

## The Rufford Foundation Final Report

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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**

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Grant Recipient Details	
<b>Your name</b>	Lawir Felix Yuven
<b>Project title</b>	Supporting Reforestation and Agroforestry Practices in the Kumbo Watershed, a Pathway for Livelihood Improvement and Biodiversity Sustainability.
<b>RSG reference</b>	17561-2
<b>Reporting period</b>	June 2015-May 2016
<b>Amount of grant</b>	£5000
<b>Your email address</b>	lawir27@yahoo.com
<b>Date of this report</b>	25 <sup>th</sup> May 2016

**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
<p>1. To establish a community agroforestry seed bank for local seeds production</p>				<p>A 10 ha piece of land common to all the four project communities has been transformed into a community agroforestry seed bank and planted with 3,798 tree seedlings belonging to 14 different species acquired from the various community tree nurseries as well as from individual tree nurseries. In order to protect the trees planted in the seed bank from destruction by stray animals, a plank fence as well as a live fence was established all-round the site. Additionally, 37 interested women farmers were selected from all the project communities and trained to cultivate the site before desired trees were planted. The intention was that, while these farmers are taking care of the food crops cultivated, they will equally take care of the planted trees and this will ensure a high survival rate.</p>
<p>2. To train women on honey production and processing, develop their market potentials and link them to buyers of honey and honey products in town.</p>				<p>87 out of the 120 women farmers earmarked for this activity were successfully trained on modern bee farming techniques and honey processing. Apart from providing them with additional bee hives which they installed in the various community watersheds, they were equally provided a honey processing unit which has greatly helped to improve on the quality of honey. Even though production is yet to witness a high rate, the women are gradually being organised into marketing groups as well as gaining skills on sourcing for better market outlets for the sale of their produce. In our next intervention, they shall be organised to form a women honey cooperative. Through this, they will</p>

			<p>be able to harmonise prices for the sale of their honey and honey products without any exploitation from middlemen. The formation of a women honey cooperative will equally enable these women to expand on their honey business and this will ensure the sustainability of our intervention especially after funding ends.</p>
<p>3. To establish and strengthen the capacity of a functional community agroforestry seed bank and management committee</p>			<p>A community agroforestry seed bank and management committee with 24 members was elected by the rest of the community members and put in place. Their main roles will be to strictly ensure the survival rates of the planted trees, check and monitor all forms of illegal activities in and around the community agroforestry seed bank and mobilise other community members to initiate activities that will ensure the restoration and protection of the seed bank such as replacement of trees that did not survive, organise community fire tracing campaigns in and around the seed bank, repair of damage fences, eradication of invasive species in and around the seed bank. In our next intervention, their status shall be legalised as a community-based organisation by the competent authorities. Members of the management committee shall equally undertake learning visits to successful conservation sites in the region to share and exchange ideas on best practices during our next intervention.</p>

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

During the implementation of this project, we encountered one major unforeseen difficulty that almost hindered the smooth progress of the various planned activities. This difficulty arose from some members in one of the project communities (Yeh village) who wanted that the agroforestry seed bank be established in their own community and not in the community where the required land and other facilities were already allocated and unanimously agreed by the rest of the project communities. Based on this, they were detaching members of that community from

participating in the different field activities and this actually slowed down the progress of planned activities considering the time spent in resolving these differences.

To sort out a lasting solution, the project took out time enough to organise a series of meetings first with leaders of the concerned community and their community members and then joint meetings with the rest of the project communities. During such meetings, experts especially those involved in conflict management from other collaborating NGOs were invited to provide expert advice to all the communities that the seed bank belongs to all of them and cannot be established in separate communities at once. It was equally demonstrated to them that the site for the location of the seed bank was where the main water source supplying all the rest of the communities is found and establishing an agroforestry tree cover there will help to conserve and protect the water source thereby in the long run addressing issues of water scarcity in the various communities. Additionally, during the creation of the management committee, the positions of the president and vice president were given to this community. Through these approaches, their participation in field activities has been very encouraging as most of the meetings to next field activities are being planned in this community.

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

- 1) One of the most important outcomes of this initiative was the success made in resolving the problem that arose from one of the project communities with respect to the location of the agroforestry seed bank. The outcome of the solution to this problem which was very much agreed and accepted by all the communities has been a resounding motivating factor towards the attainment of the major project activities and other community mobilised works. It has equally strengthened and brought in a stronger social cohesion amongst community members towards carrying out other community works as one person. It is also thanks to this that we were able to establish the 10 ha agroforestry seed bank in a piece of land that is common and acceptable by all the community members. Additionally, the surviving rate of the over 3,798 tree seedlings planted out on the seed bank has been attributed to the joint efforts of the entire community members who at the initial stage of the project decided to protect the young trees from destruction by stray animals by providing a fence all around the site. Furthermore, the 37 interested women on their part who were selected and trained to cultivate the site before desired tree species were planted, equally contributed very much for the over 85% survival rate of these trees. Since the same women participated in the tree planting exercise, and as they were taking care of their crops, they were equally taking care of the trees.
- 2) The adoption of agroforestry by majority of the farmers is now seen as a common practice in all the project communities. This is also one of the most important outcomes of this project because during our first Rufford grant, adoption of this farming practice was very timid as it was being newly introduced to the farmers. This outcome also fits exactly with our long term objectives of changing the mindsets of farmers to adopt sustainable

agricultural practices that combines food crops/animals and trees on the same piece of land to enhance their yields and income especially in the wake of changes in climate. Farmers are now able to use the knowledge and skills learned during the previous interventions to produce different agroforestry tree species for diverse reasons but more especially to integrate them into their farming systems as well as producing fodder for their animals.

- 3) The bee farming component of this project though not yet fully developed and organised as expected, equally produced remarkable outcomes as women are now very much involved in all the stages of bee farming practices ranging from beehive construction, installation, harvesting of honey, processing and marketing. This is an enterprise that was purely in the hands of men before this project. It is hoped that when the sector is fully developed and organised into a women honey cooperative during our next intervention with key actors being women, it will not only help to create financial wealth amongst the women, but it will equally be an opportunity for the initiative to be replicated in other communities.

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

We involved especially women and youth in all the four project communities in all the project activities and they have all benefitted from the project in various ways. Firstly, they were all involved in the planning and implementation of all the project activities such as tree nursery development, tree planting, protection of the trees planted out, eradication of invasive species in and around the seed bank and above all they were able to participate in all the two 6-monthly review and planning workshops, a forum where they were able to exchange ideas on the progress of the project and evaluate the work carried out in the last 6 months as well as making proposals and plans for the next 6 months. Apart from this, they have equally benefitted from the numerous trainings, provision of start-up capitals such as bee hives, harvesting and processing units as well as the different agroforestry seeds that were raised and planted out in the seed bank as well as on individual farm lands.

In the long run, the newly established seed bank once fully developed will benefit the local communities in various ways such as addressing their agroforestry seed needs, water conservation, provide a habitat for wildlife, provide additional income to the community as a source of eco-tourism and study sites for students carrying out research in natural resource management.

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

Absolutely, we have plans to continue this work. Our overall goal is the transformation of the mind-sets of farmers to embrace new farming methods that will ensure environmental sustainability as well as improving their wellbeing. Additionally, we do not want farmers to keep depending on agroforestry seeds from abroad. All these cannot however be achieved in 12 months.

There is need to follow-up the already trained and supported bee farmers and organised them into a women honey cooperative where they can effectively make decisions on what they produce.

During the implementation of this project, some communities which were not included in the project expressed interests in our activities. These communities have similar environmental problems like the other four communities. We intend to up-scale our tree planting activities and other activities to these communities as well as instilling knowledge of biodiversity conservation in them during our next programme.

Finally, there is need for follow-up the various farmers trained in different agroforestry practices, and more especially, the trees planted out in the agroforestry seed bank to ensure project success and sustainability.

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

At the local level, we have entered into partnership with a local community radio to share our work through a weekly 30 minutes radio programme known as "Know your environment". This radio programme since its inception in 2014 is now listened all over the entire region especially with the installation of new transmitters by the community radio. We also collaborate with a local print media known as the Grasslander to publish our activities.

As we also receive volunteers from around the world who work with us they equally help to disseminate the results of our work.

We are presently constructing our website ([www.ncarecameroon.org](http://www.ncarecameroon.org)) where we intend to share the results of our work to a wider audience.

In our next intervention, we shall be exploiting other social media such as Facebook and Twitter to share our work to a wider audience.

#### **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 for 12 months as anticipated.

#### **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
Acquisition of additional seeds and polythene bags	800	925	-125	A total of 27 individual farmers were involved in the establishment of private tree nurseries and therefore the quest for more seeds and polythene bags was higher than anticipated
Acquisition of fencing materials for the agroforestry seed bank	700	600	+100	Community members contributed most of the local materials as well as labour for the fencing
Acquisition of a honey processing unit and training of farmers on marketing skills	800	800	00	
Creation and strengthening the capacity of on community agroforestry seed bank and management committee and the legalization of their status	650	650	00	
Transport allowance for two project volunteers for 12 months	240	200	+40	The peace corps term of one of our volunteers ended two months before the project life span
Human Resources (Salary of two field staffs) for 12 months	720	720	00	
6-monthly review and planning workshops	240	240	00	
Purchase of tree seedlings from private tree nursery owners	250	350	-100	We encouraged all the 27 individual farmers who established private nurseries by acquiring seedlings from all of them.
Project documentation	250	250	00	
Administrative cost	350	350	00	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5000</b>	<b>5085</b>	<b>-85</b>	Exchange rate: 1£ = FCFA 802

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

- I. An overwhelming interest has been received from the targeted project communities as well as other communities which facing similar environmental problems for continuation and expansion. Our next step will be to plan together with the different stakeholders in these communities and identify activities for a possible booster grant.
- II. It is also true that if you don't see or know or have an idea of what others are doing elsewhere, you can't say that yours is the best or the worst. In our next intervention, we intend to carry out learning visits to nearby communities having a track record of best community forest management for a better exchange of knowledge, experiences and ideas.
- III. The bee farming component of the project is still not fully developed and organised. Our next steps will be to transform the enterprise into a honey cooperative run by women. Through this, they can effectively make good decisions on the products they produce from the sector and this will greatly improve their income levels as well as the general wellbeing of their families.
- IV. Our target for this project was to plant at least 5,000 tree seedlings of varied species in the seed bank. We ended up planting just 3,798 trees as most of the seedlings were not yet ready for planting during the planting season. Our next step will be to maintain the over 4,000 tree seedlings still found in the various community tree nurseries as well as in individual tree nurseries and plant-out in order to attain the number we earmarked. We shall also use part of these tree seedlings to replace those that did not survive in the seed bank as well as in the various community watersheds.
- V. At the start of the project we conducted a socio-economic base line survey of farmers based on the quantities of yields and cost of production using traditional practices. We have been tracking the changes in terms of food production and income levels of the beneficiaries and it will be an opportunity for us to conduct a detailed analysis and provide field-based evidences to farmers that agroforestry and improved agricultural practices are far more beneficial than the traditional practices. This will surely happen during our next intervention.

## **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, apart from using the RSG logo on the two sides of our field motorcycle, we have been using the logo during all our trainings as well as during the six-monthly review and planning workshops

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

The funding we have received from the RSGF has made our field work for this project possible. We cannot express how incredibly grateful we are for this generous financial support.



The entire project was a learning process for the implementing organisation as well as an exposure for the project beneficiaries. Through this project, we have been able to make new contacts, meet new friends and above join networks that all helped to contribute in one way or the other to the numerous successes recorded during this project.



Left to right: Construction of the plank fence round the agroforestry seed bank; Farmers cultivating the seed bank before trees are being planted & Planting of live fencing beside the plank fence.



Left to right: Integration of agroforestry trees into crop farms & Maize farm intercropped with agroforestry trees.