

## The Rufford Small Grants Foundation

### Final Report

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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](mailto:jane@rufford.org).

Thank you for your help.

**Josh Cole**

**Grants Director**

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#### Grant Recipient Details

<b>Your name</b>	Seguya Henry Kizito
<b>Project title</b>	Integrating cultural values with on-farm biodiversity conservation for the effective conservation of Sangobay forests in Southern Uganda
<b>RSG reference</b>	8267-1
<b>Reporting period</b>	May 2013-June 2014
<b>Amount of grant</b>	£5982
<b>Your email address</b>	<a href="mailto:hsegy@yahoo.com">hsegy@yahoo.com</a>
<b>Date of this report</b>	30 <sup>th</sup> August 2014

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
Promote awareness of cultural values approach to on-farm biodiversity conservation			x	<p>Awareness has been created in both formal and informal settings. Seven formal awareness workshops have been conducted (five in the community, one at the sub county for the councillors, and one at Rakai district local government). Also a number of informal meetings were held at different places within the community during the field visits. During the meetings, a number of concepts were discussed including but not limited to conservation, culture in relation to conservation, benefits of conservations (social, economic, aesthetic, etc.) and community as key custodians to conservation.</p> <p>Due to the awareness raised, the number of people embracing the project concept and the support received from the district administration has increased. The project started with 10 people willing to plant the <i>Ficus</i> sp. trees but by the end of the project, over 100 farmers have planted <i>Ficus</i> sp. in their gardens. The project supported 50 farmers in purchasing the <i>Ficus</i> sp. trees but overtime many have gone their way to purchase the seedlings themselves. With such an attitude, the project interventions and other corroborating efforts will be sustainable and the intervention area will act as a laboratory for reference as far as on-farm biodiversity conservation is concerned.</p>
Build the capacity of the community in different conservation techniques			x	<p>A number of trainings were conducted in the community. These ranged from tree planting to management using indigenous knowledge and conventional knowledge. The training involved both community members experienced in <i>Ficus</i> sp. tree growing and researchers from Barkcloth Enterprise Uganda (BEU) who double as entrepreneurs in products from <i>Ficus</i> sp. trees.</p> <p>Monitoring of the planted <i>Ficus</i> sp. has been done by a selected team from the community and BEU. Community members were trained in bird identification. During the training, they were also trained on the importance of monitoring birds and their role as indicators of environmental health.</p> <p>Opportunist visits were also used to build capacity of</p>

				the communities. A case in point was during the common birds monitoring by NatureUganda when a visit to the project site was done by renowned birder Roger Skeen, a researcher working with NatureUganda who gave the community some bird identification tips during a transect walk along the gardens were <i>Ficus</i> sp. was planted.
Improve integrity of farms as safe havens for biodiversity		x		By the end of the project, Over 20,000 trees have been planted on farmlands within the project area although the project had targeted 6000 <i>Ficus</i> sp. trees. Also over 2000 <i>Meopsis emini</i> trees have been planted. Although the impact cannot be determined immediately, it is anticipated that in the second year of the project it will be visible. This will be indicated through the tree cover, soil property improvements, plant health etc. However the project targeted to improve the ecological integrity of sacred sites found within the farming areas but this was not done. This was due to issues surrounding species to be planted, permission from “spirits” but by the time of project end, two of the target sites owners have allowed restoration of the sites and we anticipate doing this during in the future.
Improve livelihoods of project intervention communities		x		There were immediate impacts on community members’ livelihoods and increased incomes in some homesteads especially those which had the preferred type of Mature <i>Ficus</i> sp. targeted for planting. The project however anticipates increased incomes of intervention communities 3 years after the project when the <i>Ficus</i> sp. trees have matured. Efforts are underway to search for market of the bark cloth with potentials identified from Uganda, Kenya and beyond. Partnerships are being established between the bark cloth entrepreneurs for bulk purchases and also involve the department of Art and Design Makerere University to engage the communities especially women in making the end products from the bark cloth like hats, dresses, key holders etc in a professional manner. This will go a long way on creating sustainable income for the communities as well as fetching more incomes from value addition.
Share project related information with stakeholders for wider impact and replication			x	Project related information has been shared by different stakeholders and networks. Two posters have been presented at 2 Rufford grantees conferences in Mombasa, Kenya and Kigali, Rwanda. Also the reports and project proceedings have shared with different organisations whose work is related to that promoted by the project. These include Fauna and Flora

				<p>International (Uganda), NatureUganda, National Forestry authority, Rakai district local government, Kyembe sub- county and the communities within the project area. This has garnered more support for the project and potential areas of collaboration, research and documentation are being discussed with potential collaborators.</p> <p>One PhD graduate with work related to on-farm biodiversity conservation is also interested in the project work and discussions are underway on how a publication can be developed from the project.</p> <p>One article has been sent to the naturalist magazine (Nature Uganda) will be circulated to over 2000 of its members and published, floated on the internet.</p>
Establish institutions which promote awareness about on farm biodiversity conservation			x	<p>One Community Based Organisation, Kagera Tourism and (Conservation Organisation-KATOCO) has been formed. This will enable the project as well the different development and conservation partners have formalised interactions with the community. However more training is needed to build capacities of the CBOs in management and institutional running to ensure sustainability of the project activities.</p>

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

There were a number of unforeseen difficulties which had an impact on some of the project activities. Some of these included but not limited to:

**Weather:** The prolonged wet seasons had a hitch on project implementations. The team would travel from Kampala and on several occasions be delayed by the rains. At times the turn-up would be low hindered achievement of the project targets but the attendees were always encouraged to pass on the message to others. A case in point was the training of the community members in bird identification. Although the training was scheduled for over 20 people, only 10 attended. More training sessions are scheduled for the when the project has been funded again and also those who were trained were encouraged to train others. Planning is will be emphasised to implement activities mainly during the hot season and plant the trees at the beginning of the rain seasons. Also, the sunny season led to some of the tree seedlings drying up with over 1000 trees recorded.

**Technical gaps:** The team never had in-house capacities for GIS data manipulations and collection. This caused the team to extend the project implementation period given the fact that the trainer has a tight schedule. The training, data collection and processing happened in late July though the project was intended to end in May 2014 officially.

**Access to target project sites:** Although the project had targeted restoration of the sacred sites, access to some of the sites was not possible due to the number of reasons forwarded by the owners

but due to the ongoing awareness creation, two of the sites are yet to be restored in the subsequent phases of the project.

**Managing interests:** Some partners of the project especially the district local government have noted that the project is dominated by men especially as far as bark cloth processing is concerned. They have encouraged the project team to factor in the gender concerns in the future designs of the project. The project team has encouraged more women especially the youth to participate more in the bird monitoring training and efforts are underway to source for support to make marketable crafts from the backcloth.

**Exchange rate:** During planning we had planned the exchange rate at UGX 3900 but at the time of receiving the funds, the exchange rate had dropped. This affected the project budget and some of the activities were merged or partially done.

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

**Attitude change:** There has been a general change of attitude in the project area about on-farm biodiversity conservation. The communities cited that it is traditionally known that conservation is done in protected and gazetted area, but it can also be done on farmlands and non-protected areas. Through the monitoring of the biodiversity and crop productivity, the community have started monitoring presence of birds and butterflies and other wildlife as indicators of change in environmental health. Some community members have started planting trees in their gardens to supplement those provided by the project. In a nutshell, the community learnt that conservation can be close, monitoring of conservation can answer local economic challenges and adoption of conservation practices. This has boosted conservation awareness in the project area of intervention and beyond, reflected in the increased participants in tree planting.

**Training in avian monitoring by the communities:** The communities were trained in avian identification and the benefits which can be derived from accumulation of such skills. Given the fact that the project area is one of the earmarked tourism focal sites in Uganda, this is a proactive accumulation of skills which lead to ease transformation of local guides. Also given the interest developed in culture the communities will diversify their tour products to include culture. With the ongoing monitoring programmes in conservation like the common birds monitoring scheme and the project linkages to NatureUganda, the birding skills of the community members are expected to be boosted. A species list for the area has been developed though not conclusive and this will act as the baseline for the project interventions later. The communities also have an opportunity to learn when the team is conducting such surveys.

**Institutional development:** Organising people for conservation was one of the major project achievements. This gives them future operational ease and partnership establishment with other companies and stakeholders. As the project aims at improving the people's livelihoods, such arrangements help them have a good negotiating edge and well ensuring quality control for the bark cloth they manufacture. Also such unifications help the communities to advocate effectively for conservation and sustainable development.

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

Given the distance of the project area from the team, the project achievements were hardly tenable without the participation of the community. To ensure sustainability and continuity of the project activities, the project team used the strategies proposed by the communities in implementing the project, therefore they took lead of all field based project activities. The community were at the forefront of spreading the on-farm biodiversity conservation related information hence the increased numbers of participants. By the time of reporting, they are still mobilising others to join the respective Community Based Organisations. The community have benefited from the project through skills accumulation, exposure to institution establishment and operation, use of birding related tools and materials, report writing, communication, negotiations and many other skills. They will use these lessons/skills past the project for betterment of their lives, advocacy, development and advocate for conservation.

#### **5. Are there any plans to continue this work?**

There are a number of plans to see this work continue. Some of these include:

**Searching for more funding:** Given the uniqueness of the project concept and the achievements, the team will seek for more funding to consolidate the project achievements and where possible replicate them to other areas.

**Strengthening partnerships established:** The team and the community will capitalise on the partnerships established to ensure sustenance of the project achievements. Constant communication and updates will be provided to:

- Bark cloth enterprise Uganda and other interested entities to enhance future business synergies and market.
- NatureUganda to enhance collaboration on bird monitoring and if possible mainstream the sites into the common birds monitoring scheme.
- As far as conservation and culture is concerned, the team and the community will keep contact with Fauna and Flora International and identify more future areas of collaboration.
- Also the team and the communities will create avenues through which they will engage the tour companies to involve the project sites on their itineraries as cultural tourism destination sites given the rich heritage in the area.

With the established community institutions and the commitment exhibited by the community members and leaders, they will be encouraged to mobilise other members to continue planting more trees given the enormous benefits which can be realised from them.

**Awareness promotion:** The team will also continue to promote the project and its concept through garnering support from conservation networks. This will be achieved through the various articles arising from the project work. Already one article has been submitted to NatureUganda to publish in the Naturalist magazine which is shared to over 2000 members and over 50 conservation institutions.

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

There are many avenues through which the project results will be communicated. These include but not limited to:

**Through project partners:** Throughout the project implementation, progress reports have been shared with partner organisation like NatureUganda, Fauna and Flora International, Rakai district local government and National Forestry Authority. Possible areas of collaboration are being identified as well as those which can be developed into future projects.

**Articles and conferences:** The team developed a project article which was published in the Naturalist magazine that is circulated to over 2000 members of NatureUganda. Also the team targets to disseminate the project achievements through different conferences. At the time of reporting, the project progress results were presented through a poster at two Rufford grantees conferences in Kigali, Rwanda and Mombasa, Kenya which were attended by over 200 participants.

**Publications:** Through the subsequent phases of the project and the data collected, a paper will be published with one of the leading journals to promote more learning and sharing of knowledge with other scientists globally. Also a news paper article on the promotion of on-farm biodiversity conservation is being sought with one of the leading media houses in Uganda.

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

Although the required period of project implementation was April 2013 to May 2014, the team requested for an extension to finalise the pending activities arising from a technical gap. One of the project activities was to map all planted trees for evidence based partnership formulation with interested bark cloth deals and to ensure sustainable supply of the bark cloth. However the trainer/GIS expert failed to allocate time for the team during the stipulated time. Hence an extension was granted up to September but we managed to finalise the project in August 2014.

## 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
Community mobilisation, Organise community awareness workshops on culture and conservation	700	600	100	Although we had anticipated fewer workshops, more were conducted hence more days were spent in the field. This was due to low turn up arising mainly from the rainy season. (Costs went to community, political leader's mobilisation, meals etc.)
Facilitation for five elders during awareness on culture and conservation on taboos, norms which are important to conservation especially those related to bark cloth	100	195	-95	The elders were facilitated during the monitoring of management of the trees (especially <i>Ficus</i> sp.) planted. This was at times jointly done with the experts from bark cloth enterprise Uganda. Over five monitoring trips were conducted. (Costs included for transport facilitation, professional fees,



				communication, meals, out of pocket)
Facilitation of trained community members to train other members	200	170	30	Three workshops were conducted in 2 sub-counties to train fellow community members on skills acquired. These have contributed to the increased numbers of project participants. (Costs included meals, stationery, transport, out of pocket). This was used for , preparation of meals, mobilisation
Purchase of 3 bird guides for the community	78	76	2	3 books purchased
Purchase of project printer and cartridges for printing data collection forms and other required documents	190	180	10	Purchased one printer and two cartridges
Train communities in Biodiversity monitoring, data collection and interpretation as well as tourism guiding	760	400	360	The workshop logistics were prepared for over 50 people but 10 members attended due to weather conditions. These involved purchase of stationery, meals, printing of manuals for reference, facilitation for district and sub-county officials
Analysis of data	200	350	-150	The training of the team in elementary GIS, collecting of the data as well as analysis took more days (7 days) which are more than what was planned (costs were for facilitation of the trainer, analysis of the data, community guiding and mobilisation)
Purchase of 1 GPS and used camera, project stationery	470	390	80	One used GPS (Garmin GPSmap 62s) and used camera (Sony) were purchased. The balance was used to purchase stationery which was also shared with the two established CBOs with which the project is operating.
Hold meetings with barkcloth products investors	120	120	0	Costs were for transportation to the bark cloth investors for meetings, Courier services for sending samples to Nairobi and meetings with the stakeholders for seek areas of collaboration. Also institutions with potential of making bark cloth products were visited (anticipating for future involvement of women)
Work on MoU between communities and investors	70	70	0	The MoU was not signed given the fact the investors were sceptic on the tree management and quality of bark cloth to be produced. However the money was used to support planting of more trees.
Train community members in tree management	350	320	30	Communities from two sub counties were trained in tree management. Two workshops were conducted. These involved costs towards meals for participants, mobilisation, transport for distant participants, training materials, facilitation for consultants among others.
Monitoring of planted trees and support for community members by trainer	200	200	0	Over 10 monitoring and mobilisation trips have been conducted by the community focal persons. The costs involved fuel, lunches, modest facilitation and contribution to car hire.
Purchase 4000 Ficus tree spp seedlings and other	615	1065	-450	Despite the change in exchange rate of the pound to UGX, the team managed to purchase over 6000



agrobiodiversity tree species				planting materials for the <i>Ficus</i> , seedlings were planted. The costs involved purchase of the seedlings and transporting them to different collection centres.
Purchase seedlings of culturally significant tree species from National Forestry Authority for restoration of sacred sites	450	300	150	Although the team had targeted culturally significant trees from NFA, the nurseries had mainly <i>Mopsis eminni</i> of which over 2000 were planted and plans are underway to negotiate with NFA for seed collection of culturally viable and agro friendly varieties from the forest reserve.
Costs towards registration of the community based organisation with special focus on culture, conservation, eco-friendly income generation and tourism promotion	100	100	0	One CBO was registered. The costs went to mandatory district registration fees, community consultations, transport, legal review fees, mobilisation of community members
Bank charges	50	50	0	Charges towards cheque books, withdrawals, monthly fees and other unknown fees
Travel by public- Transport for Kampala based project team	230	260	-30	Although the team had planned to travel four times to the project sites, seven trips were conducted
Car hire for field activities while in Rakai and fuel for travel	537	537	0	A discount was negotiated with the service provider to fit in the budget and the rest was spent on fuel from Kyotera to the project sites and the days spent there.
Facilitation (accommodation and meals) during field travels	462	480	-18	More trips were made more than budgeted but we tried to keep in budget. Project also made a contribution of £40 to one community member as facilitation and transport for training in tourism.
Communication (internet, phone and postage)	100	100	0	Costs towards purchase of modem, airtime, talk time and transportation of some materials to the community by public means
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5982</b>	<b>5963</b>	<b>19</b>	

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

Some of the important steps after the first phase of the project include:

- More capacity building and exposure needs to be done for the communities to improve their skill in avian monitoring. There is need for standardising the monitoring regimes for production of credible data to contribute to the common birds monitoring scheme. This will arise from transects created from the mapped data arising from the GIS mapping exercise.
- The tree planting campaign needs to be promoted further given the interest exhibited by the community members and given the fact that habitat integrity cannot be achieved in one day. This will go a long way in improving the ecological integrity of the farms. This coupled with the changed attitude will help in creating safe havens for biodiversity on people's farmlands. The second phase will target expanding the project scope area and adopting other villages where planting has not commenced and if the resources allow, also one sub county will be

co-opted. The planted trees will also be geo-referenced and updated maps as well as statistics produced.

- Training the youths in bark cloth making; as highlighted in the subsequent interactions with the communities, there was a skills gap in making bark cloth. The youths have not inherited the skills from the older generation but after awareness, many have showed interest in revamping the activity which entirely applies indigenous knowledge and tools. This will go a long way on conserving nature related cultural practices and changing the perceptions the people have towards nature. It brings the balance between economics, aesthetics, culture of which the later creates more attachment to conservation of the resources.
- More market linkages will be mobilised to ensure that the bark cloth made by the farmers can be sold off. This will arise from evidence based records, GIS data and standardisation of the bark cloth to ensure a close to same quality product. With available market, the community will go a long way in attaching value to the already planted trees and giving confidence (supply in quantity and quality) to the investors dealing in bark cloth and those interested.
- Improve institutional management of the established CBOs to ensure sustainability of the project interventions and replication.

**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 team used the logo on all communication materials used in the project. This included posters presented during the conferences, refund forms, reports, presentations among others. The final report will also bear the Rufford SGF Logo.

**11. Any other comments?**

The project needs further support to show case the importance of on-farm biodiversity conservation and show case how culture and indigenous knowledge can be pivotal to conservation. The project show cases a multidimensional approach to conservation with roots from interventions which make meaning to people as well as using local knowledge to solve conservation challenges as opposed to import blue prints from elsewhere.

Culture is one of the under publicised approach to conservation. Therefore this chance granted by Rufford Foundation will go a long way in showcasing this approach and mobilising many players to have components of culture in their programs and project designs. Lastly, the team wishes to thank Rufford Foundation for the support and accepting to fund the project. Many thanks to the communities we worked with in Kyebe Subcounty, Rakai district local government, National forestry Authority, Fauna and Flora International, NatureUganda for all the support rendered to see this project achieve its objectives.