

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	Tutilo Mudumba
Project title	The Snares to Wares Initiative: Implementing a sustainable solution to conserve wildlife and improve human well-being
RSG reference	23564-1
Reporting period	June 2017 – Dec 2018
Amount of grant	£5,000
Your email address	mudumbat@msu.edu
Date of this report	27 th November, 2018

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
Collaborate with Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA) to conduct wire snare removal sweeps, assess the density of lions, and conduct prey abundance surveys				<p>1) UWA has taken up the snare sweep activity and integrated the techniques we jointly perfected into their monthly law enforcement patrols. I am analysing data I collected from the snare survey that will inform new snare removal models.</p> <p>2) We completed lion and lion prey counts so as to estimate densities. I have submitted a manuscript on this work and it is being reviewed by co-authors.</p>
Youth recruitment				<p>We recruited an additional 50 youths and continue to run advertisements on local radio seeking more individuals. We have conducted preliminary meetings with leaders of a Karuma town to establish additional youth training centres with the aim of having Karuma as our launch town to the east and south-east parts of MFNP. These parts of MFNP are equally affected by youth unemployment that has resulted into many youth recruited into poaching.</p>
Artisan training				<p>We revamped our sculptures with the help of a skilled artisan. Because of this training, the group now has other trainers in addition to Mutalib, our first led artisan. These trainers focused on particular areas of the trade and together give quick 'how-to-do' introductions to new youths</p>

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

We had a shortage of UWA rangers to conduct snare removal during some of the time. This was because the UWA law enforcement unit was conducting ranger training and so most of the personnel were busy with that exercise. We overcame this by rescheduling our surveys to a time when they were available. We also relied on the youth of Pakwach to help with preparing food and carrying water and other field supplies so all the rangers could be utilised for snare removal.

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

i) We have now updated the MFNP lion density estimates on the northern bank using two techniques; total counts based on intense continuous following and carrying capacity based on preferred prey and preferred prey weight range. This is important because it has given the wildlife managers an idea of what number of lions there could be and now work towards a more defined goal.

ii) Our research has found that the north bank of MFNP has got more than 100,000 Uganda kob. This is one of the densest populations of Uganda kob in Africa and confirms previous estimates.

iii) We have been able to improve the design of our wire sculptures to a more complete and solid looking and realistic impression of the species we are creating. This is a huge deal because our new designs are safer for young children to handle, are selling for slightly more and we make relatively more sales than before. Additionally, our sculptures are now featured in most of the local lodges and hotels around MFNP. We think this has something to do with the new style.

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

The local community is the backbone and major player in the snares to wares initiative. The local leaders have granted the youth involved in the initiative permission to use the football field at no cost. This is a good indication of how the leaders rate the youth groups. The three full size football fields in and around Pakwach are a reserve of regional teams and we were honoured to be permitted to use them whenever we wanted. The youth are involved in the collection of the wire snares and its transportation to workshops near their homes. All the sculptures are made by reformed youth who before were part of the poaching industry inside MFNP or youth who could be potentially recruited if they did not work with us.

Income from the sale of crafts is saved on the youths individual bank accounts which we encourage every member to open. This is creating a saving culture amongst the youth and has enabled them to access credit from local microfinance institutions. We have youth who now own secretarial shops from proceeds from the sale of crafts. But most importantly for us, the youth have gained their respect and

social stature back from being referred to as vagabonds to important members of the society that contribute significantly to their families household incomes.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

The snares to wares initiative is continuing and we consider it a philosophy of solving conservation problems using local people driven solutions. We will always have problems between wildlife and people but our initiative is an example of how local people can be a positive front in solving these issues. We continue to seek partners with similar mind-sets so we can learn from each other.

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

- I. I will publish two research papers in a peer reviewed journal.
- II. I have presented our results at the 2018 The Wildlife Society in Cleveland.
- III. The UWA has received a report of our work including preliminary results.
- IV. Upon publishing our results, we will publicise the findings to a broader audience via our social media accounts including twitter, Facebook, and Instagram.

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 money was used over a period of about a year. The money was timely in that it enabled us gather concrete information about our system and also to train more lead artisans. The project will continue into the foreseeable future and hopefully spread beyond the borders of the country.

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
Snare sweep	6,708	5,307	1,400	We did not raise as much money from other external sources as anticipated so we cut back the budget on some items
Lion abundance survey	12,277	8,000	4,277	Again we could only raise part of our external funding for this item
Awareness campaign	2,617	2,117	500	This also resulted in a shortfall in this part. Luckily, some radio stations have been kind enough to continue the announcements pro bono

Artisan training	9,404	9,500	96	This was over spent because we had to send youth to the capital city for training as opposed to training out of Pakwach
TOTAL	31,006	24,924	6,082	
Rufford	5,000	5,000	0	

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

The next steps include;

- Publishing our work and making our results public.
- Expanding beyond the current number of artisans into new areas faced with similar people – wildlife problems.
- Identify collaborators in systems outside MFNP that we could partner and teach.
- Identify markets for the crafts in the UK and China as the USA is now fairly covered.
- We need to also identify additional funding sources so that we can pay for the expansion and also to monitor the success 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?

I have blogged about the support I received from the Rufford Foundation on my personal online social media accounts as well as Michigan State University online platforms. I use the Rufford Foundation logo on all my academic presentation about our work. I have also acknowledged that the Rufford Foundation was the source of funding on the two manuscripts being developed.

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

Sophia Jingo

Sophia has been the lead research assistant for two continuous lion monitoring projects since 2009 in Murchison Falls National Park. During the time we spent the grant money, Sophia continued as research assistant and thus took lead in collecting all the field data. Sophia also directly manages the snares to wares teams and offers immediate logistical support.

Mutalib Ngomojick and Settler Charles

Mutalib and Settler where the first recruited youth from Pakwach town. Both these individuals played about the same roles as trainers. They both attended the training in Kampala and returned to train more trainers for our artisan groups. These two individuals played a pivotal role in revamping the design of the new sculptures.

Peter Luhonda

Peter is the project driver and camp manager and has worked with the snares to wares project since inception. Peter managed the logistics of the artisans and also facilitated snare sweeps from the national park and their transportation and allocation to the artisan groups in the community.

Robert Montgomery, Ph.D.

Dr Montgomery is the Co – PI of this project and the Director of the Research on the Ecology of Carnivores and their Prey (RECaP) Laboratory at Michigan State University. Dr Montgomery played an oversight role and negotiated on our behalf so we could get into new markets both in Uganda and the USA.

12. Any other comments?

I am very grateful for the grant. All the work we were able to do could not have been possible without the generous support of the Rufford Foundation. Now, because we have been so successful in our work, the bar has been raised and we would like to keep it going in Pakwach town but also expand to new areas with new partners. What other avenues exist within the Rufford Foundation that could benefit the snares to wares? Can we seek additional funding through the Rufford Foundation?



Rafael, new proud head.



End of a survey transect, you can see the sort of numbers of wire snares collected from a single survey effort. ©Tutilo Mudumba



A group of youths engrossed in creating wire sculptures. ©Tutilo Mudumba.