

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	María Grande Vega
Project title	Balancing local population nutrition demands with conservation of wildlife in the Pico Basilé Region, Bioko Island, Equatorial Guinea.
RSG reference	50.01.09
Reporting period	August 2009 – October 2010
Amount of grant	£6000
Your email address	mgrandevega@yahoo.es
Date of this report	2 January 2011

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
Bushmeat market data: to estimate bushmeat volume extracted from the study region and identify species reaching the main market		X		At the start of the study we were not able to collect information about carcasses sold in the Malabo Market due to the lack of cooperation from the sellers since a law prohibiting hunting and consumption of monkeys and other primates in the country was enforced in October 2008 (Decree num. 72/2007). However, we were able to obtain some data via a contact starting in November. The information resulting from this was, however, limited. Crucially though, we have been able to collect consistent and high-quality data of extraction and consumption of bushmeat from a key rural point: Basilé Fang village, the only village located at the base of the single road to the Pico that crosses the Malabo-Riaba road. From our enquiries and information gathered we are led to believe that most animals hunted in the eastern part of the Pico that arrives at the Malabo Market, pass through this locality. Our trade data from Basile Fang will allow us to estimate extraction of bushmeat by professional hunters in this part of the island, knowing the proportion that reach the market and knowing the proportion that ends in a different location.
Consumers and producers semi-structured interviews			X	We have interviewed 115 rural families (within 10 different villages) and 82 urban families in Malabo city to investigate food consumption patterns. We are currently gathering socio-economic information on the interviewed households. We have completed 90 of these interviews and have established wealth ranks for 38 families. Additionally, we have concentrated our efforts in investigating two villages (Basilé Bubi

				and Basilé Fang) in more detail. The importance of this part of the study is to understand differences in consumption patterns between the Bubi and Fang ethnic groups on the island. Household surveys and other interviews have been undertaken in the Basilé villages, focussing on: 1) Locations and activities of the family in the past and reasons for any changes; 2) general consumption and preferences of meats and other products; 3) Agricultural activities at present and in the past and 4) Livestock raised at present and in the past. We have also started hunter interviews within the Basilé villages. These were about their personal reasons for hunting, their alternative activities, their preferences, and some questions about the distribution and status of preys in their hunt location.
Fauna study	X			Though hunters' interviews have given us more than expected information about distribution and abundance of prey species, we haven't been able to undertake line transects and hunters' follows. This was due to the unexpected death of Claudio Posa on the 14 th of January of 2009. Claudio was the most involved UNGE teacher in the project and the most knowledgeable field expert and connoisseur of the hunters. He was going to lead us in this part of the project. However, as we explain in point 5, we will be doing line transects and hunters' follows in a new project in 2011.
Public education/information and spreading results			X	Please see point 6 in the "Update report- January 2010" and see also point 10 in the present final report.

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

- As we have said above, the biggest unforeseen difficulty was the unexpected death of Claudio Posa, which forced us to postpone the faunal surveys. We were able to embark upon

hunter surveys in the Basilé Bubi and Basilé Fang villages that allowed us to gather information on abundance and distribution of prey species in their hunting areas. The cooperation of hunters and the information collected have been extremely good. Moreover, we will be undertaking line transects and hunters' follows in 2011 to complement the interview data (see point 5).

- Another unforeseen difficulty was higher costs incurred in the project compared with those originally budgeted for (see point 8). The two main reasons for this were:
- The way UNGE (Universidad Nacional de Guinea Ecuatorial) students participate in the project. During our initial discussions with the university we were led to believe that the three field assistants who would work with us on the semi-structured interviews were volunteers. These were last year students from the Environmental Faculty, interested in participating in the project to do their final degree work. However, because of the timing of the course, most UNGE students were already working in another subject and thus we were only able to find one who had not yet chosen a subject and was interested in working within our project. The others, who moreover were also working and had families to maintain children, demanded three times more salary than had been originally budgeted for, to participate in the project. Thus, even though we did not do the market and fauna studies, for which three field assistants were budgeted (see point 8) the difference in salaries demand mentioned above and the longer time expended in the socioeconomic and nutritional study (together with the local research assistant hired for Basilé Fang data), increased costs for this part of the project.
- The forecasted expense in my allowance was also higher than expected because of budgeted food and living costs were lower than the real costs. Also I spent two more months in Equatorial Guinea to complete the work.

This problem was tackled by organising a fund-raising event for the project, and by working as a teacher in the Spanish School of Malabo, for a month. With these two activities I managed to cover almost all the extra expenses of the project, and the rest was covered from my personal savings.

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

- An extended database that will allow us to analyse all socioeconomic and nutritional data collected and have a better understanding of why people hunt and/or sell bushmeat and how do they depend on it. And a database with the extraction data of Basilé Fang that could be compared with the future results of line transects and hunter follows (planned to be done in that area in the continuation of this project explained in point 5).
- A very good relation with local institutions (specially UNGE and Ministry of Fisheries and Environment) that has driven us in drawing up together a new project for the continuation of this one, and that has been funded by three different Spanish institutions and will be carried out this year 2011 (see point 5).
- The training of four UNGE students in gathering socioeconomic and nutritional data and the redaction of the final degree work of one of them in the subject.

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

Though the involvement of interviewees and villagers has been very positive (especially the community leaders that has understood the project and helped me a lot), I think the most directly

benefited one by now, has been the Environmental Faculty of National Equatorial Guinea University (UNGE), and specially the four students that have directly participated.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes, the good collaboration with the Environmental Faculty (EF) and the good and interesting results obtained by now, have encouraged and motivated myself and the EF to continue working on this subject. With more people involved (my research group “Technologies and Methods for Sustainable Management” of the Politécnica de Madrid University, my thesis director Prof. John E. Fa, and Ecotono Association, from Spain) we drew up a project to:

- Train UNGE students and teachers in collecting and analysing fauna and socioeconomic data.
- Continue and enlarge the socioeconomic study
- Undertake line transects and hunter follows within hunted and non-hunted areas, affected by hunters in the Basilé villages.
- Assist the Equatorial Guinea Government with plans related to environmental managing and development especially the Project of the Ministry of Fisheries and Environment: *“Strengthening the National System of Protected Areas in Equatorial Guinea for the Effective Conservation of Representative Ecosystems and Globally Significant Biodiversity”*, in which a management plan for Pico Basilé National Park is planned. The Ministry has already been informed about our project and consider essential our collaboration and information in the writing of this plan.

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

- This work is part of my PhD, so I am planning to write my thesis and publish some papers (one of them is already been prepared).
- I have already done also a PowerPoint presentation and shared the preliminary results with all the institutions mentioned in point 10.
- As explained above, this work will be continued within a new project in which more UNGE and Government staff is involved and in which one of the final activities are workshops with all actors involved (NGOs, government staff, UNGE staff and local communities) and the production of a TV documentary in which, besides other issues of the country, the execution and results of the project will be shown.

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

The forecasted length of the project was 1 year (from August 2009 to August 2010) and the actual length has been 2 more months, till October 2010. I think the main reasons have been the necessary expended time in seeking more money (see point 2), and the time expended in the drawing-up of the new project (explained in section 5).

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
Local field assistants	1 research assistant for Market survey	£1440 (Rufford)	3 Field assistants for Semi-structured interviews: £4184; 1 local assistant for rural points of sale data: £123; 1 volunteer: £34;	+1161	Explained in point 2.
	2 field assistants for ecological samples	£1740 (Rufford)			
Gifts to stakeholders and households	Incentive items for interviewees	£100 (Rufford)	£192	+92	Interviews were better responded with a little bit more of incentives than forecasted.
Field Materials	Tape measures, weighing balances, GPS, gloves, machetes, bags, tent, etc	£700 (Rufford)	£69	-631	For the reasons explained in section 1, we weren't been able to do line transects and hunters' follows, so the amount of money expended was considerably smaller.
	Consumables (Datashets, pencils, etc)	£100 (Rufford)	£294	+194	As we did more interviews than expected the consumables were also more.
Fuel	1 year field research	£1000 (Rufford)	£842	-158	
Allowance	1 person (Maria Grande Vega)/1 year	£920 (Rufford) 3080 (Barcelona Zoo)	£5433	+1433	Explained in point 2.
Visa and ticket plane	1 (from Spain)	£1000 (Barcelona Zoo)	£857	-143	
TOTAL	£6000 (Rufford) £4080 (Barcelona Zoo)		£12028	+1948	Please see point 2.

When receiving Rufford Small Grant: £1= 1,1055 €, and local Exchange 1 € = 680 Fcfa.

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

Analyse all data collected up to now and prepare the new project.

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?

I have used the logo in all my presentations, some of which I have printed and deliver to the listeners. Specifically it was shown in the financial backers section. I have presented my project to the following institutions:

1. Equatorial Guineans':

- Dirección General de Medio Ambiente. Ministerio de Pesca y Medio Ambiente de Guinea Ecuatorial (Ministry of Fisheries and Environment).
- Ministerio de Asuntos Sociales y Promoción de la Mujer de Guinea Ecuatorial (MINASPROM). Social and Women Promotion Ministry.
- Facultad de Medio Ambiente de la Universidad Nacional de Guinea Ecuatorial (UNGE). Environmental Faculty of Equatorial Guinea National University.
- Escuela Universitaria de Estudios Agropecuarios, Pesca y Forestal (UNGE). University school for Agricultural, fisheries and forest studies.
- ONG Amigos de la Naturaleza y el desarrollo de Guinea Ecuatorial (ANDEGE).

2. Internationals (working in Guinea):

- Bioko Biodiversity Protection Programme (www.bioko.org) (Drexel University/UNGE)
- Zoological Society of London (ZSL)
- Conservation International (CI)
- United States Agency for International Development (USAID)
- FAO
- European Commission.
- Agencia Española de Cooperación Internacional para el Desarrollo (AECID). Spanish Agency of International Cooperation for Development.

3. Spanish

- Universidad Politécnica de Madrid.
- Barcelona Zoo

11. Any other comments?

I would like to say a big THANK YOU to the Rufford Small Grants Foundation, which, together with Barcelona Zoo, made possible the start of this project after 2 years seeking for funding. Now that we have been able to carry it out with good results, we have obtained more funds from other institutions to continue it. But without this first aid, nothing would have been possible. THANK YOU!