

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	Abigail Serwaa Akoto Bawua
Project title	Empowering Rural Women to Combat Desertification in Northern Ghana
RSG reference	21451-1
Reporting period	March, 2017 to March, 2018
Amount of grant	£5,000
Your email address	abiward2010@gmail.com
Date of this report	15 th March, 2018

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
To train 400 women in the making of fuel-efficient cook stoves using local raw materials				423 women were trained in the making of fuel-efficient cook stoves to be used in their respective households. The number that was targeted was exceeded because, the awareness creation and community participation/involvement (e.g. existing women groups) aroused the interest of many women to participate in the project.
Establishment of WOMB as an advocacy group for women who would fight for environmental sustainability				WOMB is established to spearhead advocacy at the local level and to engage other women and train their children for sustainability of the environment.
Celebration of UN Day to combat desertification and drought				Celebrated in on 17 th June, 2017. The original plan has been that the project was going to do this celebration on its own, but further consultation meant that, the team and the project beneficiaries join the district level celebration of this event.

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

The project was heavily determined by the farming season. Some of the local people travel to other places to trade so that they can earn when it is not the farming season. Therefore, the training sessions had to be scheduled according to the farming season to ensure the targeted number of women could be reached for the training. Therefore, the difficulty was that the women were not readily available throughout the envisaged period yet, the team we able to adjust the schedule to address this challenge.

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

Firstly, trained women who can build their own local cooking stove. This replaces the traditional stove that they were using before which was heavily dependent on the use of fuelwood and negatively affected trees and forests as well as water bodies.

Secondly, the WOMB has been established. An important outcome of this project is the WOMB an advocacy group which seeks to empower rural women in the effort to ensure environmental sustainability.

Finally, creation of about 400 fuel-efficient cooking stoves from grass, cow dung, and clay.

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

This project was community-based and largely involved the local people for its success. It was their full participation in the project that ensured the success of the projects. Community leaders and heads of existing women groups were engaged and they contributed massively to the project. They were used as means of community because they are really powerful in the community and they were critical in mobilising the women for the training and other activities. Directly, the local women benefitted from the training, educational activities as well as the manufactured cook stoves. They are also trained to train others which means there is going to be some sustainability of this project in the coming years. The local people can now build their own cook stoves which are fuel-efficient and can contribute to combating desertification

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

There is a motivation to extend this project to other communities. However, this is subject to our ability to secure funding for the expansion of the project.

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

First, the results of this project have been shared among community members through community durbar. Moreover, a higher level of dissemination is planned for the 17th June, 2018 during the celebration of United Nations Day for Combating Desertification and Drought at the district and regional levels. It will also be shared with other stakeholders such as Ministry of Environment, Science & Technology, other advocacy groups and NGOs which are into environmental sustainability (e.g. Save the Frogs) will also receive copies of our report and the Forestry Commission of Ghana.

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 Foundation grant was used from March, 2017 through March, 2018. This period is a 2 months extension as the anticipated timeline was March, 2017 to January, 2018.

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
FUEL-EFFICIENT STOVE MAKING 400 galvanised chimney pipe from TEL-Gh for stoves @ £6/pipe	2400	2400	0	A total of 423 fuel-efficient cook stoves were made, this was 23 more than what was budgeted for because of the project was extended to more than the 400 people originally budgeted for. Yet the consultant, made the additional 23 free-of-charge for the project.
AWARENESS CREATION Project flyers @ £0.1/flyer X 1,000 flyers Project posters @ £0.3/copy X 100 posters Radio broadcasts @ £25/programme X 2 programmes	180	240	+60	The radio presence was not as effective as planned so there was the need to increase the number of flyers. A local language version of the flyer was produced to complement the English version which increased the actual cost above the budgeted amount.
LODGING Accommodation @ £6/night X 20 nights of field work X 4 team members Consultant's accommodation @ £6/night X 10 nights (workshops and construction)	540	570	+30	Emergency trips were made and overnight accommodation had to be catered for. These trips were not part of the original arrangement for accommodation.
TRANSPORTATION Taxi hire from lodging place to sites @ £10/day X 20 field days Public transport @	980	900	-80	A community volunteer sometime of the times made his vehicle available to the research team which was free of charge. This extra amount was used to offset part of

£65/return trip X 4 team members X 3 round trips (Accra-Chiana)				the exceeded expenditure for accommodation and publicity (awareness creation)
PERSONNEL Consultancy @ £60/day X 10 days (workshops and helping to construct stoves) Local assistants stipend @ £3/day X 50 days (preparatory, during and post project days) X 2 assistants	900	900	0	The exchange rate was major factor for some differentials as well, nonetheless renegotiation of prices and payments helped with the adjustment to suit the budget

Exchange rate at the day of bank transaction **£1.00 = GHS 5.4** however, this has changed several times over the period of the project, the current exchange rate at the time of reporting is **£1.00 = GHS 6.1**

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

Monitoring and evaluation can be an important next step that may reveal the full impact of the project. Moreover, the expansion of the project to other communities that did not benefit from it, will contribute to the efforts of combating desertification and drought.

10. Did you use The Rufford Foundation logo in any materials produced in relation to this project? Did The Rufford Foundation receive any publicity during the course of your work?

Yes. The Rufford Foundation logo was used in t-shirts that were produced as a form of incentive and publicity. In the questionnaires that were used for data collection, The Rufford Foundation logo was used too. During the celebration of the United Nations day for combating desertification and drought The Rufford Foundation was again publicized. It is also planned that in the dissemination of results due acknowledgement is made of The Rufford Foundation.

11. Please provide a full list of all the members of your team and briefly what was their role in the project.

Abigail Serwaa Akoto Bawua- Project Coordinator

- Develop Project Plan and manage deliverables according to plan
- Recruiting of Project staff
- Determine the methodology used in executing the project
- Assigned tasks to Project Team Members
- Conduct quality control for work performed by the independent consultant.
- Participate actively as project team member to improve efficiency, reduce costs and assist in the improvement of the project goal.

- Educating the participants on the importance of the project
- Provide updates in a form of a report to Sponsor.

Sandra Owusu-Gyamfi – Project Supervisor

- Implement project work plans and review as appropriate to meet changing needs and requirements.
- Conduct onsite visits and coordinate with consultants and community participants continuously.
- Supervise and stimulate project activities as required ensuring on-time delivery of components and equipment.
- Develop and maintain relations with clients as required establishing correct interfaces and presenting a professional image.

Alexander Akedeh– Research Assistance (Translator)

- The team's translator
- Helped in the distribution of the questionnaire
- Helped in the radio advertisement translating into the local dialect
- Organising venue for all meetings

John Setre - Consultant (Artisan)

- Training the participants on the procedures in making the stoves
- Demonstrating the techniques involved in constructing the stove
- Educating the women on the importance of the Stove

12. Any other comments?

I am very grateful to The Rufford Foundation for the grant. Your financial contribution made this project a success. Moreover, it is going to complement other effort of ensuring environmental sustainability. As a young researcher, this project supported by The Rufford Foundation grant has contributed to my career growth. Together we can achieve more for the environment sustainability for our generation and the ones to come!