

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	Lawir Felix Yuven
Project title	Local Community Participation in the Sustainable Seed Bank Management for Agroforestry Practices and Ecological Restoration of the Kumbo Watershed
RSG reference	20272-B
Reporting period	November 2016-November 2017
Amount of grant	£10,000
Your email address	lawir27@yahoo.com
Date of this report	November 27 th 2017

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 empower members of the newly established Community Agroforestry Seed Bank and Management Committee on the sustainable management of the seed bank through trainings and skill development</p>				<p>The long term sustainability of the agroforestry seed bank remains an integral part of the management committee and the capacity of its members. Within this reporting period, the project invested more resources to develop the skills of members of the newly established management committee through a series of training seminars and the organisation of exchange/learning visits to successful conservation sites in the region. During such training and learning visits, members of the management team gained skills in conflict management, fundraising, and sustainable exploitation of non-timber forest products as well as collaboration. As a fall out of one of these training sessions, the management committee has setup a sub-committee known as forest monitors with representatives from all the different project communities. The monitors have the duty to organise periodic and regular patrols in and around the agroforestry seed bank as well as in the different community water catchments to check all illegal activities such as bushfires, farming, grazing and deforestation and report to the management committee which is the main body for action to be taken. Additionally, the management committee has been very instrumental in the mobilisation of other community members to participate in activities such as tree planting, management of the</p>

			community tree nurseries and fire prevention campaigns in and around the agroforestry seed bank as well as in the various community water catchments.
2.To assist and guide farmers in creating a legal honey cooperative comprising of existing and potential bee farmers for the collective production, processing and marketing of honey and by-products			An association of over 185 registered bee farmers now operates in the project site. Even though honey production is still at the small scale level, members of this association are now able to process honey and by-products and sell to buyers at harmonised prices. As they continue to invest more on the acquisition of modern bee equipment to improve on the quality of the products, it is anticipated that the long term vision of making the project site a leading honey production basin in the region is highly visible. The honey production component of this initiative will also contribute to the continuation of project activities even after this project as over 90 % of the bee hives are installed in community-owned land considered as protected sites (agroforestry seed bank and the various community water catchments)
3. To carryout enrichment tree planting in the agroforestry seed bank in order to meet up with the required number of plants earmarked for the site.			At the start of the initiative, we planned to produce and plant at least 10,000 tree seedlings of varied species in the agroforestry seed bank as well as to replace those that did not survive in the various community water catchments. This activity has not been fully achieved at the time of this report as only slightly above 7,000 tree seedlings belonging to 14 different species have been successfully planted out in the seed bank even though there are still over 5,000 tree seedlings in the various community tree nurseries which were not yet ready to be planted out in the field. The management committee have resolved to keep all the community tree nurseries alive

			and maintain the tree seedlings for the next 3 years during which time progressive tree planting in the seed bank shall be carried out especially at the start of every rainy season to ensure a high survival rates.
4. To organize teaching and facilitating lessons critical to improving the environmental awareness and performance among school children			This activity suffered a serious setback barely 3 months after it was launched in some three community schools in the project area due to the on-going socio-political crisis in the NW and SW Regions of the country leading to school boycotts. The first 3 months of this activity only saw the establishment of school tree nurseries which were later on abandoned due to the civil unrest mentioned above.

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

The major difficulty that arose during the project was the discontinuation of project activities in the various community schools earmarked for outreach environmental awareness resulting from the on-going socio-political crisis in the two English speaking regions of the country where schools were completely shut down. The three satellite tree nurseries created in these schools for environmental education were later on abandoned because there were neither students nor teachers to cater for these nurseries. The numerous seeds and other materials invested in these schools somehow were almost wasted due to the unrest.

To provide a remedy to this situation, the project came up with a programme to involve schoolchildren in other project activities out of the school milieu but at the community level notably; community tree nursery management, field visits to sites under conservation, production of compost manure, waste management and tree planting. Also, over 1,100 sprouted seedlings planted in the various school tree nurseries were successfully transferred and transplanted into the main community tree nurseries.

Additionally, the socio-political tension in the project region affected some of our planned field activities as we normally organised such field activities during off-farming days so as to ensure massive participation from community members who are majority farmers. When such days correspond with days set aside for ghost towns by the activists, movements to these communities was hampered thereby leaving us with no other choice than to postpone the already planned activity for another day thereby encountering some additional cost in logistics.

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

- I. There has been a growing interest and participation in project activities especially from people who at the start of the initiative were very reluctant to accept the project. This positive outcome has been noticed in the recent activities organised during tree planting, fire tracing and participation in the different training workshops as well as the four different 3-monthly review and planning meetings. This inclusive growing interest and participation in project activities is the effort of a stable management committee whose members have been empowered also in community mobilisation and conflict management.
- II. Considering that farmers in rural communities with limited technical services and resources sometime exhibits some strong resistance to adopt an innovation in their agricultural system, this initiative has led to a significant drift or change from the vicious cycle of a more chemical depended form of crop production to a more organic farming methods characterised by a tree dominated system (agroforestry) and the use of organic manure also known as "Bokashi" produced with the used of locally available materials. Over 80% of farmers who have been reached out as a result of this project are either putting into practice the use of agroforestry or organic manure into their farming systems. This will not only contribute in an increase of crop yields but the practice will also improve the already degraded environment especially around the water sources which until now were heavily contaminated as a result of the continued use of agro-chemicals.
- III. Some farmers in communities or villages even far off from the project communities who originally were never part of the project are now putting the aspects of agroforestry into their routine farming systems. Our findings during project impact assessment revealed that these farmers became interested in the integration of trees into their farming systems after observing crop performance in the various community agroforestry demonstration farms that were setup in the different project communities at the start of the initiative. This is however one of the major indicators demonstrating the replicability of the initiative.

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

A significant number of women were very much involved in the project especially with the honey production component of the project as well as the agroforestry farming systems. On the other hand, youths and some schoolchildren who were at home due to the socio-political impasse in the country joined the rest of the community members to participate in field activities such as the production and maintenance of tree seedlings in the various community tree nurseries, tree planting in the seed bank and water catchments, routine patrols around the protected areas, fire tracing at the seed bank and water catchments as well as participation in the various trainings and capacity building workshops.

The project is expected to benefit the various stakeholders in different ways. Firstly, we concentrated more resources during this period on trainings with the objective of instilling the spirit of project ownership to the beneficiaries. Training on improved agricultural practices will eventually lead to an improved livelihood amongst the farmers as money spent on the acquisition of chemical fertilizers will be reduced.

The trees so far planted in the various water catchments in the long term will ensure the regular flow of water in the communities throughout the year. The resulting forests shall also act as a home for wildlife species that are almost extinct from the community as well as a carbon sink to mitigate the effects of climate change.

Additionally, the women who were trained and supported on bee farming activities have started accruing some benefits from the sale of the honey and by-products. Additionally, individual farmers who equally received training on tree nursery establishment and management have been engaged in creating their private tree nurseries where seedlings shall be sold during subsequent projects.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Considering the growing interest from new communities, it will be very unfair for this initiative not to be extended to these communities and even beyond. In this light, we have plans to continue this work.

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

At the local level, we have been using a local community radio to share our work through a weekly 30-minute radio programme known as "Know your environment".

We also collaborate with a local print media known as the Grass lander to publish our activities.

We also received volunteers from around the world who work with us and help to disseminate the results of our work.

We have recently launched a bi-monthly newsletter where all our activities shall be published and disseminated to all our partners both locally and internationally.

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 project was anticipated to run for 12 months but we are presently at the 13th month of the project due to the civil unrest in the two English Speaking regions of the country where some of the project activities were not carried out at the planned dates.

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. 1 £ sterling = 4.44 Nuevo Sol

Item	Budgeted Amount	Actual Amount	Difference	Comments
Capacity building for members of the community Agroforestry Seed Bank and Management Committee on the Sustainable conservation and management of the seed bank.	1500	1300	+200	In most of these capacity building workshops, the village development association which is the main umbrella organisation in the various communities provided some assistance in the form of food, drinks and training halls free of charge.
Learning/exchange visits for members of the seed bank and management committee to similar conservation sites in the region	1300	1500	-200	Due to the socio-political crisis in the region, we encountered an increased in the transportation fares to sites planned for these visits more than what was previously envisaged.
Consultancy for experience sharing and best practices to members of the honey cooperative by an existing and similar cooperative	950	950		
Legalization of the honey cooperative/skill development for members to source market outlets for the sale of produce	500	500		
Training and follow-up of small scale farmers on agroforestry and improved agricultural practices	750	750		
Extension of nature conservation activities in three community schools in the project area	900	300	+600	Since most of the schools were shot down barely 3 months after the project was launched due to the civil unrest, most of the schools activities were transferred to the community during which time school

				children had to participate at the level of the community
Three monthly project review and planning workshops with local stakeholders	1500	1500		
Project impact assessment	750	750		
Human resources (salary for two field staffs for 12 months)	1680	1680		
Project allowance for two volunteers for 12 months	720	950	-230	We spent more on transport allowance for volunteers due to an increase in the transportation cost resulting from the on-going crisis in the region
Project documentation/visibility	350	500	-150	At the start of the year, there was a slight increase in the yearly fee we pay to the community radio for our environmental awareness program. This was however not envisaged
Administrative cost	1000	500	+500	
Total	11,900	11,180	+720	

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

1. With the different resolutions arrived by the management committee, our next step will be to jointly develop a simple management plan for the agroforestry seed bank and set priority for its conservation which will also include its legalisation as a community forest under the Cameroon Forestry Law of 1994. This will involve a good number of stakeholders including policy makers in the country.

2. With the existence of all the community tree nurseries, we shall also in the future extend tree planting activities as well as other conservation activities to emerging villages whose environmental problems are same or similar in the region.

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 RSG logo on the two sides of our field motorcycle and also during all our 4-monthly review and evaluation/planning workshops as well as all other training.

11. Any other comments?

Nature-Care-Cameroon and her entire team members together with all our project beneficiaries shall forever remain grateful to the Rufford Foundation for providing us the necessary funds to put in place this reforestation project. The project has remained a learning process for the implementing organisation and the project beneficiaries as well as other stakeholders especially the local partners who through their skills and knowledge in different aspects contributed to the numerous successes the project has so far achieved over this period. We look forward to a stronger collaboration in the days ahead with the Rufford Foundation.

