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	Lawir Felix Yuven
Project title	Supporting Reforestation and Agroforestry Practices in the Kumbo Watershed
RSG reference	13865-1
Reporting period	February 2014-January 2015
Amount of grant	£5225
Your email address	lawir27@yahoo.com
Date of this report	06/02/2015

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
1. To train local people on agroforestry and better farming practices that will have the potentials to provide alternatives to crop devastation in the wake of changes in climate.		✓		At least 214 household farmers received on-farm training and demonstrations on agroforestry practices in all the four project communities. This was achieved mainly through the setting up of agroforestry demonstration farms in all the project communities where crops were integrated with fast multipurpose agroforestry tree species. Additionally, a total of 127 women farmers also received training on the production of organic fertiliser commonly known as "Bokashi" (fast compost manure). It is expected that in the long run, this will greatly improve food yields and also reduce the abusive use of agrochemicals and the practice of farm burning ("slash and burn") on food production.
2. To promote biodiversity conservation and reduce land degradation through the teaching and practice of environmental awareness and skills in basic education.			✓	All the three primary schools operating in the project communities were involved in environmental education activities such as tree nursery development and management, tree planting, composting, and outings to nature conservation sites. A total of three satellite school tree nurseries were set up for the production of tree seedlings. At the end of the project, a total of 623 tree seedlings were planted out in all the schools.
3. To produce at least 10,000 tree seedlings of assorted species for the restoration of bare watershed areas and for the replacement of eucalyptus.			✓	The project succeeded to produce over 11,000 tree seedlings belonging to 11 different species in four different community tree nurseries and planted over 8,000 on an estimated surface area of about 20 ha. Also despite resistance from some owners of eucalyptus who were demanding compensation from the project, we however succeeded to eliminate over 4.5 ha of eucalyptus from the different community water catchments within the entire watershed area. In the coming months we shall intensify this particular activity as majority of the farmers who initially were showing some resistance, are now part of the project
4. To train and support women on bee farming activities and link them to buyers in major towns of Cameroon.		✓		The project trained a total of 112 women drawn from all the four project communities on bee farming/honey value chain development. After the training, they were supported with a total of 90 local bee hives which were all installed in the

				forest as well as and other harvesting/processing gears. Within this period of reporting, a total of 24 hives have been colonised and nine already harvested. So far the project has not yet been able to link the farmers to potential buyers of the product. The project hope to develop their marketing skills as well as build their capacity in record keeping before engaging them fully in the sale of product outside.
5. To reduce farmer grazier conflict		✓		We intended to use some of the different agroforestry seeds for fodder production and pasture improvement in order to achieve this objective but since the seeds were in limited supply, we consider this objective as partially achieved as only two in-door training sessions were organised for grazers without any field demonstration.

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

The major difficulties that arose during the project were:

1) The resistance of some owners of eucalyptus (invasive tree species) found in the immediate water sources who were demanding money from the project as compensation before the invasive tree species could be eliminated from the protected areas. To tackle this problem, a series of sensitization meetings were organised with the concerned farmers as well as other individuals who had earlier collaborated with the project to eradicate the invasive tree species. During such meetings, enough time was put in to indicate the harmful effects of eucalyptus on water sources. Other resource persons from collaborating local NGOs with well grounded knowledge on the impacts of eucalyptus on water sources were equally invited especially during the project mid-term review and planning meeting. With this sensitisation approach, the said farmers collaborated very much on the eradication process and also started participating in other project activities which was never the case.

2) Farmers' resistance in adopting new improved farming techniques. The integration of trees into crop farms otherwise known as agroforestry is a new farming technology which is timidly gaining ground in this part of the region. Farmers depends so much on the old practices of farming methods especially the "slash and burn" agriculture and the project had to spend more time to change their mentalities. The approach here used was the setting up of community agroforestry demonstration plots beside traditional farmlands and at the end of the harvesting season, crop yields were compared. Even though, crops harvested from the demonstration plot in the first year was lesser than those from the traditional farms, the cost of production was far below as compared to that incurred in traditional farm lands. It was also clear that, in the subsequent years, yields produced using improved agricultural practices shall be far better than those produced from traditional farm lands. Other benefits associated to the practice of agroforestry or improved farming methods as compared to traditional practices were demonstrated to farmers. It should be noted that at least 40-45% of farmers who received training on agroforestry and the production of organic manure have started doing the practice on individual bases. We hope to scale up this percentage during our next intervention.

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

1) The project successfully trained closed to 88 community members on tree nursery management techniques in the different project communities who intend produced over 11,000 tree seedlings belonging to 113 different species in all the four community tree nurseries and succeeded to plant-out over 8.000 belonging to 11 different species in an estimated area of 20 ha of degraded farmlands and community water catchments. 11 individual farmers in three of the four communities are already using the knowledge and skills learned in tree nursery development to create individual tree nurseries. This is an indication that tree planting activities will still continue in these villages even beyond funding period. Also, over 3,000 tree seedlings remained in the different community tree nurseries that were not yet ready for planting within the planting season. These seedlings shall be maintained and used for the replacement of those that will not survive during the dry season. This is equally an indication that the various communities are ready and prepare to continue reforestation activities in their communities after the funding period.

2) At the end of the project at least 217 household farmers were trained on agroforestry and conservation agricultural practices through the setting up of four different community agroforestry demonstration plots established in all the four project communities. The demonstration farms are intended to be used as indicators to compare produce with traditional farms. The project shall maintain a close follow-up of the trained farmers in order to ensure proper implementation and continuation.

3) Over 425 school children and their teachers representing three village community schools in the project area received lessons on environmental awareness, with field activities such as the setting up of school tree nurseries and management, tree planting in the school environment and nature conservation outings to local biodiversity hotspots within the project area being carried out. The schoolchildren are now seen to be more actively engaged in the ownership of the project after these activities. This is a clear evident that project activities shall be sustained beyond the grant period.

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

Women, youths, school children and the village traditional authorities were very much involved in all the project activities from tree nursery establishment/management, tree planting, agroforestry trainings, and establishment of live fences to protect the planted trees and to a lesser extent, the eradication of eucalyptus from the immediate water sources.

The project has benefited the different stakeholders in various ways especially through training provided to farmers on improved agricultural practices which will in the long run improve their livelihood as well as ensuring a sustainable environment. The trees so far planted in the various water catchments in the long term will ensure the regular flow of water in the communities through out the year. The resulting forests shall also act as a home for wildlife species that are almost extinct from the community as well as a carbon sink to mitigate the effects of climate change.

Additionally, the women who were trained and supported on bee farming activities have already started benefiting from the sale of the first honey harvest during this period. Individual farmers who equally received training on tree nursery establishment and management have been engaged in creating their private tree nurseries where the seedlings shall be sold during subsequent projects.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Definitely, plans are already underway to continue this work. Our overall goal is the transformation of the mindsets of farmers to embrace new farming methods that will ensure environmental sustainability as well as improving their wellbeing. This cannot however be achieved in 1 year. There is need for follow-up of both the farmers, the trees planted out in the field and more especially the establish a community agroforestry seed bank that will guarantee the availability of agroforestry seeds for farmers in the entire region. A farmland estimated to cover 3 ha in area has been acquired for the establishment of the agroforestry seed bank. Farmers in the various communities are already putting a fence round the area.

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

Locally, we have been using a local community radio to share our work through a weekly 30 minutes radio program known as "Know your environment". We also collaborate with a local print media known as the Grasslander to publish our activities.

We also received volunteers from around the world who work with us and help to disseminate the results of our work.

We are currently constructing our website (www.ncarecameroon.org) where we intend to share the results of our work to a wider audience.

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

This first Rufford Small Grant took 12 months as was anticipated.

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 Description	Budgeted (£)	Other Amount (£)	RSGF Amount(£)
1. Training sessions for small scale farmers on agroforestry practices	506	00	506
2.Basic nursery materials/acquisition of seeds for 3 community tree nurseries and three school nurseries	1205	400	805
3. Human resources (Allowances for community facilitators)	780	00	780
4. Support and training of women on forest-based income generating activities (Bee farming)	945	245	700
5. Out-reach environmental education for primary schools in the project area	655	00	655
6. Four-monthly review and evaluation/planning workshops for project beneficiaries and other stakeholders	740	00	740
7. Project documentation/visibility	506	00	506
8. Administrative cost (10% of total project cost)	533	00	533
Grand Total	**5870**	**645**	**5225**

Exchange rate: 1£ = FCFA 759.642

Details of Expenditure				
Item	**Unit Type**	**Number of units**	**Unit rate (£)**	**Total spent (£)**
1. Training sessions for small scale farmers on agroforestry practices and improved agricultural practices				
Agroforestry seeds	Piece	15kg	7.89	118.35
Note books	Piece	214	0.33	70.62
Bold makers	Piece	15	0.66	9.90
Pens	Packets	2	3.29	6.58
Coffee & launch	Piece	218	0.66	143.88
Inorganic Micro Organism	Piece	15kg	6.65	99.75
Renting and transportation of chairs/benches	Lumpsum	4	14.23	56.92
2. **Basic nursery materials/acquisition of seeds for 3 community tree nurseries and three school nurseries**				
Watering cans	Piece	9	9.88	88.92
Wheel barrows	Piece	6	32.92	197.52
Spades	Piece	9	9.88	88.92
Raincoats	Piece	6	13.17	79.02
Rain boats	Piece	6	13.17	79.02
Rakes	Piece	6	6.58	39.48
Polythene bags	Piece	10,000	0.033	330.00
Cutlasses	Piece	12	4.61	55.32
Acquisition of Local seeds	Lumpsum	1	246.80	246.80
3. **Human resources (Allowances for community facilitators**)				
Community facilitators	Months	12	65.00	780.00
4. **Support and training of women on forest-based income generating activities (Bee farming)**				
Acquisition of bee hives	Piece	90	3.95	355.50
Bee suits	Piece	15	19.75	296.25
Smokers	Piece	9	8.56	77.04
Honey Straining Units	Piece	3	32.92	98.76
Acquisition of training materials	Lumpsum	1	117.45	117.45
5. Out-reach environmental education for primary schools in the project area				
Acquisition of indoor training materials	Lumpsum	1	245.00	245.00
Launches and transportation during nature conservation outings	Lumpsum	6	50.00	300.00
Acquisition of water storage tanks for school tree nurseries	Piece	3	36.66	109,98
6. **Four-monthly review and evaluation/planning workshops for project beneficiaries and other stakeholders**				
Renting of hall	Piece	3	40.00	120.00
Renting of Projector	Piece	3	30.00	90.00
Renting of chairs	Piece	300	0.26	78.00
Coffee& Launch	Piece	3	120.00	360.00
Transport allowance for representatives of local NGOs and other stakeholders	Lumpsum	3	92.00	92.00
7. Project documentation/visibility	Lumpsum	3	506	506
8. Administrative cost (10% of total project cost)		1	533	533
Grand Total				**5870**

N/B: Total Project cost: 5870£ Amount Requested from RSGF: 5225£ Local contribution: 645£

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

1) An overwhelming interest has been received from the targeted project communities as well as neighbouring communities which were never included in the project activities but facing similar environmental problems for continuation and expansion. Our next step will be to plan together with the different stakeholders in these communities and identify activities for a possible second grant.

2) One of the most important steps we intend to take shall be to identify avenues linked to conservation that the project beneficiaries could exploit that will provide them with employment opportunities as well as generate income to support reforestation work in the community. The tree seedlings production already started by some individuals shall be promoted in all the communities and the seedlings produced shall be bought by projects within the same area or nearby to support reforestation work.

The bee farming trainings and support initiated during the first Rufford grant shall be encouraged to involve more women and youths.

3) We shall also involve secondary schools operating in the project communities with nature conservation education activities. Three secondary schools in the area have already expressed interest and by involving them in the different project activities, we are ensuring project sustainability.

4) At the start of the project we conducted a socio-economic base line survey of farmers based on the quantities of yields and cost of production using traditional practices. Our next intervention shall provide us the opportunity to conduct a detailed analysis and provide field based evidences to farmers that agroforestry and improved agricultural practices are far more beneficial than the traditional practices.

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 the two sides of our field motorcycle and also during all our four-monthly review and evaluation/planning workshops as well as all other trainings.

11. Any other comments?

Nature-Care-Cameroon and her entire team members together with all our project beneficiaries shall forever remain grateful to the Rufford Foundation for providing us the necessary funds to initiate this reforestation project. The entire project was a learning process for both the implementing organization and the project beneficiaries as well as other stakeholders especially the local partners who through their skills and knowledge in different aspects contributed to the numerous successes the project recorded.