

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. 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	Frank Kasiya
Project title	Pragmatic and long-lasting solution to horrific killing of endangered and traumatised wildlife species in Traditional Authority Mponda.
RSG reference	36.08.09
Reporting period	February 28 2010 to March 9 2011
Amount of grant	£5994
Your email address	fkasiya@hotmail.com
Date of this report	May 9 2011

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
(i) To relocate the farming communities living in the natural wildlife corridor			X	<p>In July 2010, the project team, in collaboration with traditional chiefs, Traditional Authorities Mponda and Jalasi and the District Commissioner of Mangochi District, compensated all the 13 households (families) which were living and cultivating in the wildlife natural corridor that was connecting Phirilongwe Forest and Lake Malawi National Park. The compensation packages ranged from MK350,000 to MK750,000. The amount of compensation money received by each household depended on the nature and the size of house constructed by the family and size of land that was being cultivated. Each head of the household had to sign for the money received as a compensation for the land taken from him and/or her for the purpose of promoting and protecting endangered wildlife species that were roaming in the cultivated corridor.</p> <p>Before the exercise commenced, two meetings with the farming communities, traditional chiefs, traditional authorities, government officials and policy makers were held to map a way forward on where should the people be relocated and in accordance to the Resettlement Programme and Compensation Act and Land Reform Policy. These meetings assisted the project team and the farming communities to understand each other and agreed on how they would be compensated. This had</p>

				led to the smooth transition of the relocation programme which everybody accepted it. In addition, a series of meetings with local communities, chiefs and traditional authorities which led to the identification of virgin land in Traditional Authority Jalasi where the farming households had been resettled.
(ii) To promote public wildlife and environmental education and awareness			X	<p>This objective was achieved through using a number of information dissemination tools such as holding public lectures, playing drama and traditional dances, and distributing educative and informative materials e.g. posters, leaflets and calendars in schools, government and NGOs offices and to local communities.</p> <p>The project team is pleased to report that ten public lectures were conducted in six primary schools and four secondary schools (two private secondary schools and another two government secondary schools). This intervention resulted in the establishment of seven wildlife clubs in seven schools in the project area. These clubs are responsible for education other school pupils, their teachers and local communities the importance of protecting wildlife and managing their natural habitats. They are also responsible for taking care of degraded habitats to ensure that they are restored for the wildlife.</p> <p>Additionally, 1,000 leaflets, 500 posters and 250 calendars were distributed to the general public in the project area and the materials have assisted communities to be aware of the importance of wildlife and why it is important to take care of the wildlife. The</p>

				<p>observation has shown the information disseminated to local communities has brought sanity in peoples' behaviour towards wildlife conservation as more and more people are now taking part in management of wildlife habitats in the project area than before.</p>
(iii) To establish a safe wildlife corridor			X	<p>The project team along with some government officials from the department of survey carried out a land mapping exercise of the encroached land. The size of the land was estimated using GPS and GIS.</p> <p>In addition, the remnant native vegetation was identified by a team of experts from the Forestry Research Institute of Malawi. The documentation of the vegetation assisted the project team to wisely procure appropriate native plants to be reforested in the encroached wildlife corridor. The identification of vegetation was followed by land preparation and land filling of animal pit traps that were dug by the farming communities.</p> <p>A total of 27,000 plant species were planted in all degraded areas. The plants were comprised miombo tree seedlings, Uapaca, elephant grass, bamboos and many other different types of grasses which provide good ground cover. In March, some students from the wildlife clubs established in the area had taken care of the planted plants by weeding and thinning them and also constructing fire breaks to prevent the plants from being burnt by uncontrolled bush fires. It is hoped that in the next 3 to 5 years, the destroyed wildlife corridor will be transformed to</p>

				almost its original status and different species of wildlife will be roaming between the two connected sites freely. This effort will help the wildlife to find suitable prey, food, shelter and breeding grounds.
(iv) To advocate and lobby the government to gazette the abandoned wildlife corridor to be a protected area as part of Lake Malawi National Park		X		Five meetings and one brainstorming workshop were held with traditional chiefs, some NGOs, government officials and parliamentarians from Machinga District. The meetings and the workshop held had drafted a policy document which has been submitted to government through the Department of National Parks & Wildlife so that when the parliament meets this year they should discuss it and enact it so that Phirilongwe Forest should be a protected area as this will help protect wildlife and their habitats from poaching and encroachment respectively.

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

- a. Resistance from the farming communities to leave the area. This problem was addressed by engaging traditional chiefs who are so powerful and influential in the society. The chiefs assisted the project team without taking any sides by lobbying their subjects that they would be given good fertile soil in T /A Jalasi and where safe drinking water is readily available.
- b. Another problem which arose during the project was disagreement on the compensation by some local communities. Some of the local communities felt that they were given very little money which could not help them start a good new life to a new place where they were relocated. This problem was addressed by engaging independent property evaluators and in the end of the day there was a win-win situation and everybody was happy with the amount of money given as his/her resettlement package.

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

- a. Rehabilitation and re-vegetation of the degraded natural wildlife corridor. This initiative has helped allow wildlife species, including those endangered, to move between the two sites without being cowardly killed and traumatised. The tranquil situation that has been established in the area will help wildlife species, especially those endangered and/or rare to

recover and this can boost ecotourism in two sites for economic development of the country.

- b. Establishment of wildlife clubs in schools. The establishment of wildlife clubs in schools in adjacent areas will help the future generations to learn why it is important to protect wildlife and how they can take part in management and conservation of wildlife habitats. This will go a long way in promoting wildlife conservation in the area.
- c. Local communities including chiefs in the area are now fully aware and understand the important of nature conservation. This effort has been reached because of the environmental education and awareness activities that were carried out in the area. The activities have helped communities change their negative attitudes towards wildlife and the majority of them are now taking part conservation of nature which was unpopular thing in the past.

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

Local communities including their chiefs were involved in the implementation of activities. Because of this participatory approach that the project team had taken, many local communities have gained new knowledge and skills on management and conservation of wildlife and environmental protection. The new knowledge and skills gained will help local communities to engage in any nature conservation work without any problem. This will go a long way in nature conservation in the area.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Indeed, there are plans to continue this work in future as poverty is another problem that compels local communities to encroach fertile protected area and kill wildlife for bushmeat. Unless people are given alternatives, wildlife poaching and habitat encroachment in some parts of the protected areas will continue to pose great threat to the survival of the wildlife and plants.

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

We plan to share the results of the work with others by participating in conferences, workshops and/or seminars where the results of our work will be presented to a wide audience.

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 for a period of 13 months. The actual length of the project was 12 months and this compares well with the period that RSG had been used the additional 1 month taken in the implementation of the work is insignificant in terms of differences between the two periods indicated.

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
Stationery	1108.50	1108.50	-	Funds were adequate for the activity
Farm inputs and tools	1033.00	1033.00	-	Due to the rise in price of some farm inputs and tools, the funds were not adequate to enable the purchase of all materials planned and as such we had to reduce the number of some farm inputs and tools to be purchased in a reasonable manner.
Production of environmental education materials	1310.00	1310.00	-	Funds allocated were adequate
Meetings and workshops	1041.52	1042.50	-	Funds were adequate for all activities planned
Procurement of tree seedlings	1500.00	1500.00	-	Funds were adequate
Total	5993.02	5994	-	

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

When looking ahead, we feel that the next important steps to be taken are to improve livelihoods and diversify agricultural productivity for the poor local communities living in around the wildlife corridor and Phirilongwe Forest soon to be gazetted.

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 was used in all materials produced during the project. Because of this approach taken, the RSGF received the big publicity in the project area and beyond.

11. Any other comments?

Our last comment is to sincerely thank the RSGF Administration for the grant which has helped transform the lives of many cruel people to be responsible citizens who have now joined hands with the government and other NGOs in management and conservation of wildlife. Without the RSG, this positive outcome/change could not be possible.