

The Rufford Foundation

Final Report

Congratulations on the completion of your project that was supported by The Rufford 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	Edward Mwamuye
Project title	Enhancing the Conservation of Sea turtles and Mangroves in Kenya
RSG reference	1057-C
Reporting period	January 2014 – June 2015 (18 Months)
Amount of grant	£15,000
Your email address	cobecnet@gmail.com
Date of this report	08/07/15

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 enhance mangrove forest protection and management including reforestation for livelihood enhancement and carbon sequestration			Fully achieved	The project has managed to build community commitment in mangrove conservation through protection and rehabilitation. A lot has been done in community farms where woodlots have been established to ease pressure on the mangrove ecosystem. This has had a significant contribution carbon sequestration
To protect and conserve the sea turtles and their habitat		Partially achieved		The war against illegal killing and harvesting of turtle eggs has a long way to go. This objective, has been partially achieved owing to the fact that some of the fishermen have not fully subscribed to support efforts geared towards enhancing sea turtle conservation. A lot of awareness has been done and fishermen educated on the same. Ignorance and attitude change are the main hindrances in this war. The County Government has now moved in the area to work closely with the fishermen and enhance turtle protection. In the future, to fully ensure that fishermen adhere to the codes of conduct towards marine conservation, the project will develop tags for all fishermen in the area and record those who will be going out-fishing for close monitoring of their activities
Strengthening local capacity to natural resource management and promoting environmental governance through establishment of village conservation committees and a community forest association			Fully achieved	Training, coupled with practical/physical activities, have been implemented to the community. Structures have now been put in place to oversee the management of sea turtles and mangroves in the project area. The formation and registration of the Community Forest Association (CFA) and the Beach Management Unit (BMU) is a great milestone towards promotion of environmental conservation

Introduction of income generating activities, (nursery establishment, poultry, beekeeping and fishing)		Partially Achieved		The introduction of alternative sources of livelihood has been positively welcomed by the local leadership and to a greater extent, the county government which has taken up most of the project and pledged support to ensure that these projects are ongoing.
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2. Please explain any unforeseen difficulties that arose during the project and how these were tackled (if relevant).

- The incoming of foreign fishermen from Tanzania who normally use trawlers to fish had not been seen. Trawlers are well known for their negative impacts especially to coral destruction and massive bycatch. Their entry to the project area posed a major challenge especially in sea turtle conservation. To tackle this, the project informed the fisheries department of their presence and later they were instructed to register with the local BMU so that they be members and their activities monitored regularly.
- The introduction of income generating activities (IGAs) was highly welcomed by the community and especially women. Those who benefited from these activities, they spread the word to many women groups in the area who flocked our project office to find out if they too can get at least one income generating activity to undertake. To tackle this, the project staff advised the community that those who have received the IGAs are on a pilot phase and when they are successful, the project will be spread to other groups.

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

- **Enhanced capacity of the local community through the formation of a CFA and BMU:** A well structured CFA and BMU with bylaws recognised by the local County Government and the National Government is in place. These community associations will work very closely with the Fisheries and Forestry Department to discharge their mandate in promoting sustainable management of natural resources. Training has been conducted by officers from the county and national governments to build community capacity and empowerment towards environmental conservation. Several committees such as village development forest conservation committees (VDFCCs), fish landing site committees and sea turtle protection committees have been formed and leaders elected and trained.
- **Mangrove rehabilitation and establishment of community managed woodlots; and enhanced sea turtle protection:** There has been a reduction in the number of sea turtle killings and sea turtle egg harvesting. This is as a result of aggressive campaigns, education and awareness both in local learning institutions and to the general public. Thousands of mangrove plants have so far been planted and regeneration of degraded area is now witnessed. Community farms are dotted with small woodlots of *Casuarina* trees within the project area. Destruction of mangrove for charcoal burning and building poles for has decreased following the introduction of the income generating activities.
- **Introduction of Income generating activities:** These IGAs have been the talk in the area as women and youths are fully engaged and making sales of the products harvested from IGAs. Honey has been locally processed and packed for sell to outside market especially in towns.

There are now established sources of income that other groups are looking forward to be included in the beneficiaries list.

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

The project's implementation plan has taken into consideration the involvement of stakeholders and the local community. A project implementation committee (PIC) was put in-place to oversee the planning and execution of the project activities. The committee had a total of six community representatives in who were very instrumental in decision making on behalf of the local community. Project activities were implemented by the community with close supervision of the project staff and stakeholders. The local community benefited in different ways ranging from training in sea turtle conservation, training in sustainable fishing, training in woodlot establishment and management, training in management of income generating activities as nature-based enterprises, benefit accruing from beekeeping equipment that enables local communities to harvest and sell honey for income, benefit accruing from fishing equipment that enable fishermen to catch fish in a sustainable way and benefits from poultry farming that enable the community to earn income. As a result of enhanced conservation of mangroves, fish breeding and feeding grounds have started to regenerate thus increase fish population.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Having started this project from raising people's awareness on environmental conservation and its benefits to the community, and having revolutionised the community perception towards the environment and mobilised them to active participation in implementation of the project activities, the project to continue this work by:

- Modelling or composing a management team that will take over the management and continuation of the project work. The management will be comprised by members of the CFA and BMU including patronage by Fisheries, Forestry and KWS staff. The team will have to undergo thorough management trainings and policy enforcement procedures and what they need to do to work with stakeholders.
- The other plan is to demarcate and zone a No Take Zone for research, education and conservation. This conservation area will be identified and demarcated with full participation of stakeholders and the local community. With lessons learnt from other areas e.g. Kuruwitu community conservation area, the management team formed above will be empowered to ensure guidelines are developed and implemented to curb illegal activities in the zoned area
- Continue with replication of income generating activities (IGAs) to other groups. This will be done in a way that it will cut across groups distributed evenly in the community. The IGAs need to be replicated so as to increase the number of beneficiaries in the area
- Continue with mangrove restoration and sea turtle protection in the area. The project wishes to continue with this activity so that the community will completely be involved and support the efforts of conserving the environment. An incentive programme will be developed and implemented to encourage fishermen release turtles caught accidentally in their nets and also to inspire the local community to plant trees.

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

The results of this project will be shared during forums where banners printed will be pitched for participants to read and learn. The results will also as has been, be published in social media and this will also be done in the newly established Rufford East Africa Projects – Network face book page. The results will be communicated in meetings and through the project website.

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

The anticipated time of this project was 24 months according to the initial budget of £20,000. The budget having changed to £15,000, it led to a change in the duration of this project. The project was covered within 18 months from January 2014 to June 2015. Despite this change in period, the implementation has been carried smoothly and successfully with full utilisation of the budget. Though the anticipated time was 24 months, there has been no changes at all and the project has been completed right within 18 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.

Item	Budgeted Amount	Actual Amount	Difference	Comments
Human Resources	7,200.00	12,000.00	4,800.00	Extra amount acquired from the Danish Government through Community Development Trust Fund and a relocation of the £400 put for publicity was done
Travels and Communication	1,500.00	2,500.00	1000	Extra amount acquired from the Danish Government through Community Development Trust Fund
Equipment and supplies /Stationary	500	1500	1000	Extra amount acquired from the Danish Government through Community Development Trust Fund
Beekeeping	400	1200	800	Extra amount acquired from the Danish Government through Community Development Trust Fund
Fishing	800	1200	400.00	Extra amount acquired from the Danish Government through Community Development Trust Fund
Beach Cleaning	600	600	0.00	Fully covered
Tree Nurseries/Tree Planting	1,000.00	1000	0	Fully covered
Other costs, Services	200	200	0	Fully covered
Poultry	400	400	0	Fully covered

Awareness/capacity building& CFA formation	1,000.00	2000	1,000.00	Extra amount acquired from the Danish Government through Community Development Trust Fund
Sea Turtle	1,000.00	1000	0	Fully covered
Visibility activities	400.00	0	0	Amount re-allocated to carter for allowances
Total	15,000	24,000	9,000	

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

The next steps are:

- To put in place a community management team that will be trained to take over the project work. The team need to be well trained and equipped with skills necessary to take over the project
- To Demarcate and zone a No Take Zone that will be under conservation and protection. This exclusive from fishing activities and it will be a community marine protected area. The established team with support from the county government and stakeholders will be fully responsible for close watch of this zone.
- To replicate best practices to other areas/groups within the project area. This will ensure that the local community in the project area benefit fully from the project

Most importantly, work in enhancing community participation is not yet over and community involved is key to successfully implementation of environmental conservation projects. Much effort in resource mobilization, support and active participation towards conservation is important and will be focussed in future projects.

10. Did you use The Rufford Foundation logo in any materials produced in relation to this project? Did the RSGF receive any publicity during the course of your work?

No. The project had initially budgeted to produce materials but due to the need of other project items, this did not happen.

11. Any other comments?

Since the beginning of this project with the first funding from Rufford, the project has registered much success as far as biodiversity conservation is concerned. It has therefore been found that there is need to promote social and economic policies and associated mechanisms contributing towards sustainable development and poverty alleviation; and strengthen local community institutional capacities for sustainable management of marine ecosystems