

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. 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	PHILIP KIRUI
Project title	USING INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE FOR KINGW'AL SWAMP CONSERVATION
RSG reference	24.09.09
Reporting period	FEB 2010 – March 2011
Amount of grant	£ 5824.80
Your email address	pmining@yahoo.com
Date of this report	23/03/2011

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
To document indigenous conservation knowledge on Kingwal swamp			Fully achieved	We added value to an attempt by a community leader who had started documenting the indigenous knowledge
To establish a community-based leadership for Kingwal swamp			Fully achieved	A community-based leader was established, and it played a key role in the formation of Kingwal wetland Community Based Organization (CBO) that is registered and functional at the swamp
To promote strategic partnership between stakeholders for Kingwal swamp conservation		Partially Achieved		The project worked with key stakeholders in the area. Many of them are willing to support the initiative but are slow in taking actions.
To involve the community in public education about the importance of the indigenous knowledge in wealth creation for nature conservation			Fully achieved	The community educators trained involved the community in creating awareness on the importance of the swamp. This changed the community attitude towards the swamp and the sitatunga. The community produced several items and culture during exhibition that were sold. If proper marketing is done, this will attract many tourists and bring money that will improve the community livelihoods

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

Fear of the unknown by communities

At the start of the project, conflicts between two communities in Kiptenden and Tulon sub-locations involved were so intense that they delayed the start of the project. These were mainly instigated by historical differences on ownership of the land around King'wal swamp. Initial project meetings were thus used to diffuse tensions about concerns that a third party was getting involved in the tussel for the land surrounding the swamp. Our approach to diffuse these community concerns involved holding two awareness meetings that involved all swamp stakeholders from the community, central government, local government, conservation agencies and the local leadership. These meetings' agenda was to explain the main aim of the project and how it was intended to benefit the

community. They also involved promotion of harmony among the conflict communities to ensure good future working relations to ensure the success of the project. This has so far been achieved.

Minimal support by some relevant government departments

Some government departments especially the regions administration and the county council didn't keep their promises made during some of our partnership meetings. This included failing to attend some important functions to failing to support some of the agreed community initiatives. To ensure adherence to agreed plans, we had to hold extra grass root meetings to diffuse growing tensions caused by these failures.

Low literacy levels by some community members-language barrier

The project site is so remote and a majority of elder community members in the area have not had the privilege for advanced education. They therefore understand only one language that is the native one. This language barrier meant we had to repeat some of our deliberations or be slow enough to accommodate all participants. To improve performance, we tried to involve a local translator in the discussions to break down information. To train key community leaders, we involved more community elites of course with support from entire community members.

Poor accessibility of some activity venues

Some of the activity venues were inaccessible due to bad road especially whenever it rained. Our partners like Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) came in handy at such moments.

Community and county council politics

At the initial project stages communities and their council representatives each wanted the project implemented in their respective areas. This we thought was natural after we had explained the likely benefits of the project. There seemed to be a tussle to own the project by various communities. We explained further that the project could only succeed if every stakeholder was involved and thus the need to have every community playing an equal part.

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

Documentation of indigenous information

The community appreciated their rich indigenous knowledge and are ready to utilise it for posterity. Through the organised workshops, we managed to extract most of this useful knowledge from the elders. This has been documented and shared with the project partners in the site. The workshops also awakened the community's new generation to the rich indigenous culture that faced the danger of extinction if no conservation efforts were put in place. We are currently in the process of putting this in a manual to be used to promote ecotourism in the site.

Establishment of a Community Environment Working Group

Through the two capacity building workshops for 20 community educators on environment, we managed to set up a community working group composed of various age groups. The group is currently very active in mobilising the rest of the community in promoting sustainable utilisation of King'wal swamp resources. They have also utilised the partnerships created from the project to gain support for their growth.

Strong partnership between Communities in Conflict

The project involved two communities bordering each other in the site i.e., K locations. These communities had been in conflict over land resources in the swamp and had not before agreed to a meeting to settle the disputes between them. Through this project and the partnerships, we had managed to develop at start, we managed to promote a strong partnership between the two feuding communities. They currently have a common leadership and are working to ensure sustainable gains from the swamp resources without compromising the ecological integrity of the swamp's biodiversity. Two committees have been set by the community itself to ensure that this will be on going for posterity.

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

Through the planned trainings, more than 30 community members gained a wealth of knowledge on environmental management and ecotourism skills. This is to be utilised by the community to ensure sustainable benefits from the swamp resources.

Through the eco-cultural fair organised by the project, more community members managed to exhibit their skills and talents as far as cultural tourism is concerned. The fair provided an opportunity for community exhibitors to sell their wares and share and learn new knowledge from other experienced marketers in other fields.

The project also provided an opportunity for community members to interact with high personalities from the government like regional wardens, the District Commissioner, the areas mayor and town clerk and have an opportunity to address other communal issues which they had not had an opportunity to tackle. These issues included human wildlife conflicts, insecurity in their areas, health issues (KWS had promised to construct a dispensary for the community but had taken too long. The project provided an opportunity for follow up and the dispensary is currently under construction. One young member of the community managed to access a training opportunity in the field of tourism management in an institution in the county's capital through the project. This was made possible by one of the project staff who had provided professional advice and had provided necessary links to the girl.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes, after the first phase of this project which mainly focused on ground-breaking through inventory generation on ecotourism opportunities, capacity development of working groups and establishing necessary partnerships for future activities in the project, we plan to help the community improve the necessary infrastructure that will facilitate development of ecotourism in the site as a means to sustainable biodiversity conservation. We are also focusing on involving more partners from the private sector to try and sustain support base for community ecotourism ventures while also marketing existing opportunities nationally and across the globe. Experience learning for community groups involved will also be sought.

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

Through this project, we have established a strong partnership base with key conservation agencies, government departments, the private sector, local leadership and other international partners. The lessons learnt have been shared by most of these partners through feedback forums and we plan to further share these lessons through creating more partners and sharing these lessons through

reports and presentations. Some of these partners are involved in other similar projects elsewhere and will most likely seek our experiences.

We also want to have most of our lessons shared with the public and the most effective way will be through the print media some of who we are already in partnership with. Researchers have also been involved in implementation of this project. We have shared our reports with them that we hope will be used to publicise conservation work in King'wal swamp.

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

We received the grant on 1st February 2010 and the project officially ended on 1st March 2011 though we had anticipated ending exactly after 12 months. This delay was orchestrated by challenges while working with some of our partners that include the community and the relevant government departments. Some of these delays made it difficult to report in time and also affected our operations in other areas thus causing delays.

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
Community meetings	1043.90	1060.8	16.10	The number of participants always slightly exceeded the invited participants. Excited about the training caused an overflow of participants
Community Educators training	1022.76	1010.67	12.0	The participants used writing materials wisely and few were bought. We told them on the wise use concept, and they embraced the idea
Partnership meetings	585.37	560.00	25.37	The meeting venue was closer to the homesteads though inconvenient to the organizers, and this reduced transport cost
Eco - Cultural fair	1138.21	1000.56	137.65	The local school provided the venue for free
Project administration	2034.55	2018.65	15.9	The well-coordinated activities reduced the amount of airtime used.
Total	5824.80	5650.68	174.82	1£ = KES 119.0

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

The next steps should mainly focus on promoting nature based micro enterprises as a mean to curbing the root causes of environmental natural resource degradation around King'wal swamp. The best solution therefore lies in promoting use of the natural wealth in the site to fight extreme poverty levels that cause continued loss of nature.

10. Did you use the RSGF logo in any materials produced in relation to this project?

10 a) - No, the project didn't involve production of any materials for public sharing thus no need to



use the logo.

Did the RSGF receive any publicity during the course of your work?

10b) - Yes, RSGF received publicity during the project. There was a story about the project in one of the Kenya local newspapers, the *Standard* in February 2010 when the project was starting. This had been possible since several stakeholders including various media houses attended the project launch. We also had a radio talk show on the project and RSGF was mentioned severally as the project donor. Every main speaker also acknowledged RSGF during major project functions for supporting this initiative. The project staff also made sure that during our functions, awareness about who funded the project was made.

The Baraton and Moi universities were key institutions that facilitated the project workshops and also played key consultation role for the project. RSGF featured prominently in their presentations.

11. Any other comments?

The project enabled me to learn new skills on wetlands management and ecotourism development. The community has a rich indigenous knowledge on natural resource management that can be replicated elsewhere for greater results.

All stakeholders, community and RSGF will receive the outcome of the external project evaluation done by a master's student on project management on 27/2/2011. She will send her outcomes directly.