

## 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](mailto:jane@rufford.org).

Thank you for your help.

**Josh Cole, Grants Director**

#### Grant Recipient Details

<b>Your name</b>	Benjamin De Ridder
<b>Project title</b>	Mangrove Conservation and Restoration through Sustainable Community Development
<b>RSG reference</b>	10499-B
<b>Reporting period</b>	01-10-2011 → 01-04-2013
<b>Amount of grant</b>	£ 12000
<b>Your email address</b>	<a href="mailto:deridder_benjamin@yahoo.com">deridder_benjamin@yahoo.com</a>
<b>Date of this report</b>	01/04/2013

**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
Expansion and consolidation of alternative livelihood programme				<p>New beekeepers have been trained and new beehives have been installed around the village as well as existing hives have been improved upon through installing super frames on top of the brood frames. Local women have been trained in all aspects of the value chain to get more profit from selling the honey to visitors and local hotels. In collaboration with local university (IH.SM) we have expanded the aquaculture programme and provided extensive training to local fishermen to create tilapia ponds and optimize the feeding programme. The market is there but unfortunately the first harvest of fish was not good due to inadequate separation of female and male tilapia. We are continuously following up and improved the breeding techniques.</p> <p>Local shop has been constructed by local people utilising sustainable materials such as glass and plastic bottles, mud and bamboo. Shop lies along the main road to further lying beach hotels, so tourists can easily access the arts and crafts shop. People have been trained in new product design, such as candles made from beeswax. T-shirts have also been produced with natural dyeing from mangrove products.</p>
M&E of alternative livelihood programme				<p>Through local surveys, we have notified the opportunities of the beekeeping programmes. As for now the demand is much higher than the supply, so it needs to be expanded, but care has to be taken in quality control. Many previous attempts from other organisations in Madagascar have failed due to decreasing quality.</p>
Reforestation of degraded mangroves				<p>The planned 25 ha to be restored during the project timeframe has been replanted with 50,000 mangrove propagules and young seedlings. Still 75 ha has to be restored or replanted.</p>
Development of mangrove restoration booklet				<p>Due to withdrawal and technical difficulties with proposed partners, the booklet was not feasible this year. We did develop cartoons depicting the importance of managing and restoring mangrove ecosystems to sensitise local communities in a visual way.</p>

Capacity building of newly created mangrove conservation committee				The local mangrove conservation association is progressively playing a more important and leading role in securing a sustainable future for the local natural resources and environment. To be able to provide sound leadership and guidance, the local community leaders and elected members of the local committee have received several training sessions. They also participated as well as received visits from other associations to share experience and work towards the same goal.
Initial steps of blue carbon certification				The local community association Mamelon Honko is working with the guidance and assistance of Honko Mangrove Conservation & Education vzw and their partners to develop the first blue carbon project in Madagascar. The first step involved the development and submission of the Project Identification Note (PIN) to Plan Vivo. The PIN was developed in a participatory way through several community meetings with local stakeholders (fishermen, charcoal makers, local associations, local people, local and regional politicians and national ministries). There are still some steps to be undertaken before the project will be completely developed and recognised. The next step is the development of a more technical project evaluation to determine exact carbon quantities generated.
Environmental education development				A MoU has been signed between the local mangrove Centre and the University of Tulear to promote collaboration in research and education between the two entities. Also a LoA has been developed between the Centre and a French NGO Bel Avenir to focus on mangrove and wetland field visits with local schoolchildren from surrounding urban and rural areas.

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

Discussions between us and the local university have been slow, as at first they didn't want to really come to our site, although it has the highest density of mangrove species and bird species within the region and easily accessible for students, as they already had a field site they were going to for many years with one particular professor. We managed to argue the advantages of our developed site, so we managed to sign a MoU to further develop and promote research and education.

In March 2013 a fierce cyclone hit the south-west of Madagascar and we had some serious damage at our sites, including the aquaculture, boardwalk, student accommodation and shop. So we needed to calculate extra budget to be able to repair this damage as fast as possible. Unfortunately the

cyclone and floods also destroyed the only bridge between our site and the main town, Tulear, so tourism will be slow at this time.

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

- The Project Concept Note (or PIN) has been developed through a multi-stakeholder and participatory approach and only needs to be validated by the national ministries to be submitted to Plan Vivo in order to set up the first Blue Carbon project in Madagascar;
- Local mangrove conservation association, Mamelon Honko, has received its first funding from the FID to help them stabilise dunes and replant more mangroves and they also developed together a management and action plan for the mangroves,
- A local crafts shop has been constructed to attract more visitors to the site and provide substantial alternative revenues for the local communities motivated to try new things.

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

Our project is not just for the local communities, it is and has been carried out by the local community. All activities, from sustainably building a local crafts shop to developing aquaculture ponds for tilapia and creating a management plan for the wetlands, are in the hands of the communities. The Belgian association 'Honko Mangrove Conservation & Education vzw' should be seen as a catalysing instrument: we assist and provide technical knowledge for those who are motivated and committed to live more sustainably and help secure a better future for their children.

**5. Are there any plans to continue this work?**

As we are only in the first phase of the Plan Vivo BC project, we definitely are looking in continuing our support to the local communities with partner organisations in order for them to manage their natural resources in the long run in a more sustainable way. We are also building momentum and capacity with our apiculture and aquaculture programs. We still need to assist in value-chain development and reaching the right markets to deliver the products.

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

We will participate at the regional WIOMSA conference, and we are also utilising the media (website, facebook) to share our work. We are also collaborating with a lot of partner organisations, such as Blue Ventures, WWF, Reefdoctor to broaden the impacts of our activities. Once we will have successfully submitted and approved our blue carbon project we will widely disseminate this through all social media (including local radio and television).

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

The project was initially aimed to be completed between October 2011 and November 2012. In the end the project was only completed at the end of March 2013. So an extra 4 months were needed, and this was due to delays in construction of local shop, failure during Tilapia first test phase in October 2012 and prolonged negotiations between Honko vzw and the local University as well as delayed field research for the initial phase of the Blue Carbon Project.

**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.**

At the end of February 2013 we still had some budget over, due to not any longer printing and developing the mangrove restoration booklet. But in March 2013, we had substantial damage from a rare cyclone, so we decided to utilize these remaining funds to be able to continue our ongoing programs.

Item	Budgeted Amount	Actual Amount	Difference	Comments
Apiculture programme	1100	1200	+100	Due to extra demand and limited cyclone damage, we had to spend an extra £ 100.
Aquaculture programme	1300	1650	+350	Due to negative results at first pilot phase, we had to restart the programme and had unforeseen costs. And material to measure water quality had to be sourced from the capital, as not any longer locally available and damage to ponds due to cyclone had to be repaired.
Craft & Vannerie programme	1500	2000	+500	The construction of the shop took longer and more material than anticipated, as local people desired more wood for security against theft.
M&E of alternative livelihood programme	350	350	0	
Participative restoration of degraded mangroves	500	1100	+600	Due to a lot more motivated people, we managed to plant more mangroves, but we also had to spend more money.
Research, site visits	1000	400	-600	As the development and printing of restoration booklet fell through, we didn't spend the calculated budget.
Design and artist impressions	500	200	-300	We did utilise some of the budget to develop cartoons depicting the importance of mangroves and the sustainable management to local communities.
Printing and dissemination of booklet	1500	300	-1200	We printed these cartoons, and also had to reinstall an informative panel destroyed by the cyclone.
Workshop in leadership and management skills	250	300	+50	We also organised capacity building workshops for the women association members.

Exchange visits	1000	1000	0	
Research carbon sequestration	300	400	+100	Site visits and stakeholder meetings took a bit more time and effort to be able to have a full participatory approach in creating the PIN for Plan Vivo.
Creation of community management plan and carbon Project Concept Note	800	800	0	
Development & integration of mangrove field course in IH.SM	800	800	0	
Project logistics	600	800	+200	We needed these extra funds as a result of the destroyed bridge
Salary Project Manager	500	500	0	
<b>TOTAL</b>			-200	

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

The community is in the process in developing their 'ownership feeling' of their resources and through the development of the first ever Blue Carbon Project, this can work catalytic for other communities in Madagascar. Lot of effort has to go still in providing and promoting alternative sources of energy for cooking and also to make sure sustainable development of alternative livelihoods. We also noticed improved 'buy-in' of national government, so small-scale efforts do can make a difference when it comes to law application and procedures.

We also have to upscale our efforts to promote and plant energy wood in areas around the village to ensure long term protection of the mangroves and improve people's lives in coordination with the promotion of energy-saving stoves.

#### **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?**

We have permanent RSGF logos around the mangrove Centre and its interpretative panels, as well as on the newly constructed local shop.