Final Project Evaluation Report

We ask all grant recipients to complete a project evaluation that helps us to gauge the success of your project. This must be sent in **MS Word and not PDF format**. 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 – remember that negative experiences are just as valuable as positive ones if they help others to learn from them.

Complete the form in English and be as concise as you can. Note that the information may be edited before posting on our website.

Please email this report to jane@rufford.org.

Your Details	
Full Name	Rogers Katua Makau
Project Title	Enhancing Community Participation In Conservation Of Mbooni Dry Land Hilltop Forests In Makueni County, Eastern Kenya
Application ID	15226-1
Grant Amount	£5950
Email Address	rogers.makau@yahoo.com
Date of this Report	15/09/2017

1. 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 establish Community Forest Associations (CFAs) and build their capacity to enhance forest conservation.			■	Three conservation groups were established forming the Mbooni Community Forest Association (MCFA). Members were trained on tree nursery management, tree propagation, species selection, seed collection and preservation.
2. To establish Community tree nurseries and seed bank to propagate indigenous trees.		■		Two community tree nurseries were established at Mulooni and Kivale hilltops. Indigenous seeds were collected and stored.
3. To conduct forest education and awareness campaign among students and pupils in neighbouring Schools.			■	We conducted education and awareness campaign in five schools neighbouring Mbooni hilltop forests. Approximately 1500 students and 30 teachers participated in the programme.
4. To identify and popularise environmentally sustainable livelihood activities among community members.			■	Members were trained on how to make briquettes from charcoal dust to reduce demand for charcoal.
5. To rehabilitate Mbooni hilltop forests through tree planting.			■	About 5200 tree seedlings were planted in Mbooni hilltop forests out of which 1200 were indigenous species.

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

Due to climate change rainfall patterns have changed in this area. The long rains which are expected from March to May were very short and sporadic hence the area was affected by drought. This affected the survival of the seedlings planted and the tree nurseries and we had to dig out some wells to provide water for the seedlings.

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

a) **The establishment of community forest association and building their capacities.** Three conservation groups were established forming the Mbooni Community Forest Association (MCFA) to spearhead conservation initiatives. These groups will continually monitor and participate in tree planting activities to enhance conservation of the forests. A 3-day workshop was organised to implement capacity building of MCFA members. At least 30 members were trained on tree nursery management, tree propagation, species selection, seed collection and preservation. The members were trained on the best approaches of conserving and sustainably utilisation of forest resources. They were also empowered by enlightening them of their rights to advocate for protection of the forests to prevent further destruction. Trained members were charged with the responsibility of providing technical assistance to other group members.

b) **Establishment of well managed tree nurseries.** Two community tree nurseries were established at Mulooni and Kivale hilltops. The Community Forests Association (CFA) group members propagated seeds which they had collected from five commercially valuable indigenous trees including; *Croton megalocarpus*, *Acacia abyssinica, Makhamia lutea, Melia volkensii and Acacia xanthophloea*. They were also supplied with seeds of commercially valuable exotic trees which included *Cypress lusitanica, Eucalyptus saligna,* and *Grevillia robusta*. Over all, 1080 seedlings have been produced in both sites. These will provide seedlings for re-afforestation. In addition, the seedling will provide financial incentives to the group members to ensure endless support for conservation.

c) **Rehabilitation of Mbooni hilltop forest.** During the tree planting exercise 5200 tree seedlings were planted in Mbooni hilltop forests out of which 1200 were indigenous species. The activity was carried out by Mbooni Community Forest Association group members and the Kenya forest staff. Seedlings were purchased from the local community and Kenya Forests Service. The CFA group members were charged with the responsibility of taking care of the seedlings to ensure their survival.

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

The local communities were mobilised to form community forest organisation charged with the responsibility of managing Mbooni hilltop forests through community participatory approach. The community benefitted from the training offered on seed collection and tree nursery management. They were also supplied with tools and equipment such as wheelbarrows and spades for managing the established tree nurseries. The community also benefited from the training given on how to make briquettes as an alternative fuel.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

There are plans to continue this work and more funding will be sought to initiate other alternative livelihood projects such as beekeeping. There is also need to support the community members to set up small tree plots in their homesteads to reduce pressure on the forest. Since area is prone to drought the survival of planted seedling and tree nurseries will largely depend on availability of water. There is need for training on water harvesting methods and ways of conserving water.

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

A final project report has been produced and will be disseminated to relevant stake holders including the county government and the Kenya Forest Service. We will also provide a link through a Google site for the project report.

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

The grant was used for a period of 1and 4 months. We had planned to complete in one year however due to the sporadic rain pattern the tree planting work was carried out in three phases during three rain seasons.

8. Budget: 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. It is important that you retain the management accounts and all paid invoices relating to the project for at least 2 years as these may be required for inspection at our discretion.

Item	Budgeted Amount	Actual Amount	Difference	Comments
Project staff allowance	1848	2310	462	The difference was due to increased project duration and hence salaries for two months provided for by the contingency.
Transport expenses	700	640	60	Balance due to low transport costs by motorbike.
Communication expenses	40	40	0	
Stationary	200	200	0	
Awareness materials	128	168	40	The cost of printing posters was higher than anticipated cost.
Training workshops	1223	1322	99	The cost of hiring the venue for training was higher than the planned cost

Tree planting	750	750	0	
Tree nurseries	370	370	0	
Indigenous seed bank	150	150	0	
Contingency	541	0	0	
Total	**5950**	**5950**		**Currency exchange rate 1£ = 130 KSH**

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

The important next steps for this project are:

1. Continuing monitoring the forests by the community forest scouts and building their capacities to effectively monitor the forests.
2. Expanding re-afforestation activities to increase forest cover.
3. Training and initiation of other sustainable livelihood activities such as bee keeping to promote community support.
4. Implementing water harvesting methods to store water during the rainy season so as to provide enough water for watering the tree nurseries during the dry period.
5. Developing household tree plots to reduce pressure on the forest for timber.

10. Did you use The Rufford Foundation logo in any materials produced in relation to this project? Did the Foundation receive any publicity during the course of your work?

Yes, the Rufford Foundation logo was used in posters and training materials used during forest conservation awareness in schools and in training workshops. The project was aired through the local radio station Mbaitu FM where the foundation was applauded for its support.

11. Please provide a full list of all the members of your team and briefly what was their role in the project.

1. Rogers K. Makau – Project leader
2. Chris Odhiambo – Conservation awareness dissemination
3. Antony Mbogo – Trainer on participatory forest management and tree nursery management.
4. Mwendwa Mumo – Local field assistant.

12. Any other comments?

We wish to thank the Rufford Foundation for your kindness and support of this project.