

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	Caroline Achieng Odera
Project title	Community Empowerment for the Restoration and Conservation of Kusa and Koguta Wetlands, Kenya.
RSG reference	10189-2
Reporting period	September 2011-2012
Amount of grant	£ 6000
Your email address	lakevictoriatourgs@yahoo.com
Date of this report	15 th October 2012

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
Community capacity building trainings			✓	Training of Kusa and Koguta community on sustainable papyrus harvesting, value addition, ecosan toilet utilisation and modern organic farming techniques and basic tree nursery establishment skills. Forty people trained.
Establishment of Village Agroforestry Centre (VAC)			✓	The Village Agroforestry Centre was established at a local Primary School and open for the community to take part in the maintenance and production of tree seedlings as well as purchase for planting.
Wetland Habitat Restoration		✓		This involved replanting papyrus to the wetland degraded sites and trees planting at household level.
Establishment of human manure and organic farming.			✓	Two Ecosan units for human manure generation established and operational.

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

One major problem encountered was under wetland habitat restoration particularly replanting of the papyrus plants to the degraded sites. Most papyrus propagules which were planted in January and during the World wetlands day in February did not survive due to the dry season period causing receding water levels from the swampy areas. This was also coupled by lack of protection or fencing to prevent encroachment.

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

a) **Establishment of a Village Agroforestry Centre:** The Village Agroforestry centre comprising on two seed beds, one potting shed and four tree seedling nurseries was established. Some of the tree species produced include; Leuceana, Cassia, Moringa, Neem tree, bamboo, mango, guava, passion, grevillea and sesbania sesban among others.

b) **Adoption of household tree nurseries:** About 15 community members have managed to establish individual tree nurseries at household level as a result of learning from the training and the established Village Agroforestry Centre.

c) **Income generation by the school from the sale of seedlings at the Village Agroforestry Centre to the community for landscape rehabilitation and beautification.**

d) Establishment of two functional ecosan toilets for production of human manure and organic farming: Two ecosan toilets were established as demonstration plots each at Kusa and Koguta wetland villages. An organic garden was also established within the Village Agroforestry Centre and households have also adopted multi storey gardening techniques using human manure hence reducing wetland encroachment for farming and enhancing food security.

e) Improved knowledge on ecosanitation and organic farming, sustainable papyrus harvesting and basic tree nursery management: About sixty community members were trained on ecosanitation and organic farming, basic tree nursery management and sustainable papyrus harvesting techniques. The trainees were representatives of households or families, women groups, youth groups and site conservation groups hence were expected to disseminate the acquired information. Moreover the school nature clubs were also reached with similar information and skills during the school outreaches.

f) Strengthened partnerships and networks: Through this 2nd phase project interventions, LAVTOGA's grass root partnerships including the Kusa and Koguta sites conservation groups, local tour guides and women papyrus user groups have been strengthened. Close networks have also been established with various government and community based organisations working within the Kusa and Koguta villages.

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

The phase of this project facilitated the establishment of Site Conservation Groups for Kusa and Koguta Community comprising of representatives from various common interest groups including farmers, papyrus harvesters and local tour guides. Hence through this, the local communities were involved in mobilisation and capacity building onsite trainings. Moreover, the locals were also involved in providing labour during the Ecosan and Agroforestry Centre construction. Households adjacent to the Ecosan toilets benefit from access to better sanitation and also human manure for organic farming.

Young people were also involved through their schools by involving in the nature clubs activities which include environmental education sessions, working at the Village Agroforestry Centre and participation in habitat restoration activities.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes. This project intended to test sustainable alternative livelihoods that would empower the community thus wetlands conservation. Fortunately, the interventions spearheaded under this project as demonstration plots were well embraced by the community and showed high potential for up scaling.

The future plan therefore will be to establish a wetland resource centre which shall provide permanent space and facilities for community training, space for sustainable livelihoods demonstrations hence continuous learning for schools and community, office space for local tour guides and space for exhibiting and sale of value added wetland crafts and services hence promoting ecotourism.

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

Lake Victoria Tour Guides Association produces final reports which are made accessible to partners and individuals interested in working around Kusa and Koguta wetlands. The results are also shared through information and photography through our online social media sites including blogspot, Facebook and Twitter. The organisation intends to establish a website in the next phase that will also help in information publishing and sharing.

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

The project implementation period was 12 months as was anticipated. This started from September 2011 to September 2012.

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
Capacity Building trainings	2,493	2,493	0	
Establishment of Village Agroforestry Centre (VAC)	1111	1126	15	The costs of construction materials and transport went up due to inflation.
Human manure units and organic farming demo plots construction	741	957	216	The costs of construction materials and transport went up due to inflation.
Wetland Restoration	646	646	0	
Project Administration costs	1,835	1935	100	Increased transportation costs hence increased field mobility.
Total	6,826	7,157	331	

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

The most important step in future is to establish a self sustaining wetland resource centre for the Kusa and Koguta community. This will provide permanent space for community training and learning demonstrations of various sustainable alternative livelihoods, exhibiting and marketing value added wetland products and provides official space for the local tour guides hence promoting ecotourism and also improve projects monitoring and supervision and monitoring. Website development will also be an important step in marketing the organisation and the community's local initiatives.

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. The project used RSGF logo in the training materials and also in the trainees certificates hence publicity. The project final reports and information published in our social networks also acknowledges RSGF support through its logo or name.

11. Any other comments?

The project was successfully completed and the community expressed their positive sentiments with the undertaken interventions and project benefits. The community through the site conservation groups and common interest groups also participated in the design of the next project phase possible intervention from which suggestion of the wetland resource centre was concluded.