

## 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	
Your name	Emmanuel BUGINGO
Project title	Improving Marginalised People's Initiatives for Biodiversity Conservation: Case of Women Conserving the Volcanoes National Park through Weaving
RSG reference	21093-1
Reporting period	March2017-March 2018
Amount of grant	£5,000.00
Your email address	<a href="mailto:emmanuel@notrebio.org">emmanuel@notrebio.org</a>
Date of this report	April 8 <sup>th</sup> , 2018

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
Help women understand and play their role in mitigating threats to park natural resources				For their daily weaving activities, women are no longer using raw materials from the park. They were also involved in environmental education programmes whereby they were able to discuss issues affecting the environment in general and the park in particular.
Training 33 women from Historically Marginalised People Community in modern weaving				All 33 women were trained and graduated in modern weaving
Engaging vulnerable women in income generating activities through weaving				Women have now opened a bank account and have upgraded their productivity by adding natural mats on the list of modern products they produce
Extension of the training to 66 women				Only 17 women joined the training in extension mainly due to during the training of trainers, some women displayed a low level of understanding therefore could not train others. As indicated in our project updates, instead of extending the training to new women, the project management concluded that the graduated women train their fellow with low level of understanding.
Production and selling of modern baskets				Despite different levels of understanding which, impacted on quantity expected, women managed to win some local and regional markets. For instance, traditional mats are sold locally whereas other products such as baskets are sold at the Musanze market

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

- a) **Learning capacities of the trainees:** in the course of the training, the trainer realised different levels of trainees in terms of learning with some very quick, medium and slow. In order to address this, the Consultative Committee decided the split of the group into three groups in respect to the above displayed levels.
- b) **Lack of a workshop:** initially, the cell agreed to grant one room to the project. Unfortunately, at a point we noticed that this would not be for an integral use due to other emergencies and priorities. In order to overcome this, the training was organised through small groups formed randomly to help beneficiaries from one place easily meet in the compound of any member of their choice.
- c) **Competitions:** the existence of historically marginalised people and other poor and vulnerable people in the area, calls for various projects with different strategies and approaches for Shingiro. In order to avoid a situation where our beneficiaries especially the indirect beneficiaries could be tempted by such projects, the project management in collaboration with the Consultative Committee launched a joint campaign to mobilise them. On the op of this Partners for Conservation brought in a new project of menstrual health management which attracted interests of many.
- d) **Availability of raw materials:** as finding sisals was becoming difficult due to transport costs, the project Consultative Committee recommended the identification of raw materials that could be found locally or in the surroundings. From then, women started using papyrus.

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

a) **Conservation of the Volcanoes National Park** and its ecosystems: situated in northern Rwanda on the border with the Democratic Republic of Congo and Uganda, the Volcanoes National Park is worldwide known as famous home of a globally and important population of the endangered mountain gorilla, as well as a numerous of other plant and animal species that are endemic to the Albertine Rift Valley. In recognition of the park's importance, in 1983 under the UNESCO Man and Biosphere Programme, the Volcanoes National Park was added to the international network of biosphere reserves. Despite its exceptional biodiversity values, the park is subject to a variety of serious and growing anthropogenic pressures largely related to it being situated in one of the most densely populated parts of Rwanda. Addressing these threats remains a major issue. Among identified type of pressure include but not limited to: (1) Poaching: Gorillas are maimed or killed by traps set for other animals, (2) Habitat loss: Rapidly expanding human settlements are removing the gorilla habitat. Fragmentation of forested areas has resulted in the isolation of gorilla groups from each other, reducing their genetic diversity, (3) Disease: Regular contact of tourists with the gorillas allows transmission of diseases from humans to the gorillas, domestic animals and livestock also contribute to disease transmission, (4) War and unrest: Refugees removing trees to create settlements and farms. There's also increased use of gorillas for meat by displaced peoples. Gorillas can be killed by land mines placed along forest paths, (5) Local communities: Habitat removal,

lack of support for conservation efforts due to insufficient education and awareness amongst locals.

By training and initiating 50 women in modern weaving as well as environmental education, the project has contributed to the reduction of existing anthropogenic activities that keep the park fauna and flora at high risk especially the mountain gorillas.

**b) Improvement of living conditions by 50 families initiated in income generating activities: upgrading knowledge and skills was a tremendous contribution to:** the project trained 50 women from the historically marginalised people communities surrounding the Volcanoes National Park. Different studies have suggested that the keep the park under anthropogenic pressure. Most of those studies recommend community based projects to ensure communities are finding alternatives to park natural resources and therefore driven towards the park conservation instead. By training 50 women both in modern weaving as alternative activity we believe the project has contributed to the conservation of the Volcanoes National Park and its ecosystems by reducing the number of potential dependants.

**c) Establishment of beneficiaries' platform:** initially the project targeted women grouped into Dusabane which, had mandate to train other fellow women from the village. During the training in extension, women altogether realised how difficult it was going to be to accommodate new women as new members of Dusabane as this would require changing the constitution. They decided to form a new platform called Inkingi grouping together all women beneficiaries of the project. This is great achievement mainly in terms of a sustainable management of the project outcomes as it shows a commitment of togetherness.

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

**Project design:** member of Dusabane have participated in the project design as they provided basic stats for the project. Upon completion of their training, all Dusabane members helped Partners for Conservation extend the training to 17 new women. The 1<sup>st</sup> benefit has been acquiring necessary knowledge and skills for modern women and conservation. The 2<sup>nd</sup> benefit has been that, women have started generating some income from sells.

**Consultative Committee:** this is an instance whose role was advisory. It was formed by representatives of the cooperative, representative of the cell, sector and the park as well as a representative of Partners for Conservation. Through this organ, members played a key role in project implementation.

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

Yes. We would like to build on the success stories of the project to move forward and train at least 100 women in modern weaving. Should means allow, we would also be

happy building a workshop from which women can weave, exhibit and sell their products.

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

**a) Using of the social media:** Partners for Conservation uses different social media to communicate but also promote and market its activities. The website is regularly updated as well as its twitter and Facebook. Best practices from the project will be compiled and shared through these channels.

**b) Extending the project best practices to another group of women supported by PFC:** despite a number of challenges faced during the implementation of this project, it remains our ambition to extend the training to a new group of women under our support.

**c) Networks:** Partners for Conservation is a member of different platforms for conservation. Normally, we use such platforms to communicate and share experience. They represent great opportunities to talk about this project as well.

**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 Rufford Foundation grant was used to:

- Acquire raw materials (SISALS (bundles, papyrus, empty bags, hooks, soap, paints, barrels, jerrycans, basins,
- Support the training by ensuring full wages of the trainer for 3 months,
- Ensure transport in field for environment education production and selling and project management, including travel costs of project staff, office running costs and bank charges.

**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
<b>Introduction of the Project</b>				
Introduction of the project				The project management rubric
Transport in the field				
<b>Acquisition of materials</b>				
SISALS (bundles)	2,500	2,150	350	Spent on papyrus & RSG funding
Papyrus (bundles for	0	263	-263	Sooner after the project has

baskets )				started, women suggested invest in weaving traditional mats. The RSG was contacted before spending this amount
Papyrus for traditional mats	0	175	175	Women suggested the introduction of weaving traditional mats as additional activity. PFC contacted RSG which approved the idea
Empty Bags	300	300	0	RSG funding
Hooks	120	120	0	RSG funding
Soap	120	120	0	RSG funding
Paints ( buckets)	300	300	0	RSG funding
Barrels	256	256	0	RSG funding
Jerrycans	12	12	0	RSG funding
Basins	24	24	0	RSG funding
Training				
Salary per month	450	450	0	RSG funding
<b>Transport in field for environment Education</b>				<b>See the travel cost below</b>
<b>Production and selling &amp; Project Management</b>				
Monthly Salary for Project Assistant	3,600	3,600	0	
Monthly salary for Administrative Assistant	3,600	3,600	0	
Travel costs	270	270	0	RSG funding
Office running costs	523	523	0	RSG funding
Bank charges	125	37	88	RSG funding
TOTAL	12,200	12,181	18.82	

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

- a) **Provision of a workshop:** having a workshop will confirm the vision of the project and could attract many women for the training which; could be easier for the trainers. A workshop could also help Inkingi to produce, exhibit and sell their products

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

Yes, we used the Rufford Foundation logo mainly in our correspondences such as invitation letters and project monitoring materials such as attendance sheets.

**11. Please provide a full list of all the members of your team and briefly what was their role in the project.**

<b>N</b>	<b>Names</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>
1	Emmanuel Bugingo	Executive Director	Project design and coordinator
2	Emmanuel Biracyaza	Programme Assistant for Education, Research, Information Collection and Sharing	Development of education modules for project beneficiaries
3	Moussa Harerimana	Programme Assistant for Capacity and Project Management	Ensuring the project follows the designed project management tools for its implementation
4	Claudine Mutezinka	Trainer	Designing the training module for modern weaving and help in project assessment
5	Leonie Zeuner	Volunteer	Helping in day to day project follow up

**12. Any other comments?**

I'm grateful to Rufford Foundation for their contribution to Partners for Conservation's goal. Thanks to the support, Partners for Conservation extended the number of its beneficiaries from 240 to 290 individuals who are all being driven towards the conservation and protection of the Volcanoes National Park and its ecosystems. Also, the funding provided the organisation with basic and scientific information on how small grants can make a difference.