

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	Angela Yang
Project title	Evaluating the socioeconomic impacts on small scale fish traders in communities engaged in collaborative resource management on the coast of Kenya
RSG reference	13132-1
Reporting period	April 19, 2013 to April 19, 2014
Amount of grant	£ 4558
Your email address	angela.yang987@gmail.com
Date of this report	April 14, 2014

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
Improved natural resource management			Yes	Knowledge of the impacts of illegal fishing gear (beach seines) on the livelihoods of fish traders should reinforce the negative effects of beach seines and ultimately with improved natural resource governance.
Increased community participation of natural resource users			Yes	Fish traders readily engaged in the research and were eager to learn of the results. In turn, this should encourage participation in collaborative management in the form of Beach Management Units, particularly by female traders.
Synopsis of factors that may enhance or diminish livelihoods			Yes	In addition to relative proxies for wealth, a summary of other significant factors that proximally or distally affected livelihoods (income) were isolated and highlighted in the booklet that was distributed to the fishing communities.
Identification of opportunities for alternative livelihood options			Yes	The question of what fish traders would do for livelihood alternatives (“what if there were no fish?”) helped to identify potential livelihood alternatives. Follow-up discussions with fish traders further examined what is needed to improve livelihoods.

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

Several unforeseen challenges arose during the project and required adaptation of the project and adjustment of budget funds.

- a) Power issues in Mombasa and coastal Kenya. Two project laptops suffered irreparable damages during fieldwork. The Acer netbook I was taking to field sites endured months of travel on poor roads and use in field conditions before it succumbed to permanent and irreparable damage to the hard drive that necessitated immediate data back-up onto Dropbox.

The explosion of a nearby transformer in Nyali rendered my main computer’s charger, battery, and fan inoperative, and while I was able to complete the project with temporary replacement parts, I had to divert some of the project funds towards the acquisition a new computer. The budgeted projector was donated by Idea Wild.
- b) Political instability. In September 2013, the Westgate terrorist attack occurred in Nairobi, followed by a series of violent events in Mombasa and along coastal Kenya. Between October 2013 and now, Mombasa has been rocked by a two assassinations of Muslim clerics

and ensuing riots, as well as terrorist activities directed at both the local population and tourists.

The first of several meetings I had planned for the community of Vipingo on October 4th 2013, but unfortunately, Sheikh Ibrahim Omar was killed on the evening of October 3rd (he was assassinated less than 1 km from my office) and riots erupted in Mombasa so the meeting had to be modified. Due to safety and the transportation difficulties, I was not able to lead the meeting as planned. As violence escalated on the Coast, residents (expatriates in particular) were discouraged from being near large gatherings of people so I cancelled all subsequent meetings. I travelled to field sites with my field assistant, Rodgers Charo, to meet with fish traders individually or as they traded fish to distribute the booklets and discuss the outcomes of my research.

As of April 1st 2014, a third Muslim cleric was assassinated near Shanzu on the Coast and all foreign consulates and embassies have warned against travel to Mombasa. The country's police force continues to under a "shoot-to-kill" order.

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

The three most important outcomes of my project:

- a) Evaluation of fish traders. This study assessed an under-studied, yet important sector of coastal communities (fish traders) that impacts the sustainable management of marine resources. While fishers along the coast have been exhaustively researched, few studies have examined the fish traders on a broad scale and in the context of illegal fishing gear. The results of the study provided the scientific basis for enforcing the ban on beach seines and improved fishing gear management.
- b) Identification of significant differences amongst the fish traders other than income. While the primary purpose of the study was to evaluate relative wealth amongst fish traders in scenarios of differing beach seine usage, other factors that potentially contributed to the variations in income; in particular, the income gap between genders was significant.
- c) Moving forward/giving feedback/empowerment. One criticism frequently heard during interviews was that the communities "never" received feedback for their participation and I wanted to specifically address this area because I believe that change happens from the ground up. By providing the fish traders the results of my research through a number of venues (booklets, meetings, discussions), I was able to effectively disseminate this information and encourage fish traders to engage in decisions that affect their livelihoods.

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

Because this study examined the socio-economics of marine conservation, local communities were intimately involved. Fish traders were surveyed across fishing sites ("Fish Landing Sites") that used illegal beach seines, historically did not use beach seines, used beach seines seasonally, or stopped using beach seines.

Communities have benefitted from the project as the results were shared and support compliance with existing law that ban the use of beach seines; improved participatory governance should benefit both marine conservation and livelihoods.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

I had planned to continue this work, and investigated several funding opportunities on behalf of organisation I was collaborating with for the field work. However, at this time, the organisation does not have the capacity to commit to further research on livelihood alternatives. Without the support and infrastructure of an established organisation in Kenya, it is difficult to pursue this work due to bureaucracy and politics.

In discussions with the organisation, this is an area of interest so there may be future opportunities to continue this project. As well, the political and insecurity in Kenya limits travel, particularly on the coast, which restricts fieldwork.

That said, I am currently in Kenya as an independent consultant and am continuing to engage in conservation activities that bridge the gap between biodiversity and livelihoods with non-profits in East Africa.

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

The results of the work has been shared through several modes:

- a) Publication of booklet. Key results from the research were isolated and transformed into a visual format as many of the fish traders, particularly women, had little to no formal education. The limited text was translated into Kiswahili. Five hundred copies of the booklets were printed and dispersed at meetings and visits to the community. The booklets were well received, with requests for additional copies from several sites.
- b) Meetings with fish traders to share booklet, discuss findings and feedback (September/October 2013). Unfortunately, due to escalating violence in Mombasa, planned meetings with the communities had to be re-organised into individual or informal sessions. My field assistant Rodgers Charo and I travelled to fish landing sites to disseminate the research results and share the booklets with the fish traders and fishers during the normal course of their work.
- c) Fisher's Forum (September 12th 2013). The Fisher's Forum is an annual meeting organised by Wildlife Conservation Society in collaboration with Kenya's Fisheries Department to assemble fishing community representatives, scientists and managers, and to discuss topics of relevance to the sustainable management of small-scale fisheries along the coast as well as the conservation of the marine environment. I developed the presentation, which was translated into Swahili, and presented by Caroline Abunge of the Coral Reef Conservation Program. The presentation (in Swahili) will be sent as a separate PDF.
- d) Western Indian Ocean Marine Association (WIOMSA) 2013 meeting (October 28th – November 2nd 2013). I was invited by WIOMSA to present at their 8th Scientific Symposium in Maputo, Mozambique, and presented my research under the "Human dimension and governance" session. The presentation will be sent as a separate PDF.
- e) Peer-reviewed journals - I planned to prepare two papers for peer-reviewed journal. The *International Journal of Agricultural Resources, Governance, and Ecology* accepted my

abstract on gender and fisheries, and the first draft is due on May 15, 2014. As well, I am writing a paper for *Ecology & Society* on the effects of beach seines on the livelihoods of fish traders in Kenya.

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 project period approximated the timeline in the original proposal, with the majority of the funds used between October 2012 and April 2014.

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
Field Assistance	1250	776.06	473.94	Due to political issues and insecurity, alterations had to be made for safety reasons.
Travel Costs	1450	1405.28	44.72	
Office supplies	12	27.88	(15.88)	Electrical issues required the purchase of (temporary) replacement equipment such as a charger and battery.
Equipment (projector)	314	961.01	(647.01)	Electrical issues damaged both project computers and required replacement. Original (budgeted) projector was donated by Idea Wild.
Internet/communications	125	301.33	(176.33)	Electrical issues damaged both project computers and immediate back-up onto DropBox was critical in order not to lose data.
Translation	376	290.63	85.37	
Printing	654	579.91	74.09	Negotiated a reduced fee
Meeting Costs	377	221.50	155.50	Due to political issues and insecurity, alternations had to be made for safety reasons.
Wire Fee		9.94		
Total	4558	4573.53	(15.53)	

*exchange rates:

\$1 USD = £0.66268397, \$1 USD = 82 KES

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

The next important steps are to: 1) continue working with the fish traders, particularly the female fish traders, to encourage engagement in collaborative management and ban or restrict the use of beach seines; 2) formalise a list of what resources fish traders would need to improve their economic situation; and 3) identify livelihood alternatives of interest to fish traders (and areas where they have capacity and access to resources) and cross-reference these with existing development organisations in Kenya in an effort to capitalize on synergies that benefit both conservation and livelihoods.

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?

The Rufford Foundation logo was incorporated in all presentations and publications; RSGF was well represented during the course of my work.

11. Any other comments?

I wish to reiterate my gratitude to The Rufford Foundation for recognising the significance of communities and socioeconomics in the context of natural resource management and conservation. Without your support, I would not have been able to return to the fishing communities and share the results of the research which, I feel, will have the most significant impact for both conservation and development.