

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	Mary Ngozi Molokwu
Project title	Conservation Education and Capacity Building: Rural Participation in Conservation and Production of Fuel-Efficient Stoves
RSG reference	RSG. 06.10.07
Reporting period	Final report - June 2009
Amount of grant	£4989
Your email address	mnm04ng@yahoo.com
Date of this report	20 th June 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
Promoting rural involvement in identifying and solving community and environmental related problems			X	This was demonstrated during the meetings with community members where they had an opportunity to proffer solutions to community and environmental related problems
Production, sales and use of fuel-efficient stoves by women of the community to serve as alternative income and to reduce wood exploitation		X		20 women and a few interested youths were trained to produce the stoves. The women have embraced the use of the stove due to its efficiency (less wood and less time for cooking) The women however are not interested in producing the stoves for income because they have other priorities. Instead only the youths trained with them now produce and sell these stoves within and outside the community
Rural participation in conservation education			X	Several training workshops were held on conservation education and at the end of the project a carnival was held where the locals participated actively in communicating to people in other communities the values of conservation and the need to replace the three-stone stove with a more fuel efficient stove
Improving the communication gap between conservationists of the Amurum Forest Reserve and the support-zone communities			X	Our approach of using questionnaires and personal interaction with locals as well as holding meetings with different focus groups paid off. This was evidenced by the ease at which community members expressed their views throughout the project, especially during the meetings and during the carnival. They were supportive and attentive to the project team (conservationists) and showed great eagerness in participating.

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

We experienced problems with the women not being interested in selling the stoves despite receiving training. Four youths who were present at the training workshop were more interested in

producing and selling the stoves. They have been able to sell over 20 stoves to date. We however encouraged the women to come up with proposals on what their priorities were. They came up with different suggestions – trading, apprenticeship/skill acquisition, poultry management and baking. Five of the women were trained on baking (to produce cakes and chin chin - a Nigerian snack) during this project and one of them is now earning income from selling snacks in the village market. We hope to send out proposals to funding bodies to meet the other needs of the women.

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

The three most important outcomes of the project include: improving the communication gap between conservationists and support-zone communities of the Amurum Forest Reserve; the total acceptance of the fuel-efficient stoves by the communities around the Reserve, which will reduce the amount of wood consumed for cooking; and the eagerness of the communities to participate in conservation education.

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

The support zone communities participated actively throughout this project. They were very cooperative during the questionnaire stage and contributed actively during meetings with the project team. They also participated fully during the training workshops and conducted an exercise on indigenous knowledge, identifying plants of medicinal value. They were involved in tree planting and the climax was the carnival where they actively communicated conservation to other communities. Both community members and Reserve Managers have benefitted immensely from an improved communication link. The locals have been able to express their views on pressing issues in the community and are now more confident and encouraged to contribute to developing their community and to conservation. Some community members have benefitted from acquired skills in stove production, which is now a means of income for a few youths. One of the women has also benefitted from the training on baking.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes. There are plans to continue this project. The project team is developing more proposals to enable us achieve our desired goals. We also hope to apply for a 2nd RSG.

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

I presented parts of this project at the Society for Conservation Biology (SCB) regional meeting in Ghana January 2009. I have also compiled a concise report to be submitted to the RSG and which will be eventually submitted to the Amurum Forest Reserve management. The findings of this study will also be published as an article in a conservation (peer-reviewed) journal.

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

We spent 12 months carrying out this project as compared to the earlier anticipated period of 10 months. We could not do much during the rainy season from June to September 2008.

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.

The budget below is based on 240 NGN (Nigerian Naira) to 1 GBP.

Item	Budgeted Amount	Actual Amount	Difference	Comments
Equipment – clay, sand, iron pipes, kiln plates and bricks	£954.24	£900	£54.24	We got some materials such as sand and iron pipes for free from the community
Expendables – stationeries and cartridges for printer	£184	£184	-	
Local transport	£850	£850	=	
Subsistence for project team	£1800	£1800	-	
Training workshops, meetings and carnival – refreshments, video tapes, banners and placards; communication; seedlings for tree planting and souvenirs for participants.	£1000	£1205	£205	The additional £205 was used to print certificates of attendance for the conservation education workshop participants and to provide a separate training on baking for five women.
Literature and internet search	£200	£50		Only one book and a few photocopied articles were purchased during the project.
TOTAL	£4988.24	£4989		

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

The next step will be to apply for more grants to look into the priorities of the communities, while continuing the efforts at increasing conservation awareness in the communities. After this, we hope to move on, working with local communities to reach out to urban dwellers, the government and other stakeholders to create conservation awareness especially in the city of Jos, Nigeria, where erosion is a big problem due to mining and logging activities.

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?

I used the RSGF logo during my presentation at the SCB regional meeting in Ghana January 2009.

11. Any other comments?

We are grateful to the RSGF for providing funding for this project.