

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	John Mlamba
Project title	Restoration of Sagalla forest for the conservation of the critically endangered caecilian
RSG reference	25.10.08
Reporting period	February 2009 – May 2010
Amount of grant	£5000
Your email address	ttwforum@yahoo.com
Date of this report	12 th June 2010

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
Awareness creation			√	The attendance of meetings was relatively good including schools being reached. However, there may be need to hold more meetings in more areas.
Establishment of a tree nursery and raising of indigenous tree seedlings			√	There were existing tree nurseries on the ground owned by community members that were adopted by the project and supported to produce seedlings. This helped cut the cost.
Planting of tree seedlings in the forest and on farms			√	Planting was done; however, there were delays due to prolonged drought. Proved more costly than anticipated due to prevailing weather conditions.
Training of farmers in fish farming and pond construction		√		Although farmers were trained in fishpond construction, some areas proved challenging since the soils were very porous and the ponds were unable to hold water for long. This requires the purchase of damp sheets.

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

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

- Awareness created on the linkage between environmental wellbeing and local livelihoods. Community becoming more appreciative of the need to conserve for them to get adequate water.
- Community aware of the unique organism's existent in their area and the need to conserve them.
- Farmers more aware of alternative uses of important natural resources (wetlands) for livelihood generation with positive impact on the environment.
- Planting of indigenous trees more appreciated for their role in catchment function in future and the conservation of the Sagalla caecilian.

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

- Local community involved through the engagement of local group nurseries in the raising of tree seedlings.
- Local community involved in the planting and care of the planted tree seedlings.
- The local community institutions established through other efforts – the Sagalla Community Forest Association and the Voi/Sagalla Water Resource Users Association – involved in

community mobilisation for public meetings and activities such as tree planting thus building their managerial capacity to some extent.

- Farmer trained in fish farming involved in the construction of their fishponds, harvesting and sale or consumption of fish.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

This is just the beginning. There is a lot of work to be done. The main activities that will need to be carried on for a long time is the conversion of the exotic eucalyptus plantations into indigenous forest cover about 203.4 ha for the caecilian habitat to be said to good. Also there is need to increase the number of fishponds as a deterrent to wetlands draining for horticultural production. Other alternative nature-based livelihood generation techniques need to be introduced (in addition to fish farming).

A programme for monitoring of the Sagalla caecilian population needs to be instituted in order to give feedback on the impact of the conservation activities on its survival. Indicators of positive effect may be increase in density per unit area where they occur currently and spread into areas under replanting/rehabilitation among other parameters/indicators.

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

The ultimate goal is to publish this work in renowned or peer-reviewed journals. This is especially important where the results of monitoring programme start showing some trends in response to the activities. In the short-term, reports will be shared with partners such as the Kenya Forest Service that has a biodiversity office and also the Kenya Wildlife service among whose interest would this work. Also the National Museums of Kenya would be kept abreast of the developments since their herpetology department and herpetologist Dr. Patrick Malonza has been closely involved in the study of this organism during his graduate/doctorate study.

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 from March 2009 to May 2010 (15 months). Initially, a 12-month period was intended by due to the prolonged drought experienced in the area, planting could not be done in the rains of mid-October to December 2009 until the March to May 2010 rainy season.

In order to complete all that needs to be carried out – particularly the conversion of the exotic plantation into indigenous forest cover – at least 10 years are required assuming that every year, we are able to plant upto 20 ha if we access adequate funding.

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
Awareness creation	664.92	662	2.92	A motorbike was acquired which cut down costs on transport.
Establishment of a tree nursery and raising of	1869.54	1423.07	446.47	Cost of nursery establishment reduced since there were group

indigenous tree seedlings				nurseries existing in the area and therefore only needed boosting thus cutting down on requirements.
Planting of tree seedlings in the forest and on farms	458.46	978.95	(520.49)	Cost of seedling production proved high during to prevailing drought and food insecurity situation forcing seedlings to be held longer in nursery and tending period.
Training of farmers in fish farming and pond construction	1130.77	1220.54	(89.77)	Prevailing drought conditions made longer period spent.
Administrative cost	655.28	652.00	3.28	
Contingency	412.37	456.23	(43.86)	Rise in cost of items with the change in exchange rate from the one used in budgeting (£1 = Kshs 130 to £1 = Kshs 110.50) when funding was received.
TOTAL	5191.34	5392.79	Shortfall met from TTWF resources.	

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

- Continue fundraising for the activities and especially the tree planting of indigenous tree seedlings to replace the exotic trees.
- Build the capacity of local institutions (Sagalla Community Forest Association and Voi/Sagalla Water Resource Users Association) in natural resource management. This would inculcate the aspect of sustainability in the efforts.
- Enhance engagement with the government agencies responsible for natural resource management.

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?

The final report distributed to local partners will bear the RSG logo. In addition, articles that will be submitted to magazines published by partners such as Kenya Forest Service and the East African Wild Life Society will bear this logo acknowledging the support received.

11. Any other comments?

This RSG support has enabled to catch attention to this small area and to rally the community to consider their actions versus environmental wellbeing.