and picnic shelters alongside the beaches.				In 2015, we have managed to build a modest camping place not far from the village and this year, we were able to achieve the planned objectives to build a sign board at the camping place and picnic shelters alongside the beach. However, the constructions of picnic shelters need more resources and time than we have been expected so that the construction activities will be continued even after the project ending date.
Biological and socio-ecological study of Crowned Lemur.				The project now is having a recording data on lemurs of the site and able to provide resources depending to the visitors' interest activities focusing on lemurs.
Development and reinforcement of Environmental education program.				The number of villagers involving in the environmental education programme is considerably increased. Using visual aids and projectors was more comprehensible for the villagers and show them the images of the biodiversity that have to be protected. That is an effective tool for raising awareness. Though, there is still many different activities that have to be provided next time to ensure the behaviour changes and long-term impact of this programme such as creation of eco-club, involving youth and woman through providing weekly tour guide, primary green school, cleaning up activity.
Workshop on Ecotourism and Conservation Project (tour planning, first aid, catering services, language skills and				In May 2017, the project will host again professors and students from the University of Western Ontario, Canada and students of the University of Antsiranaana,

financial management)			<p>Madagascar. This is the continuation of the collaboration we have formed a couple of years ago and this is the time for the community to put into practice the skills they have gained during the training such as professional guiding, the English language talk, budget and services that will make the visitors' stay rewarding. This will also be the time for the project to be evaluated and monitored.</p>
Development of alternative source of income.			<p>Normally the activity of the development of alternative source of income consist on hiring agriculture technicians to train villagers on proper crop spacing, improving soil fertility, and biological pest control. Though, on late December 2016, villagers informed us that they are confident on the sufficient of their rice project for the future mason because they have been already informed by their ancestors to plant rice as much as possible. This prediction was true as they get sufficient rice production on 2016 mason.</p> <p>We oriented the activity of the alternative source of income on the Apiculture activity. We help them on selling the honey they collected in town to get better price. Since they sell a litre of honey in the village the price is about 4000Ar when it comes out to town the price will be 12 000Ar. So selling honey to town we think is a great deal, and this is a part of great source of income for the villagers now.</p>

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

The project did not meet much difficulty. The previous unforeseen was mainly the unavailability of the villagers during the rainy season as they have to work in their field rice. This time, we have already plan our activities depending to the community availability such as starting the activities on the construction and plan the

environmental awareness and workshop on the dry season where they do not work in the field.

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

- The project has ameliorated the existing data that we gathered during the first and second phase of the project with the data concerning lemurs. The project circuits are now multiplying and strengthen by providing a tour on lemurs watching.
- The project also has managed to design a project's pamphlet and biodiversity book containing fauna of the site and we have also created an NGO called Bobaomby Nature Conservation (BNC) which is on the way to be legalised and we will use it as the main NGO working with the local communities for a conservation and ecotourism. This also allow us the raise fund and to apply for more funding from other foundations.
- The project has continued developed and reinforced local communities' capacity, knowledge and awareness on biodiversity conservation values and ecotourism benefit. More villagers are engaged to the project and the site is become more and more known by different stakeholders, government and tour operators. Now, the project has made a social media page on Facebook for people to follow the project's activities and find information about the site. Facebook link:

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

As during the previous steps of this project, local communities have been involved from the beginning of the project and have played a major role in this project accomplishment. Most of the project activities are related to the need of the local communities so that the involvement of the local communities is required and it is the strength of this project. They have been participating to the construction activities where they have been indicating the suitable place to put the shelter as there are sacred place where any construction is taboos.

In addition, during the study of lemurs, as always the project local guides (Jaomena, Chauffeur, and Amba) guided into the forest for the biological data collection period. People also have been willingly participated to share their traditional knowledge of lemurs such as threat, diet, legend and distribution.

Moreover, the number of people participating on the environmental education program and language skills development was considerably increased. All of local community categories (child, young, men, and women and primary school student and teachers) have been incited to participate on the environmental education programme and the foreign language skills development hold by the team member. This activity has been carried out by using audio-visual material which as very helpful for the villagers to get the message.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes, we do plan to continue this work.

This project is now on its expansion so that to guarantee the success of biodiversity conservation and the ecotourism project, we will continue it even after the completion of the Rufford small grant period. For example, we are already planning to continue the work with the visit the professors and students from the University of Western Ontario, Canada and the students from the University of Antsiranana, Madagascar. They will spend a month in the project site where students will to carry our biological and socio-economic research depending on their interest. An environmental awareness activity and English language course will be also undertaken with the primary school students and youth of the villages. Moreover, a workshop on sustainable resource management will be given by the professors to the villager's representatives of environment conservation of the project as they were experienced and qualified on the issues of sustainable management of natural resource and biodiversity in Madagascar. This is also an opportunity for the project team to develop skills on how to train local villagers. We also plan in the following year to integrate in the project and draw attention of the communities on the renewable energy and climate change adaptation.

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

As during the previous steps of the project, since the implementation of the project we worked to inform different categories of government and NGOs working in conservation and we presented the project to local authorities in order to make them aware of the existence of the project.

We are also planning to make a short video of the project of the year 2017 and will upload it on YouTube and share it on Facebook page of the project and on Rufford website so that all of people, national and international, will be able to follow the update of my work.

We have made a pamphlet and a biodiversity book recording all of the fauna that we have been observed since the beginning of the project to let people know the biodiversity richness of the area. We will have continued to print more pamphlet and books and will share it to the other stakeholders, operator tour, NGO, and especially to the local communities.

As during the second Rufford phase, we are collaborating with the University of Antsiranana and the University of Western Ontario, Canada, to broaden the project. A report on the students stay in the project site is also available at the library of the University of Antsiranana, Anglo-American Language Study Department.

The final report will be submitted to the Department of Regional Forest and Wildlife Conservation in the region.

This project also is now part of the Mandela Washington Fellowship Program supported project as one of the project team member have been participate to the fellowship and this project is benefited all of the Fellows opportunity provided by this programme.

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 project was carried out after receipt of fund in January 2016. As planned the project period was 15 months which was correspond to anticipate or actual length of the project.

The Rufford fund was used during all period of the project since we did not get an extra funding from another organisation. Though, all of the expenses during the visit of students from the University of Western Ontario, Canada and the students from the University of Antsirananana for one moth on May 2017 will be taken in charge by the University of Western Ontario Canada.

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
Insurance, research permission, Communication (Telephone /intern and /Postage)	133	133	0	
First Aid supplies (emergency supplies, antimalaria medicine, etc.)	85	85	0	
Rental Boat Transportation– Dugout Canoe with Boatman (estimate based on occasional use.	215	215	0	
Ecotourism and conservation project Infrastructure building: guidelines signboards, Shelters in picnic place.	510	510	0	
Workshop and awareness activities equipment (Visual aid projector £333, generator £125, and speakers £145)	603	853	250	The coast of imported materials is extremely expensive in Madagascar due to high inflation in the

				country.
Education environmental – Campaign materials posters, t-shirts, Standing banners, White board, etc.,)	800	1050	250	The design and print of Awareness materials in Antananarivo are more expensive due to the high cost of imported material to be used.
Training on Agriculture for 01 month. - Transport of Technicians, Meals and Seeds.	500	0	-500	We did not hire technicians to train villagers. We use the budgeted amount to cover cost that was not sufficient for the Audi-visual and the printed materials to get a sufficient result of the activities.
Food for 04 researchers, 02 local guides. (6*10*50€/month)	3000	3000	0	
Personal compensation for team during the 10 months of field (minimal pay): 04 researchers, 02 local guides. (6*10*50€/month)	3000	3000	0	
Food for me, Project coordinator) during the 10 months of field. (1*10*50€/month)	500	500	0	
Personal compensation for me, Project coordinator) during the 10 months of field (Minimal pay). (1*10*50€/month)	500	500	0	
The cost of the project finding presentation with Government and Non-Government Organisation and local authorities (drink, refreshment and handout)	154	154	0	
TOTAL	10,000	10,000	0	Exchange rate: 1.00 GBP = 4,800 MGA (local currency in Madagascar)

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

A. The important next steps of this project are to get the area to be a natural reserve status and ecotourism destination. In order to do so, the project will first spend much more time on meeting discussion, conference, with the Regional

Director of Environment Protection, with the Chief of the region, the mayor of the Bobaombo area. Time will be spent on the paper work and legalisation.

B. The ecotourism infrastructure construction has to be continued to meet a minimal standards facility such as toilets, washing places, water facilities.

C. Activity on improving sustainable management of natural resources and biodiversity conservation through environmental awareness programmes have to be developed for long-term impact. In order to do so, for the next phase, the awareness programme have to be divided into different activities to bring positive impact to each categories of people of the local communities.

- At first, a workshop training, and a plenary talks, lectures and group discussions to develop a management plan and decision making about community conservation, advocating, design and Implementation of the rules (Dina) have to be provided to the village's representatives who are in charge of the area's Biodiversity management.

- As following, a general environmental education programme for the public (men, women, youth) to increase interest, participation and awareness on environmental conservation will be hold including campaigns, an education mobile using audio/visual materials, Power point presentation, distribution of posters, t-shirts, use of Standing banners, session of short documentaries on environmental conservation and sustainable use of forest and mangrove and benefits of ecotourism in Malagasy language version, etc.

- In addition, an environmental education programme focusing especially on youth and students of the primary school have to implemented by a curriculum of green school and youth environment club which have lectures and groups discussions, a schools' quiz competition, environmental games which are interesting, interactive, entertaining and ensure involvement of youth.

- Moreover, women have to be involved in environmental protection and people have to be connected to nature through the implementation of programs such as a weekly nature walks and guided tour planning, an eco-camp where we can host young for volunteer scheme, a general village and beach cleaning up, Altogether, the walks, volunteer activities, the camp and the environment club will create a real love for nature that will have an impact on the long-term conservation.

D. The next steps also will be the promotion of area as an ecotourism. This activity will be undertaken in town of Antsiranana and related on finding partners, customers, design of business plan, study of the revenue and promotional tours to the project for representatives of the operator tours and tourism industry. In Brief, efforts will focus the ecotourism business.

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, we used the RSGF logo for the awareness materials such as T-shirts, standing banner, Pamphlets...and the RSGF is now known as the first funder of this project.

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

12. Any other comments?

We would like to extend our thanks to the Rufford Foundation to support and enable us to carry on further the project which has now positive impact and little by little bring positive change to the life of the biodiversity, the team, and local communities on the whole in the region.