

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	Isaac Rayola Ondigo
Project title	Promoting Sustainable Services Utilization for the Conservation of Migori River Basin
RSG reference	14705-1
Reporting period	April 2014-May 2014
Amount of grant	£ 5950
Your email address	isaacondigo@gmail.com
Date of this report	20/05/2015

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. Initiation of community education and information programmes			x	The community education has been strongly carried out in conjunction with Migori Boys High school which already has an ongoing participatory programme with the community in Migori River ecosystem and management. This has also been strongly supported by the Department of Environment in the County Government office.
2. Identify bio-indicators for conservation of Migori River		x		We were able to identify 3 bioindicators in the river which included: macro invertebrates, fish and birds. These will be used to effectively monitor the pollution and health of the river within the cause of the next project activity.
3. Capacity building of local community groups			x	The local community was effectively trained on river management, sustainable utilisation of the river resources, tree planting and other environmental management practices.
4. Rehabilitation of Migori river		x		Tree planting was carried done along the river on the mid elevation and lower elevation. River clean-up activities have also been ongoing with Migori High school carrying out weekly clean-up activities involving the community.

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

At the beginning of the project we had some difficulties because there was school suspensions/strikes and also the county government was not operating. However after 1 month everything was back to normal and we were able to engage all stakeholders effectively.

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

i. Formation of Migori River Working Group: This is a group comprised of 20 people each representing a different region around Migori river and from various socio-economic backgrounds - fisherfolk, farmers, women, youth, men, small-scale entrepreneurs, teachers, the provincial

administration and religious leaders. The group was instrumental in identifying key conservation and socio-economic issues that are of interest to the local communities.

ii. Baseline biological data

The team collected information on the key biodiversity around Migori River and managed to record 70 bird species, 35 insect species 14 mammal species and 21 indigenous plant species. This information will be useful in planning future conservation action for the river and for the whole basin.

iii. Information dissemination

The community was informed about the findings of the biodiversity survey while at the same time awareness creation was done on the importance of conserving River Migori and its biodiversity.

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

The local community was involved in the project through the Migori River Working Group. Also, members of the local community were included in the biodiversity surveys and awareness creation.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes. As at now the project has achieved a great deal of its objectives, however in the process of implementation other crucial conservation issues have come up that need to be addressed further since they could not be tackled due to financial and time constraints.

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

i. The reports and images from this project will be published in the Balanites Africa website (www.balanitesafrica.org).

ii. The findings from the biodiversity survey will be shared with research institutions particular Moi University, National Museums of Kenya, Kenya Forestry Research Institute and Kenya Agricultural Research Institute.

iii. I will upload the project report on my personal blog (www.treescene.wordpress.com).

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

12 months. The RSG was used within the planned project timeline

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
Biophysical monitoring	980	750	-230	We were able to save some money from the transport of the project team
Awareness creation	1020	1140	+150	Due to inaccessibility of the road more costs was used in taking other routes. This was caused by heavy rains.
Stakeholders' forum	790	790		
Training and capacity Building	950	1130	+150	We had to buy more accessories such as writing pads and also had more transport costs due to inaccessibility of some roads
Agroforestry and sustainable agriculture	970	970		We trained the community on agro-forestry and also helped in setting up three tree nurseries that are currently proving seedlings to schools and community members.
Administration cost	380	380		
Report writing, monitoring and evaluation	370	250	120	
Project staff	540	540		
Equipment purchase	250	0		We were able to find the tree nursery materials and equipment from the school and some were also later donated by the county government.
TOTAL	6250	5950		

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

The project is done as per the financial and temporal aspects are concerned. However, I strongly feel based on the outcomes of the project and the feedback from the local community, that the loose ends should be tied. This will ensure, continuity and sustainability of what has been achieved so far. Therefore, with input from this experience, the community and my team, I intend to put together a proposal to access funds in order to address the pertinent issues that came up during this project. While other sources of funding may exist, which I will definitely pursue, I believe that the already established relationship with RSGF will be an invaluable foundation for the longer-term conservation efforts of Migori River Basin.

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 was used in correspondence sent to the community and stakeholders about the project. We were also able to use the logo in our information and education activities such as t-shirts, flyers and posters during the community education programmes.

11. Any other comments?

I would like to appreciate the confidence that the RSG put in me and my team by supporting our efforts to engage in community-based conservation. On behalf of my team I look forward to future engagements with RSGF.