

The Rufford Small Grants Foundation

Final Report

Congratulations on the completion of your project that was supported by The Rufford Small Grants 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	Barbara Croes
Project title	Monitoring endangered large carnivores in North Cameroon; implication and improvement of a combined camera trapping and footprint survey for the monitoring of present large carnivore species through capacity building of local park staff
RSG reference	34.05.08
Reporting period	1 November 2008 – 30 May 2010
Amount of grant	£5900
Your email address	croes.barbara@gmail.com
Date of this report	15 May 2010

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
Conduct surveys of large carnivores in the entire Bénoué Ecosystem			YES	All three national parks were surveyed as well as 12 Hunting Zones in the area. In total, 320 km were surveyed multiple times.
Training of local field staff to conduct surveys			YES	Four guides have been intensively trained and are capable to conduct combined track and camera trapping surveys on motorbike

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

Not relevant

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

Firstly, whereas the status and distribution of most species of large carnivores was completely unknown for the area, our surveys provided relevant information on presence, distribution and habitat selection for six species of large carnivores (lion, leopard, spotted hyena, caracal, serval and wild dog) and several species of smaller carnivores (i.e. African civet, genet sp., mongoose, sp. and jackal sp.).

Secondly, the techniques we used have proven to be easy to use and repeatable, particularly since all materials are now available for future use and park staff has been trained to conduct the surveys. Thirdly, our results provide an excellent basis for governmental stakeholders as well as hunting zone managers to improve management strategies in this important regional stronghold for a large variety of wildlife species.

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

The guides that have been trained in the framework of this programme all live inside the Bénoué Ecosystem. These trackers, as well as their families, have profited financially during the course of the project. Future work for local park staff is ensured through our capacity building activities.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

The monitoring surveys will be repeated by park staff in the future.

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

Preliminary results of the work have been and will be orally presented by the project executor during several seminars and workshops: 1) International seminar on the conservation of large carnivores in West- and Central Africa in February 2009; 2) Course on large carnivore survey methods at Wildlife School in Garoua, February 2009; 3) Local meeting with communities in Gamba,

Bénoué, June 2009; and 4) International workshop on protected area management, November 2010. The final results will also be published in a scientific article.

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

Project period was November 2008 until April 2010, as was 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.

NB: current exchange rate: 1 XAF = 0.00130196 £ sterling. The actual received amount by RSG in September 2008 was XAF 4.709.233 = 6.131 £ sterling calculated with most recent exchange rate, which is also the total actual amount spent.

Item	Budgeted Amount	Actual Amount	Difference	Comments
Fuel for surveys	744	859	-115	Two unforeseen visits by project coordinator, +/- 300 additional km on motorbike
Salaries guides and driver	842	1,083	-241	10 additional driver stipend days, 2 x 12 additional tracker salary days
Board and lodging	238	268	-30	Slight increase in accommodation costs central Bénoué as from 1 July 2009
Scout training	793	781	+12	Cfa 600.000 is round figure
Materials	2,822	2,606	+216	3 budgeted cameras were received as a gift by PDC (3 x 72) and thus not spent
Administration	159	211	-52	Costs for local calls between trackers and project coordinator were higher than expected
Unforeseen	303	323	-20	
Total	5.900	6,131	-230	

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

Continue regular monitoring surveys according to the protocol which was developed through the RSG project. This has already been discussed with park staff, hunting zone managers and relevant government stakeholders who agree that the surveys could contribute to a healthy management of the protected areas, particularly through hunting quota setting on a sound scientific basis.

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

The RSGF logo was used and will be used during presentations of results of the large carnivore surveys.