

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	Veryl Achieng
Project title	Ecological monitoring and conservation initiatives for the protection of endangered fish in Lake Kanyaboli
RSG reference	19644-2
Reporting period	Final report- October 2017
Amount of grant	£4880
Your email address	achieng.veryl@gmail.com
Date of this report	October 2017

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
Detailed monitoring and surveying of endangered fish				The sampling and monitoring of fish was achieved fully. With the four sampling plot and three monitoring periods, we believe that the results are representative of the distribution of the fish species in the lake. Furthermore, other lake physical and chemical water parameters were analysed and reported. Biodiversity survey of the area was also carried out.
Establishment and promotion of stakeholders forum				We organised all the stakeholders' meetings and forums with an almost 100% attendance. The county government was however not able to send the initial participant but were able to send another representative from the department of environment.
Education and awareness creation of fish and other habitat				The role of the education and awareness creation was to develop skills to help individuals and community in identifying and solving environmental problems. Furthermore it also provides the community with an opportunity to actively be involved at all levels in working towards resolution of environmental problems both individually and in groups.

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

The most prevalent challenge was in the last quarter of the project period. Because it was a campaigning period for the general election which was held on August 8th 2017. Some county officers who had pledged to participate in the stakeholder's forum were unable to do so. Therefore, the representation by the national and county government was minimal and insistent in two of the meetings. However, all the other stakeholders were able to attend and deliberate on important issues affecting the lake.

Some of the budget allocations were also a challenge as some budget items were a bit expensive so we had to readjust. This was especially on transport. There was a rise in fuel cost thereby affecting the allocated money for transport. Furthermore, one of our team members could not engage in the activities for 2 months due to family problems hence we had to fill in.

There was also lack of continuity on some of the trained community members from the first project. We hoped for 100% continuity of the membership of the community members who were trained on monitoring. However, three women were unable to continue with the monitoring for this project due to unforeseen reasons. Therefore, we had to recap and train the new members on the basic monitoring so as to be on the same level as the rest.

We had extra schools (high school and primary schools) who requested to be trained and be involved in the education and outreach programme but due to limited funds we were unable to include all of them. We believe that this was a challenge as some head teachers could not understand why their schools didn't get the opportunity while others did.

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

The success in monitoring of the fish and incorporating the locals was a great outcome. The monitoring and survey provided a platform for 10 local members to be directly involved and continue learning from the basic training they received during the first project period. These 10 members are now fully equipped with all the necessary skills to carry out fish surveys independently and record the data. These basic steps are a big milestone in ensuring the participation of the community in biodiversity conservation.

The training to the community on fisheries management was a great success as this led to the establishment and strengthening of the local stakeholder's forum and building of the capacity and roles for different partners. For instance, the trained fishermen are now aware of the functions of the fisheries department and the by-laws that govern the community beaches. The training also provided a great networking session for the locals and partners who could potentially support some of their other projects apart from fishing. One women's group was able to liaise and had a pledge from a local institution to market their produce and help them add more value to their products.

Education and outreach programme was a success as schools were taken through many trainings on fish and fisheries in the lake. Six high schools were educated on the lake resources, status and trends of the lakes ecosystems including the endangered fish species. The enthusiasm of the students in the out of class exercises was a great motivation for our project team and the trainers. We also had education exercises to five primary schools and more were able to register but due to limited funds we could not include all the schools.

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

The community was directly involved in all the activities of the project. First in monitoring and survey of the fish. They were the ones who set up the nets, and retrieved the fish, counted, measured and recorded the species. All the other biodiversity survey was also done in partnership with the community members.

A total of 37 community members were trained to and educated on Lake Kanyaboli's biodiversity and the fisheries policies governing fresh water lakes in Kenya. Furthermore, six secondary schools and five primary schools were educated on the same issues. This involvement of the community provided them with a forum to participate actively on the project.

Some community members were also directly involved in assisting with logistics for various activities. For instance, the hiring of transport services was locally sourced. All the labour and food required during the stakeholder's forum were all done by the community who benefitted by providing some of the services and also food produce.

Finally, all the three team members are from the community and even though they have studied in colleges and universities from other counties they have always been involved in activities in the community and have strong links. Their involvement in the project means a lot to the wider community as it also motivates young people in school to think of conservation as a career choice too.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes, we are hoping to continue with the detailed monitoring to cover a wider section of the lake, this will further provide an elaborate database for policy makers in Kenya and conservation partners. We also plan to add more schools and community members in the project, as already mentioned we have received numerous feedback from schools on the wish to be part of the project.

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

We are planning to make a publication on our monitoring data, we have already contacted an editor of a publication and will commence work on the publication to an international journal. Our work has also been sent to numerous partners including the county office, local university and other individuals. We are also hoping to do a presentation at a conference to be held in Nairobi in December 2017. Our work will also be published in the Rufford website which will provide other people with information on our work.

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

The Rufford grant was used for a period of 12 months (October 2016-October 2017). All the activities were carried out as planned with minor rearrangements due to unforeseen reasons.

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. 1 £ sterling = 4.44 Nuevo Sol

Item	Budgeted Amount	Actual Amount	Difference	Comments
Detailed monitoring and surveying of endangered fish species	1650	1603	47	A few supplies had to be added as a result of field conditions.
Promotion of stakeholders forum awareness promotion	1480	1500	-15	A small variation in the price of materials.
Awareness promotion	1650	1710	-60	Some item costs were a bit higher but it did not affect the overall cost or implementation of the project.
Administrative costs	100	350	-250	The administrative cost was a bit higher due to bank charges both during the receipt of the funds and also as a result of changes in exchange rate. 200 pounds was covered by the team. We already have a computer, modem and printer for emails and communication which catered for the.
Total	4880	5163		

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

- a) I believe that a further approach of the monitoring of the three endangered fish is necessary.
- b) Creating a tangible resource material for any community members and schools can come to learn about the lake and its resources.

- c) Register a local environmental group to fully help in supporting environmental initiatives.
- d) Publish the work on endangered fish in Lake Kanyaboli.

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?

The RF logo was used in our poster and report to the stakeholders. We also used it in all the letters sent out regarding the project and brochures

11. Any other comments?

This was a great experience just as the first time we started the project in 2013. It has greatly empowered me as a young woman in conservation. I have developed greater understanding of our natural habitats and also continued to network with others in Kenya and Africa.



Fingerlings from one of the sites during monitoring