

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.

Thank you for your help.

Josh Cole, Grants Director

Grant Recipient Details	
Your name	John Manyitabot Takang (MSc.)
Project title	Community Education for Sustainable Forest Conservation and Climate Change Mitigation
RSG reference	13364-1
Reporting period	June 2013 – September 2014
Amount of grant	£6,000
Your email address	john.takang@engov-institute.org
Date of this report	27 September 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
Organize community mobilization meetings on project activities			X	A total of 16 community mobilisation meetings were held in all 11 target villages in Mamfe Central: Nfaitock, Bachou-Ntai, Okoyong, Egbekaw, Eyangtui, Besongabang, Small Mamfe, Nchang, Eyanchang, Etemetek, and Eshobi as planned. Community members were sensitised on the importance of participating in forest management and biodiversity conservation by adopting agroforestry. Two CIGs were chosen from each village to participate in the implementation of the project. Also, one volunteer was chosen from each village to serve as a liaison between EGI and their village throughout the project implementation.
Organise three awareness workshops on the potential and benefits of conserving indigenous forests and agroforestry initiatives			X	Three awareness and training workshops were held. One main workshop was held in Mamfe town, targeting all 11 villages. Eshobi and Eyangtui were however unable to attend due to poor communication network and bad roads. To conclude the meeting, each village identified a volunteer who will attend training sessions and serve as a liaison person for their village. These volunteers attended two workshops on the importance of tree nurseries for agroforestry practices, how to select seedlings, create nurseries and care for nurseries. These training sessions were conducted by foresters.
Produce and disseminate awareness materials on fruit growing and tree planting practices			X	EGI produced 100 t-shirts which were distributed to the participants of the agroforestry workshop in Mamfe and to community members in the target villages. Furthermore, two radio shows addressed the project on the Manyu Community Radio, and one article was published in the local newspaper that has circulation in Mamfe Central. One of EGI's approaches is to train young school going children on sustainable practices, through school environmental clubs. During the reporting period, we collaborated with teachers from 10 schools to develop an environmental club guide. The guide has a section that helps

				teachers to carry out practical lessons on tree planting with their students. The first copies of the guide have been distributed to schools for a trial run.
Work with village communities to identify indigenous high value tree species			X	This exercise was carried out during the agro-forestry workshop that was held in August 2013. The suggestions made by community members were further discussed with representatives from the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MINADER), Ministry of Flora and Fauna (MINFOF) and the Ministry of Environment, Nature Protection and Sustainable Development (MINEPDED). Based on these discussions, EGI sourced for seeds and seedlings for the following trees: doussie (<i>Afzela</i> spp.: <i>Afzelia bipidensis</i> , <i>Afzelia pachyloba</i>); Azobe (<i>Lophira azata</i>), bush mango (<i>Irvingia gabonensis</i>), njangsa (<i>Ricinodendron heudelotii</i> spp.), and mango trees (<i>mangifera</i> spp.) kola (<i>Cola vera</i> , <i>Cola acuminata</i> , <i>Cola nitida</i>), plums, coconut.
Establish farm demonstration plots and tree nurseries within schools for education purposes			X	A participatory learning approach was used to carry out this activity, in which people were able to learn by doing. With technical support from a professional forester from the Ministry of Flora and Fauna (MINFOF), the identified community volunteers were trained on the identification and establishment of appropriate tree nursery sites in their villages, and how to care for seedlings before transplanting. The decision to establish nurseries in the villages was taken because the village representatives felt that it would be more sustainable in terms of management, and because such nurseries would be accessible to more people. The main nursery has been established in Nchang village, from which seedlings are being distributed to other village nurseries.
Organise a short intensive course for the local extension workers on sustainable agro-forestry production systems and use of natural resources			X	At the recommendation of the forester from the divisional delegation for forestry and wildlife (MINFOF) for Manyu, this activity was incorporated into the training sessions of the community volunteers.
Undertake evaluation study taking account of the experience, best practices and lessons learned		X		This was a continuous activity through the entire project life cycle. Lessons learned were directly incorporated into the implementation process.

				During our monthly review meetings, we went through a process where we discussed emerging challenges and successes and derived lessons that we incorporated into this and other projects. We have featured some case studies about the project in our quarterly newsletter and on our website.
Compile print and multi-media case studies about the project.		X		
Prepare and disseminate final evaluation project to all stakeholders.			X	Besides forwarding this report to Rufford Foundation, we are also sharing it with the Delegations of the Environment (MINEPDED), Forestry (MINFOF), and Agriculture (MINADER) and other stakeholders.

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

2.1. Lack of community land in some villages: It was realised that some villages have lost their community forest to exploitation, settlement or agricultural purposes. For example a village like Emetetek lost large parts of its community land for the exploitation of stones to construct part of the trans-African road from Bamenda – Mamfe - Ekok. For this reason, it was difficult for them to provide a community land on which the project will be implemented. In resolving this, we decided the project participants should use their personal farm lands.

2.2. Poor communication network: The road networks to some of the villages are impassable during the rainy season, and this significantly affected initial mobilisation activities that took place at the peak of the rainy season. Even though many of the selected representatives of the villages have mobile phones, our experience has been that poor network and erratic electricity supply reduces our ability to reach them on these mobile phones when we are scheduling meetings and other activities. Eshobi and Eyangtui are especially difficult to reach, and sometimes, they could not come to the main nursery for meetings.

2.3. Inadequate funding for running costs: Most of our funding, including this project, focuses on direct project activities. EGI, being a very young organisation, is still facing serious budgetary constraints, specifically with regard to staff salaries, office rent and other utility costs which directly contribute to the implementation of its community work. Moreover, the area covered by the project is quite vast and without our own means of transportation, there is a huge cost implication for transportation (bike hiring, etc.)

2.4 Lack of cooperation and coordination at village level: Through communication with the volunteers, we realised that out of the nine villages that have collected the seedlings, only one village is planting theirs on their community land as it was planned by EGI at the beginning of the project. The rest of the eight communities decided to distribute theirs individually for them to be planted on their individual farm lands. This outcome is the result of a lack of cohered action at the village level.

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

a. Informed and trained village communities with enhanced capacity to engage in forest management



In achieving this, 16 mobilisation meetings were held in all the 11 villages in Mamfe Central; Nfaietock, Bachou-Ntai, Okoyong, Egbekaw, Eyangtui, Besongabang, Small Mamfe, Nchang, Eyanchang, Etemetek, Eshobi. During the meetings, community members were sensitised on the importance of forest management, tree planting, agro forestry and sustainable farming practices. Since it is preferable working with groups in project implementation, two groups were chosen from each of the 11 villages except for four villages; Eyangtui, Okoyong, Etemetek and Eshobi whom we decided to work with at the level of individual community members instead of groups. Groups were chosen based on the following factors; their registration status, gender, past activities implemented and if the group is receiving any funding from any other organisation. In total 14 groups were chosen from seven villages after which each community committed land for the implementation of the project which summed up to 132 ha of land.

b. increased capacity of community members to engage in participatory forest and natural resource governance.





Three workshops were held at different intervals. The first workshop was a general awareness workshop with group members and government officials during which group members were sensitised on the potentials and benefit of conserving indigenous species by adopting agro forestry. This workshop was attended by nine villages (Small Mamfe, Nfaitock, Bachou-Ntai, Okoyong, Besongabang, Nchang, Eyanchang, Etemetek and Egbekaw) out of the 11 villages with 150 participants. At the end, one volunteer was chosen from each village to serve as the intermediary between EGI and their respective communities. Each village was given the opportunity to identify indigenous high value tree species. A total of 20 species were identified. The next two workshops constituted training events held with volunteers which was attended by six volunteers from Besongabang, Egbekaw, Small Mamfe, Okoyong, Eyanchang and Nchang. They were trained on the importance of nursery creation before planting, how to care for it and how to select good seeds.



After the workshop, a nursery was established in one of the villages within the project area; Nchang. Since different types of tree seeds can be collected depending on the season, and can only be done by a specialist, a professional forester was hired to supervise the sourcing of seeds and seedlings and to act as the consultant for the project.

c.) Over 8,000 seeds and seedlings distributed to communities

From the proposal, it was planned that both timber and non-timber species of trees will be nursed and distributed to the 11 communities. For the first year of the project, seven species of non-timber trees were nursed at the pilot nursery in Nchang and distributed to the communities. These include;

Njansang (*Ricinodendron heudelotii*), orange (*Citrus* spp.), cola (*Cola vera*, *Cola acuminata*, *Cola nitida*), bitter cola, bush mango (*Irvingia gabonensis*), mango (*Mangifera* spp.), and monkey cola. Meanwhile, two species of timber trees have been nursed and distributed to the participating communities. These include doussie (*Afzela* spp.: *Afzelia bipidensis*, *Afzelia pachyloba*); and njabe (*Baillonella toxisperma*).

These seedlings were transported to the various communities at different intervals. Out of the 11 villages, nine villages have collected: Okoyong, Besongabang, Nchang, Eyanchang, Etemetek, Small Mamfe, Bachou-Ntai and Nfaitock. This was done under the supervision of the community resource person, Mr Takangyong Stanislaus.

At this time almost all the community have planted theirs except for the people of Eyang-ntui and Eshobi who were the last to collect due to the poor state of the roads.



Below is a breakdown of the seedlings distributed so far:

Species	Quantity of Seedlings
Njansang (<i>Ricinodendron heudelotii</i>)	1875
Orange (<i>Citrus sinensis</i>)	759
Cola (<i>Cola vera</i> , <i>Cola acuminata</i> , <i>Cola nitida</i>)	848
Bitter cola (<i>Garcinia kola</i>)	498
Bush mango (<i>Irvingia gabonensis</i>)	2468
Mango (<i>Mangifera indica</i>)	387
Njabe (<i>Baillonella toxisperma</i>)	1000
Doussie (<i>Afzela</i> spp.: <i>Afzelia bipidensis</i> &)	437
Azobe (<i>Lophira azata</i>)	375
TOTAL	8.647

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

The entire project followed a bottom-up approach. Firstly, communities were invited during a brainstorm to identify high value indigenous tree species that they would like to plant. Then, community volunteers participated actively in the building of the pilot nursery in Nchang and the filling of polythene bags. This was aimed at improving their skills on nursery creation. In putting this knowledge into practice, they were given the opportunity to build their own nurseries in their villages.



5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes. The community members have shown commitment by dedicating large areas of their lands to planting of trees. EGI is intending to continue to support the 11 villages in another phase of the project, where they will be able to continue a process we started for establishing village based nurseries. For this to work, representatives will have to be trained by foresters on selection of healthy and viable seed, establishing and management of different tree species and developing a model through which they can manage the nurseries and distribute seedlings to village members.

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

For the past one year of the project, we have been using different means of communication like newsletter, website, Facebook, and a blog to share our results with others. We intend to continue with the same means by writing articles and sharing them using the above media. We also intend to

get into partnership with Manyu Community Radio for a series of radio talk shows on conservation and agro-forestry.

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

This project was implemented over a period of 15 months, i.e. well within the 18 months' timeframe initially proposed.

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.

FIGURES ARE IN Pounds (1 £ = 750 FCFA)

Item	Budgeted Amount	Actual Amount	Differences	Comments
Info-materials (T-shirts, posters, etc.)				
❖ T-shirts	397	429	(32)	We needed to print more t-shirts than originally planned, especially to accommodate participating schools in the area
❖ Posters	293	270	23	
❖ Radio	111	97	14	
❖ Flyers and Leaflets	199	197	2	
Sub-total	1000	993	7	
Tree Nurseries				
❖ Seeds	985	778		We were able to get a professional forester to assist in collecting some seeds from the forests in this area. This helped to cut down on the amount spent on buying seeds and seedlings. Besides, this was a welcome option because seeds collected from the forests in the area are more likely to survive.
❖ Seedlings	1015	975	40	
❖ Transportation of seedlings from central nursery to 10 villages	0	275	(275)	Initially we did not budget for the transportation of seedlings from the central nursery in Nchang to the other participating villages.
Sub-total	2000	2028	(28)	
Equipment				

❖ Poly bags	133	149	(16)	
❖ Watering Cans	43.33	39	4.33	
❖ Buckets	26.67	23	3.67	
❖ Wheelbarrows	246	236	10	
❖ Shovels	29	29	0	
❖ Hoes	22	22	0	
Sub-total	500	498	2	
Workshop and Training Costs				
❖ Flipcharts and note blocks	107	84.45	22.15	
❖ Markers and pens	49	27.59	21.41	
❖ Facilitator fees	249	227	22	
❖ Transportation of participants	605.07	669.67	(64.6)	Due to the bad state of the roads, there was a slight increase in the cost of transportation in the entire area.
Hall Rental	153.34	166.54	(13.2)	
Accommodation and feeding of Participants	336.59	344.29	(7.7)	
Sub-total	1500	1509.54	(9.54)	
Community Mobilizer	500	500	0	Also trained to serve as nursery attendant at main nursery in Nchang
Sub-total	500	500	0	
Administrative Costs				
Utilities	173.76	170	3.76	
Office Stationery	114.49	114.49	0	
Communications (Telephone, internet)	211.75	185.51	26.24	It was necessary to maintain communication with volunteers to ensure smooth running of the project.
Sub-total	500	470	30	
TOTAL	6,000	5998.54	1.46	

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

There is need for continued training of village representatives by foresters on selection of healthy and viable seed, establishing and management of different tree species and to develop a model through which they can manage the nurseries and distribute seedlings to village members. More so, there is need to for the consolidation of local knowledge on high value species as a means to ensuring their conservation. Additionally, studying the socio-cultural issues that surround the use of medicinal plants in the area and generating a pharmacopeia of Mamfe will contribute to conservation in the area. Lastly, there is a serious need to continue awareness creation and

conservation education in the area as a means to promoting forests and other species conservation in the project area.

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?

Yes, we used the RSG Logo on our info-materials, and the press release to Manyu Community Radio. In addition, RSGF financial support is acknowledged in all our reports, copies of which we extend to partners such as the Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife, Environment and Nature Protection and Rural Development.

EGI first reported about the Rufford Foundation support in the inaugural newsletter EGI Bulletin in December 2013, and has also put updates of the project on the website.

11. Any other comments?

EGI would like to extend our profound gratitude to the Rufford Small Grants Foundation for the financial support given us to implement this agro-forestry project with local communities in Mamfe. We equally extend the gratitude of the beneficiaries, who are also grateful for RSGF support. We equally extend our thanks to local communities and other conservation organisations, not leaving out the governmental agencies that have given us their support, technically or otherwise in the course of this project.