

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	S. Carter Monlue
Project title	Conservation initiatives for mangrove forest/estuaries in three rivers in Marshall proposed protected area.
RSG reference	35.09.08
Reporting period	March 2009 to April 2010
Amount of grant	£5,987
Your email address	cempowermentp@yahoo.com
Date of this report	April 2 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
To increased awareness in communities in the Marshall wetland about benefits of mangroves and the present threats faced. This will reduce pressure on the mangroves and lead to its conservation.			Fully achieved	Five general meetings (one in each community in Marshall City, Owens groves, Snafu dock, Bassa Point and, Zanga Towns) and seven focal group discussions followed the general town meetings. 201 participants in total attended the general meeting in the five communities while 106 persons attended the focus group decision drawn out of the participants of the general meetings. The focus group discussion was held with women, men, youths, and the tradition leaders of the communities separately.
To increase community's participation in the management and conservation of mangroves.			Fully achieved	Two Nature clubs set up in A.D. Pealbody Elementary, Junior and Senior High School in Marshall City and the Snafu Dock Community School. The two clubs consist of 60 Students 30 from each school. Interim management Mangroves Action Group set up in Marshall City consisting of 10 members including men, women and youths.
To provide continual technical support to communities as a follow up to the project			Fully Achieved	Monthly follow-up visits were made to the costal communities to provide backstopping support to nature clubs and Mangrove Action Committee in the conservation of about 20 ha of mangroves swamp set up as conservation area.

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

The Marshall Methodist School was earlier selected during our first consultation with the community as the school where the nature club should be set up. During the first month of engagement with the school authorities, it became evident that the final decision to work with the school had to go through a long bureaucracy as the school is privately owned. This provided the second option to work with the A.D Pealbody High school that is a public school where the authority alone could make binding decisions.

Upon engaging the authorities of the A.D Pealbody School, they immediately welcomed CEP request to work with the school to set up a nature club. The nature club has been set up and is operating smoothly with the full support of the school authority.

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

- Marshall Community has set up about 20 ha of mangrove swamp for conservation purposes. In some communities, where mangrove swamps have been depleted, communities have decided to replant mangroves if CEP can provide support.
- Youths and instructors in two schools are now creating awareness in communities where they live about the importance of mangroves in the communities and the need to conserve them.
- Two nature clubs and one Mangroves Action Group have been set up as a community group that can work with other environmental and conservation issues in Marshall wetland.

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

Local community dwellers involvement in this project was a key element for success. All of the activities of this project were community oriented. Fishermen and students from the communities were the ones involved in all of the project activities and are now using the knowledge gained to create awareness about mangroves in their respective communities.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

The need to continue this project still remains a necessity as many of the schools in the area are now requesting the setup of nature clubs that are trained to carry out environmental awareness.

Communities have decided to set up about 20 ha of mangrove swamp for conservation. The conservation of this area needs constant backstopping from CEP if this objective must be achieved. Additionally, community members are requesting an alternative means of energy that reduces the quantity of fuel wood. This will reduce pressure on the mangrove in the area. CEP during these meetings suggested the use of eco-stoves in the communities. This activity when carried on will complement the past project activities.

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

CEP is a member of the NGOs Coalition for Liberia and will share the report with the coalition for the future use of stakeholders working in the proposed protected area (Marshall wetland). CEP will also share the report with other stakeholders in the forest sector including the Forestry Development Authority as well as other local and international stakeholders to provide them information for informed decision making including community participation in the management and conservation of the proposed projected Marshall Wetland area.

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

Activities	Proposed	Actual
CEP will organize seven focus group discussions in five major coastal communities with the local people including youths, women, men and traditional leaders to create profound awareness of the importance of the conservation of the biodiversity of the mangrove ecosystem.	October 1 2008 – January 31 2009	March - June 2009
CEP will establish two nature clubs in the two community schools and facilitate the setting up of one Mangrove Action Group and train them as a community –based organization who will highlight environmental protection through mangrove forest conservation and the rational use of natural resources in the mangrove ecosystem in the communities.	February 1 2009 - May 2009	July - November 2009
CEP will ensure that the awareness and training programmes are of permanent benefit to the locals by conducting periodic monitoring of the harvesting process of the resources in the mangrove ecosystem and then offering of appropriate advice to the community dwellers	June 1 2009 - August 2009	December 2009 -February 2010
Final report	September 2009	April 2010

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
Team Leader	£756.45	£756.45	0	The amount budgeted was spent on team leader contribution to the implementation of the project.
Community Mobilization	£605.16	£605.16	0	The amount budgeted was spent on Community Mobilization contribution to the implementation of the project.
Feeding, venue, internal transport for participants from far community	£1,412.04	£1,462.04	-£50.00	Overspent due to some participants from far distances-community and overnight stay for the training. Also, some other community that were not selected came for the discussion about the

				mangrove.
Stationery for community meetings, training and nature club	£151.290	£140.00	+£11.29	This amount was underspent on stationery for community meetings and training, and Nature Club.
Transportation (vehicle and petrol), expenses of facilitating team for meetings and follow up activities in coastal community	£907.74	£907.74	0	The amount was spent on rental vehicle and follow-up meetings with the community and schools.
Training for community dwellers (150 persons from five coastal communities)	£1,200.00	£1,200.00	0	This amount was spent on the trainings for the participants from the selected community
Preliminary meeting with teacher and students-	£201.72	£201.72	0	This amount was spent on the preliminary meetings with the teachers and students from the two selected schools in the project area.
Printing of nature club T-shirts for student and Mangrove Action Group	£252.20	£255.00	-£2.80	Overspent on the printing of nature club T-shirts for the MAG and students
Stationery	£100.86	£100.86	0	This amount was spent to purchase a stationeries for the project
Camera digital	£147.00	£147.00	0	This amount was use to secure a digital camera for the project implementation. It will also be use to continue work in the communities.
Administrative support to organisation	£252.15	£252.15	0	This amount was spent as administrative support to organization overhead cost.
TOTAL	£5,987.00	£ 6,028.51	-£41.51	

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

- During our meetings with communities as planned in the project, acknowledged that they only use they had for mangroves was for fuelwood purposes and didn't know the important roles mangroves play in the ecosystem. They however requested that for the action of protection of mangroves to take place in the community, all communities around the wetland should participate in the conservation of the wetland.
- Communities suggested that for pressure to be reduced on the mangrove's wetland, other alternative sources of energy that reduces the quantity of fuel wood should be introduced in the communities.
- There is still a need to work with the nature clubs and Mangrove Action Group until they are independent to carry on activities in a more sustainable manner.

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, RSG logo was use on the nature club T-shirts that were printed and presented to students of the nature club, teachers and the Mangrove Action Group. Both the communities and students praised RSG support to the community through the participation about management and conservation about mangrove. They were very much impressed with the level of involvement since they settle in that region.

11. Any other comments?

There is need to continue with the project because nearby towns and community are requesting for similar awareness and training and to be involved in the awareness and conservation about the mangroves.