

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	Grace Pam
Project title	Conservation education for primary schools in plateau state, Nigeria: the children for nature project.
RSG reference	Ref. 32.07.07
Reporting period	2007-2009
Amount of grant	5000 Pounds
Your email address	Gd_pam2003@yahoo.com ; pamgd@unijos.edu.ng
Date of this report	June 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
To educate children on their natural environment with special emphasis on biodiversity, thereby awakening a healthy interest in them about nature.				We successfully started the process through embarking on a field trip to a nature reserve. Also, we encouraged the expression of thoughts and feelings through nature drawings. Kids showed great interest and showed great desire for more of such events.
Equip teachers and schools with adequate tools and information on the teaching of biodiversity conservation by establishing a nature books library.				Project initiated. Will be an on-going project. Has helped nature club teacher's gain more understanding, confidence, and they now have materials to use during lessons. It is encouraging children to be interested in learning about nature.
To strengthen partnership between school nature conservation clubs and the children for nature programme.				Through the teacher-training workshop, teachers now show us greater level of acceptance, understanding and interest. We are able to assess this by the desire and interest to make contributions and sacrifices for the project, unlike before when we were viewed as instructors only.
Advocate for biodiversity conservation using every available avenue such as the print media and local television and radio houses				We were able to get the local radio and television stations to witness our events. One local newspaper house also covered the projects. They showed great interest and one television house gave two free advert slots and a 30 minutes talk show on subsidized rates. This enhanced greater coverage and public awareness to the programme.
Monthly visits				Alternative meeting via phone arranged to save cost for major aspects of project.

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

- Change of event dates. We simply had to go with the convenient dates for the schools. Most government school teachers were on strike for most of the time, but they were able to work around that and mobilize their pupils for the projects because of their growing interest.
- Teachers also expressed concern over the lack of understanding of their school heads to the importance of the project and most had to work hard to carry out their responsibilities to the project. We worked around that by ensuring we did not allow any costs implication to go to schools. We paid for transportations, etc. They suggested we hold a similar workshop for the school heads in the near future.

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

- Getting our teachers to see themselves as owners of the project not just spectators and passive participants.
- Getting them equipped with skills and materials for training the children both indoors and outdoors.
- Going public with the project and getting the media actively involved.

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

The participating children come from various communities, hence we see them as representing their communities in an indirect way since we expect their knowledge to be shared with those around them. But there was no direct involvement of any community except the ones around the A.P. Leventis Ornithological Research Institute who have now taken it upon themselves to protect the wildlife around them as a result of this and several other community development programmes which the institute does.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

YES! We have to continue to work with the nature conservation clubs to strengthen their knowledge, understanding and interest in conservation. We also have to aid school conservation projects to run smoothly. Individuals and organisations are also beginning to ask questions about what we do and what they can do to participate, so the project sure must go on. We are expecting more partners and writing out more proposals for various aspects of the project.

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

We are currently working on a poster presentation of the results in the 2009 upcoming ecological society of Nigeria Conference. We also have plans to produce our final report in formats we can share with groups and individuals.

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

The RSG was used for slightly over a period of 16 months, varying from the anticipated time by about 4 months, as the last phase of the project was carried out in February 2009.

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
Educational resources	£770	£900 exchanged @240- Naira	£130	We imported some books which increased the budget slightly.
Teacher training	£400	£800 @ 230 Naira	£400	Including honorarium of 312 Pounds to 12 resource persons
Field trip	£600	£1000 @ 230 Naira	£400	Due to increase in prices of goods purchased, and including Honorarium of six (6) resource persons.
End of year environmental conservation awareness campaign:	£1538.46	£2330 @ 197 Naira	£790	This increase was largely due to the unfortunate civil unrest that occurred in the state after our initial plan and part of the budget had been expended for an awareness rally and campaign which was to take place in December Just before the Christmas holidays. As a result, all such events were officially cancelled by the state government and hence we had to start all over with a new plan. Another major factor was the significant drop in the exchange rate which also affected our budget.
TOTAL	£5000	£5000	£1720	

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

Continuing to strengthen the knowledge and understanding of the issues in the schools and keeping close touch with the media. I must emphasize that the concept is extremely new here, and so progress and success will depend on our commitment and patience. Positive results will definitely come in the future but we need to just continue sowing the seeds of conservation in the hearts of the children and the society. We do not intend to diversify a lot into new projects because our message has not yet gained grounds we intend to continue with what we've been doing.

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, every material produced during the project carried the RSG logo on it. Acknowledgement was also always given to the sponsors of the project whenever the opportunity arose. With the media publicity the project enjoyed, RSG received a lot of publicity.

11. Any other comments?

It will be observed that the initial budget for contingency (392 Pounds) was added to the 185 Pounds initially budgeted for monthly educational visits and a decrease from of 68 Pounds from Honorarium to make up for the increases.