

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	Catherine L. Craig
Project title	Wild silk production to alleviate poverty and preserve the biodiversity of the Makira Protected Area, Madagascar
RSG reference	17.09.07
Reporting period	1 January 2007-1 August 2008
Amount of grant	£5000
Your email address	ccraig@cpali.org
Date of this report	1 August 2008

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
Activity 1. Establish plant nurseries of larval food plants.			X	We have established a total of 5000 Talandoha seedlings in Manamby (4000) and Maroantsetra (1000) and collected, dried and packaged 10000 seeds give to the people in the village of Ambodivoangy to germinate and plant. Each farmer will need to plant a minimum of 1000 trees to produce 10000 cocoons to produce a kilo of cocoons.
Activity 2. Plant demonstration sites in Maroantsetra and Involoina.			X	Our demonstration garden in Maroantsetra contains 400 and is completely planted and 400 Talandoha have been inter-cropped on the farm serving as a second demonstration site. We are raising 2000 larvae on plants in our Maroantsera site and can illustrate all stages of the larval life cycle. We have decided to focus work at the Manamby site to illustrate host plant horticulture, and work at the Maroantsetra site illustrates larval rearing and egg production.

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

We had no unforeseen difficulties with respect to the project. Our greatest difficulty has been larval disease. However, we have overcome this by adopting extensive cleaning procedures that include washing the leaves of the plants on which the larvae feed. So far this seems to have greatly ameliorated the problem in Maroantsetra. We have also implemented these procedures in Manamby and are currently building back the population that was lost.



Figure 1. Fat healthy larvae at Maroantsetra site, August 2008, almost ready to spin cocoons.

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

1. Demonstration sites in Maroantsetra and Manamby – The demonstration site in Maroantsetra allows us to breed silk moths and produce eggs, illustrate all aspects of larval growth and development and display products that can be made from silk moth cocoons. We have been able to learn how to maintain eggs at reduced temperatures to regulate their hatching date. Hence, we will be able to supply farmers with larvae to rear any time of year. The site has greatly enhanced our presence in the area and has successfully attracted farmers from the surrounding areas who have expressed interest in working with us. It was described by one visitor as “an oasis” – exactly the effect we were hoping for.

In our second demonstration site, 4000 Talandoha have been germinated and 400 trees have been intercropped with vanilla, coffee, sweet potatoes, peppers, cassava and pineapple. A moth reproductive centre has been set-up and the farmer there (Denis) is beginning to produce eggs. We predict he should be able to 20000 cocoons by June 2009.



Figure 2. Trees intercropped on Denis farm almost ready for rearing larvae

2. Five farmers from the COBA of Ambodivoagny have committed to project (see picture below)! The farmers live in an isolated community at the edge of the Makira Protected Area. They will devote 1 day a week to planting the larval host plants (5000 seedlings by October) and by December 2009 they should be able to produce their first crop of cocoons.



Figure 3. “CPALI 5” The first five farmers in the COBA of Ambodivoagny who have committed to raise trees to support larval rearing. CPALI will provide plastic pots and germinated seeds. The farmers will incorporate 1000 trees each on their farms or community lands.

3. Our third most impressive achievement is a new product designed by CPALI project manager, Mamy Ratsimbazafy, family and the CPALI team. We have been working a new process by make textiles from unprocessed cocoons thereby omitting the need to spin yarn and weave. These beautiful “cocoon fabrics” can be used for shade, decorative arts and many other purposes and will help us get our products to market much sooner than previously anticipated and we have eliminated the need to spin and weave textiles.

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

Currently we have visited and introduced the silk production program to the community of Ambodivoagny. We have “contracts” with 5 farmers who have agreed to devote 1 day a week to work on the CPALI project. The first objective will be to plant the host plants and they estimate that each will plant 1000 seedlings by October 31. We have introduced Denis, the farmer who set-up our second demonstration site, to that community and he or the CPALI local director plan to visit two times a month to monitor the communities progress.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

The work at our current sites will be continued pending funding. In addition, we hope to establish contracts with at least 5 additional farmers in a different area to produce wild silk cocoons using CPALI’s methods by January 2009. We support the set-up of the first 5 farmers or risk takers. Additional farmers who want to copy the project can purchase seeds, seedlings and eggs from CPALI to set-up their own programs.

CPALI is hoping to replicate this work in the Mantadia Corridor in collaboration with the National Association of Environmental Action (ANAE). We currently have an application pending at the World Bank Development Marketplace where we have been selected as finalists. CPALI will provide expertise and technical training for larvae rearing; ANAE will provide technical training and a strong network to support nurseries, on site planting and introduction to local communities. Current income generating programs in the Mantadia Corridor are funded by international conservation organizations via carbon credit returns. These returns do not flow directly to local farmers, nor do they allow farmers to establish independent businesses that can free them from long-term charity and foreign aid. Our program introduces farmers to products that can be sustainably produced in the border forests that surround protected areas.

6. How do you plan to share the results of your work with others? We have shared our results on line and through an 18-month report of our project.

N/A

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

The RSG funds were used over a period of 8 months. The project is a long term project and we anticipate that CPALI will maintain its demonstration sites throughout 2009. We plan to apply for additional funds (a booster grant) from the RSG to support expansion the project into the border forests that surround the Makira Protected Area.

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.

GBP=1.9611/usd on 29 January 2008 (<http://www.oanda.com/>)

Personnel	Total (£)	Actual	Difference	Comment
Nursery manager 199/mo changed to 8 mos	2387	1592	-795	Recalculate 8 mo for error in salary
Nursery worker to collect seeds, tend plants 4 individuals at 27/mo for 12 months changed to 4 individual for 8	1313	1407	94	Recalculate 8 mo for additional worker
MATERIALS				
Building materials for nursery (2 kilos nails at \$2 US each)33 kilos	33	0	-33	Paid for prior to grant receipt with other funds
Thatch for nursery - 4 sheds, 20 m x 4 m each22/shed	90	0	-90	Paid for prior to grant receipt with other funds
Wood/table for seedlings (1m x 5 m, 500 plants/table) 7/table, 10 tables	70	0	-70	Redesigned nursery
Nursery construction – labour 7/day for 6 days for 2 workers	84	0	-84	Covered in Denis salary
Sheet plastic to make seedling pots560/unit * 4 - changed to pot plastic 19.4 Ariary *50000	1114	329	-785	Product change and volume increase
Tools to tend seedlings: trowels, shovels machete/set28/set for 5 workers	139	0	-139	Not needed
Field refuge for rain, sun and eating 298 (with wood roof)	298	0	-298	Not needed – second site established on Denis farm
Fuel for transport of materials field sites (boat provided by WCS) 99 per trip, 4 round trips	398	0	-398	Not needed – second site established on Denis farm
ADDED ITEMS				
Manager per diem for 8 mo.92/mo	732		732	Needed to add food allowance
Denis breeder set-up 4 cages, uniform, rearing house repair, water fileter, uniform, spoap, bleach, soil, pot-plastic, seeds, spinning baskets	124		124	Nursery building materials diverted to setting up Denis as breeder
Assistants costs for in field surveys Per diem 10000A/day time about 2 mo.	205		205	Initiated field trials in Ambodivoagny; food allowance for volunteer
Field assistant travel to Maroansetra for field surveys1 plane fare and return	158		158	Travel for volunteer to Maroantsetra to conduct 2 mo field trials
Craig travel2 plane fare and return	315		315	Plane fare for PI to travel to project
Original request	5528		-73	Additional costs covered by Fulbright grant
Received	4754			
Spent		4862		

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

The most important steps forward are increasing the number of farmers at the borders of the protected area who commit to silk production and improving on the design and finishing of our products. We are very excited that we have already begun this work in Ambodivoagny and may have the opportunity to work with ANAE in Mantidia as well. We hope to apply for additional funds from the RSG to support additional farmer set-ups as well as begin training local women to produce cocoon “textiles”.

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?

Yes – the RSGF logo will be displayed on our project sign in Maroantsetra and the RSG has been cited and thanked in our 18 month report (forwarded to the RSG and on the web).

11. Any other comments?

CPALI wishes to thank you once again for your generous funding. It made a tremendous difference to what we have been able to achieve in the past year. The fact that we now have additional assistants, farmers at the edge of Makira Protected Areas engaging in silk production, very fat larvae at our demonstration site and new products are evidence of the importance of the grant to our program.