

**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	Evarastus Obura
Project title	Integrated Action for Conservation of Dunga Kajulu Ecosystems through Enterprise Development
RSG reference	1077-P
Reporting period	December 2014-December 2015
Amount of grant	£15000
Your email address	evarastus@yahoo.com
Date of this report	31 January 2016

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
<p>i. To improve local intervention and sustainable management of upstream and downstream ecosystems through a sustained climate change education on importance of these ecosystems in impact mitigation</p>			√	<p>There was quite a lot of synergies in project implementation that enhanced learning and maximising output. Through a Lake Victoria Environmental Management Project in Kajulu which involved our participants, a baseline survey was done and we benefited from the results thus saving on resources. We thus focused on local meetings, training and awareness workshops.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Six training workshops for three schools, five local groups and local leadership representatives held. 20 participants trained on climate change awareness- as a result, there is ongoing awareness and messages on importance of upstream and downstream ecosystems in mitigating climate change within local school clubs, school parent meetings, and local leadership meetings. • Six mobile education outreaches in partnership with WCK held to three project schools, main topics, rain water harvesting, kitchen gardening, tree nursery establishment. The schools project is ongoing. • 500 posters produced to market work of local women energy enterprise • Three homesteads chosen for model homes development for local education on climate change resilience e.g. through woodlots, planting of small

				forests and plantations for home use.
ii. To increase local households participation in curbing main causes of deforestation in the upstream forest ecosystems through promoting poverty alleviation initiatives for improved quality of life		v		At least 40 community representatives from 20 local women and farmers groups equipped with skills for raising own tree nurseries and woodlots. As a result of establishing three community models on sustainable farming and energy conservation, 16 households have replicated mostly the farming and energy activities. Benefits have included increased sustainable firewood, increased stable incomes for energy saving stoves artisans, increase in number of homes installed with upesi energy saving stoves as a result of activities of trained groups.
iii. To strengthen local participation in sustainable agriculture through improving knowledge on best alternatives		v		At least 20 farmers trained to facilitate upstream soil and water management through offering extension services to local farmers. Benefits have included more farmers adopting soil conservation mechanisms that help improve farm output over long periods while also saving ecosystems from proliferation of invasive species due to eutrophication. This is a long term strategy and is ongoing. Good news is the LVEMP project has also combined synergy to enhance this idea.
iv. To improve target groups' participation in micro-finance projects through enabling accessibility to cheap loans by establishing a revolving fund		v		The revolving fund was an idea proposed to promote sustainable enterprising in Kajulu. To avoid having bad debts and failed enterprises that compromise success of the fund, stringent rules were set up by the established fund committee. Due to the tight rules, most enterprising groups and individuals were slow to start the process of borrowing and those that tried were referred back to the drawing board to improve their approaches. Given the strictness

				<p>which is seen by the fund committee as inevitable, only three local enterprises have qualified for the small loans of up to £387 to be repaid by March 2016. We are however currently doing a door to door outreach to local groups to educate them further about how the fund intends to work for the benefit of all.</p>
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2. Please explain any unforeseen difficulties that arose during the project and how these were tackled (if relevant).

One of the major difficulties we faced was establishing the revolving fund and ensuring that it was launched in good time. As a committee established to ensure effective operation of the fund, we had to ensure that the community groups involved understood the functions of the fund which took us a long time. From the terms of reference of the committee, it was also difficult finding the enterprises that qualified for the small loans thus delaying the operationalisation of the fund. We thus we again embarked on group visits to educate the community groups involved on the functions and of the fund and how they could work on qualifying for support. This helped us to get two groups and one individual who qualified in mid-January 2016.

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

The growth of the business aspect of the energy saving enterprise among local groups is being replicated in so many areas within and outside Kajulu. The trained artisans have extended their service to communities as far as Nyahera thus enabling them to earn extra income which is significantly helping to reduce pressure on upstream ecosystems. The new anthropological ventures are serving as better alternatives to mostly youth and women who were mostly involved in deforestation and unsustainable farming activities. Additionally the uptake of energy efficient stoves by more homesteads as is happening now will in the long run improve conservation of tree resources thus upstream ecosystems. More than 50 homesteads have installed upesi liner stoves which is saving wood resources by 50% (ITTDG, 2004).

Secondly, some of the trained women groups by this project have used acquired skills to improve on the products to come up with their own simple kitchen innovations for simple clay stoves and kitchen cabinets made of clay for convenience. The new outlooks has encouraged more women to invest in improving efficiencies of their cooking methods and kitchen which is saving more wood resources.

Through our partnership with Sustainable Community Development (SCODE), the community groups involved in this project have been linked to new established partners who have helped identify new areas for training and trained more of our community artisans in new energy technologies. Some of these new partners include Clean Cook Stoves Association of Kenya (CCAK), the Global Village Energy Partnership (GVEP) through their regional trainings have accommodated some of our project trainees in promoting new energy technologies. One of our trained artisans has been trying to implement lessons learnt though with limited resources.

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

The community at Kajulu was involved in this project through new and already established women, farmers and youth groups. The involvement was in five fronts namely rehabilitation of local streams for water conservation, promotion of sound farming practices, promotion of sound energy practices, enhancing climate change awareness and promoting sustainable enterprise development. To ensure strong element of community involvement in these aspects we organised training for climate change educators to ensure on going climate change awareness at community level, workshops for community groups representatives on sustainable agriculture, agroforestry and soil conservation, involving local water resources beneficiaries in rehabilitating local streams and participatory development of a loaning scheme for local sustainable enterprises to promote local ownership. Through these initiatives, communities in Kajulu have benefitted through improved supply of clean water in Nyabondo sublocation, increased awareness on climate change through messaging in local Luo language by local educators, improved partnerships with local and international stakeholders like the Nam Lolwe radio station and GVEP, improved skills and hence earnings from acquired energy saving skills. We are also on the way of promoting establishment of new sustainable enterprises through the new loaning scheme for local small-medium enterprises. Most women and youth have recorded improvement in their earnings through energy saving enterprises and ecotourism ventures promoted by this project.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes, even though our support from Rufford Small Grants Foundation has come to an end, we continue to receive support from other partners both in kind and cash support both directly to our partner community organisations and in some instances indirectly through our organisation. The foundations aid for this work envisions a broader spectrum of things in terms of the target areas and the sectors. Though we have achieved a lot already with more than 20 active community groups involved in sustainable livelihood activities that enhance conservation of ecosystems, more than 20 partnerships with the public, private sectors, foundations and local to international NGOs as well as individuals of good will involve. Most of these are proactively involved in continuing and broadening the boundaries of this work. The concrete plans we currently have and are implementing is to systematically mentor the future leaders of these initiatives to take up guiding roles and promote this work further. What we have done so far is to establish strong foundations that are going to guide the next generation of leaders in promoting conservation of not only Dunga swamp but also upstream ecosystems for posterity. We will however continue to play a guiding role as well as spearheading founding of new initiatives to promote conservation of ecosystems.

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

The results of this work continues being shared through meetings with partners through experiences, reports to partners, photography on our website and social media accounts, presentations through various forums thus reaching multi-sectorial groups and partners. Being an organisation that also has ventures in ecotourism, we are sharing the stories and experiences of this project with most of our clients to seek support for our conservation and community based projects within upstream Kajulu and downstream Dunga wetland which helps providing support to sustain community involvement. Through close partners like Wildlife Clubs of Kenya, we are working on replicating lessons to new areas to enhance new experiences and lessons.

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

This project grant was released to us in November 2014. The anticipated period for utilisation of this grant was 12 months. However, there were delays to start the implementation process due to logistical reasons associated with other projects currently being implemented in the area. The actual implementation begun in January 2015 and due to unanticipated community politics regarding beneficiaries of the revolving fund, the delay in the role out affected the time plan which delayed the by 2 extra months i.e. (from January 2015 to February 2016).

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.

Exchange rate Kshs135=£1

Item	Budgeted Amount	Actual Amount	Difference	Comments
Trainings (T.o.Ts for leaders)				
Stationery	0	4	-4	
Transport costs	480	565	-85	The discrepancy was unfavorable due to increased unforeseen movements while budgeting. Location of project demanded constant availability of a private vehicle which sometimes had to be rented.
Staff allowances	144	144	0	
Facilitation	288	864	-576	Many instances especially climate change dispensations demanded availability of expert services than had been anticipated.
Meals	160	768	-608	We had more follow up meetings and general community forums that went beyond lunch time.
Climate Change Campaigns				
Staff allowances	324	324	0	
Facilitation costs	0	100	-100	
Transport	324	432	-108	Aside from the public campaigns, we also organised school campaigns which demanded for follow up.
Extension Education for SD				

Practical materials (capital materials) Energy	6186.4	3930	2256.4	This encompasses purchase of training materials which were to also act as capital materials to enhance entrepreneurship in the energy and agricultural sectors
Agriculture (materials)	0	191	-191	
Transport (field learning)	1200	845	355	
Facilitation costs	900	1294	-394	
Staff allowances	900	900	0	
Lunches	1240	1880	-640	
Rehabilitation water streams	412.5	259.3	153.2	
Posters for marketing	130	93	37	
Revolving Fund				
Energy entrepreneurs	417.82	222.2	195.6	We chose the fund to be available only for the perceived viable enterprises
Farmers	333.3	165	168.3	
Project Administration				
Transport	928	1050	-122	
Communication	440	300	140	
Office printing work	192	100	92	
Stationery	0	7	-7	We bought some stationery to use at office despite not budgeting for.
Hire of generator	0	55	-55	This was necessary for the local campaigns when electricity was not predictable.
Total	15000.02	14492.5	507.5	

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

Next important steps involve mainly working with established networks in the project area for this initiative to build on what already exist to sustain gains and grow local funding bases. We are working on sustaining the local enterprises established to grow local interests while carefully observing that these also don't go to levels that the local ecology is threatened. We seek to work with local partners to improve relationships with local enterprises so that they incorporate the local conservation initiatives in their Community Social Responsibility (CSR) programs to ensure sustained support through periodic engagements.

We also want to venture mainly into vigorous marketing of local entrepreneurship products to sustain local involvement in alternative livelihood. We will seek to find better alternatives for trained local personnel to improve their capacity in preferred areas through strategic partners.

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, we used Rufford logo on our posters produced to market the work of local artisans and entrepreneurs. RSGF received publicity for instance during community meetings, the radio talk shows and the tree planting through public announcements in appreciation of the foundation's support.

11. Any other comments?

I on my behalf of all the teams that I have worked with since 2005 want to express sincere appreciation for the support extended towards this idea which was conceived when I was just a young man trying to do something to change a situation. When not so many people believed the community around Dunga swamp could improve the situation, Rufford Small Grants entrusted me with a task I had proposed and from this sprang a wave of social entrepreneurship and grassroots conservation initiatives that are not only helping to save biodiversity but also helping to improve livelihoods by alleviating poverty. Through RSG support to my work which I believe was the first towards a youth led conservation initiative around Lake Victoria wetlands, more young people have stepped forward and taken up important actions that have created a movement for nature conservation in western Kenya. To all those that contribute towards RSGF, the trustees, the management and all that make things work at this foundation to have supported my work. Thank you. I have grown significantly in terms of capacity and the work of this grant and the profile has exposed me to various opportunities across the world. It has been an opportunity to mentor so many young people that have had the privilege of working under this project since inception.