

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	Martin Ahorbo
Project title	Mangrove Restoration/Tree planting for Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Management of Wetland resources at Adzato Community in the Keta Lagoon Complex Ramsar Site.
RSG reference	38.01.09
Reporting period	April 2011
Amount of grant	£6,123
Your email address	macbobogh@yahoo.com
Date of this report	28 th April 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
Public awareness creation		√		There were door to door (one-on-one) sensitisation of community members and during communal labour gatherings, T-shirts printed with conservation messages. Community members have started spreading out to neighbouring communities messages on nature conservation practices and this has encouraged for a second phase of this project which will alongside focus on radio/call-in discussions as an effective tool to reach out to all parts of Ghana.
Raising and planting of mangroves and tree seedlings			√	Suitable weather conditions with a highly dedicated community members/local community project implementation committee in the area made raising and planting of mangroves/tree seedlings possible with tangible results on the field. There are more degraded lands yet to be covered and with increased interest expressed by the Adzato people and the District Assembly but with limited funds, there is the need for a second phase.
Educational workshops and field visits			√	The educational trip to Ada Ramsar site to see the success story of RSG Support was a turning point to change the mindset of the Adzato project implementation committee members who are now and always organising members of the Adzato community on nature conservation activities in a bid to compete with the people of Ada Ramsar site (a healthy competition on nature conservation) and the request by the youth, women and men of Adzato for a second phase is too much to bear.
Practical and participatory field training workshops/hands-on demonstrations			√	This was participated by school children, youth, women and men of Adzato community where indigenous skill was enhanced with modern scientific skill in preparing degraded lands, raising of tree/mangrove seedlings, planting and

				techniques in caring for growing seedlings as well as ways of preventing bush fires during wet and dry seasons.
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2. Please explain any unforeseen difficulties that arose during the project and how these were tackled (if relevant).

Flooding in the area due to heavy downpour of rains caused a delay in the field implementation, other activities like public education was still on-going and some of the times were devoted on creating outlets for the floods.

The interest expressed for a continuation is enormous and degraded lands made available by the Adzato community for this project to be extended on is very large and even a second phase is not enough but will go a long way for a replication of nature conservation activities in Adzato and its environs.

Seeing the benefits of the project before it began its implementation of activities, leaders of Adzato community had to relocate the project site but in the same area so they could have a wider benefits spread to a greater number of people of Adzato and its environs, this also caused a delay in finalising on the new site with challenges of less funds with the hope that a second phase will cover a larger portion and results in a wider replica benefits.

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

Mangroves regenerated along the Keta Lagoon at Adzato now covers a 1,200 m stretch, 15m in breadth of the banks of the lagoon and woodlot, covering an area of about 10 acres/4 ha of land. There is a planting committee set up by the local leaders of Adzato who are especially dedicated to caring for the maintenance of the growing mangroves and trees.

Attitudes of Adzato community members towards nature conservation activities have really improved with an encouraging interest even in school children who are the future leaders. The willingness to attend weekly communal labour calls for any nature conservation work in the community is very high.

Technology transfer in raising of tree/mangrove seedlings, degraded land preparation, planting, caring for growing seedlings etc. (farm management), fuel efficient stove construction, woodlot establishment and managing and selection of suitable tree species for an area due to soil and weather conditions.

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

The local community was involved from inception to completion of this phase of the project. Activities to undertake in this project was the suggestion of the community at a general community meeting/gathering, people who willingly volunteered and approved by leaders/entire community to be part of the project implementation committee where they assigned and supervised specific task to members of the Adzato community involved in the project activities.

As a community-based project, the entire Adzato community people had a meeting to select and agreed on specific days to do field work; clearing of degraded lands, pegging, acquiring of planting materials, planting, caring for planted seedlings which includes watering and supporting of weak seedlings and beating up for dead seedlings as well as clearing of weeds competing with planted seedlings, tree nursery/woodlot establishment. Schoolchildren, the youth, women and men of Adzato were all involved in all the stages of the project where indigenous knowledge demonstrated by Adzato community people was enhanced by scientific knowledge.

The local community people of Adzato benefited from knowledge sharing, skill enhancement and technology transfer.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes and yes again! There are plans to continue in the mangrove regeneration/tree planting, knowledge sharing, skill enhancement in other areas like weaving, stem grafting in fruits, public education on nature conservation and expansion in livelihood support activities. The entire community of Adzato is waiting for a second phase.

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

Printing of hard copies of reports bearing RSG Logo and showing pictures of tangible field results at Adzato, indicating pictures before RSG support and tangible results after RSG support and recorded videos of Adzato local community people interviews on the benefits of the RSG supported project to be shared at conferences, meetings, face book, Ghanaian and other international news reportage.

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

The RSG fund was used over a 2-year period approximately. It was realised that activities could not be rushed but must be timely implemented to avoid too much loss due to other unforeseen factors though the actual length of the project was 1-year period, so that monitoring and evaluation as well as involvement of all stakeholders can be effective.

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
Materials and equipment	3,377.77	3,007.00	370.77	With the new location of the project site, some items like canoe and others were not needed but other equipment like mattock was needed.
Alternative livelihood	621.60	589.90	31.70	There was a contribution from the Adzato local community fund.
Honorarium for resource persons (training workshop)	310.80	310.80	0.00	There was no difference in the amount.
Awareness creation, training and education	880.60	1,450.00	-569.40	More people attended covering a larger area than anticipated.

Operational Cost	932.40	1,654.00	-721.60	Fuel prices had increased and cost of goods and services was also affected.
Total	6,123.17	7,011.70	-888.53	Exchange rate: £1=GHC 2.20

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

Executing plans to consolidate and manage the gains made so far, stocktaking on implementation strategies, expanding and replicating success stories in this project. Volunteers being trained and going through refresher field training practices to update themselves to deal with new challenges on nature conservation.

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?

The RSG logo was used in the printing of T-shirts embossed with nature conservation messages. RSG received publicity in the Keta District through the Adzato District Assembly member of the area. It has also received publicity through the National Wetland Coordinator of Wild Life Division of the Forestry Commission of Ghana and Global Environment Facility of the UNDP-Ghana.

11. Any other comments?

RSG can simply be described as a **“SAVIOUR”** in Nature Conservation as funds are very hard to access for nature conservation work these days. As a conservationist, it is very encouraging and too good to be associated with RSG. There should also be an international monitoring and evaluation body to access gains and failures in RSG projects over the years wherever supports were given.