

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	Anna Songhurst
Project title	Community Based Human-Elephant Conflict Management in the Okavango Delta Panhandle
RSG reference	11109-B
Reporting period	January 2012 - January 2013
Amount of grant	£12,000
Your email address	anna.songhurst@hotmail.com
Date of this report	8 th February 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
Train and deploy community enumerators			x	Twelve community members were selected and trained as community enumerators. A 1-day workshop was held to train enumerators in theory and practical skills for collecting data on human-elephant conflict incidents. This workshop ended with a theory test to ensure all enumerators had understood the training. Eight enumerators had worked for the project previously, while four were new recruits. All enumerators attended the training workshop. Enumerators were deployed from January until June 2012.
Select farmers for Community Based Conflict Management (CBCM) and Conservation Agriculture (CA) Training			x	Five farmers in each village were selected to attend workshops on CBCM and CA. In total, 29 farmers attended the training in CBCM techniques and 25 in CA techniques.
Facilitate CBCM and CA training workshops			x	Two training workshops were held. The first one in January 2012 for CBCM techniques and the second one in September 2012 for CA techniques. Farmers implemented the chilli mitigation and other CBCM techniques in the 2012 crop season (January-June). The CA training prepared farmers for the 2013 crop season. Farmers began practising CA in October/November but crops are only at the interim stage now, so we can't report fully on the success of CA yet.
Distribute equipment needed for chilli mitigation techniques and CA to all trained farmers			x	All 29 farmers trained in chilli techniques were given starter packs of cloth, oil, gloves, string and a bucket. Each of these farmers also received 25 kg of dried chilli pepper. All 25 farmers trained in CA techniques were given a trowel, a hoe and string.
Monitor HEC incidents and CBCM usage			x	HEC incidents were monitored throughout 2012 by project personnel

				<p>(community enumerators, field assistant and principal investigator) and DWNP officials. Data from both sources have been collated. A total of 149 fields were raided by elephant in the 2012 crop season, with the majority of raids occurring in Seronga village and surrounding settlements. A total of 11 elephants were killed in the 2012 crop season through problem animal control, with a further 11 in July/August being killed near villages or cattle kraals in response to potential property damage or threat to human lives. One woman was killed by an elephant in Ndorotsha settlement in August 2012.</p> <p>Community enumerators, the project field assistant and the principal investigator monitored the successfulness of CBCM techniques used and CA implementation. Twenty-nine farmers were supplied with chilli deterrent equipment and monitored throughout the crop season. All farmers believed chilli was effective in deterring elephants from their fields. Many farmers invented innovative ways to use chilli as a deterrent this year and some farmers have trained and helped their neighbours to use chilli as a mitigation strategy. Twenty-five farmers were trained in CA and 20 farmers have started to implement this year. So far people have tried to establish at least a 10m x 10m plot with maize and beans. Farmers are keen to see whether CA improves yields in their fields, but struggled with the labour for digging basins and some farmers found it difficult to locate manure.</p>
Environmental community awareness campaign		x		<p>School talks were conducted in the nine primary schools in the eastern panhandle.</p> <p>Training manuals have been designed and distributed for chilli mitigation, chilli growing and conservation agriculture techniques.</p>

			<p>Information leaflets on project activities have been designed and are currently being printed ready for distribution.</p> <p>Permission has been sought from the council to erect educational billboards in the study area. However, we are still waiting for permission to be granted. Once the permission comes through these billboards will be designed and erected.</p> <p>Unfortunately, we were unable to conduct the drama workshops as planned due to the unavailability of coordinators for this.</p> <p>Village Kgosi in nine villages have been visited to disseminate research findings from 2008-2012, a copy of the PhD thesis completed by Dr Anna Songhurst has been given to each Kgotla and maps & posters are currently being printed.</p>
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2. Please explain any unforeseen difficulties that arose during the project and how these were tackled (if relevant).

It was difficult to locate enough used engine oil for all the farmers. We had to transport oil from Maun (500 km from the study area) in order to supply farmers. To improve on this, we asked two safari camps and the local Government Department of Transport depot to fill 200 litre drums with their used oil ready to supply farmers with oil in 2013.

The erection of educational billboards in the study area requires permission from the council. Permission was applied for but we are still waiting for feedback. This objective will be completed once permission has been granted.

We were unable to conduct drama workshops this year due to the unavailability of coordinators. This objective will be completed once a workshop coordinator is available.

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

i) Community members have been empowered to take ownership and responsibility in tackling HEC issues. Many farmers designed new innovative ways to use chilli as a deterrent against elephants, which shows that the community based conflict management strategy is being adopted and farmers have taken ownership in adapting techniques.

ii) Farmers were enthusiastic and willing to try different agricultural techniques that could improve yields and consequently reduce vulnerability to elephant crop-raiding. The willingness of farmers to try new agricultural techniques is a major step towards the success of a conservation agriculture programme.

iii) Community enumerators and field assistant have been trained in skills to monitor HEC incidents and assess the effectiveness of elephant deterrents as well as to facilitate implementation of mitigation techniques. The empowerment of community members to monitor and facilitate implementation of HEC mitigation strategies is essential for the long term sustainability of the project.

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

The local community plays an integral part in this project. People have directly benefitted through capacity building and employment. It is hoped that the community at large will benefit from the project in the long term through improved food security and a reduction in actual and perceived levels of HEC. Farmers have been trained in community based conflict management and empowered to tackle their own HEC issues. Farmers have also been trained in conservation agriculture skills to assist in improving crop yields and reducing the vulnerability of farmers to the effects of elephant crop-raiding. Community members have been trained as community enumerators and employed to assist in data collection and information dissemination. Our field assistant is from the local community and he has been trained in numerous skills and employed on the project for the past 5 years.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes, the project will be continuing and expanding over the next few years. I am currently in the process of establishing an NGO in Botswana which will have the primary role of continuing and expanding the HEC CBCM programme. The NGO and project activities will be conducted by Dr Anna Songhurst (from Okavango Elephants and People Research Project), Dr Graham McCulloch (from Eco Stars in Botswana) and Professor Amanda Stronza (from Texas A & M University). We have recently been awarded funding from USAID through the Southern African Regional Environment Programme and from the Howard G Buffet Foundation for this continuation.

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

Scientific manuscripts will be published in peer reviewed journals for the scientific community to access. Such manuscripts will also be distributed to the Government of Botswana and donors of the project. Project outcomes have been presented to village chiefs and at village meetings (Kgotla) to share results with the local community. Articles will also be written for local media (newspapers and radio) and the project has a website which is currently being updated.

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

The RSG was used over a period of 12 months, which was the expected period of the project. The CA plots are still growing so the outcomes of this part of the grant will be seen in May when farmers harvest.

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
Salary for 1 x field assistant/translator x 12 months @£100/month	1200	1200	0	Our field assistant Ohitiseng Mosupi has worked for the project for the past 5 years. We paid him a rate of £100/month in 2012. In November we won some additional funding and have now been able to promote Ohitiseng and increase his wage.
Enumerator uniforms x 12	120	120	0	T-shirts were purchased and project logos printed to provide uniforms for project enumerators and our field assistant.
CBCM equipment (string, cloth, oil, gloves, trowel, bucket) for 30 farmers @ £150/farmer	4500	4500	0	CBCM equipment was purchased for 29 farmers, totalling £4,350. The remaining £150 was spent on hoes for farmers trained in CA.
Fuel for fieldwork (4,750km) @£0.2/km	950	950	0	All funds for fuel were used
Workshop to train enumerators	250	250	0	The workshop to train enumerators took place in Seronga and funds were used for the venue hire, refreshments and transport costs
Education Campaign (drama workshops, materials & billboards)	660	360	300	We didn't manage to conduct drama workshops or erect billboards within the project timeframe, but these activities are still scheduled to take place in 2013 and these funds will be used then. The school talks, training manual production and leaflet distribution went ahead as planned.
Total	12000	11700	300	

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

It will be really important to continue and expand the CBCM and CA programmes we have initiated, in order to achieve our overall objective of reducing the actual and perceived levels of human-elephant conflicts in the panhandle and finding ways for the two species to coexist. Part of the way forward will be to look at broadening the HEC management strategies we are promoting, to incorporate land use issues and the local economic situation. This will include further research into the elephant movements and habitat use in the area, liaisons with Land Board and other Government departments on policies for land use and agricultural development, and exploration of the potential for a local elephant economy.

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?

The RSGF logo was included on all project documents, including training manuals, letters and reports. We put the logo on our project website (which is currently being updated). We also placed a sticker with the RSGF logo on the project vehicle.

11. Any other comments?

This RSG booster grant has been fundamental for us to implement the findings from the research I conducted between 2008 and 2011, which was supported by my 1st and 2nd RSG grants. It has enabled the project to continue and expand the community based conflict management strategy and conservation agriculture programme that was initiated in 2011 and facilitated the empowerment of the local community by providing funds to employ community enumerators and train and equip farmers in HEC mitigation techniques. Thank you again for your continued support.