

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 | Namutebi Estellina |
| Project title | Community Biodiversity Habitat: a means of restoring the lost habitat and enhancing biodiversity conservation in Nalutuntu Sub-county |
| RSG reference | Application ID: 23638-B |
| Reporting period | March 2019 |
| Amount of grant | £10,000 |
| Your email address | Esterina_namutebi@yahoo.com |
| Date of this report | 25/03/2019 |

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 create a community biodiversity habitat | | | | The beginning is very good even though some trees dried, but the remnants 500 trees of different species are growing up steadily |
| To train farmers on a community biodiversity habitat | | | | We expected to train 18 of the 20 men and women (farmers) we had remained with only eight farmers who turned and irregularly attended because, this was a practical training in created habitat. |
| To train 30 pupil about the a habitat and rabbit rearing | | | | The participation was not well attended too, because this community school children got a new head teacher. We could not fully convince her about the project. She told us that the children can participate next year 2020. |

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

The project started very well with my whole team involved. However, the active participation of the community was very irregular as were from the pupils in the community school. The change of the head teacher; a new one was brought and she could not agree with fully involving the children. Therefore, some would come on Saturday and thus, our work with them was not done well. Many people participated in the environmental awareness month, we added in the activities, but did not get fully involved in the project. The pupils who were given rabbits could not sustain them even with the training, but we will begin a new way of sustaining those rabbits. Also, some of the Kearpo seedlings dried, due to the dry spell. But we are going to replant the nursery and continue the activity in May 2019.

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

- i. The very first and most important outcome is from the activities, especially the creation of the biodiversity habitat. The habitat has some trees, which have survived the dry spell. We have about 500 trees of various species as mentioned in the application. Most importantly the other trees and shrubs are coming up on their own, fulfilling what I had envisioned that there are some

plants, which interact freely with trees they are familiar with. I am very glad I am creating an ecosystem.

- ii. The second one is about the soil sampling, we realised after the sample that some of the trees cannot be planted like Melcia (Mvule-African teak) in the habitat because the specie is not compatible with the soils.
- iii. The third one is that the few farmers that got involved have started to conserve the few and little forest patches they own in their pieces of land. As well, some beekeepers were given beekeeping gears like the sustainable bee hives, overall, smokers, for harvesting honey. We have kept some because we will need them when our habitat grows.

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

The community's involvement was more during the environmental awareness month we created in addition to the other activities, but after that it became difficult for them to participate because of the hard conditions of the dry spell. We remained with only eight farmers, three men and five women, who continued to participate (although irregularly). All in all, we will continue to sensitise them, especially as the habitat grows they will see exactly what is happening, and I know they will love it.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

I have a sustainable plan; especially now that I can see the trees that survived. Together with my team, we are going to plant other trees. The habitat needs around 2,000 tree seedlings, which we will plant using a nursery. We will start the nursery in May 2019, so that we will be able to plant in September 2019. As well, we are planning to make a nursery bed for Kearpo. So that the first plan of making a live fence to surround the habitat can materialise.

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

I am writing a monograph, which will be published in the book series of Mtafiti Mwafrika (African Research) of Uganda Martyrs University where I work. This monograph examines the importance of biodiversity conservation starting at the grassroot level, as a means of environmental and biodiversity conservation and a measure to adapt to climate change effects (drought) in Nalutuntu Sub-county now in Kassanda District. I begin with the pilot study. I hope those in the academia will read it across the world as well as the conservationists and join this noble cause. I am planning to hold workshops for community members with easy reading materials for environment and biodiversity conservation. I am looking towards making this an environmental and biodiversity learning centre in a period of 5 years. I also believe that I will get a platform in the media to share this information holistically. Because I believe this will be an environmental and biodiversity conservation learning centre.

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 2018-March 2019. Beside when I was applying for the grant I knew that I will continue my project after 1 year. So 1 year of the grant has set a great stride for me to create a biodiversity conservation habitat. I am in it even though I got some difficulties as mentioned in number 3.

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 |
|---|-----------------|---------------|------------|--|
| Transportation (Trucks and Motorcycle fuel) | £790 | £930 | +£140 | The fuel prices increased in the middle of the project. Thus transport become expensive. |
| Barbed wire fencing | £1500 | £1750 | +£250 | The strong barbed wires were more expensive than I expected, as well as the live poles of ficus trees we decided to use. |
| Beekeeping gears | £1500 | £1110 | -£390 | We bought bee keeping gears and gave some to the farmers who already are keeping bees, but kept some because we are going to use them when the habitat is very grown. |
| Soil testing | £600 | £600 | | Was enough. |
| Roll of polythene papers | £510 | £1010 | +£500 | The polythene paper rolls were added from 10rolls to 15rolls, because we shall continue to use some during this time as we continue taking care of the habitat. |
| Kearpo tree seedlings | £1000 | £1430 | +£430 | When the Kearpo seedling dried we continually bought others form the National Tree Seed Centre, but the dry conditions were not favourable. Thus, we bought more seeds so that we can plant ours very close to the habitat (in a nursery bed), |

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|---------------------|---------------|---------------|-------|---|
| | | | | which we are set to do in May 2019. |
| Children's training | £2050 | £1550 | -£550 | The environmental awareness week was very engaging in a way when we trained the children and they participated a lot in the activities in October and November 2018, till the New Head teacher came and could not allow them to continue but they had understood something. |
| Farmers training | £2050 | £1620 | -£430 | During the farmers training, we also continued to monitor the conserved forest patches and help farmers to learn more about conserving them (forest patches) especially those that remained with us (the 8farmers). |
| Total | £10000 | £10000 | | |

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

I need 5 years to greatly establish the habitat. We have already started.

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?

I did not use it but I request to use it on my website which I will publish in this year. I have made publicity about Rufford with my students and some would like to start engaging in biodiversity conservation from their respective areas.

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

| Names | Role | Activity | Level of Participation |
|--------------------|---------------------|--|--|
| Nabaweesi Margaret | Financial Manager | She was expected to continue as she was doing in making a follow up in financial transactions and a quarterly financial reports to the whole team. | She was transferred to the Western part of Uganda with a demanding job and did not continue with us. |
| Okalasa Alex | Secretary/Community | Though he is still a student he continued working with us | Fully involved |

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|---------------|---------------------|---|--|
| | supervisor | documenting each process of the activities. He doubled as secretary and community supervisor in the forest patches and as well involved in the financial accountability tracking | |
| Ariho Denis | Community mobiliser | Community mobilisers and supervisors; was expected to help in sensitisation of people on the grassroot about the project. He lived within the village and on the land where we have the habitat and he had worked with us for the last project. He left for further studies in the middle of the project. | Participated half way |
| Arthur Mugabe | Trainer | The trainer is trained farmers in improved farming methods of farming and monitoring the forest patches and the planted trees in habitat. | He left to start his Masters in Agro - ecology in January 2019. He had participated a lot and very well. |

12. Any other comments?

With gratitude, I would like to thank Rufford Foundation for supporting my goal of maintaining environmental vitality through biodiversity conservation. The financial support has helped me a lot to continue my biodiversity conservation activities. Besides, the knowledge I acquired during the conference in Uganda, from my fellow conservationists is priceless. I am now steadily realising my goal with this habitat I have created. Thank you very much and be blessed always.



