

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	Flomo P. Molubah
Project title	Manatee Monitoring and Habitat Conservation in Lake Piso Basin, Western Liberia
RSG reference	48.10.09
Reporting period	April 2010- March 2011
Amount of grant	£5657
Your email address	Farmers.associated@yahoo.com
Date of this report	15 th March 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 put in place a monitoring system for the monitoring of manatee in the coastal wetlands within the (LPSMUNR)			X	A total of eight local community dwellers, two each from four communities were trained in monitoring of West African manatee. The training focused on monitoring and documenting manatee spots along the Maffa River and the Lake Piso using GPS and datasheet. Those trained were mainly fishermen who activities keep them most of the time on the river and who constantly encounter the manatee. A mechanism was developed to enable trained local community dwellers visit the spot mapped by the project to record sighting and number of manatee. They also recorded other manatee seen outside the mapped spots. Copy of the training report was sent to the RSG Secretariat and published on the FACE webpage.
To carry out a vigorous community sensitisation campaign for the conservation/protection of the manatee and its habitat in all communities through town hall meetings, local radio and promotional materials.			X	Four communities were targeted for sensitisation. They include Sawelor, Tallah, Kebah and Kumia. FACE conducted a week community sensitisation in the four communities targeted by the project. The exercise was carried out using poster that carried photo of the West African manatee along with some key information about the animal. Copy of the poster was sent to the RSG Secretariat to be poster on the FACE webpage. The animal is also placed in the FACE /local community ecotourism program brochure as a means to continually raise the profile of the animals. Copy of the brochure to be attached for your perusal. One radio show was held during this period.

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

As you might be aware, Liberia is currently recovering from a 15-year plus civil war that led to the complete breaking down of everything including infrastructural and human resources. Using unpaved road by vehicle and the Maffa River as well as Lake Piso by canoe are the two means by which the project site can be accessed. On land, the area is accessed from the main Monrovia- Bo Waterside- Sierra Lone Highway. An unpaved road at Tienii enables access in the Lake Piso Multiple-Sustainable – Used Reserve via Gbesseh. This road has lot of pot holes and plank bridges that have not been rehabilitated for the last 10-15 years. This makes it very difficult to travel using ordinary vehicles that are not four-wheel drive. The situation was addressed by hiring a 4WD pick-up every time the team travelled to the project site.

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

Three most important outcomes of the project are:

1. *Lake Piso communities sensitised on the importance of manatee*: Based on the level of community sensitisation carried out by the project, people are aware of the role manatee plays in their environment including the land and water.
2. *Capacity of local people built*: Local community dwellers skills and knowledge were built in the use of basic field equipments, including camera and GPS. Their skills were also built in the collection of field data that will afford them the opportunity to participate in the management of the site, which form a major part of the proposed protected area.
3. *Improved relationship between FACE and the local communities*: The project strengthened the working relationship between FACE and communities concerned in terms of information sharing and data collection, and provided FACE additional information on its bio-monitoring exercise being carryout at the site. Consequently, the communities have develop strong confidence in FACE as project implementing agency

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

The local communities were involved at all levels, from the drafting of the proposal to its implementation. The project is a product of two meetings held with local communities on threats to biodiversity in the Lake Piso basin. The first was in 2006 when the community participated in a threat analysis workshop and the second in 2008 when the local community participated in a community forestry surveys. During the implementation, the local communities were trained to monitor the manatee; they conducted the exercise for six month. In terms of benefit to local communities, the project provided them with skills and knowledge and money as fee for services rendered.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

FACE plans to continue this work but this time on the species protection/conservation level and involving long-term involving of the local communities, meaning community-based manatee conservation programme. Although the conservation foundation of the animal has been established through the RSG project, the challenge for continuation of this work will be fund raising and to put in

place a mechanism that will attract the involvement of other local and international conservationists.

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

FACE planned to share the results of the project firstly using the webpage of the RSGF. Until a website of FACE is established, the result of the project and future findings will be posted on the websites of FACE partners (i.e. Forestry Development Authority, Society for the Conservation of Nature of Liberia and Environmental Protection Agency). Secondly, the email will be used to reach other stakeholders who may not be able to access the report from the above mentioned websites.

Thirdly, FACE intends to share the results with local communities through village meetings and posters.

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

The RSG from implemented from the first week of April 2010 to last week of February 2011. This period coincides with the planned period.

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
Accommodation and feeding - A				
Hotel Accommodation for Research Team	678.57	678.57	0	
Food Supply	285.71	367.86	(82.15)	For feeding during field works
Cooking and Feeding Utensil	53.57	53.57	0	
Kerosene Stove	35.71	35.71	0	
Kerosene	35.71	42.86	(7.15)	
Village Guard	642.86	685.71	(42.85)	
Sub-total	1732.14	1,864.28	(132.15)	
Field Logistic-B				
GPS	214.29	214.29	0	
Video Camera	428.57	428.57	0	
Tent	857.14	857.14	0	
Digital Camera	285.71	185.71	100	
Flash Light	10.71	8.57	2.14	
Batteries	28.57	25.81	2.76	
Wellington Booth	53.57	53.57	0	
Phone Cards	53.57	42.86	10.71	
Sub-total	1932.14	1,816.53	115.53	
Transportation-C				

Vehicle Hire	892.86	1,125.00	(232.14)	
Canoe Hire	428.57	320	108.57	
Vehicle Fuel	250	225	25.00	
Sub-total	1571.43	1,670.00	(98.57)	
Report Writing-D				
Stationeries	107.14	71.43	35.71	
Map Production	107.14	17.86	89.31	
Computer services	53.57	53.57	0	
Report production	142.86	71.43	71.43	
Sub-total	410.71	214.29	196.45	
Total(A+B+C+D)	5,646.42	5,565.10	277.71	

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

The presence of manatee in the Lake Piso region and the need to protect them from dangerous human activities (e.g. use of fishing nets, dynamiting and hunting manatees stranded in mud and paddy farms) justify conservation measures as the main next step. This will require fund raising as the immediate next step. Specifically, conservation measures entail community-based ecotourism, establishment of and support to community conservation watch team, establishment of and support to nature clubs, continuation of awareness/sensitisation on local radio stations etc.

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, the RSG logo was used on the local community sensitisation poster produced and the two field reports sent for publication on the FACE Webpage. During the project period, the RSGF received two publications and were published on the FACE webpage. The two publications were the reports on the awareness raising carried out in the communities and the survey carried out to document manatee sites- nesting, feeding and breeding.

11. Any other comments?

FACE is very thankful to the RSGF for the level of support the organisation received during the project implementation period. FACE hopes for a stronger tie and partnership between the two organisations in the fight against bio degradation/extinction in Liberia.