

The Rufford Foundation

Final Report

Congratulations on the completion of your project that was supported by The Rufford Foundation.

We ask all grant recipients to complete a Final Report Form that helps us to gauge the success of our grant giving. The Final Report must be sent in **word format** and not PDF format or any other 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. 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. Please note that the information may be edited for clarity. 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	Maurice Ogoma
Project title	A diagnostic multi-stakeholder strategy for conservation of Blue Swallow <i>Hirundo atrocaerulea</i> in Kenya
RSG reference	15488-B
Reporting period	June 2014-June 2015
Amount of grant	£10,000
Your email address	blueswallowkenya@gmail.com
Date of this report	15 th June 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
Develop site-specific action plans for conservation of blue swallow and its threatened wet grassland habitats in Kenya		Partially achieved		Preliminary meetings involving local stakeholders undertaken in both Busia and Ruma. However, finalisation of the action plans are awaiting approval by the specific County Governments (i.e. Busia and Homa Bay) and the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS), as a result of the new governance structures created by the enactment of the new Kenya Constitution.
Determine sustainable alternative livelihoods to be implemented by local communities in unprotected Busia and outside Ruma NP			Fully achieved	Following community-level meetings and focus group discussions locally sustainable livelihoods were identified for the two sites. The potential dominant livelihoods identified included: Busia – fish farming, poultry farming, dairy farming (zero-grazing). Ruma – ecotourism promotion, poultry farming, agroforestry. These livelihoods when implemented will reduce pressure on the fast declining and threatened moist grasslands in the unprotected Busia and outside Ruma NP.
Spearhead the branding of Ruma NP as blue swallow site to promote local and international avi-tourism targeting the species		Partially achieved		A proposal on branding of Ruma NP as a key blue swallow site was developed following series of meetings with local community and other stakeholders. However, the implementation of the proposal will depend on future funding to spearhead its actual implementation.
Continue monitoring the annual population of the blue		Partially achieved		Monitoring of the annual blue swallow population was conducted and a paper on the results is under preparation. However, the ecology

swallow to determine its population trends and habitat use in Kenyan non-breeding range				of the species is still not well known in its non-breeding sites in western Kenya. There is urgent need to conduct ecological studies to determine its ecology in relation to its declining wet-grassland habitats in western Kenya.
Undertake community mobilisation and conservation education as a continuous process for attitudinal and behavioural change			Fully achieved	Community-level and educational outreaches in both Ruma NP and Busia grasslands, local change of attitude towards conservation was achieved. The communities are willing to be engaged in eco-tourism activities and other alternative livelihoods. However, there is critical need to support these locally poor communities to undertake alternative livelihoods. This will reduce pressure on the wet grasslands and promote participation of local people in conservation.

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

The key challenge that we encountered was high expectations of local communities. This followed our continuous presence in the study sites sharing conservation messages and need for attitude change. We tackled this challenge by working very closely with local people who elaborated to the local people the conservation needs for the species and the locally threatened wet grasslands.

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

- Determination of locally sustainable, community acceptable and long-lasting alternative livelihoods. This was done through participatory livelihoods appraisal whereby the local landowners in Busia grasslands and outside Ruma NP and other local stakeholders were actively engaged. These livelihoods when promoted, supported and jump-started through additional funding will drastically reduce wet-grassland conversions and sustain the habitats for the blue swallow.
- The annual populations of blue swallow monitored. This showed a marked decrease from the previous population studies. However, the results will be critically analysed and published in a scientific Journal for sharing with the international community.

- Towards the end of this project there was a marked positive change of local attitudes towards conservation. This followed continuous sensitisation through community and educational outreaches. What came out clearly from our series of meetings with local communities and private landowners is the need to implement alternative livelihoods to promote conservation and provide enough land for conservation of the grassland areas.

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

This project would not be successful without the full engagement with the local communities. Local communities were engaged in stakeholder consultative meetings, community and educational outreaches, focus group discussion and livelihood appraisals. Selected community members were also involved in the project as field officers/guides. The communities have directly benefited from the projects by providing their views that were recognised during livelihood appraisals that produced the list of alternative livelihoods. They gained knowledge on conservation through awareness campaigns and sensitisation meetings geared towards attitude change.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes, there are definite plans to continue the work owing to community willingness for future participation and the partially achieved objectives. However, this is dependent of additional funding to support the proposed activities such as actual branding of Ruma NP as a blue swallow site, implementation of the locally sustainable alternative livelihoods to reduce pressure on threatened wet-grasslands, determining the ecology of blue swallow in its non-breeding sites in western Kenya and support for actual implementation of site-specific action plans for blue swallow in Ruma NP and unprotected Busia grasslands IBAs.

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

The results of this work will be shared with the local and international community through scientific publications and presentations in seminars and workshops.

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

The grant was used over the project implementation period between July 2014 and June 2014. There were no major obstacles that affected the implementation as planned.

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.

Exchange rate used: 1£ Sterling= approx. KSh. 140.

Item	Budgeted Amount	Actual Amount	Difference	Comments
Field equipment	709	849	140	Increase in commodity prices due to inflation
Trainings/workshops expenses	1848	1870	22	Number of participants increased than was expected
Field mobility	1890	1920	30	Increase in fuel prices as a result of inflation
Field allowances	1884	1850	-34	Volunteer services by field assistants
Transport re-imbursments	1386	1580	194	Increase in transport costs
Publicity materials	305	330	25	Increase in commodity prices due to inflation
Communication and field co-ordination	429	500	71	Increased local mobile calling rates
Project M&E	771	771	0	
Project Reports	107	100	-7	
Miscellaneous expenses	420	0	-420	Money used to cover for unforeseen costs in the other budget lines
Total	10000	10000	0	

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

There is need to continue the activities of this work and to initiate new ones following the results of this work. Key areas that need to be followed immediately include the following:

- Determine the ecology of blue swallow in its non-breeding season in western Kenya.
- Implement selected locally sustainable alternative livelihoods identified by communities and local stakeholders during participatory livelihoods appraisal to reduce pressure on the locally threatened wet-grassland habitats of blue swallow.
- Consider reviewing the status of blue swallow from Vulnerable to Endangered following the decreasing population trend and threats to its habitats.
- Promote ecotourism activities around Ruma NP to reduce hunting of birds and provide a source of income for local residents for their participation in conservation related activities outside the park.
- Conduct structured discussions and deliberations at national level to facilitate the branding of Ruma NP as a key blue swallow site by the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS)

- Fundraise for additional funding to implement the above activities.

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

Yes, The Rufford Foundation logo was used in all the publicity materials and presentations during project activities implementation. The Rufford Foundation was also acknowledged in all the publications and presentations as the project donor in recognition of the financial support offered for the project.

11. Any other comments?

The next stage for continuation and implementation of this project will be critical to achieve long-lasting conservation objectives. I and my project team would like to apply to the Rufford Foundation for funding in the next stage for the project.