Report
Regional Conference of the Grantees of the Rufford Small Grants
“Connect for More Sustainable Actions”

Date
7-8th February, 2014

Venue
Nobleza Hotel, Kigali, Rwanda

Organized by

Fully supported by
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**Background**

With all the success stories of the small grants it was felt by the Rufford Small Grants Trustees that there was a need for more direct communication between the grant recipients. Very often researchers work in isolation but these conferences provide a forum to discuss ideas, problems, solutions, issues at hand and create invaluable networking opportunities. It is in that respect, the Rufford Small Grants funded the regional Conference of the Grantees of the Rufford Small Grants in Rwanda.

This Rwanda conference took place at the Nobleza Hotel in Kigali Capital City of Rwanda, from 7th – 8th February 2014 with the main objective of enhancing the direct communication and partnership between the regional RSG recipients by providing a forum for them to discuss ideas and issues; share the best practices and promote the idea of Rufford East Africa Projects Network.

This two-day weekend of relationship building and mutual learning conference brought together 3 Rwandan Officials, 6 regional media agencies including the Rwanda National Radio and Television, and most importantly 72 Leaders, of pragmatic and long-lasting impact conservation projects from Burundi, Congo Kinshasa, Kenya, Rwanda, Uganda, South Sudan, and Tanzania.

**Conference theme**

The proposed theme for this conference was “Connect for More Sustainable Actions“.

**The Conference Organizer**

Alphonse KARENZI, 25, the Organizer of this conference, is the Founder and Director of a very ambitious environmental organization called Sustaining Rwanda Youth Organization (www.sustainingrwanda.org). He completed his Second RSG Project and has applied for the Booster RSG. He has five years of experience in the environmental project management sector, and earned a Bachelor’s of Science in Urban and Regional Planning from the National University of Rwanda. Apart from French and English, Alphonse speaks also most of regional languages – the fact that enabled him to effectively collaborate and coordinate with the RSG regional grantees.
Conference Summary

DAY 0 - Welcoming the regional Participants and tasks sharing: by Alphonse Karenzi the conference Organizer

Thursday 6th February, 2014 was a day of welcoming the regional participants upon their arrival at the Kigali International Airport and Nyabugogo Bus Park. Some of the participants from Kenya and Tanzania had arrived a day before Thursday. Around 7 PM was a briefings and task sharing session by Alphonse Karenzi, the conference organizer. This session was very participatory and took longer than it was expected especially when it came to discuss on how to form the group discussions for the next day session. Some participants were supporting the idea of forming groups randomly while others were strongly about forming groups based on thematic areas. After a 45 minutes intensive discussion, there was no other solution than to create 4 groups randomly by counting 1, 2, 3, 4 approach and then each group nominated three representatives (president, secretary and presenter) who will lead their group discussions.

DAY 1 - Introduction of every participant, opening ceremony, group discussions and marketplace: sessions chaired by Dr Bagambe Steven from Uganda and Ms Faith Milkah from Kenya

The first day started with an introduction of every Participant. A microphone was circulated where every participant had some seconds to say his/her name, the country, organization or project and what he liked about Kigali city. The participants had different interesting answers with some liking the cleanness and beauty of Kigali city and others falling in love
with the venue where the conference was organized from for its beauty and size.

The event was ceremoniously honoured by the presence of Dr Rose Mukankomeje the Director of Rwanda Environment Authority (REMA) as the guest of honour who was later introduced by the organizer, Alphonse KARENZI and requested to give opening remarks.

Dr Rose Mukankomeje, the director of REMA, giving the opening speech: photo by Martha

She welcomed all participants to Rwanda and showed her great appreciation to the Rufford small grants foundation for the great impact in conservation of the environment in Rwanda in particular and the entire region in general. She also emphasized about the need to conserve our environment more and more for its hands that feed and protect us. She concluded by declaring the conference open by 9:30 am as previously requested by the organizer.

This was followed by a traditional dance by Icyusa cultural group the lead and main cultural dance group in Rwanda who excited the participants with a massive performance of traditional dances raising cheers and praises from the participants prompting them to join in the dancing and clapping of hands. This moment put a smile on every ones face.
After the traditional dance the MC Dr Bagambe reminded the participants of the program and introduced them to the way the group discussions will be carried out as agreed upon by group leaders. Every participant was to share his/her project experience within the group and each group had to discuss and present one of the four guiding questions which included:

1. How can you improve /increase the impact of your project
2. What challenge have you faced and how can they be overcome
3. What are the key success factors
4. *How can you make your project more sustainable?*

Participants were then given a 30 minutes coffee break where individuals were seen refreshing on tea and cold drinks as they were networking in groups 3 to 4 participants.

After the coffee break, all group leaders called upon their group members and by 10:30am discussions had kicked off. This session lasted for almost four hours of participatory discussions with every participant sharing the experience of his/her project which is funded by Rufford small grants foundation. Different participants seemed to be more interested in the work of other participants from different countries as they were seen posing questions to one another. Findings were noted down by the secretary to be later presented the following day according to the program.
The day was also blessed by a presentation from Mr Ngira from Samburu northern Kenya. He shared with participants his project of protecting lions from the region and his passion for them. He posed a number of questions to the participants who would win prizes ranging from t-shirts to magazines for right answers. These questions included **what will happen when we lose lions in East Africa parks?** With answers like; **there will be no tourists’ attractions, we will have more antelopes hence degradation of the grasslands, future generation will not know about existent of lions and Lions are pride of Africa hence we need to conserve.**

This session was concluded by yet another ice breaker by Dr Bagambe of Q&A as participants prepared for the marketplace. Prices of t-shirts from the Nile basin discourse project were awarded for best answers. These included:

- How was the day today? -Very good, answered by a participant from Kenya
- How was the meal today? -very good from a Tanzanian participant
- What didn’t you like for today? -rain, answer from a Ugandan participant.
- What do we do to improve tomorrow what we didn’t do today?-Time management, answered by a participant from South Sudan.

After a clear communication from the session chair about day two program, the participants kept networking and mutual learning at the marketplace where different Participants exhibited their projects materials like flyers, pull-ups, and magazines to sell their conservation ideas.
Day 2 - conservation in action lecture, group presentations and discussions, two special RSG project presentations, way forward, Competition, vote of thanks and closing remarks:

Conservation in action lecture, a session chaired by Dr Prince from Congo

Day two was started with the “conservation in action” lecture by Mr Elie Musabyimana- the community-based conservation officer at the Rwanda Development Board as the guest speaker who also welcomed all participants to Rwanda.
He shared his experience in Rwandan tourism & conservation through his presentation which lasted for almost 1 hour and 20 minutes where he also talked about forests and their habitants in Rwanda. He talked about national parks in Rwanda and the tourism activities in the same parks. He presented videos and pictures of Nyungwe National Park mentioning that it has the biggest number of primates (13 species), Akagera National Park singling it out as a savannah forest and Volcanoes National Park being a major home for the mountain gorillas.

When asked on how they carry on the conservation activities without necessarily having problems with local community he said a number of community awareness seminars are organized for these communities, tourism revenue sharing is also practiced were revenue is shared with the community especially in compensation to the property lost due to invasions by the wild animals for example in insistences were plantations are destroyed by animals like elephants.

**Group Presentations, a session chaired by David from Uganda and Iregi from Kenya**

By 9:15am as per the program of the day, presentation from groups by their group representatives was next.

**Group II** - Mr Charles Nyamai from Kenya the first presenter had taken on the floor to present their group findings. With 20 minutes of presentation he briefly talked about their area of discussion and findings. With a question “What challenges have you faced and how can they be overcome” he discussed project per project. See their PP presentation in the annex

**GROUP III**, represented by Ms Anne Kyomugisha from South Sudan, was given 15 minutes also to present their findings with a discussion question on “how to improve/increase the impact of the project”. The group members identified ten conservation projects to be included in the selection of four projects on which the group discussions would focus. Most of the Group I recommendations reflected on; involvement of many stakeholders for more support from various partners, consideration for marginalized groups, integrating conservation practice and livelihoods of the local communities and enhancing more educational/ awareness creation programs to ensure ownership. For more details see their PP presentation in the annex

After the presentation from group 3, a short coffee and networking break was taken by participants who came in 30 minutes later for a third presentation from group 4.

**Group IV**, represented by Houssein Allai from Kenya, was given 15 minutes to present and discuss on “what are the key success factors”. The members of this group had shared the experience of eleven different RSG projects in order to be able to identify some key success factors behind the implementation of conservation projects in the region. Some of
factors found were; community involvement in the project contributing to sustainability and project ownership, income generating activities: contribution to the livelihoods of the Community people thus contributing to sustainability and project ownership; awareness creation through sports and music was an interesting activity for the children; utilization of the social media to promote the project, leadership: Strong support team working on the project. For more details see their PP presentation in the annex I

GROUP I - represented by GodGift Swai from Tanzania, was given also 15 minutes to present their findings and respond to the questions on “how you can make your project more sustainable”. The following are some of recommendations from group I:

- Pragmatic - be honest on the funds given for the projects: use the money for the project it was granted for
- Incorporate evaluation of the project like 3 times: having some baselines to carry on evaluation
- Target benefits for the stake holders (The community). If they are not interested, they might not respond positively to the project.
- Alternatives to be given to communities and also engage them in the activity of the project: make them part of the project in that they find themselves in the activities benefitting from it. An alternative is what they can get when losing an interest.
- Communication – submit projects in time and communicate with the supporters, where you have challenges and success stories.
- Partnership - you commit to do it all. But also use others that can cover some other aspects.
  - They can provide expertise and use their own funds to do part of the activities.
  - This can avoid replication that would led to saving funds from the other ones

Two special RSG project presentations

These two special projects were chosen by a committee of eight group leaders after group discussions of the day one.

First special project was the “Malagarazi wetland community-based conservation “of Mr Ellias Bizuru who was represented by his project team member Mr Ngendakuriyo Celestin both from Burundi. This project was chosen as it was very unique in the sense that 'it failed'. So the committee thought that everybody should learn from it so that they don't repeat the same mistakes. Mr Celestin did his best to present different activities that were achieved including sensitizing the primary school pupils about the conservation of the wetland. However, this project appeared to have failed to achieve its main objectives of distributing Goats due to goat epidemics such as caratin thus using the funds on other project activities.

Second special project was “empowering women through improved cooking stoves by Ms
Anne Kyomugisha from South Sudan. South Sudan was a unique case and only represented by one person. So the committee thought it could be interesting to listen to Anne’s experience implementing the project in South Sudan. During her presentation Anne received several questions from the audience. One of the hardest questions to Anne was “how locally affordable is your improved cook stove version as you said one stove is $20?” Anne could respond that $20 is affordable for local people in Yei District, South Sudan.

Way forward

This session was chaired by Alphonse Karenzi the conference Organizer from Rwanda, Edward Mwamuye from Kenya and Dr Bagambe Steven from Uganda. Edward started by giving an overview presentation on the Rufford East-Africa Projects Network (REAP) an idea that was born during the previous Rufford Conference in Kenya. Then the participants were asked to give their views on how this network can be self-sustained and expanded to include the wider countries including Congo Kinshasa and South Sudan.

Edward in front giving the presentation on REAP Network

Almost 20 minutes spent on discussing what would be the name of this network. Seven different names were suggested by the participants where the general meeting faced democratic election for the best name. Every participant had to write down the number corresponding to his/her preferable name of the network on a sheet of paper and submit it to the session chairpersons. After publically counting all the votes, Africa RSG conservation network was voted the official name of the Regional Rufford Small Grant Recipients’ Network.
Different participants started coming up with more and more ideas on how this network can be self-sustained. For instance; Edward Mwamuye from Kenya was suggesting that this network can rely on the contributions from members where this contribution may be included in the budget of the Rufford Small Grants Proposals. Alphonse Karenzi the conference organizer was suggesting the establishment of the RSG Africa Conservation Institute as an income generating board that will provide payable educational, research and consultancy services to the different interested researchers, internees and project leaders. The time for these discussions was not enough at all. As a conclusion, the general meeting had to nominate the Network Representatives for those countries that were not represented in the previous REAP Network. The nominated representatives are as follow:

- **Rwanda**: Mr Alphonse Karenzi and Ms Madeilene Nyiraitza
- **Congo DRC**: Mr Chifundera Kusamba Z. and Mr Kujirakwinja Deo
- **Burundi**: Mr N zigiyimpa Leonidas and Mr NGENDAKURIYO Celestin
- **South Sudan**: Ms Anne Kyomugisha

**Rufford Project Photos Competition**

The photo session was one of the most exciting part of the conference. Every screened photo entry was beautiful and every one was wondering whose photo is going to win this contest. The photo competition committee made by Alphonse and Edward could select 15 finalist photos and later involved Josh Cole the Director of RSG to help select three winning photos and hand over the awards to the three winners.
The First Winner was Mr Edward Mwamuye from Kenya with his photo of a child escorting a juvenile turtle back to the sea.

Edward receiving his certificate and award (Giraffe Art) from Director Josh Cole

The second winner was Mr Tharcisse from Uganda with his photo of l’hoest’s monkey of Bwindi. Unfortunately Tharcisse was not present in the conference where Dr Bangambe received his certificate and award on his behalf.

Dr Bagambe receiving Tharcisse’s certificate and award (Zebra Art) from Director Josh Cole
The third winner was Ali Houssein from Kenya with his photo of kws vets loading hirola from a helicopter

Ali receiving his certificate and award (Elephant Art) from Director Josh Cole

Vote of thanks

Country representatives from Burundi, DRC, Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania and Rwanda sent their gratitude’s to The Rufford foundation and to its director Mr Josh for contributing much in the African environmental conservation. They also gave thanks to the organizer of the conference Mr Alphonse Karenzi for a good job he did to bring them together.

Closing Remarks

Dr Gatete Jean de Dieur, the Director of CAPABLE Rwanda sent also his gratitude to delegations from all countries of participants, to Mr Josh Cole, to Mr Karenzi Alphonse and his Sustaining Rwanda Youth Organization which he congratulated for using well the RSG grantees and doing a good job in the South province of Rwanda.

Closing the conference Mr Alphonse Karenzi also expressed his gratitude to all the participants especially those who made a long journey, and to his fellows who helped him in organizing this conference and also to the Rufford foundation.

End of the conference
Rwanda Traditional Dancing Group (Icyusa): photo by Martha Musito
GROUP DISCUSSIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

GROUP 1

Introduction

Following the scheduled group discussions, group 1 members identified ten conservation projects to be included in the selection of four projects on which the group discussions would focus. These projects in summary as indicated by the type of project and the key person (in bracket) included the following:-

ii EWASO Lion conservation in Samburu, Northern Kenya (NGIRA, Denis)
iii Wetland Conservation and Cultural Improvement (ONDITI, Jackson)
iii Empowerment of community conservation in Bururi FR, Burundi (NZIGIYIMPA, Leonidas)
iv Eco-cultural Village Approach for ‘Yala’ Wetland Conservation and Livelihood Improvement (AMAYO, Justus)
iv Education programme for conserving the Lau Land gorillas (CHIFUNDERA, Kusamba Z.)
ivi Community Agro forestry as an Engine for Reforestation and Sustainable Poverty Reduction: A case of Smallholder farmers in Kabale District, SW Uganda (KACHOPE, Patrick)
ivii Assessment of plant diversity and ecological status of coastal Tanzania forests (SWAI, Godgift)
iviii Conservation of Roam Antelopes (ORMBA, Allai)
iix Utilization and conservation status of Non Timber forest products in Bwindi FR (MWIZA, Peace)
ix Sustainable Utilization and Cultivation of Prunus africana (KAITARE, Vicent)
iix From the list of ten competitive projects four projects namely (i), (ii), (iii) and (ix) were selected for discussion by the group.

Thematic Areas

The following thematic areas made the focus of discussion in the group from the four selected projects:-

ii How to improve/ increase the impact of the project
iii Challenges faced and how to overcome them
iii Key success factors
iv How ensure sustainability of the project

Thematic Area I: How to improve/ increase the impact of the project
Involvement of many stakeholders
- Consideration for marginalized groups
- Policy and planning and implementation of the project
- More support from various stakeholders / partners
- Local people, media, decision makers
- Integrating conservation practice and livelihoods of the local communities
- Creation of IGAs- Ecotourism in Bururi FR
- Dissemination of the information to public
- To enhance awareness creation
- IEC materials
- Good relationship between management and local communities
- Enhancing more educational/ awareness creation programmes to ensure ownership
  - Community level
  - Institutional level
- Collaboration and networking with other organization
- Involving more technical expertise
  - At various phases of the project
- Local communities participation in the M&E of their projects

Thematic Area II: Challenges faced and how to overcome them

- Projects taking longer time than the time anticipated
  - Mainly for the case of research projects e.g. NTFP in Bwindi Impenetrable FR took two years instead of 1 year
- High expenses involved in carrying out the project
- Can be a hindrance in case of insufficient funding and equipment
- Environmental conditions such as difficult terrain and climate may affect the sampling procedure
  - Example from Bwindi Impenetrable FR affected the NTFP research
  - Threats from the pressure of the growing population around the FR and other protected areas.
  - The case of Batwa people in Bururi FR and other land scarce groups

Thematic Area III: Key Success Factors

- Increased level of participation
  - Example from Samburu initially 10 people to 40 at the moment.
- Awareness and Information sharing was achieved by the key projects.
- Appreciation and Improvement of the livelihood and socio welfare was achieved
- Realized improvement of biodiversity
  - Forest encroachment was reduced in Buriri FR as a result of introduction of IGAs
  - Enhanced scientific understanding of biodiversity
  - Successful inventory of NTFP in Bwindi FR
  - An established bird species database for Lake Kanyagoli wetland in Kenya
• Enhanced conservation farming practices
  ➢ Lake Kanyagoli wetland in Kenya

**Thematic Area IV: How ensure sustainability of the project**

• Community awareness and sensitization
• Funding and project financial assistance from donors, governments, NGOs.
• Livelihood improvement through sustainable utilization of products and services
• Institutional collaboration and networking
• Decentralization of decision and planning at the community level
  ➢ Building the sense of ownership of the project by the community

**Conclusion and Recommendations**

There is substantial achievement in the projects funded by the RSG foundation as well as the two regional conferences that has enhanced networking and information sharing. However more improvement of the future conferences to include capacity building workshops and trading programmes to the participants will enhance the quality of the future projects.

**GROUP 2**

**WHAT CHALLENGES HAVE YOU FACED AND HOW CAN THEY BE OVERCOME?**

**Sikizana Trust for Youth and community development: Tree planting & conservation**

• **Challenges**
  – Unwilling community (parents & teachers)
  – Need payment to plant seedlings
  – Lack of respect to reserved areas
  – Tree cutting for charcoal, timber and firewood

• **Solution**
  – Horizontal Improvement
  – Targeting more schools and teachers
  – Organizing villagers to evict intruders
  – Pushing policy framework in the National Assembly

**Enhancing the conservation sea turtles and mangroves in Kenya**

• **Challenges**
  – Turtles are eaten (nutritious eggs & meat)
  – Lack of alternative income sources for the community
  – Low level of literacy
  – Culture (people believe that shells of turtles overcome barrenness)

• **Solutions**
  – Introduction of bee keeping and poultry as alternative income sources
  – Introduction of legally accepted fishing nets
Establishment of Local community associations

Influence of anthropogenic activities on riparian habitats and invertebrate communities in Uluguru Mountains, Tanzania

- **Challenges**
  - Steepness of slopes and wet climate in the Uluguru Mountains
  - Poor infrastructure (roads). Difficult to reach the study.
  - The local people find it difficult to give out information because they fear researchers
  - Some need payment to participate in the project
  - Quarry mining
- **Solution**
  - Using local people as field guiders
  - Collaborating with village leaders

Pro-poor ecotourism window for conservation of Mabamba Ramsar site, Uganda

- **Challenges**
  - Destructive exploitation – poaching, hunting & burning
  - Sand mining
  - Insufficient policy making mechanism to stop exploitation
  - Community dynamics due to competition of local and engine boats
  - Benefit sharing and resistance to change
- **Solutions**
  - Integration of people & activities
  - Involvement of more players/participants

Kitabe Environment Volunteers (KENVO)

- **Challenges**
  - Community perception
  - Policy instability
  - Inadequate community capacity (illiteracy)
  - Inadequate funds to support income generating activities
  - Government policies and systems
- **Solutions**
  - Organized awareness creation forums and events
  - Involving government officials in the project
  - Sourcing for more funding from other donors
  - Sensitizing community on the importance of forest conservation

Reducing conflicts between local farmers and managers of the Gishuati forest reserve

- **Challenges**
  - Illegal cattle grazing - crop destruction
  - Lack of expected additional funding
- **Solution**
  - The organization contributed 75% and the 25% from cooperatives
Integrated community approach to conservation of Sawaiti wetland in North Rift Kenya

- **Challenges**
  - Poaching
  - Encroachment by the surrounding community
  - Political interference
  - Language barrier

- **Solution**
  - Awareness creation
  - Environmental education programmes to school
  - Working with local community to translate biodiversity names in their local language

Public awareness & participation in the conservation of Wambabya wetlands in Hoina, Uganda

- **Challenges**
  - Insufficient funds for alternative livelihood
  - Illiteracy
  - Poor implementation of wetland laws
  - Unwillingness of community to participate in conservation
  - Trainees demand payments for transport
  - Difficult to getting rid of encroachers

- **Solutions**
  - Mobilization
  - Community sensitization
  - Formation of wetland management committees

Statunga Ecotours

- **Challenges**
  - Inadequate funding
  - Community expectation in of benefit sharing
  - Many people do not live/adhere to agreements
  - Limitations of alternatives
  - Partners failing to deliver on promises

- **Solutions**
  - Sensitization of community on importance of project instead of instant benefit sharing
  - Incorporation of different donors to the project

Women’s conservation awareness project

- **Challenges**
  - Premature cutting of trees
  - Lack of enough staff to carry out monitoring
  - Culture – tree take long time before the benefit is realized
  - Seasonal climate change
  - Limited resources (limit members to participate)
  - Low growth rates of trees
**Solutions**
- Education to the community on importance of tree
- Integration of local community for easy monitoring

**GROUP 3**

Group 3 RSG funded projects:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NO.</th>
<th>PROJECT</th>
<th>AREA/COUNTRY</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Integrating cultural values for effective conservation on farm bio-diversity</td>
<td>Tanzania border-Sango bay forest reserve</td>
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<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Malagarazi wetland Community-based conservation</td>
<td>Burundi</td>
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<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Mobilization of local community for conservation and management of threatened Natron basin</td>
<td>Tanzania(Arusha)</td>
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<td>4.</td>
<td>Enhancing Community participation in Conservation of River Njoro</td>
<td>Nakuru</td>
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<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Population size, threats and conservation measures of Lobaria Pulmonaria in Tanzania. case study of forest lichens at Mt.Kilimanjaro</td>
<td>Tanzania</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>Sheeps for sharpe Long claw(bird species).Based on the conservation of Kinangop Highland grassland in Central Kenya</td>
<td>Kenya</td>
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<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>Evaluating the role of community based organisations in the management of forest, water and soil in Mt. Elgon ecosystem in Uganda.</td>
<td>Uganda</td>
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<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td>Community based conservation of the endemic cycad in Mpanga George Edward areas</td>
<td>Uganda</td>
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<tr>
<td>11.</td>
<td>Empowering women through improved cooking stoves.</td>
<td>South Sudan-Yei</td>
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1. **INTERGRATING CULTURAL VALUES FOR EFFECTIVE CONSERVATION ONFARM BIO-DIVERSITY IN TANZANIA BORDER-SANGO BAY FOREST RESERVE, UGANDA**

**Objectives:**
- Conservation of farms by use of a back clot
- Cultural knowledge of a back cloth as a binding tool of the baganda among many others such as taboo, myth etc.

**Activities:**
- Planting of 1500 trees that yield back cloth in the first season by use of elders to sensitize the communities.
- Creation of meaning and attachment of community people to the trees
- Research work to identify what bird species are in the forest reserve

**Achievements:**
- Successful trainings in communities aimed at identifying the bird species by translation of the available birds in the local languages.
- Institutionalism of the project with FFI, CBOs and Nature Uganda which had expertise on research about the birds since it’s difficult to work alone thus sharing the expertise.

**Challenges:**
- The many Institutions involved in the project participated with individual interests thus affecting the project objectives.
- Poor participation of the youth.

**Key success factors:**
- Community involvement in the project contributing to sustainability and project ownership.
- Institutionalism such as Nature Uganda that contributed to expertise on bird’s species research.

2. **MALAGARAZI WETLAND COMMUNITY-BASED CONSERVATION PROJECT IN BURUNDI**

**Objectives:**
- To use appropriate means of fishing
- To eradicate the phenomenon of cutting trees to reduce deforestation and protect soil fertility
- Create awareness of conservation of Malagarazi wetlands.
- To distribute the goats to improve the livelihoods of the people.

**Outcomes:**
- Everybody understood how to protect the Malagarazi wetland
- Primary school pupils were sensitized about the conservation
- The population understood that wetlands provide various goods and services

**Challenges:**
- Goat distribution failed due to goat epidemics such as caratin thus using the funds on other project activities.
- Tree cutting has continued due to the lack of alternatives.
3. MOBILISATION OF LOCAL COMMUNITIES FOR CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF THREATENED NATRON, BASIN IN TANZANIA (ARUSHA).

Purpose:
- Sensitization about the use of wetlands especially Youth in schools since they can teach parents.

Activities:
- Training, workshops, seminars

Challenge:
- Low level of understanding of the targeted group of the project.

Success story:
- Training was successful, since the Youth understood how to use clay to construct the improved cooking stoves
- Exhibiting of stoves produced to community members since they save energy for example four logs of wood were substituted for 2 logs of wood.
- Income generating activities thus contributing to the livelihoods of the people.
- The target group involved of the Youth was innovative since the Young minds can easily attribute to change.

4. ENHANCING COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION IN CONSERVATION OF RIVER NJORO IN NAKURU.

Purpose:
- Sensitisation of the community to protect and avoid the tribal clashes in schools, institutions and the community.

Challenges:
- Difficult to unite the tribal clashed community to share a common goal of protecting the river Njoro in Nakuru, thus local leaders were used to share the common goal of the project and use of individual meetings with the different tribes.

Achievement:
- Creativity of the children in schools to develop a poster that was used to educate the entire community about the conservation of the river Njoro.
- Successful involvement of the local leaders who actively participated in the project.

5. POPULATION SIZE, THREATS AND CONSERVATION MEASURES OF LOBARIA PULMONARIA IN TANZANIA. A CASE STUDY OF FOREST LICHENS AT MT. KILIMANJARO INTANZANIA.

Research Purpose:
- To identify the availability of the specie (lobaria Pulmonaria), and to know the possibilities of transplanting
- To know how the attitude can habituate the specie
- To assess the knowledge of people about the species
- Target Group: Children were put in four groups from the various schools. Activity:- Sports i.e.: Football, badminton etc.
- Composition of songs to initiate the love of the specie
Challenges:
- Difficult to prepare the proposal due to limited knowledge available in Tanzania and by the supervisor.
- Limited access of the laboratory

Success:
- Awareness creation through sports and music was an interesting activity for the children.

6. SHEEPS FOR SHARPES LONG CLAW (BIRD SPECIES). BASED ON THE CONSERVATION OF KINANGOP HIGHLAND GRASSLAND IN CENTRAL KENYA

Activities:
- Distribution of the sheep to the community members to improve the livelihoods of people by the sale of wool and meat to earn income.
- Community sensitization to add value to the improved type of sheep thus conserving the Kinangop Highland grassland for the sheep to graze other than using it for the activities such as cultivation.

7. INCREASING COMMUNITY AWARENESS AND INVOLVEMENT IN CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION AND ADAPTATION ACTIVITIES FOR IMPROVED ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION IN NAKASONGOLA DISTRICT IN UGANDA –NAKASONGOLA.

Purpose:
- To reduce pressure on trees by use of improved cooking stoves
- Construct rain water harvesting facilities in the community

Activities:
- Provision of tree species
- Provision of unavailable materials to construct the improved cooking stoves in schools and homes of selected members.

Achievement:
- 1000 trees were successfully planted in the community and schools and named after some prominent members of the community.
- Successful community awareness and outreaches by use of resident sub county volunteers who were involved in training the local people.

Challenges:
- The success growth rate of the trees planted was affected by the weather since some trees dried up. SUCCESS
- There was use of the innovative of measure of the quick multiplication of the ideology of construction of the ICS since the other schools and community members would be initiated to learn the modes of construction during the demonstration.

8. EVALUATING THE ROLE OF COMMUNITY BASED ORGANISATIONS IN THE MANAGEMENT OF FOREST, WATER AND SOIL IN MT. ELGON ECOSYSTEM IN UGANDA.

Research Purpose:
- To find out the role of Community Based Organizations in the management of forest water and soil in Mt. Elgon
Activity:
- Collection of data in 52 villages
- Awareness creation and training on aspects of tree planting, formation of monitoring groups about the forest use such as collection of firewood

Success:
- The community was empowered, since it didn’t have to fully rely on donor funds to develop their activities, rather loans were provided which had to be paid back.

9. COMMUNITY BASED CONSERVATION OF THE ENDEMIC CYCAD IN MPANGA GEORGE EDWARD AREAS IN UGANDA.

Purpose:
- To create awareness about the importance of the cycad in Mpanga George Edward area since it creates a good view to tourists in the forest and it provides food for gorillas and the local people.
- To create the awareness in the community on how to propagate and plant the species.

Challenge:
- The available seeds take decades to mature into the cycad fruit.

Success:
- There was no need of buying land to replant the specie since it grows in the forests.
- Available local skills of seed collection and soaking to reproduce and replant the cycad plants.

10. CONSERVATION OF RARE AND ENDANGERED PRIMATES IN NORTHERN KENYA

Purpose:
- To reduce and eradicate the cultural use of the species.

Challenge:
- It was difficult to access the isolated areas of Northern Kenya

Success:
- The sustainable knowledge equipped to the local people about the importance of the species.

11. EMPOWERING WOMEN THROUGH IMPROVED COOKING STOVES. SOUTH SUDAN-YEI

Purpose:
- To raise awareness about the role of forests and how Improved Cooking Stoves can help to reduce deforestation.
- To create improve the gender rights of marginalized women such as fight against domestic violence, sexual harassment, increased education access for the girl child, improve the health conditions by use of the improved cooking stoves.
- To train the most influential young people and women about the role of ICS and how to construct them.

Achievements:
- More than 100 people gained the knowledge and constructed the ICS in their homes and selected schools.
- Cooking has become much easier for the women and reduced denial of their gender
Increased number of the girl children attending to their school education - Improved health conditions of the women in Yei County - Improved livelihoods of the women who participated in the project.

Success:
- The project has attracted international support with the affiliates of the Organization (FOFCOD) who are fundraising for the continuity of the project such as global giving and Village Earth.

WHAT ARE THE KEY SUCCESS FACTORS?
- Community involvement in the project contributing to sustainability and project ownership.
- Target group used in implementation of the project. eg the Youth and children easily understood how to use clay to construct the improved cooking stoves in one of the projects.
- Exhibitions: stoves produced were exhibited to the entire community members.
- Income generating activities: contribution to the livelihoods of the Community people thus contributing to sustainability and project ownership.
- Awareness creation through sports and music was an interesting activity for the children.
- There was use of the innovative measure of the quick multiplication of the ideology of construction of the ICS since the other schools and community members would be invited to learn the modes of construction during the demonstrations.
- Utilization of the social media to promote the project e.g. Twitter, Facebook etc.
- Institutionalism: Institutionalism of the project with FFI, CBOs and Nature Uganda which had expertise on research about the birds since it’s difficult to work alone.
- Leadership: Strong support team working on the project

GROUP 4

A) PROJECT-KASONGOLA CLIMATE CHANGE Nakasongora District climate change pilot project by MUGENZI SIMON PETER
Aims:
- To contribute towards sustainable environmental conservation through community based afforestation and awareness. Carried out in a cattle corridor of Nakasongora as cutting down of trees caused a lot of impact on climate. They taught the community to plant trees (afforestation)

Method of reducing these:
- Planting trees
- Construction of tanks for people, schools
- Went to primary school and show how to make special stoves that can use less firewood
- Visited prisoners and showed them to plant trees and other cash crops like beans.
Challenges:
- High operational costs
- Long distance between the source of assorted material especially Lorena stove
- Planting of seedlings in different institutions is dependent on rainy seasons.

Positive impact on the community:
- Helped the locals to get water by constructing tanks
- Improved cooking stoves

B) CHIMPANZEE PROJECT (Development Alternatives Programme) By JOSEPH SERUGO chairperson DAP
- Project was mainly for conserving chimpanzees in forest outside protected area in Kibale District, UG
- Got funding in 2008, and assisted the land owners.
- Land owners cut down forests and others sold their lands which were cut down in 1 month.
- Due to cutting of trees, the chimps didn’t have enough habitats hence forced to move to the farms and eat bananas and destroy crops

Benefits:
- Introduce high value crops
- Introduce ecotourism

Challenges:
- Competition between maize growing and chimps
- Shortfall of the funding

Success achieved:
- Organization given equipment
- Radio programmes aired by local radios
- Programme known and volunteers started applying to work for the project.
- People knowing the value of chimps

C) Chimpanzee Conservation Education and community empowerment activities in Hoima district, Uganda, Chimpanzee Sanctuary & Wildlife Conservation Trust (CHIMPANZEE TRUST UGANDA)
- In 2007 got funding from Rufford small grants
- Aim was to create awareness
- Support education centre-
- Train women in entrepreneurship activities such as handcrafts making / business

Success story:
- Sparked more projects including:
  - Designed education program (to empower children in communities as change agents)
  - Started community forest monitoring and creation of private forest owners’ associations.
  - Now implementing pilot project to test the effectiveness of Payments for Ecosystem services (PES) in Uganda

Challenges:
- Attitude and ignorant about chimpanzee behaviour
- Land ownership
- Project can’t provide for all community necessities

D) DRAWING ON INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE AND CULTURAL MEANINGS TO RESTORE FAMILY FOREST IN GOMBE SUBCOUNTY, WAKISO DISTRICT U.G -BY Leonard Sssozi
- Creating awareness of planting trees at household level, drawing on indigenous knowledge.
- Concentrated on restoration-replanting species that originally there
- Have trainings on apiculture and affordable energy saving stoves using locally available resources.

Benefits:
- Community awareness and appreciation of tree planting at household level
- Some members have taken on commercial forestry.

Challenges:
- Indigenous trees have a long maturity period, yet the community wants quick monetary gains.
- Selling of tree seedlings that were intended for the project area

E) INVESTIGATION & PROMOTOTING NATURAL PEST CONTROL BY BIRDS IN NYANDARUA KENYA BY: PAUL NDANG’ANG’A
- Aim was to know what role the birds play in farm lands whether +ve or –Ve.
- Aim was to determine to which extend foraging birds contribute to reduction in the number and impact of invertebrate pests on Kale
- Used the sukuma wiki (Kales) for the study.

Challenges:
- Perception of people is that birds are destroyers while they reduce pests

Success:
- Awareness seminars to community
- Books that were given to the community

F) BATS CONSERVATION IN MT.HOYO RESERVE, EASTERN DR.CONGO-BY DR. PRINCE KALEME
Aim/purpose
- Aim was to sample in the forest and see how many bats were there.
- Discuss with the local community.

Success:
- In 1-10 days 6 species were recorded
- Got also some species of birds in the forest

Challenges:
- Human hunting the fruit bats

G) ESTABLISHMENT OF INDIGENOUSPLANTS –BOTANICAL GARDEN-2011 BY Felista Mangalu, National Museum, Arusha
Aims:
- To disseminate knowledge on indigenous plants (rare /threatened /endemic)
To involve the youth in understanding and use of indigenous plants especially in schools, as part of natural history of museum objectives.

**Challenges:**
- Mode of transportation of the live plants
- How to collect samples, bureaucratic procedures to get collection permits
- Making sure survival of the collected live plants

**Success:**
- Established gardens in museums
- Managed to produce leaflets disseminating information to visitors, students in the museum etc.
- An attraction to the visitors

**H) ESTABLISHING WETLANDS DEFENDERS IN KABAROLE DISTRICT** by SAM MUHUZA

**Aim:**
- Raise awareness on importance of wetlands so as to protect them
- Promote participation of community members in the conservation of wetlands in their area
- Establish community structures to protect the wetlands

**Success:**
- Reproduce and distribute national wetlands policy
- Sensitised over 5000 community members about the usefulness of wetlands
- Established user groups for wetlands as wetland defenders
- Registered media coverage

**Challenges:**
- Resistance by community who use wetlands
- Immigrants from western U.G and Congo
- Seasonal wetland
- Identifying clear boundaries of the wetlands

**Lessons:**
- Demarcate the wetlands
- Alternate source of income so that the community can secure the wetlands

**I) HIROLA CONSERVATION PROJECT KENYA** by ABDULAI ALI

**Aim:**
- Document species ecology and promote grassroots conservation
- Restore grasslands and restore former range
- Reintroduce the species in their historic range and increase their numbers species
- Promote long-term community involvement through education and outreach

**Success:**
- Biological knowledge about the species available
- Sensitized community on the awareness of the hirola that are endangered species.
- Secured sanctuary for the hirola and collared the species for the first time
- Media coverage locally/internationally
- Several awards locally and internationally
Challenges:
- Insecurity issues along the Kenya-Somali border
- Funding
- Conservation politics of endangered species
- Low awareness among pastoralists in the area.

I) Trans-boundary conservation of *Cercopithecus hamlyni*, *Apalis argentea*, *Phodilus prigoginei*, and their habitat: A case of Nyungwe-Kibira ecosystem-BY WYCLIFFE TUMWESIGYE

Challenges:
- Lack of knowledge on hamlyni and bird species to conserve by inhabitants
- Shortage of land to expand bamboo trees
- Lack of good species of bamboo to plant on marginal land
- Lack of sufficient alternative sources of income
- Lack of tourism market on hamlyni and their habituation
- Weak law enforcement and limited park staff in Kibira NP

Success stories:
- Number of people harvesting bamboo is reducing
- Establishment of TB collaboration e.g. joint patrols
- Some research on bamboo ongoing by WCS and others
- Strengthened law enforcement in NNP
- Cooperatives to plant bamboo forming
- Elimination of “Nyakasi” (traditional houses) promotes conservation of bamboo and other grass

Potential opportunities:
- NNP chosen as a tourism destination on Africa in 2014 may promote conservation
- Strengthening TB conservation efforts between Rwanda and Burundi
- Law enforcement agencies in place from local to National level

Recommendations to Rufford:
- Support establishment of handcrafts cooperatives in the area
- Support creation of alternative sources of income in the area
- Supporting collaboration of trans-boundary conservations efforts
- Support environmental education in schools and communities in the area
- Support bamboo-growing cooperatives in the area
- Support promotion of hamlyni and its habitat in schools and communities

HOW CAN YOU MAKE YOUR PROJECT MORE SUSTAINABLE?

- Pragmatic - be honest on the funds given for the projects: use the money for the project it was granted for
- Incorporate evaluation of the project like 3 times: having some baselines to carry on evaluation
- Target benefits for the stake holders (The community). If they are not interested, they
might not respond positively to the project.

- Alternatives to be given to communities and also engage them in the activity of the project: make them part of the project in that they find themselves in the activities benefitting from it. An alternative is what they can get when losing an interest.
- Communication – submit projects in time and communicate with the supporters, where you have challenges and success stories.
- Partnership - you commit to do it all. But also use others that can cover some other aspects.
- They can provide expertise and use their own funds to do part of the activities.
- This can avoid replication that would led to saving funds from the other ones.