

## The Rufford Small Grants Foundation

### Final Report

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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](mailto:jane@rufford.org).

Thank you for your help.

**Josh Cole, Grants Director**

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Grant Recipient Details	
<b>Your name</b>	Veronica Jenge
<b>Project title</b>	Multi-functional assessment and strengthening of wetland biodiversity, livelihood and economic value in Eyasi basin, Tanzania
<b>RSG reference</b>	13785-1
<b>Reporting period</b>	Final Report
<b>Amount of grant</b>	£6000
<b>Your email address</b>	verojenge@gmail.com
<b>Date of this report</b>	24 <sup>th</sup> 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
Community and Participatory Monitoring and research			X	Our monitoring of the biodiversity and inclusion of the community in the reconnaissance was achieved and effectively carried out. Subsequent mini-monitoring exercises were also carried out after the rainy season.
Knowledge and Awareness creation on wetland issues.			X	We were able to hold various workshops and activities to disseminate the wetland conservation and sustainable utilisation measures.
Community Environmental governance and management		X		The Community was able to come up with proper suggestions on the measures for environmental management of the wetland and upstream rivers. It however involved not just stakeholders from the county government but also the upstream community. It was therefore suggested that thorough and longer consultative meetings with relevant stakeholders was necessary at a later stage.
Setting up of the Eyasi Village Environmental Management Plan		X		We were able to set up only two committees which were able to start preparing the management plan, but more is still needed in terms of consultations so as to get to the first draft. We however have made very many positive strides on initiating and reaching a consensus.
Setting up of start-up agro-ecological activities		X		We were able to train the community on various agro-ecological activities such as organic kitchen farming, indigenous chicken rearing, and fruit farming.

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

Being the first conservation project that the community was undertaking, there was a much needed time and duration for acceptance and ownership be the community. We were however able to reach all the members of the community who were to be involved with the project. We also used the

younger or youthful members of the community in activities such as monitoring and surveys. They were able to relay back the information to the community by using local language and dialects that were easily understood and also active in participating in many activities and not being idle.

Another challenge that we faced was during the rainy season and we had to monitor and survey as this would give the results for the wet season. However, we experienced high rainy seasons and floods and therefore the wetland was both inaccessible and dangerous so we had to do it after the rains stopped and lessened.

Sometimes there was a clash with school programmes and exams and therefore we had to reschedule and make adjustments to the plans. The school would also have certain changes or activities and hence force us to change some activities and reschedule.

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

We were able to greatly involve and organise the community into forming a Village Committee for Environmental Protection. This committee involved the old and the young both men and women. It is one of the only forums where both men and women come together not only to discuss the environmental issues that is affecting them but also other social issues of concern for the village. Its success has also seen the local administration getting involved and helping in its running. It has given the women a very open and equal participation in the matters of the community and they feel their views are not suppressed.

Secondly there was a huge success in the capacity building and networking. We were able to train five local community members who initially did not have any formal education. The youths were trained in conservation and other natural resource management aspects. We were able to see the outcomes and the high attitudinal change with regards to wetland conservation and protection.

We were able to set start up some agri-ecological activities which we have been able to assess and believe if promoted further can go a long way in providing alternative sources of income and diffuse the pressure exerted by the community on the wetland.

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

Throughout the monitoring activities, the team-built capacity to the local community members through binocular and telescope use, using indexes in guidebooks, biodiversity identification and sometimes photography. Most of them were greatly involved in both the biodiversity monitoring and the school outreach programmes as they were trained on basic monitoring skills and later they were able to administer and develop biodiversity checklists and carry out some surveys without much supervision.

Some community members were very effective in communicating with other community members especially when there was language barrier. Some local community members are currently involved in translating various biodiversity names into their local language, it's hoped that this will enable all members to read, understand and identify biodiversity in common, scientific and local names.

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

Yes, we hope to continue with this project and upscale it by extending the environmental outreach programmes to more schools around the project site. We aim to create a more interactive forum that will enable many more people to be involved in the project and future projects.

We are planning to look into ways of implementing the already proposed IGAs that will help in reducing the pressure on the wetland especially in providing a source of protein to the community.

We also aim to develop simple interactive tools like photographic biodiversity checklists and short video clips (about the project and the wetland) that can be distributed to schools, community members and general public. As the community members will be responsible for publishing local names of biodiversity, we hope to make few posters that will be displayed at the local and regional offices and resource centres.

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

We have already published and created a poster that we hope to circulate in schools and offices so as to pass on the information on the project. Furthermore, we have purchased our blog domain and we hope to upload all the information and photos in it so that we can reach a wider audience.

We will print several copies of our project report, including some biodiversity photos and share with our stakeholders.

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

The RSG grant was used during the entire period of the project time just as anticipated i.e. September 2013-September 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
Participatory Rural Appraisal	850	800	-50	We were able to use some locally available materials and also reduce some amount on transport as a result of discount from the taxis.
Monitoring and Research	820	870	+50	Some unforeseen expenses especially during the flooding and cancellation of the activity
Training and Facilitation on Wetland Wise Use	970	970	0	
Stakeholders Meeting	500	410	-90	We were able to get some few donations from the local groups that already had

				some different activities and therefore we did not need to buy some supplies
Awareness and Advocacy	700	610	+90	We were able to also reuse some of the supplies from the previous activity
Restoration of Wetland	610	610	0	
Monitoring and Evaluation	200	200	0	
Establishment of Agri-ecological activities	450	450	0	
Project Staff	900	900	0	
<b>TOTAL</b>	6000	5820	180	This money will be used for visiting and evaluation in the month of October and November

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

We believe that the sustainability of the activities is very essential especially with regards to awareness of the wetland's services and value and the conservation measures. The team will try to incorporate different stakeholders as much as possible to start draft a community management plan that will be used by both the community and also policy makers.

Greater campaign on the protection of the habitat for sustainable development and conservation benefits is very necessary and needed further. The success of the conservation will be dependent on further activities and continuous encouragement of the community.

**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 were able to use the RSG logo in our entire official letters to all the stakeholders and also during the awareness creation activities.

**11. Any other comments?**

We are hoping that our work will continue until we see the benefits of not just conserving the wetland but also economic benefits to the community. We hope to apply for the second RSG grant to enable us to continue with the work and also upscale the outreach and awareness programme.