

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

Thank you for your help.

**Josh Cole, Grants Director**

Grant Recipient Details	
Your name	Alphonse Karenzi
Project title	Improved cooking stoves campaign against deforestation – continuation
RSG reference	11792-2
Reporting period	June, 15. 2012 to June, 15. 2013
Amount of grant	£5590
Your email address	<a href="mailto:karenzilife@gmail.com">karenzilife@gmail.com</a>
Date of this report	June 20th 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
Enhancing the knowledge and experience of 130 previous trained local leaders and 17 university student volunteers by utilising them as trainers and project facilitators.		X		<p>All 20 previous trained volunteers were available and willing to continue working with the project. This is because ICOSCAD (First Phase) had trained and given priority to low classes students with environmental interests who still need such experience and have some more years at university. In addition, I, the ICOSCAD Coordinator, founded an environmental youth organisation called Sustaining Rwanda Youth Organization. This organisation helps me to maintain high-performing-university-student-volunteers.</p> <p>More than 100 previous trained local leaders (approximately 77% of the target) have actively participated in next phase of the project. 77% was a good participation rate. This was a positive result of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Efficient maintenance and use of data regarding the previous trained leaders' contacts and addresses.</li> <li>- Recognising and facilitating the volunteers during trainings with refreshments, transport, etc.</li> </ul>
182 young people (130 young students from 13 schools and 52 youth leaders from 13 sectors) in the Gisagara district will be trained in the construction of ICS and their role in solving deforestation and social issues.			X	<p>In fact, ICOSCAD project has reached out to a bigger number of young people than that was planned! For the most of schools: we have been conducting an additional summarised teaching session for all students' assemble (500 to 2000 students) before or after training of 10 selected students.</p> <p>This is because of different factors including:</p> <p>Working closely with the schools staff and district authorities. Especially the Vice-Mayor in charge of social affairs and officer in charge of natural resources of Gisagara District.</p> <p>Having at least one contact person from both school staff and students themselves in each participating school.</p>

				Using the team of university students and local leaders as trainers while the students respect and considers them to have outstanding skills and experience. Provision of refreshments for students and other participants.
39 ICS samples (three in each sector) will be constructed for 26 most vulnerable families and 13 highest firewood consuming schools.			X	120 ICSs have been built and properly used by the project beneficiaries. This is more than triple of planned number of ICSs to be constructed. For instance: we constructed 25 ICSs for 25 vulnerable families in Model Village of Kivugiza and 25 ICSs in Dahwe Village. This is because, we have adapted a new version of ICSs which is evenly efficient but much more affordable and easier to construct.

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

- a. Some of selected schools were delaying to give us the permission to start our activities in their schools:

Our actual approach, to inform the school, was to just a formal letter to the school headmaster asking the permission for working with the school. After seeing that some of headmasters don't quickly respond to our request, we improved our requesting document by attaching also the project summary and official district collaboration letter. This approach improved our project impression to those headmasters and influenced them to take our request more important.

- b. Three of selected schools to be trained were Adventists Schools which don't allow their students to do anything on Saturday. While all project trainings were scheduled on Saturdays:

We discussed with the heads of respective schools and convinced them to reschedule our sessions in the school outdoor activities hours (usually on Friday or Wednesday afternoon). So, we conducted our training sessions during school outdoor activities hours and students had enough time to be trained.

- c. Some very young primary students wanted to attend the training while they seem to be not able to efficiently acquire and share the training knowledge:

We decided to conduct an additional summarised teaching session for all students' assemble (500 to 2000 students) before or after training the selected students. We also asked our contact persons and trained students to keep sharing what they learnt with others especially those who showed interest.

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

- a. Decreasing the level of deforestation in the area:

Through encouraging the use of ICS this campaign has reduced the level of household firewood used by up to 75% in more than 1500 families that use this stove (1000 ICSs have been recorded by project evaluation team in collaboration with local leaders while more than 500 of trained students claimed to have built the ICS for their families by early June of this Year. Our current Improved

Cooking Stove Version has been scientifically tasted and nationally recommended by the Rwanda Energy, Water and Sanitation Authority (EWASA) as it saves at least 60% of fuel-wood comparing to traditional stoves. ICOSCAD project has educated 182 local young people and enhanced the knowledge of 100 local leaders about the role of forests. Though, the communities have been encouraged to plant more trees in line with national policy. 3000 trees have been voluntarily planted by local people around Gisagara forest (District natural resources officer said).

**b. Saving biodiversity:**

By reducing the level of firewood consumption and educating young people (young environmental activists) about the role of forests, the movements of people in natural forests have been significantly reduced. Though, this district has protected more of its natural forests and the natural habitats of numerous bats, birds and small animals living there.

**c. Reduced level of domestic violence against women and primary education enhancement:**

The burden of household tasks such as firewood collecting falls primarily on women and children, so by using the ICS the time spent wood seeking have been significantly reduced and cooking times have been much faster. Such changes could help to reduce problems of overworking which are often linked to increased domestic violence. Furthermore it could help to improve the attendance and performance of primary school students who had dropped out of school, or who were failing to perform for reasons such lateness or tiredness.

**Mrs Antoinette**, the teacher at Ndora Day-Secondary School said “I can obviously identify the positive change and improvements in attendance and performance of some of my students’ who have adapted this Improved Cooking Stoves.

**MUKASYAKA M.**, a young lady with two kids married to a potter, said “since I have started cooking with this ICS, my family is happier and house is always cleaner. My children do no longer have to collect woods more than one time per week and my husband always eats on time”.

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

- 182 local young people and students have been fully involved and benefitted from the project as beneficiaries. They have been trained as environmental activists and acquired all training skills that will be used and shared among their respective communities and families in daily life.
- 100 local leaders have been used as trainers and project facilitators. Therefore, they gained more experience and knowledge about conservation and made some money as they were given some participation allowance.
- Thousands of local students from 13 local schools have participated in this project as we conducted summarised teaching sessions for different students assemble. Those 13 local schools have provided training rooms but also benefitted a lot from the project as ICOSCAD established an environmental club in each school. So, these clubs are helping schools to clean their environment.

- 120 local poor families have received Improved Cooking Stoves and learnt how to use them properly in cooking.
- Different local enterprises and businesses have benefited from project significantly. As the project only used local services and products in all steps.

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

Yes. The completed project was mainly aimed to training a considerable number of local young conservationists and introducing a pragmatic solution (Improved Cooking Stove) to the most crucial local conservation problem (deforestation). There have been 13 local conservation student clubs that are courageous, well motivated and eager to contribute on local forest conservation activities. Indeed, the Gisagara community has received well our ICS and suggested other best practices and incentives that can heavily contribute to local forests conservation.

So, the future plan is to establish a Conservation Solutions One-Stop-Centre in heart of Gisagara District that will:

- publically demonstrate and promote the local best conservation practices/solutions including 1) Improved Cooking Clay Stoves that save at least 60% of fuel-wood; 2) Mushroom farming garden against illegal hunting; 3) Improved Bee Keeping against forest burning; 4) Tree gardening for reforestation;
- Practically train and empower the local conservation activists (13 local conservation student clubs and others) to widely disseminate those best conservation practices in their respective communities and schools as incentives for better livelihoods and conservation of forests.

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

At local level:

ICOSCAD is organizing a football match between trained local leaders and Sustaining Rwanda Youth Organization Volunteers (mainly those who worked with ICOSCAD). This match will bring together different people including local government officials, private companies, and big number of local people fans. We will take a time (right before the match to start and after first round) to share ICOSCAD results with all people at match ground.

ICOSCAD has been invited by the national University of Rwanda to present its work during university exhibition in August 2013. There will be different governmental and non-governmental institutions, private companies, students, parents, local and international communities. So, we plan to have the most visited stand in a whole exhibition where all categories of stakeholders will know what ICOSCAD has achieved.

At national level:

We have shared our achievements with the nation through the Geosatellite newspaper, Radio Salus and RC-Huye radio emissions. In collaboration with Rwanda Youth Alliance for Climate Actions (RYACA), the Sustaining Rwanda Youth Organization is planning also to organize The national conference of press different environmental organisations, youth organisations, media and other partners will be invited to share with ICOSCAD Team the experience.

At international level:

We have created and used social media tools to share our stories with as many people as possible worldwide. For example: we have an active Facebook page, Twitter and YouTube account in the name of Sustaining Rwanda Youth Organization.

We plan to keep updating and enhancing the Sustaining Rwanda Youth Organization website: [www.sustainingrwanda.org](http://www.sustainingrwanda.org) , and our RSG project page website: [http://www.ruffordsmallgrants.org/rsg/projects/alphonse\\_karenzi](http://www.ruffordsmallgrants.org/rsg/projects/alphonse_karenzi)

We also still have a plan of making a video of the whole project process in collaboration. This video will be shared on YouTube, local television, public cinema hall, and with other organisations in the country.

In addition, we present our ICOSCAD activities to our international participants who volunteer with Sustaining Rwanda Youth Organization and encourage them to be our Ambassadors back in their respective communities. This has been a very effective tool for ICOSCAD to share its results with international communities. Because I have received several appreciation emails from people abroad that I had never known.

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

ICOSCAD-Continuation has taken over 48 weeks as the anticipated length of the 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.**

Item	Budgeted Amount	Actual Amount	Difference	Comments
Organising meeting with volunteers: communication=£2/ cost of printing=£13/ room rent=£57 and 17 volunteers refreshment=£34	106	106		We printed 35 sheets of information documents rather than 50 (cost of printing 10 pence per sheet)
Transport and communication for selecting and informing target group from 13 sectors: 3 days x 7 volunteers x £12	252	252		
one day theory training for the 13 target groups: 13 Flipcharts=£98/ 26 Markers=£52/ 182 pens= £29.6/ 182 hand books = £109/	775	733	42	Actually, there was £1.5 for refreshment for every participant. But refreshments were not allowed in some two schools. So we saved £42 as 28 participants from those schools didn't have refreshments.

325 people refreshment = £487				
Transport and communication costs for theory training by one volunteer each sector: 1 day x 13 volunteers x £7.2	94	94		
Transport and communication costs of monitoring and evaluation of the theory training sessions: 1 day x 4 coordination board members x £11	44	55	-11	We increased the number of training evaluators from four to five. Because there were two schools that had trainings after others. And then they needed a training evaluator too.
To cover transport and loss of earnings for previous trained local leaders (trainers): 1 day x 130 people x £4	520	520		
Selecting and visiting the most 26 vulnerable families and 13 biggest firewood consuming schools - transport and communication 2 times x 7 people x £12	168	158	10	The vice mayor of Gisagara District provide two volunteers with the car during selection of 25 poor families in Kibilizi Sector. So they didn't need £5 for each for transport.
Practical training and building of 39 ICS samples: 13 Big foyer formats = £65/ 390 kg of sawmill= £274/ 3900 kg of stones=£468/ 234 wire miter=£220/Water=£211	1237	1230	7	By using a new version of ICS, we installed 120 stoves instead and therefore the budget had to change as follows: Cost (transport inclusive) of 120 clay stoves= £600 Cost for stones to fix those clay stoves: £450 Water: £180 This ICS version doesn't need sawmill, formats, and wire. But each family had to provide 2 kg of cow-dung. small stones.
Practical training - Covering transport and loss of earnings for local leaders(Trainers): 2 days x 130 local leaders x £4	1040	1040		

Practical training - Refreshments for target group: 2 days x 182 local leaders x£1.5	546	546		
Practical training - Volunteers transport, expenses and communication cost: 2 days x 13 persons x £10	260	260		
Practical training - Monitoring board transport around the district and communication cost: 2days x 5 persons x£12	96	120	-24	We increased the number of training evaluators from four to five. Because there were two schools that had trainings after others. And then they needed a training evaluator too.
Monitoring and evaluation - Local leaders (one evaluator in each sector) communication cost for the follow up of families and schools:3 days 13 people x £2	78	78		
Monitoring and evaluation - Transport and communication cost of monthly assessment 2 times x 7 people x £10	140	140		
Evaluation meeting transport and refreshments: 1 day x 17 project team members x £11	187	187		
Reporting - Consulting institutes transport and communication costs=£40 and Report writing refreshments= £12	52	52		
Production of the project video for best practice sharing among the partners: £200 and Internet connection cost: £120	320	120	200	£200 is the cost for producing the project video that has been promised the project. So, we will report this £200 to be used after the video being released.



Total	5915	5691	224	So, it remains cash worth £24 in the project case and project video production to prove £200 of contribution.
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### 9. Looking ahead, what do you feel are the important next steps?

Looking ahead, there some important steps to take notably:

1. Collecting and practising the best conservation practices/ solutions that are socially and economically beneficial and adaptive in local people of Gisagara District.
2. Establishing a local conservation centre that will host those various best conservation practices and have a space for trainings of conservationists and public demonstrations.
3. Grassroot dissemination of those best practices through well trained young conservationist clubs.
4. Sharing best practices with as many communities and groups as possible.

### 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 used the logo of RSGF in all materials and documents in relation with ICOSCAD project including PowerPoint presentations, Letters to different Officials, Posters, Announcements, booklets, etc. RSGF did definitely receive some publicity during the course of our work. For instance: I had a presentation on Sustaining Rwanda Youth Organization Activities during the World Environmental Day 2013 in Kigali. Hundreds of investors, one UN heads of programmes, government officials (including Rwanda Minister of Environment and Natural Resources, Director of Rwanda Environmental Management Authority) and other VIPs have heard about Rufford Small Grants Foundation and its impact in Rwanda, seen RSG Logo and website through my PowerPoint Presentation.

In addition, I have also shared RSG link with 50 environmental young activists when I was invited by RYACA to train them on project management and fundraising. Currently, I have been in contact with three young people who need my help as they are writing their RSG project proposals.

### 11. Any other comments?

Because of RSG Funds, I have founded and sustained a very ambitious environmental organization called Sustaining Rwanda Youth Organization. I have also improved my managerial and professional skills.

Apart from previous recognitions such as: the second price of the World Bank Connect4Climate competition, there are other recognition brought by ICOSCAD project success.

For instance:

- Through my organisation Sustaining Rwanda Youth Organization, Global Environmental Funds has provided me with funds worth \$450,000 to expand my ICOSCAD Idea.  
[http://sgp.undp.org/index.php?option=com\\_sgpprojects&view=projectdetail&id=17730&Itemid=205#.UN066axBnIU](http://sgp.undp.org/index.php?option=com_sgpprojects&view=projectdetail&id=17730&Itemid=205#.UN066axBnIU)

- University of California in its horticultural crops programme has provide the funds worth \$2000 and an American expert towards my project of mushroom farming initiative for better livelihood of widow farmers. <http://hortcrsp.ucdavis.edu/main/trellis.html>
- I was nominated by Earth Day Network (EDN) to be the National Organiser of Earth Day 2012 in Rwanda. <http://www.earthday.org/event/earth-day-rwanda>