

## 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](mailto:jane@rufford.org).

Thank you for your help.

**Josh Cole, Grants Director**

Grant Recipient Details	
<b>Your name</b>	David K. Nkwanga
<b>Project title</b>	Safeguarding the Ecological Functions of Mabamba Ramsar Site for Sustainable Pro-Poor Eco-Tourism, Community Livelihood Support and Environmental Sustainability
<b>RSG reference</b>	15641-B
<b>Reporting period</b>	July 2014 – June 2015
<b>Amount of grant</b>	£ 12,000
<b>Your email address</b>	<a href="mailto:naturepaldn@gmail.com">naturepaldn@gmail.com</a>
<b>Date of this report</b>	14 <sup>th</sup> June 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
1. Document the effects of key exploitative activities to ecosystem and species contained therein;		√		A study on the effects of sand mining and other exploitative activities was conducted and a report produced.
2. Advocate for redress by policy makers and leaders at various levels;			√	We have raised issues of wetland exploitation with policy makers through stakeholder engagements at Sub-county and district levels and at national level through participation in The Ministry of Water and Environment joint sector reviews. Some of the presentations during these engagements are attached. We have also produced and distributed fact sheets and policy briefs as advocacy tools.
3. Initiate restoration activities to degraded areas both in the wetland and in the catchment.			√	We did two pilot restoration sites. Photos are attached.
4. Popularise the wetland management action plan and promote its implementation			√	We organised 10 engagements with community groups around Mabamba wetland to enhance community education regarding the Wetland Management Plan. We have participated in the development of the Community Wetland Management Plan process led by Nature Uganda and have jointly shared responsibilities in implementation.

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

1. Delays in getting study report: There was a delay in getting a study report from the consultancy team that was contracted. This also affected the reporting schedules.

2. The project contact person (David) had an accident that has impacted his life and the general performance of the project, especially the reporting bit. However, we have finally been able to assess project performance and make an overall report.

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

1. The project has contributed to policy and practice change in regard to mechanised sand mining that extends deep into the wetland and Lake Victoria. The National Environment Management Authority (an agency responsible for overseeing and coordinating environment management issues in the country) has issued a directive stopping sand mining in Lake Victoria. This comes as a result of collective advocacy efforts to which the project contributed.
2. Project has produced a number of publications which include a *Study Report: Mabamba Under Siege: The Growing Impacts of Exploitative Activities in Uganda's Wetlands, Case of Mabamba Bay Ramsar Site*; a policy brief and fact sheets.
3. Two pilot wetland restoration plots established to demonstrate the potential of wetland restoration using aided natural regeneration approaches.
4. Breeding grounds for fish and other fauna protected hence threat to wetland-based species of fish, birds, mammals and plants diversity controlled, ecological functions of the wetland safeguarded and its environmental sustainability upheld.
5. Threat on the growing eco-tourism industry controlled.
6. Implementation of the Mabamba Ramsar Site Wetland Management Plan supported.
7. Mabamba Wetland Eco-tourism Association (MWETA) leaders/members further equipped to sustainably monitor the implementation of the wetland management plan.

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

Project design, Implementation and institutional development:

Community members, through their association MWETA, have been involved right from project design by proposing intervention areas. They are also involved in project implementation mainly through managing the Eco-tourism Information Centre and in all engagements with local governments and other stakeholders. They have also been involved through training and participating as tourist guides. MWETA is also involved in identification of capacity development need and in contributing to project costs beyond the project budget.

#### **5. Are there any plans to continue this work?**

Yes. Nature Palace remains active in conservation activities around Mabamba Bay. We are continuing with the monitoring of restoration activities. We continue our advocacy work through various fora including this year's Ministry of Water and Environment Joint Sector Review platform which process we have already embarked on.

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

1. Paper reports.
2. Website: all updates will be linked to our website ([www.naturepalacefoundation.org](http://www.naturepalacefoundation.org)).
3. News paper supplements e.g. World Wetlands Day and World Environment Day.
4. Network system: e.g. Environment and Natural Resources Civil Society organisations Network (ENR-CSO Network) in which Nature Palace Foundation is a co-leader of the Wetlands Thematic Group; Uganda Forest Working Group; Clean Up the World (CUW); and Uganda Coalition for Sustainable Development (UCSD).

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

The RSG was used over a period over 12 months, however, our involvement has continued even after the project life.

#### **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 (Uganda Shillings) 1£ = 4,100/=)**

Item Description	Budgeted Amount	Actual Amount	Difference	Comments
<b>a)</b> Study on Impacts of unsustainable sand mining.	4,500	5,300	800 more	The study costs were somehow more than what we had budgeted for.
<b>b)</b> Fact sheets	1,000	1,000	-	
<b>c)</b> Policy Briefs	1,250	1,250	-	
<b>d)</b> Training Guide in alternative green enterprises to reduce pressure on the wetland	750	750	-	
<b>e)</b> 2 demonstration plots for rehabilitation of degraded parts of the wetland using supported natural regeneration approaches	1,500	1,200	300	We have used less than what was budgeted but this helped to cover other areas where we had a deficit.
<b>f)</b> Monitor compliance and gaining of ecological functions of the degraded areas	750	600	150	
<b>g)</b> 10 community and stakeholders engagements on Wetland management plan implementation;	750	1,250	500	The costs of engagements were more than the budget.
<b>h)</b> Community Extension activities	875	950	more	
<b>i)</b> Training activities to local community members and Mabamba Ecotourism Association (MWETA) to monitor private actors' actions.	625	500	125	
<b>j)</b> 1 (one) refresher course for community volunteers and tour guides;	1,250	950	300	
<b>k)</b> Project coordination & monitoring costs	1,325	1500	175	
	<b>14,575</b>	<b>15,250</b>	<b>675</b>	

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

1. Addressing external threats to the wetland, specifically mechanised sand mining and catchment degradation.
2. Integrating more scientific research to back-up our arguments for conservation.

3. Marketing of mapped tourist attractions to aid more community participation and benefit sharing while reducing pressure on the wetland resource.
4. Addressing inter-cultural issues through training.
5. Individual follow-up with tour operators for further improved collaboration.
6. Improved coordination with RSG-supported projects especially those on wetlands of international importance e.g. Sango Bay for better utilisation and improvement of the Eco-life – the first web sub-domain with information about Ramsar sites in Uganda.
7. Expanding collaborations to include Universities and other higher institutions of learning.

**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?**

1. The logo was used on publications and Presentations: e.g. fact sheets, policy briefs; assessment of government performance in the wetlands sub-sector report; and *Mabamba Under Siege: The Growing Impacts of Exploitative Activities in Uganda's Wetlands, Case of Mabamba Bay Ramsar Site*.
2. RSG has been published on our website: [www.naturepalacefoundation.org](http://www.naturepalacefoundation.org) under 'Our Supporters'.
3. RSG has been published on Mabamba Eco-tourism Information Centre sign post.