

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	Joseph N. Flomo
Project title	Conservation of threatened species (<i>Cassia fikifiki</i>) and its habitat through natural and artificial regeneration
RSG reference	14178-1
Reporting period	January, 2014- February, 2015
Amount of grant	£6,000
Your email address	flomojnyan@yahoo.com
Date of this report	February 25, 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
Economically viable NTFPs species, particularly <i>Cassia fikifiki</i> are in abundance in community forest reserve contributing towards rural economy.		Partially achieved		The Ebola crisis interrupted project activities but there is high increase of awareness on the value of <i>C. fikifiki</i> and most community members are now involve in protecting the trees instead of cutting them down for their bark.
Botanical garden with <i>Cassia fikifiki</i> as the flagship species established for future research opportunity on the species and other valuable NTFPs			Fully achieved	A total of 3.5 acres (2 acres in Zanway and 1.5 in Powoe towns) of garden established in the two project communities and planted with saplings of <i>Cassia fikifiki</i> and other timber trees species including medicinal plants.
Improved harvesting method and habitat protection contributing towards continuous existence of NTFPs in their natural environment.		Partially achieved		Project community leadership has proposed restriction on the harvesting or cutting down of <i>C. fikifiki</i> as a result of increase awareness on the value of the species. However, this is yet to be documented at community and clan level to serve as a guiding instrument to back the proposal.
Communities become economically empowered through income generating activities such as beekeeping and marketing of honey.			Fully achieved	Over twenty participants trained as trainers of fellow community members in beehive construction and installation. Four beehives constructed, installed and provided assorted materials such as hummer, hand saw, pieces of zinc to support continuation of beehive construction by the communities
Tree tenure right, particularly for the expected community timber woodlots are recognised and documented at district level.			Fully achieved	Community byelaws indicating ownership and management of woodlots and garden developed with support from relevant stakeholders including Forestry Development Authority, district and clan authorities

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

The most serious problem was the outbreak of the Ebola virus disease that claimed lives in all the 15 counties of Liberia. This resulted in government restriction on movement of people from one area to another. We communicated with the project communities informing them that we would not be with them until Ebola is controlled to some level and at the same time encouraged them to continue to work as a group, carefully following what they learned from the workshops on *Cassia* garden and woodlot establishment including beehives construction and installation. The result of this communication was considerably fine as evident by the work done by the project communities during the Ebola crises.

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

- a. *Cassia fikifiki* garden along with woodlots were established.
- b. Project and adjacent communities trained in livelihood activities, particularly in beekeeping and have constructed and installed hives without supervision from project team.
- c. The development and documentation of community laws to guide *Cassia* garden and woodlots.

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

The local communities have been greatly involved in the project through the provision of land and labour for the establishment of the *Cassia* garden and woodlots. They have also been supportive in guiding the project team to identified areas where *Cassia fikifiki* are found to access their saplings and enrich garden. The communities have benefitted through training on income generating activities; supply of assorted tools and materials for beehive construction and increase in knowledge on the critical value of *Cassia fikifiki* and now promoting their conservation. In addition, communities were compensated for special services such as planting material collection and the support provided during forest tour.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes, there are plans to focus on propagation of *C. fikifiki* by means of seeds and stem cuttings as saplings are difficult to be found even in areas where the trees are found. We also hope to include another two neighbouring communities where the species are reported to be present.

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

I plan to share results of this work through print media, through internet and formal discussion with relevant institutions and organisations.

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

The RSG was used for 9 months. Three months elapsed without the presence of the project team on the field due to the Ebola crisis and this resulted to partial achievement of some of the expected

results of the project. The full 12 months would have been ideal for full implementation and achievement of all deliverables 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
One laptop computer	840	840	0	
Digital camera	225	225	0	
Assorted tools for Botanical garden and woodlots of timber trees	903	1003	100	This was overspent and extra money needed to buy assorted non local material to support the livelihood component of the project (beekeeping)
Training workshop	840	840	0	
Planting materials(seeds and saplings of valuable trees species	332	232	100	The difference was transferred to assorted tools to include non-local material purchased to support the beehive project
Consultancy	155	155	0	
Travel and representation	96	50	46	Transferred to communication to buy two cell phones for project communities to be in constant contact during the Ebola crises.
Stakeholder consultative meetings	645	645	0	
Transportation (motorbike rental, fuel and lubricant)	1548	1548	0	
Communication (internet services and phone cards)	223	269	46	This was added to buy phones for communities to keep the flow of communication between project participants and the project team during the Ebola crisis
Contingency	193	193	0	
TOTAL	£6000	£6000		

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

The most important next steps to support the existence of the species is to extend activities into communities where *C. fikifiki* are found, focusing on intensive awareness campaign and propagation of the species with the involvement of the local communities. Identification and minimum support to livelihood project such as organic vegetable gardening to provide quick return to project communities would be an ideal step to minimise harvesting of cassia for commercial purpose.

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, the RSGF logo is used on the final byelaws and constitution developed by the communities with support from the Forestry Development Authority (FDA), conservation department. Apart from this, the support provided by RSGF to conserve *C. fikifiki* was always reflected in our monthly capital city forum where a resource person is invited to talk on critical natural resource and environmental issues of national and international concern. The forum also provided opportunity for us to highlight our activities and the donor that support the activities. Forum results were always air at the national radio station (ELBS) with information on RSGF support inclusive.

11. Any other comments?

I just want to extend my thanks and appreciation to you for your understanding of the Liberian Ebola crises and allowing me to submit this report beyond the required time table. I also want to request for consideration for the second phase of the grant in order to achieve the full objectives of the project as the crisis served as stumbling block, making it difficult to reach the fullest goal of the project.