

## 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](mailto:jane@rufford.org).

Thank you for your help.

**Josh Cole, Grants Director**

Grant Recipient Details	
Your name	Madeleine Nyiratuza
Project title	Strengthening the capacity of local farmers to reduce conflicts between them and the managers of the Gishwati Forest Reserve, Rwanda
RSG reference	15637-2
Reporting period	July 2014-June 2015
Amount of grant	£4950
Your email address	nyiratuzam@gmail.com
Date of this report	July 22nd 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
Train members of JYAMBERE cooperative in improving honey quality			x	JYAMBERE members appreciated this grant that helped them to acquire additional knowledge about beekeeping. The training was successful and 15 of members of JYAMBERE have been trained in improving honey quality in 10 days. 15 trainees trained other members of JYAMBERE in teams during 5 days with the supervision of FHA and local beekeepers Union (UNICOAPIGI). The training focused on techniques of harvesting honey, how to store, mix and process honey and the standards of hygiene.
Improving and expanding apiaries			x	UNICOAPIGI assisted JYAMBERE to improve and expand the existing two apiaries.
Support JYAMBERE Cooperative to buy new beehives and installing them		x		JYAMBERE cooperative members, under assistance by UNICOAPIGI chose the good quality of beehives. The new beehives were bought and placed in apiaries.
Caring for apiaries, beehives and bees		x		Through this grant, JYAMBERE members continued caring for bees, apiaries and beehives. UNICOAPIGI members visited twice and supported them to ensure that they harvest the honey of good quality. FHA and UNICOAPIGI monitored all activities and the final evaluation showed that the project achieved its objectives by 95%. The main problem we encountered while implementing this project is the delay in installing beehives because of the rain that prevented us to finalise the improvement and expansion of the apiaries.

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

The difficulty met during the implementation of this project was related to the delay in improving and expanding apiaries and this was related to the unusual long period of rain that we experienced. This prevented us to provide a second progress report. UNICOAPIGI and JYAMBERE were able to implement this activity during June 2015. JYAMBERE cooperative members were able to install additional beehives during the first and second week of July 2015. Also JYAMBERE cooperative members did not get enough income from honey and wax selling as it was expected because of

climate conditions. Some of the bees died and FHA contributed £200 buy traditional beehives with bees to replace the loss.

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

The three most important outcomes of this project are:

**- Members of JYAMBERE cooperative gained additional knowledge about improving honey quality:**

As it was planned, three beekeepers from the three local other beekeeping cooperatives (COAPIRU, CODACE and COVED), and one person from UNICOAPIGI (a local beekeepers cooperative union) trained 15 members of JYAMBERE in improving honey quality in 10 days. These 15 trained people, under supervision of FHA and UNICOAPIGI, went and trained other members of JYAMBERE in teams during 5 days. All this training was mainly focusing on: how to harvest, how to know and prepare the honey of the best quality in beehives, how to store, mix and process honey, and standards of hygiene in caring for bees. Trainings covered theory and practical and participants showed that they even still remember what they have learnt a lot during the previous training in modern beekeeping. The training was successful and JYAMBERE members gained additional knowledge to improve the quality of the honey they are selling to UNICOAPIGI to be processed. This training also improved the way cooperative members were using for caring for bees which will increase their productivity.

**-Expansion and improving JYAMBERE apiaries:** This project helped to increase the capacity of JYAMBERE apiaries to host many beehives, thus the increase in honey production. We are confident that the cash income of the cooperative will continue to increase and contribute to local community development while reducing the non-sustainable use of the forest resources by the cooperative members. We estimate that this project will increase the annual income of this forest by half. Each cooperative member may get around £140.

**-The conflict between JYAMBERE cooperative members and the managers of the Gishwati Forest Reserve is reduced:** As mentioned above, we have renewed the agreement about the revenue from the honey sale where JYAMBERE members will be using 30% of the revenue from selling honey to buy wire to fence their ranches and 10% to buy fresh maize and maize flour. The aim of this agreement is to strengthen the mutual understanding to continue avoiding planting maize within 300 m in the vicinity of the forest and ensuring that the money contributes to the welfare of the farmers' families. We have realised that all farmers have fenced their plots to prevent cows from entering the forest. The decline in cattle grazing is confirmed by the reports of Community Forest Protection Initiative (CFPI) Agents who patrol the forest and provide weekly reports on people who illegally use the forest resources. We have also seen that they have reduced planting maize in the vicinity of the forest and nowadays they are growing potatoes and other crops that are no raided by Gishwati primates. This shows how this project is changing local people attitude towards the forest conservation.

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

All member of JYAMBERE are beneficiaries of this grant and they have been involved in all activities of this grant. They participated in the inception meeting organised by FHA to explain to them the components of the project and to discuss how the agreement made between them and FHA when starting this beekeeping business (the previous grant received from Rufford Foundation) will be renewed. As mentioned above, they have already started to respect what is written in this agreement. This shows their commitment in reducing the conflict between them and the forest

managers and how they are involved in this project activity. Also FHA involved three beekeepers from the three local beekeeping cooperatives and one person from UNICOAPIGI in this project through training JYAMBERE members. All JYAMBERE members have been trained about improving the honey quality. We are confident that this training strengthened their capacity in caring for bees and improving their production process and quality. They have also participated in the activities of improving and expanding their apiaries and their income is also expected to increase as results of this expansion. FHA has paid a fee to UNICOAPIGI and its three cooperatives (COAPIRU, CODACE and COVED) that JYAMBERE joined, to assist JYAMBERE to improve and expand the two apiaries, orient and monitor their work.

#### **5. Are there any plans to continue this work?**

We have plans to continue this work. JYAMBERE started to gather income that will contribute to the expansion of this business around the forest. JYAMBERE members also have an informal microfinance in which they earn benefits (from interest) in lending money to cooperative members and other local people. This project stabilized their income and increased their benefits. We expect that JYAMBERE cooperative members will be able to maintain and expand this work using the cash income from selling honey and wax. FHA will continue supporting this work through writing and submitting grant proposals to different donors. If received they will build on this and previous grant achievements to expand beekeeping around Gishwati.

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

We will share the result of this grant in FHA activities annual reports to our partners and this will also be shared in meetings with stakeholders. We will post the final report of this project to the FHA website and share it with JYAMBERE and UNICOAPIGI.

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

We started implementing this grant in August 2014 and we ended in July 2015. We had a delay of 2 weeks because we experienced an unexpected long period of rain which delayed building activities. We also plan to apply for a continuation fund to RSGF.

#### **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.**

When we bought equipment 1£ was 1,129 Rwandan Francs.

Item	Budgeted Amount	Actual Amount	Difference	Comments
Trainings in improving honey quality (training equipment, materials, transportation and fees to trainers)	640	632	8	Balance from exchange rate.
Fee to UNICOAPIGI for follow up and guidance	200	194	6	Balance from exchange rate
Buying modern beehives	1,740	1,729	11	Balance from exchange rate
Buying traditional beehives	270	242	28	£ 5 from exchange rate and £20 from reducing

				the number of traditional beehives from 28 to 26
Buying queen excluders	420	420	0	
Buying metal sheets	640	717	-77	Added amount from the money that remained while buying the woods to make the roofs of apiaries and the shelves for the beehives
Buying bricks	350	396	-46	Added from the balance on buying traditional beehives and the balance from reducing the number of woods for the roofs and shelves.
Buying wood for the roofs and shelves for beehives	350	265	85	Balance from reducing the number of woods for the roofs and shelves
Buying the wire to protect beehives	340	353	-13	Added from balances on exchange rate.
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,950</b>	<b>4,948</b>	<b>2</b>	

**FHA added £ 500 to the trainings in improving honey quality.**

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

The next steps are continuing caring for the apiaries, beehives and bees. It will be also important to continue working with JYAMBERE to make sure that they became able to maintain and expand this work using cash income from selling honey and wax, and that they improve their harvesting process and the honey quality. Gishwati Forest Reserve will become a national park soon. The law was approved by the Rwandan cabinet and now it is in the parliament. FHA will assist JYAMBERE to explore the possibility of starting a beekeeping and honey tourism product. FHA also will continue writing grant proposals to upscale this project.

### 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, we used the Rufford Foundation logo in the film that FHA is producing about 7 year achievements conserving Gishwati. We have also acknowledged the Rufford Foundation among FHA donors, in the report produced by FHA about 7 years in the conservation of Gishwati. Also in grant proposals that we write, we acknowledge the support of RSGF as the source of funding to start the beekeeping business in the vicinity of the forest. Also this project appears in FHA activities that were featured by CNN in 2014. These are the links to the videos:

- Nyiratuza: Protecting Rwanda's forests (<http://edition.cnn.com/video/data/2...>)
- Eco-guards patrol Rwandan forest (<http://edition.cnn.com/video/data/2...>)

- Rwandan children attend 'Eco-clubs' (<http://edition.cnn.com/video/data/2...>)

#### **11. Any other comments?**

We thank very much the RSGF for supporting these farmers to expand the beekeeping business. The project has positive effects on: changing local people attitude towards the forest conservation; the forest regeneration; its biodiversity and local livelihoods. We hope to continue working with RSGF to upscale this beekeeping business for local farmers and in other projects.