

Final Evaluation Report

Your Details	
Full Name	Bruce Ainebyona
Project Title	Sustainable Community Conservation of Magombe Wetland, Western Uganda
Application ID	32952-1
Grant Amount	5997
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1. 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
Support local communities understand and appreciate the values of wetlands and how they can contribute to their conservation				Through the awareness meetings and training, locals understood the direct and indirect values of the wetland and were guided on how they can conserve the wetland.
Improve the relationship between wetland management authorities and local communities neighbouring the wetland				One of the causes of conflict between wetland management authorities and local communities was the issue of boundaries. These were clearly marked during the programme and most wetland neighbours agreed, while a few contested the boundaries. We engaged local leaders to help the few who contested understand. 45 households were supported with sustainable livelihood projects.
Restore and maintain wetland boundaries				Using the original district maps, GPS points of wetland boundaries were taken, and pillars and indigenous tree planted on the boundaries.
Restore and conserve biodiversity of the wetland				This is an ongoing programme. The indigenous trees planted, promotion of sustainable livelihood alternatives, coupled with the awareness received by wetland neighbours, will greatly contribute to the conservation of the wetland

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

Some wetland neighbours did not welcome the idea of erecting pillars on the wetland boundaries; they linked this to land grabbing that has happened in other parts of the country because the government surveyors use concrete pillars. To address this, we conducted a meeting with local leaders in the area to shed more light on the demarcation procedures while for those who were strongly opposed to the pillars, we only used indigenous trees as boundaries.

Some of the local leaders were in support of the locals using the wetland for non-sustainable purposes such as charcoal burning and agriculture. This at some point brought a conflict. To address this, we organised meetings for local leaders and community members. These meetings included members and leaders who supported and those who were against using the wetland for non-sustainable purposes to learn from each other.

To manage conflicts that may arise from wetland use and access, the Project Coordinator and KAFRED Program Manager the implementation team took an online course in Conservation Conflict Transformation (CCT) to be better positioned to handle conflicts in our conservation programmes. Note that KAFRED is the NGO that manages Magombe wetland on behalf of government.

Initially, we planned that sustainable livelihood projects would be implemented through village groups. The idea was not welcome by wetland neighbour and local leaders, as they preferred household focused approach.

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

- One hundred and twenty-five local community members, including leaders, attended our awareness meetings and training. During the meetings and awareness programmes, it was agreed which sustainable activities were allowed to take place in the wetland and exactly where they were to be carried out. Also, the wetland neighbours appreciated the value of conserving the wetland and agreed to respect the demarcated boundary.
- Over 1000 indigenous trees were planted around the wetland.
- Forty-five households were supported with alternative sustainable livelihood projects. To ensure success of the project, in each village a committee was established to monitor these projects. The selected members were also asked to report to authorities any illegal activities that may happen in the wetland

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

We involved local communities in the tree planting activity. Upon taking GPS points of the wetland boundary, each neighbour was given trees to plant and care for.

The project had a livelihood component, where 45 wetland neighbours were supported in beekeeping, animal rearing, indigenous tree planting and small enterprise projects, which we will continue to monitor.

In addition, we strictly recruited local community members in erecting pillars.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes, the project targeted the main Magombe wetland. However, there are a number of small wetlands and streams that pour into the main Magombe wetland

(tributaries), which have been encroached on. If this goes on, it will affect the main wetland as already seen in some other parts of the country.

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

- We already shared the work and will continue to share updates on the KAFRED website.
- I hope to attend and share the results of our work in local and regional conferences including the next regional Rufford Small Grant Conference.
- I also hope to share the results with key stakeholders such as National Environment Authority and District Naturals Resources Department during our periodic stakeholder meetings

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

The grant was used for 12 months as earlier anticipated below is the detailed work plan:

Period	Activity	Comments
December 2020 to January 2021	Establishing the tree nursery	December to January is a dry season, good to manage trees on a nursery and trees. This helped us prepare trees for planting in the rainy season
December 2020 and January 2021	Awareness meeting for wetland neighbours and key stakeholders	These were aimed at briefing wetland neighbours about the project and its objectives. In these meetings, we also agreed with stakeholders on how the project will be implemented. During the meetings, sustainable livelihood projects to be carried in the different parts of the wetland were agreed upon
March to May 2021	Marking and demarcation	We worked with the District Natural Resources Department and local leaders in demarcation of wetland boundaries. This exercise included mapping the wetland and taking different GPS points, erecting pillars and planting indigenous trees on the boundaries
June 2021	Meeting local leaders	Additional meetings with local leaders and other key stakeholders to clear
September 2021	Supporting identified livelihood projects	45 households were supported with sustainable livelihood projects such as beekeeping, animal rearing and small enterprises
October 2021 onwards	Monitoring the project	The project was integrated in the Magombe Wetland Management Plan and KAFRED work plan, therefore monitoring is on going.

8. Budget: 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. It is important that you retain the management accounts and all paid invoices relating to the project for at least 2 years as these may be required for inspection at our discretion.

Item	Budgeted Amount (£)	Actual Amount (£)	Difference (£)	Comments
Personnel	1105	975	-130	This was KAFRED contribution, and because we used local labour in some activities, it became cheap. We also got volunteers from Uganda Wildlife Authority- FACE project
Supporting sustainable livelihood activities	1800	1554	-246	We had initially planned for group projects including fishing, which was more costly, however when the wetland neighbours decided to take up individual projects, fishing was not supported
Pillars	2100	1950	-150	Technical people were invited to make pillars from the area where the project was to implemented and local labour that supported the technical people was relatively cheap
Equipment	230	240	+10	We bought extra equipment (drum for keeping water for irrigating seedlings)
Conducting awareness campaigns and meetings	1867	2200	+333	We conducted two extra meetings with local leaders and some wetland neighbours when there were disagreements on boundaries and wetland use conflicts
Tree nursery and seedlings	713	954	+241	This was KAFRED contribution, and we ended spending more than we had budgeted especially when it came to transporting the seedlings
Bank charges and fluctuation in forex rates		45	+45	This was not planned in the proposal budget, but it came up
Total	7873	7918	+103	KAFRED supplemented the funding go from Rufford and while there were some areas which were underspent, and these compensated the overspent areas

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

The next steps are:

Continue monitoring the planted trees to ensure that they are well cared for. Once they mature, they will not only help in marking the boundaries clearly but also will compliment to the general conservation efforts.

Follow up on the beneficiaries of the livelihood programme such that the projects succeed. This will improve the relationship between wetland management authorities and local communities. In addition, not all wetland neighbours benefited from the sustainable livelihood programme; therefore, we will continue looking for avenues of including more households.

Implement a similar project on the small streams and wetlands that pour into the main wetland because once these are not conserved, it is more likely that the main wetland will be no more in the near future because it is these small streams and wetlands that make up the bigger wetland

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

Yes, we used the Rufford logo on all our project documents, attendance sheets and payment receipts.

We acknowledged the support from Rufford on KAFRED website and during our radio talk shows about conservation programs in the area.

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

Bruce Ainebyona: Bruce, a conservation educator was the Project Coordinator. He organized the content and facilitated awareness meetings while working with the team. He coordinated and supported all the other field projects

Tinka John: The programs manager for KAFRED, the NGO that manages Magombe Wetland, helped in reviewing the training content, mobilizing wetland neighbours and local leaders. Tinka was a key link between the project team and other stakeholders such as government political and technical officers.

Kassim Ariganyira: Kassim is the District Environment Officer, Kamwenge, the district where the wetland is. He co-facilitated meetings targeting local community leaders and wetland neighbours and helped interpret the wetland laws. He was also the contact person for the District Natural Resources Department and the National institution in charge of wetland management/National Environment Management Authority

Kukundakwe Anthony: Anthony is the Kamwenge District surveyor. He took a lead in marking the wetland boundaries and erecting pillars especially in areas where there

was encroachment on the wetland. He shared district maps with local community members who seemed dissatisfied with the boundaries.

Babiiha John: Babiiha is an expert in raising and planting indigenous trees; he was mainly in charge of establishing and managing the tree nursery for indigenous trees. He was also in charge of distributing seedlings to wetland neighbours, support them in planting and help monitor the trees until they established

Nahabwe Noah: Noah is Guide at KAFRED and his parents are wetland neighbours, he worked closely with Mr. Babiiha in the tree planting program, he was in charge of identify community members for the livelihood program and following up on beneficiaries

Tumwesigye: Police officer, Bigodi Police Station; he was in charge of enforcement, security and law and order

12. Any other comments?

We were pleased to get support from The Rufford Foundation in implementing this project, which fit so well in the Magombe Wetland Management plan, which was approved by the government.