

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	Faith Milkah Ngugi
Project title	Enhancing Community Participation in Lake Nakuru catchment Environmental Conservation: A case of River Njoro Watershed
RSG reference	20.05.08
Reporting period	October 2008 – October 2009
Amount of grant	£5807
Your email address	fngugi2001@yahoo.com
Date of this report	December 28 th 2009

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
Community mobilisation			Fully achieved	The entry point to the community was well facilitated by chiefs and sub-chiefs from provincial administration. The people were divided according to their interests and community association. The groups have other activities besides the project training and so they will continue and future project activities will have a foundation to build on.
Training on environmental issues in the watershed			Fully achieved	The community in the lower and middle reaches of the watershed understood the activities that they do and lead to watershed degradation and drying or polluting of river Njoro that they depend on. The training also covered what they should do to recover. They went round the watershed to see the negative effects of sand mining in the lower watershed (it is now undergoing rehabilitation). River bank cultivation, cattle watering right in the river, logging, siltation, abstraction and pollution they could identify with. They are now reaching out to other residents with the message of how to reduce this pressure on the river.
Training on benefits from a well maintained natural/environmental resources			Fully achieved	This also took the direction of action plan for the groups in regard to conservation. This will be the basis of follow up by the support group of stakeholders.
Training on positive participation by the local people			Fully achieved	The watershed has suffered in the past because of lack of participation by community who are primary stakeholders benefiting and affecting the watershed. Ownership concept has now become clear and the people have already taken up responsibility to plant trees and stop river bank cultivation. They are planning their issues actively now.

				One of the groups is writing a proposal for water supply to water services board. If they get piped water they will stop excessive abstraction.
Enhancement of individual and collective understanding of environmental issues			Fully achieved	The training was interactive and the community was very curious generally. They got to understand and to relate with environmental issues locally and globally. Mau complex forest issues are now top on Kenyan media and it emphasised this too.
River Njoro watershed community empowerment		Partially achieved		Empowerment is a process and this project started the process. As far as the project planned it was achieved but overall, the other stakeholders that have taken over the follow up will continue building their capacity in multiple areas
Overcoming negative ethnic influences		Partially achieved		In regard to conservation, they now understand it benefits all of them when it is in good condition. Negative ethnic influence manifests in political arenas openly. The project however has driven the agenda of conservation beyond ethnic influences.
Awareness creation in schools			Fully achieved	This very successful as per plan. The teachers and pupils are very receptive. Teachers know the importance of the training to pupils but have tight schedules with school and hence appreciated the project much. Three schools that did not have environmental clubs started soon after the project. They lead other students to maintain a green and neat surrounding in the school compound. The ministry of education gave us enormous support and are willing to have an intensive environmental project for schools.
Follow-up programme			Fully achieved	The trained communities require continuous technical support. A follow-up programme was set by this project involving government officers who offer extension services to farmers and local communities.

				<p>The workshop that brought together all these groups was also a tree planting event in a public garden. The community representatives and guests gave speeches on conservation and the achievement by the project effort. They agreed to work together in the follow up programme to continue conservation of River Njoro watershed.</p>
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2. Please explain any unforeseen difficulties that arose during the project and how these were tackled (if relevant).

In the third (last) training, the sessions were inconsistent. There was drought when the regular annual rains failed and community members were unable to attend meetings since they had to search for water and fodder for their livestock. This session took a longer time than anticipated. The plan was for about 6 weeks but it took 12 weeks. We had to adjust our schedule and meet the people in their convenient time. We re-strategized and instead of open gatherings we went door to door campaign for the participating households and more. At the end we had one open gathering for several neighbouring groups to recap the training sessions.

This challenge allowed the project team to reach out to people that had not participated in the project before and they developed interest.

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

Removing ethnicity from conservation

Negative ethnic influence is substantially reduced and hopefully eliminated especially in regard to management of natural resources. The watershed which is inhabited by various ethnic communities suffered degradation due to cultural and historic differences between the various ethnic communities. One community would for instance cut down trees to hurt another community that depended directly on them say for honey production. Eventually all people are affected by the degradation because of the indirect benefits. The community understood this well and the weather/climatic conditions that prevailed only made the point clearer because they all suffered lack of water since the river was drying up in that season. There were other campaigns going on promoting peace among the different ethnic communities by other organisations following the post election violence at the beginning of 2008. All this effort worked towards reducing and hopefully eliminating negative ethnic influences towards conservation of environmental resources.

Schools environmental education

The Ministry of Education was very supportive and schools (pupils and teachers) responded very positively. The participating schools formed environmental clubs and patrons nominated from among the teachers. The pupils are very keen to relate with the issues and understand their surrounding and they very much want to participate to shape their environment. These children promised to share the information with their families and so it helped to reach out to more people. They also promised to plant trees at home. We only worked with 12 schools but the ministry officer is also quickening the other schools around the watershed to incorporate simple environmental

activities in schools. They are actively seeking for partners to finance tree planting in their school compounds after the training we gave.

Follow up programme

Stakeholders in conservation of River Njoro watershed especially from established institutions came together in the stakeholder's workshop and planned to work together with the community in offering their technical support. Conservation is not achieved in one day but is a livelihood. With the awareness created among the community, such a follow up programme will ensure the efforts don't go to waste and keep on improving. The stakeholders have been there but had not been able to work with the communities directly. The project provided the forum and preparation for them to work together in long term. The Ministry of Environment, whose mandate is to provide and ensure maintenance of a good environment, will build on the foundations laid by the project. The watershed depends especially the biodiversity in Lake Nakuru National Park will benefit.

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

The project focused on educating/creating awareness in River Njoro watershed communities. The people responded positively to the project, they formed groups where there was none and were trained on leadership and their group dynamics. These groups are now strong and are ongoing with other social economic activities. They have now linked with a micro finance institution to finance their support their livelihoods. The groups that existed continue as they were and now are incorporating conservation issues in their local planning.

The follow-up programme started by the project will support the community in diverse ways in the long term. They will now have technical support for agricultural activities. They will also establish woodlots in their own farms which will have several benefits among them improving the microclimate and providing fodder for livestock and firewood for domestic use.

The people participated in all trainings well. With the awareness, they have positively changed their perspective towards environmental perspective and are employing individual efforts in their lands and collectively the watershed will be in a better condition.

The watershed is located in Mau Forest complex which is undergoing rehabilitation by the government. This effort requires a lot of cooperation from the neighbouring communities. The communities trained in the project are now supportive of the government effort unlike before where earning community support has been a bottleneck in managing forest resources in Kenya.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes, the project team plan to continue with advocating the watershed conservation in the local areas from upstream to downstream. This project concentrated more in the middle and a bit of lower reaches of the watershed. Schools are very enthusiastic about the environmental clubs and activities and we consider this a very effective advocacy means since school children reach out to parents and other family members and also grow with the awareness of environmental conservation. Some of the school children develop interest from that early age in conservation careers. The watershed still needs a lot of effort to be restored. We will consider the best approach to continue with this work.

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

This work will be shared in conferences matter of fact; I already applied to attend the student conference on conservation science to share this conservation work.

I will share the experiences and achievement of this work at the Kenyan Chapter Tropical Biology Alumni forum

We continue to share about this work in community forums and sensitize members who don't know about it to participate and benefit from the follow-up programme.

We are in the process of seeking publication of this work in local conservation bulletins.

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

The project started officially on 17th October 2008 and ended at the beginning of October 2009. The planned length was 10 months. The extra time became inevitable because the community was facing a significant challenge that affected their availability and at the same time we had to complete the planned trainings before holding the stakeholders workshop. The extra about 2 months was manageable since most of the funding was per activity. RSG was used in all the project period.

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
Transport to the field sites (hired)	1750	1881.25	-131.25	An extra 375 km was covered during the additional sessions of training.
Mobilization	270	250	+20	There was 13 groups mobilised and engaged in the project instead of the planned 15 groups. The watershed was however sufficiently covered.
Subsistence in the field	1140	1200	-60	We incurred extra expenses due to three more session necessitated by the community response that resulted prolonging the training sessions.
Training materials (pen, paper, posters, handbills)	540	440	+100	Realised we could save on cost by slightly reducing the quality of the handbills. They were still good and well done.
Audio visual materials and equipment for schools	500	350	+150	Did not have to buy tapes and such training materials for school since the ministry office had some and allowed us to use them during the school training sessions.
Stakeholder workshop	500	500	0	Funds spend according to plan.

Communication (telephone, e-mail, postal)	480	480	0	Funds spend according to plan.
Other equipment	250	230	+20	Got the camera at a discounted price.
Miscellaneous expenses	100	177	-77	Bought tree seedlings planted during the stakeholders workshop and facilitated one visit round the watershed with community groups
Project administration (5%)	277	277	0	Funds used as planned.
TOTAL	5807	5785.25	+21.75	

Exchange rate used; £ 1 = Ksh 123 (Kenya Shillings)

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

To strengthen the follow up programme by maintaining a close link with the government agents and the community members.

Lobby for school environmental education programme to have it reach as many children as possible every year.

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 posters used in community training had the RSGF logo. The community is also aware that the project was funded by RSGF since during our training we referred to the organisation as having partnered to support the effort. The Ministry of Education is also well aware of RSGF since we worked together with them in schools.