

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. 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. 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	Leonard Ssozi
Project title	Drawing on Indigenous Knowledge and Cultural Meanings to Conserve / Restore Family Forest Groves in Gombe Sub County, Wakiso District-Uganda
RSG reference	13278-1
Reporting period	June 2013-June 2014
Amount of grant	£6000
Your email address	leonard.ssozi@gmail.com
Date of this report	22 nd June 2014

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
Promoting environmental/sustainability literacy and consciousness in Gombe sub county			✓	<p>The project beneficiaries have been able to appreciate the need to conserve the environment. This has been demonstrated through the planting of trees in their respective gardens.</p> <p>The communities fully appreciate the value of indigenous tree species and the need to sustainably harvest the resources thereof, for the benefit of both the present and future generations.</p> <p>Apart from the competence of the project implementers, the communities benefited from the knowledge and practical skills of expert facilitators in forestry, apiculture and energy saving stoves.</p>
Equipping the community with skills necessary for setting up tree nursery beds and promoting tree planting at household level			✓	<p>The communities acquired practical skills in tree nursery bed set up. Five tree nurseries were set up in each of the five villages. Three out of the five nursery beds are still operational even after the completion of the project. The custodians of these beds have taken on selling of tree seedlings as an income generating activity.</p>
Training the community in making energy saving cooking technologies using locally available resources.			✓	<p>The project carried out training sessions in making energy saving stoves using locally available materials. These practical sessions were well attended by both male and female members. Twelve households out of the target 50 project households have been able to construct energy saving stoves in their homes. One member, Mr Sserunjogi, has taken on the activity of constructing energy saving stoves to earn a living.</p>

<p>Skilling the community in bee keeping as an income generating activity.</p>		<p>✓</p>	<p>The members were well trained in beekeeping by a Senior Entomologist from the Ministry of Agriculture. They learnt that beekeeping is not only about harvesting honey but may also be intended to improve crop yields through pollination. They were urged to desist from over-using chemical fertilisers and pesticides as these hinder the survival of bees. The communities learnt how to lure bees into their gardens for purposes of crop pollination by planting trees/plants that will offer a succession of flowers, and thus pollen and nectar, through the whole growing season. Members learned how to make bee hives using local materials such as anthill/clay soil, cow dung, papyrus, sticks and banana fibres. Although there was a deep appreciation of the value of bees in enhancing agricultural productivity within the communities, only one member took on apiculture for purposes of honey production.</p>
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2. Please explain any unforeseen difficulties that arose during the project and how these were tackled (if relevant).

The grant was disbursed during a dry season which took an unusually long period to end. This somewhat affected seed germination and tree seedling growth.

One of the nursery bed custodians had started selling tree seedlings to non-members. Yet, they were to be given to group members free of charge. At the beginning of the project, all project beneficiaries signed a Memorandum of Understanding with us under the auspices of the Eco-earth Environment for Peace Initiative (a CBO created to execute the project). The MOU helped to address such anomalies that arose during project implementation. None the less, this experience demonstrated the potential of income generation through the sale of tree seedlings.

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

First of all, the project has increased community understanding of the importance of conserving the environment as a means of fostering environmental sustainability. This has been demonstrated by the passionate involvement of community beneficiaries in the tree planting activities as well as adoption of sustainable energy saving stoves. There is increased tree cover on the acreages of the project beneficiaries.

Due to the project emphasis on indigenous tree species as well as making of household energy saving stoves and beehives, there has been an increased revitalisation of the application of local ecological culture in environmental sustainability.

The project has had spill over benefits within the community. Much as it targeted 50 households, non-beneficiaries were free to attend the project training programmes. Consequently, some have been able to plant trees in their gardens.

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

The project beneficiaries were identified with the help of the Local Council Chairman of each village. In all, five households in each of the five participating villages were enlisted as project beneficiaries. The members of each of these households have been involved at every stage of the project. They participated in collecting tree seeds and wildings for propagation. They maintained the community nursery beds until the seedlings were ready for transplanting.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Plans were made to continue this work. We registered a Community Based Organization (CBO) called 'The Eco-earth Environment for Peace Initiative'. The concluded project was executed under this CBO. The organisation is non profit and aims at promoting environmental sustainability as a means of enhancing peace within the community. Based upon this framework, the CBO has also received an equipment grant from Idea Wild, an environment organisation based in USA.

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

- I have already begun sharing the results of my work within community development networks and at conferences. I am a member of the Centre for Sustainable Development, a platform for sharing experiences and best practices in environment and sustainable development. Against this background, I was awarded a scholarship to pursue an online course titled '*Community Adaptation to Climate Change*' which further enhanced my competence in project work.
- I participated in a workshop organized by the Global Development Network in Istanbul where I shared my project experiences with fellow participants.
- I shared the project experiences with fellow participants at the regional conservation conferences in Mombasa and Kigali that were organised by Rufford Foundation.
- I have been giving a copy of the monthly project reports to the Sub County Community Development Office. These have provided guidance to NGOs within the Sub County.
- Project updates and progress have always been posted on our website for public perusal and on the Rufford webpage.

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

The grant was awarded on 6th June 2013 and money disbursed into the project team leader's account shortly thereafter. The project was designed to be executed within 12 months. The fact that the project has been concluded in June 2014 is evidence that it has been executed within the actual time frame.

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
Developing of Training Manuals	100	100	0	Budgeted amount was enough for the activity
Stationary	100	100	0	Budgeted amount was enough for the activity
Communication-telephone airtime for the entire period	150	150	0	Budgeted amount was enough for the activity
Motorcycle purchase for proper coordination	625	500	125	The amount budgeted for the purchase of a motorcycle was not enough. We resorted to hiring a vehicle to monitor project activities. The balance on this item was reapportioned to tree nursery bed maintenance and to purchase of fuel.
Fuel	275	300	-25	The deficit was reapportioned from the balance on motorcycle purchase.
Meetings with District and Sub County leaders	100	100	0	Budgeted amount was enough for the activity
Parish Sensitisation and Training Workshops (organising, venue, lunch and refreshments)	200	200	0	Budgeted amount was enough for the activity
Identification of indigenous tree seedlings, seeds and tree suckers	200	200	0	Budgeted amount was enough for the activity
Rent for project coordination office (including payment for utilities)	325	325	0	Budgeted amount was enough for the activity
Setting up five tree nurseries for each of the five parishes (including hiring of plots of land, labour)	1,500	1500	0	Budgeted amount was enough for the activity
Routine maintenance of the nursery beds (watering and organic fertilizers)	50	175	-125	The deficit on this item was catered for by the contingency amount. This was because an additional amount was required to facilitate nursery bed watering during the prolonged dry season.

Transport refunds to project steering committee	250	250	0	Budgeted amount was enough for the activity
Transport refunds to participants	625	625	0	Budgeted amount was enough for the activity
Facilitation to set up bee hives/apiaries	750	750	0	Budgeted amount was enough for the activity
Transport refunds and allowances to outsourced facilitators	75	175	-100	The activity had been under budgeted. The deficit was thus catered for by the contingency amount.
Special follow-up workshop	75	300	-225	The deficit on this item was catered for by the contingency amount. The item had been under budgeted. This workshop was attended by the project beneficiaries, the area local council leadership and the community development office.
Contingency (10% of budget amount)	600	250	350	The remaining contingency amount (£350) was used to facilitate the energy saving stoves activity which had been unintentionally omitted during the budgeting process.
TOTAL	6000	6000	0	

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

Looking ahead, the community needs an alternative income generating activity that will help consolidate the gains of the project. This suggestion emerged as a result of a needs assessment exercise that we conducted towards the end of the project. Sustainable piggery was suggested as the preferred intervention because it embraces the principles of sustainable agriculture whereby, animal remains are used as organic manure to improve crop yields. The sustainable piggery intervention will also benefit from this concluded project because tree foliage and leaves will be used to supplement the animal feeds. Therefore, apart from income generated from the sale of pork, the project will boost food security.

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 on all materials produced in relation to the project. These included the project headed paper, website, reports to Rufford and to the District Sub County Community Development Office as well as on claim/requisition forms.

11. Any other comments?

This project was developed from my master's dissertation. Many students' researches are often left in libraries without any follow up on how they can inform community development initiatives. It has been a fulfilling experience for me to implement aspects of my dissertation. The project work has also informed my decision to enrol for a doctoral programme in natural resource management.



I am indebted to the management of Rufford Small Grants for awarding me the grant to execute this project and for facilitating my attendance and participation in the Regional Conservation Conferences in Mombasa and Kigali.