

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	Samora M. Andrew
Project title	Mobilizing Local Communities for Conservation and Management of the Threatened Lake Natron Basin, TANZANIA.
RSG reference	47.02.08
Reporting period	1 year
Amount of grant	£ 4,924
Your email address	smacrice@suanet.ac.tz or smacrice@yahoo.com
Date of this report	21/09/2009

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 raise awareness on wetland functions and dynamics among Masai communities			√	Practical and simple means e.g. village forum, traditional dances and songs are very instrumental in reaching indigenous communities and were highly utilized in the project
To offer environmental and conservation education to indigenous communities			√	Sustenance of wetland resources relies on wise use. Education on sustainable utilization of resources was given through village forums, dances.
To establish local institutions and capacitate to spearhead environment conservation education in the area			√	Local institutions have proved to be at the forefront in development issues. Village environment committees were established in 4 villages to take lead in conservation endeavours
To cultivate team spirit, sense of ownership, involvement and integration among wetland conservation stakeholders			√	Activities were done by involving majority stakeholders including civil representatives, local leaders, government officials and influential persons in the society.
To prepare children to be today and tomorrow's good stewards of the environment and earth in general			√	School children had field schools, presentations, songs and drama. We also lobbied for some classes on environment conservation. It was an eye opener.
Restoration activities		√		The area is semi arid and there was severe drought so most of the vegetations dried and collection of seeds and planting of grasses was not possible. We only offered education

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

(i) We intended to do some restoration activities in and on areas surrounding Lake Natron. It was not possible as it was too dry and most of the vegetation had dried out. We only offered education and encourage them to collect local seeds of trees and plant grasses on the degrade soils whenever

it rains. We also encouraged communities to reduce livestock to manageable heads. We plan to reinforce this activity during the second year.

(ii) Unanticipated rise in fuel prices and the need for renting a 4 WD vehicle.

During the project planning we anticipate using public transport but we realized later that some of the locations could not be reached by public transport. So we had to rent a 4W drive vehicle which added the unbudgeted costs. Local price of petrol and diesel went so high increasing transport costs even on public transport systems. To cope with the situation we had to reduce the number of trips to the area, reduce use of vehicle whenever we could walk and plan and combine several activities during field visits without affecting the performance and outcomes.

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

(i) Establishment and capacitating of integrated village environmental committees

Environmental committees are very instrumental in spearheading conservation initiatives. Members are from within communities, always with people, very influential and are also acceptable to the people. The committees will be at the fore front line in educating communities on the issues of environments and conservation of Lake Natron

(ii) Establishment of special classes for environmental education in primary schools

We agreed with the schoolchildren and their teachers who formed part of the educators to have at least classes twice per month on topics of importance. The teachers were trained during the training of educators session and were provided with some materials (e.g. leaflets, handouts) to assist them. Other members of the project team were also welcomed to participate including the project leader who had the opportunity to share knowledge on conservation of flamingos of Lake Natron with schoolchildren in July 2009

(iii) Raise awareness on the properties, functions and dynamics of Lake Natron ecosystems as influenced by anthropogenic causes

We discovered that the cause of degradation of the lake is the lack of awareness on how the ecosystem functions and its dynamics with the anthropogenic influences. We used simple, cheap and effective communication education and public awareness means to reach out the message to the Masai communities. We used for example village forums (locally known as *Baraza*) and traditional songs and dances competitions to reach out the message on the environmental degradation, its consequences and necessary measures to rescue the current situation. Issues of global warming including effects on lake systems, agro ecosystems and rangelands were discussed.

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

The success and continuity of the established activities depends so much on the community involvements. In the project we made sure that communities are involved and are integrated in the execution of the project from the start to the end of the project. Local communities were involved directly and indirectly in the project. They were involved directly by active participation (e.g. attending various activities, asking and answering questions, commenting, singing, dancing, sharing information to others). Indirectly, they were involved through their representatives for example local leaders, government officials and civil representatives who were involved in all activities throughout the project period. Through their participation they have benefitted a lot by getting

knowledge and skills, their local capacity to manage the environment built, owning the activities and the products and their environment improved and wetland resources wisely utilized.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Absolutely, yes! The project package has three phases and the current work is phase 1. So we are looking forward to start phase two whereby we shall strengthen activities done during the phase 1 and promote some livelihoods strategies to reduce wetland resources dependence by local communities.

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

As a team we have gathered good experience on mobilizing indigenous communities for conservation and management of wetland resources especially in Tanzania. Using our resources we are developing posters reflecting our activities and we hope to distribute to the village offices and schools surrounding Lake Natron, northern Tanzania. We also plan to distribute it to conservation and training institutions for wide dissemination. A detailed final report will be available and it will be open to whoever would like to have it after October 2009.

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 during the period of the project. However, we have exceeded the original thought duration by almost two months.

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
Transport	£600	£1,025	-£425	Increase in fuel prices and a rise need for renting 4WD vehicle
Incidental allowances	£2,508	£2,383	£125	Transferred to transport
Health break	£1,000	£1,000	0	Used as budgeted
Prizes	£516	£516	0	Used as budgeted
Administrative costs	£300	0	£300	Transferred to transport
TOTAL	£4,924	£4,924	0	*The exchange rate considered was 2327.80 Tshs for 1 £sterl (Bank of Tanzania February 2008)

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

Having set the scene for the big project during phase 1, we are eagerly waiting to start phase two of the project. We plan to continue communicating with target communities through established village committees on environments and schools. We plan also to apply for second RSG to facilitate the second phase of the project while the communities are preparing to take overall responsibility of managing their environment.

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, on the introduction letter. The RSGF received publicity during the project period in drama, songs, prize giving ceremonies, village forums and traditional dances. The logo will be put on the poster.

11. Any other comments?

We are so grateful to the RSGF for providing necessary funds to provide conservation education to the Masai communities surrounding the threatened Lake Natron. Thanks should also go our respective employers for granting permission to execute the project and our three referees.