

Final Evaluation Report

Your Details	
Full Name	Bruce Ainebyona
Project Title	Sustainable Community Conservation of Magombe Wetland, Western Uganda – Part two
Application ID	36983-2
Date of this Report	18 th May 2023

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
To raise public awareness on the importance of wetland tributaries and dangers of their degradation				We reached out to over 150 local community members who attended our physical awareness meetings. In our radio campaign, we had feedback from 45 people from three districts during our talk shows while the community dialogue that aired live on a popular radio station reached over 3000 people.
Restore degraded parts of wetland tributaries				From the project, 25 local community members agreed and vacated the wetland tributaries while others need more time and engagement.
To offer alternative sustainable livelihoods				20 local community members were supported with alternative livelihoods such as beekeeping, goat rearing, and sustainable agriculture and agroforestry inputs. Over 100 locals received knowledge and awareness on how they can continue to use wetland resources in their communities in a way that is sustainable

2. Describe the three most important outcomes of your project.

- a) **Formation of local wetland management committees:** In each of the 11 villages, the project staff worked in, we formed local wetland management committees made of three members. These agreed to guide locals on how they can conserve wetlands in their villages. They are also act contact people between the project team and local government.
- b) **Supporting wetland neighbours with sustainable livelihood activities and tree planting:** 20 local community members were supported with physical inputs to help promote sustainable use of wetland resources. Ten of these were supported with livestock (goats and pigs); five were supported with beekeeping, while five were supported with sustainable agriculture inputs. The project integrated indigenous tree planting activity and 1000 trees were planted in the agroforestry and sustainable agriculture part of the project.

c) Strengthened relationship between local communities, government and management of Bigodi Wetland Sanctuary

Awareness meetings and radio programmes brought together different stakeholders such as the representatives from the office of the president, District Natural Resources Department, local leaders and local communities. The local community members appreciated the awareness meetings. They acknowledged there is a lot they did not know in relation to wetland conservation and were pleased that the awareness direction was used first opposed to law enforcement, which is commonly used. The livelihood component of the project was also very much appreciated by the local town council, who pledged to continue supporting management of Bigodi wetland in conserving wetlands within the area.

3. Explain any unforeseen difficulties that arose during the project and how these were tackled.

In some areas, local community members have sold some of the tributary wetlands as private land. People who bought such land found it difficult to vacate and appealed to the District Natural Resources Department to take their case further. Some of these were supported with sustainable livelihood projects such as beehives and goats such that they can still use the land but in a way that can allow the areas to regenerate.

Some politicians did not support the project; they interpreted the project as if it aimed at evicting local communities from their land especially those who had land next to the wetland tributaries. Local community members raised this concern during awareness meetings. In the same awareness meetings, the District Natural Resources Department informed the local communities that the project was only aiming at conserving the wetland tributaries and buffers. The District Environmental Officer informed them that as wetland neighbours, they were to act as custodians of the wetland buffers next to their land. However, he emphasised that they should use the wetland buffers in a manner that is sustainable and acceptable.

4. Describe the involvement of local communities and how they have benefitted from the project.

The local wetland management committee leads from the previous project reported out what was happening in their areas during the first awareness meeting, which was attended by local community members. The committee leads reported progress and challenges they were facing about wetland conservation. They went ahead and suggested areas where they needed additional help especially timely response from district officials. More committee members were selected to help in conserving the wetland tributaries.

One of the project staff conducted the tree planting activity but local community members especially supported him in preparation of the tree nursery.

Twenty local community members who have land next to wetland tributaries were supported with sustainable livelihood projects. These 20 will serve as examples to

other community members who also attained knowledge and information on how they can start or even improve the same projects.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes, the project team will continue to work closely with KAFRED team to follow up and offer guidance with the sustainable livelihood programme. The aim is to have these projects flourish and help other community members learn and adopt the same.

Together with the KAFRED Management and the local government officials, we will continue to monitor these tributary wetlands to ensure that they are not encroached on because according to the law of Uganda, these should be protected the same way as the bigger wetlands.

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

I am going to attend the International Congress for Conservation of Biodiversity in Kigali-Rwanda in July 2023. I hope to share my experiences with other participants since one of the pre-congress workshops is organised for conservation practitioners to share successes and challenges faced in their work.

I am obliged to give a presentation to the district local government and KAFRED board on the project.

I hope in future, I will attend an RSG meeting and share more with other Rufford recipients.

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

This project and the first project were aimed at conserving Magombe and surrounding small wetlands. The local community, local leadership and district administration has largely been involved. Now the next important steps is focussing on conservation of species that live in this wetland especially the endemic Uganda mangabey, the endangered ashy red colobus monkey and others

8. 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, I used the logo on all the registers for awareness meetings, on the payment sheets and the reports I submitted to the District Local government. Rufford Foundation was acknowledged by KAFRED board for the support given in conservation of Magombe Wetland on their 30th anniversary.

I also posted about the progress of the project on my Facebook and LinkedIn pages while acknowledging Rufford's support.

9. Provide a full list of all the members of your team and their role in the project.

Bruce Ainebyona: Bruce was the project team leader/coordinator. He oversaw the education and awareness sessions.

Tinka John: Tinka was instrumental in acting as key link between the project team, local district and government officials. Owing to his experience in project management, he guided the project and worked with KAFRED accounting officer to streamline the funding. He also followed up with KAFRED management to give supplementary funds for the project.

Babiiha John: Babiiha John oversaw the afforestation, agroforestry and all the tree-planting activities of the project. He worked with the district officials to plant indigenous trees around the tributary wetland and worked with the local communities to ensure that the trees were cared for until when they established.

Ainebyoona Peter: Peter worked closely with Bruce to implement the project. He coordinated the monitoring and evaluation part and was largely in charge of supporting local communities with alternative sustainable.

Ariganyira Kassim: Kassim is the District Environment Officer- Kamwenge. He helped the project team by acting as a key link with government agencies. He also offered technical support on wetland policy and management.

10. Any other comments?

I am very thankful to The Rufford Foundation for the support given. This project has not only help me promote conservation of wetlands in the region I live in but has also given me more knowledge and skills in project implementation and has helped me network with other stakeholders.