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. 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	Mfitumukiza David
Project title	Spatial and seasonal patterns of pasture quantity and quality in livestock and wildlife convergence areas of south western Uganda
RSG reference	04.10.09
Reporting period	March 2010 to February 2011
Amount of grant	£5995
Your email address	dmfitumukiza@muienr.mak.ac.ug
Date of this report	May2011

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 determine pasture biomass production potentials in different vegetation cover types			√	Objective was expanded and modified to: Determine the effect of soil type, vegetation cover and grazing on grass species composition and pasture production.
To determine spatial and seasonal variations in pasture biomass quantities			√	
To determine spatial and seasonal variations in pasture nutritive value, species areal cover and frequency of occurrence.			√	

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

The major difficult was financial insufficiency. The field work expenses were slightly higher than I had budgeted. Fortunately I was able obtain some additional financial support from my Institution

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

1. Manuscripts: I have come up with two manuscripts which I will be publishing in a near future. The titles of the manuscripts are:
   - *"Effect of Soil Properties, Vegetation Cover and Grazing on Grass Species Composition and Biomass Production"*
   - **"***An assessment of spatial and seasonal variations in rangeland pasture quantity and quality in a rain-fed rangeland"*
2. The data from the project are being integrated into materials for the courses that I teach at the university.
3. Skills and knowledge in rangeland pasture quality and quantity assessment and monitoring have been gained by the research team. The fresh graduates in particular who were involved have picked interest in the research area and two of them will be starting their post graduate training in related programmes.
4. Through the project, awareness of the importance of monitoring and sustainable use of rangelands was enhanced especially with the community members who offered their land for experimental sites

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

Local communities were involved in providing experimental sites and through the interactions during the study period they have been able to informally identify with the procedures of assessing pasture quality and quantity. The local communities' knowledge about rangeland quality and quantity indicators was enhanced. However this was not formally done and will require training, further knowledge transfer and information dissemination.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes! The plan at hand is to prepare the findings for dissemination to all stakeholders especially livestock owners and wildlife authorities with the aim to initiate dialogue for developing pasture related conflicts management options which are a major threat to conservation and production objectives in the project area.

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

- Publishing one manuscript in the *African Journal of Ecology* and another one in the *Journal of Rangeland Ecology*.
- Dissemination workshop for communities.
- Policy brief.

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

The anticipated length of time of RSG use was 12 months but it was used in 8 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. *1£Sterling = 3,200 Uganda Shillings*

Item	Budgeted Amount	Actual Amount	Difference	Comments
Subsistence	1,768	2,298	530	More days spend in the field than envisaged
Local travel (Field sites)	2,060	2,513	453	Increase in fuel prices
Laboratory analyses	1,202	1,623	421	increase in the cost of chemicals
Field assistant salaries	965	1,303	338	More days spend in the field than envisaged
TOTAL	**5,995**	**7,737**	**1,742**	

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

- Disseminating information on spatial and temporal patterns of pasture quantity and quantity for purposes of evoking biodiversity conservation initiatives in and around Lake Mburo National Park in particular.
- Research and availing information on degradation of vulnerable rangeland sites especially with respect to soil erosion and loss of biodiversity due to overgrazing.
- Identifying target communities and their location for awareness raising against wildlife crime and initiating community based wildlife protection in major wildlife-livestock pasture and water convergence sites.
- Developing and enforcing bylaws by local government regarding stocking capacities to avoid rangeland degradation by regularly providing information on the available pasture and resources and respective animal numbers of livestock that can be supported by the resources taking into consideration pastures for wild animals outside the national park.
- Negotiations and collaborative management between Uganda Wildlife Authority and the communities around Lake Mauro National Park for rangeland resources use especially pastures and water.
- Developing rangeland resources management options including identifying sites that need improvement for pasture production, accessibility and availability.
- Identifying areas and their extents where government and other conservation agencies can initiate alternative livelihood systems that minimise pressure on the vulnerable wildlife.
- Tracking wild animal movements outside the national park which sometimes move long distances away from the national park during dry seasons and droughts.

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?

No.

11. Any other comments?

Just to express gratitude to The Rufford Small Grants Foundation for supporting this research project. Thank you!