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. 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.

Thank you for your help.

Josh Cole

Grants Director

Grant Recipient Details	
Your name	Youndjie Koleoko Gabriel
Project title	Restoration and protection of degraded watersheds, in Bafut-Cameroon, using analogue forestry technology
RSG reference	8304-1
Reporting period	October 1, 2010-September15, 2011
Amount of grant	£ 5,948
Your email address	cendep2001@yahoo.com
Date of this report	September 15, 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
Educate the local people on the functions, products and services of traditional forests and the need for sustainable management to ensure that forest benefits continue forever.			X	We sensitized the stakeholders on the concept of analog forestry and engaged them in the design, planning and implementation of project activities. Stakeholders included Water Management Committees (WMC), Forest Management Committees (FMC), government technical ministries (agriculture), traditional council, local council members, and farming/women groups. We negotiated and defined the roles of each stakeholder category for smooth and effective implementation of project activities. We created environmental education clubs in 03 primary schools as a way of reaching out to pupils. We conducted a needs assessment in the three communities as part of the planning and design of project implementation activities in the long term. Stakeholders included: Water Management Committees (WMC), Forest Management Committees (FMC), government technical ministries (agriculture), traditional council, local council members, and farming/women groups.
Train the local people especially natural resources management committees and environmental education clubs on tree nursery establishment and management for the restoration of the degraded areas of their		X		Training involved methods of seed collection and storage, nursery site location and layout, seed bed preparation and compost making, as well as nursery protection from stray animals. A physiognomic study was undertaken according to the principles of analog forestry with the aim of understanding the structure, function and composition of the remnant forest in order to create a baseline against which future management

forest.				interventions will be measured. Analog forestry induced farm designs were achieved for 11 private landowners as well as for the 03 communal water catchment areas. For environmental education, hands-on lessons were taught to pupils comprising: "climate change impacts on food security", "concepts and practice of analog forestry at the farm level". Overall, 3 community tree nurseries were established, one in each of the participating communities and about 4847 tree seedlings belonging to over 21 different species (both indigenous and exotic) were produced and planted out in the different community water catchments. The project did not meet its target of planting 8000 trees for reasons highlighted below. There are still about 1500 immature tree seedlings and more to be produced for planting when he rains come in 2012.
Train at least 500 small scale farmers on agricultural practices (composting, agro-forestry, conservation agriculture, and soil erosion control using vetiver biotechnology)		X		Training sessions were conducted on-farm for groups of farmers in same locality as per their expressed needs. The training sessions resulted in the establishment of demonstration units to serve the wider community. Overall, 415 farmers participated in the training sessions

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

The production of tree seedlings was slowed down in Akofugubah, one of the communities because community members were not respecting the schedule established to water the seedlings in the nursery. This led to the death of some of the tree seedlings. To resolve this, issue individual farmers were allowed to produce the tree seedlings needed by the project.

Still in Akofungubah, a conflict of interest arose over land presumed to be communal land which the project had earmarked for protection as Youndjie Koleoko Gabriel a community water catchment. With the help of the traditional council – one of our stakeholders, a village development meeting

was organized, and the conflict resolved permitting the project to replant over 600 tree seedlings already scheduled for planting on the site. At the end of the project, it was apparent the land dispute was not successfully resolved as those claiming the communal land later made it clear that project activities would not continue on the land. The delay in preparing this project report has been due partly to this. We have been trying to resolve the dispute amicably. Finally, it was resolved that additional trees earmarked for planting in this community be distributed to the 12 farmers who indicated willingness in establishing their private analog forestry farms. We hope to be able to resolve the conflict in the next phase of the project.

An adamant schoolteacher in Government School Mughie converted part of the school tree nursery into a yam farm destroying some of the seedlings that were already sprouting. This very unusual action from a literate member of the community led to a change of site of the nursery after consultation with the school authorities. Another teacher from the same school opted to provide water to the seedlings every morning before going to teach his pupils.

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

Local people acquired better knowledge of the role of communal forests as watershed protector and the need to protect them for the interest of all. This knowledge resulted in the mapping out for protection of some communal land areas. This mapping led to conflicts of interests as some community members were not ready to give up land in degraded watershed areas earmarked for protection.

Following the initial training on nursery establishment and manage farmers established the individual nurseries and were supplying seedlings to the project. The resolved the problem of nursery management

The project beneficiaries quickly understood analog forestry was not only for biodiversity conservation, watershed protection but that it had economic benefits at the level of the individual farmers. This led to the request by many farmers for the project to assist them in designing their farmland to incorporate analog forestry. The initial objective was to use analog forestry for the restoration of the community watershed.

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

Despite the initial difficulties in the management of the communal tree nurseries and subsequent privatization, the planting of trees at the water catchment sites involved the participation of men, women, school children and youths. The local council recognized the efforts of the project and donated 255 *Acacia* tree seedlings species for out-planting in sections of the Adiemokong water catchment area.

Some community members decided to establish individual tree nurseries to compliment seedlings produced from the community nursery. This action was intended to enable the project to meet its target in tree seedling production. Compared to other areas where we have worked before, the local people maintained their enthusiasm in the project as participation in field activities remained encouraging throughout the life of the project.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes. Towards the end of the project the Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry (SETAC), a non-profit, worldwide professional society pledged to support our tree planting project in Cameroon with a sum of 1,271 Euro. We shall use this money in support of analog forestry activities in Bafut and Mbiame. In Bafut school children shall be encouraged in establishing "baby tree nurseries" to provide tree seedlings for reforestation. Proceeds from these nurseries shall be used in acquiring basic school needs while a culture of tree planting will be instilled in the pupils/students. In Mbaime the nurseries shall be run by adults (especially forest management committee members and graziers who have joined the initiative after years of sensitization). The financial incentives they get from producing tree seedlings it is hope will deter them from engaging in destructive habits like grazing their cattle in areas under reforestation.
Thus, we shall use this grant to keep the momentum while looking for sustainable sources of financing for our work, considering that the analog forestry project is still at the initial phases and what we can clearly state as achievement is awareness creation. Now it is time for a full project on analog forestry in Bafut.

We shall provide a detailed outline of our plan in our next application to the Rufford Small Grants Foundation after we receive a closure letter on this project.

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

We have been sharing the results of our work on an ongoing basis. In October 2010, one month after the project was launched, we issued our first newsletter titled RSG Newsletter 1. The intention was to share progress on our analog forestry project in Bafut with our stakeholders. This newsletter was transformed to CENDEP Newsletter (CN), a bimonthly update of the field activities of CENDEP in 2011. We have been sharing this newsletter to all our stakeholders and shall continue to do so. Of recent we identified other channels such as the AfricaAdapt network with more than 1000 readers through we intend to share the result of our work. Apart from distributing our newsletter, we have created a blog (http://cendepnews.blogspot.com/) where readers can find back issues of our publications.

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

The RSG was used within a 12-month period as anticipated in the original proposal.

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 (£)	Actual amount	Difference	Comments
1. Human Resources				
1.1 Salary				
1.1.1Community facilitator	720.00	720.00	-	
2.Training sessions for natural resource management committees	267.00	267.00	-	
3. Nursery materials			-	

	1,097.00	1,097.00		
4 Collection/collection of agroforestry/indigenous seeds	400.00	400.00	-	
4. Transport allowance for field staff	640.00	640.00	-	
5. Supervision and monitoring	-		-	
5.1 Vehicle cost	1,280.00	1,280.00	-	
5.2 Subsistence allowance (supervision and monitoring)	336.00	336.00	-	
6. Project documentation (Participatory/internal evaluation)	666.67	666.67	-	
Administrative costs (10% total cost)	540.68	540.68	-	
Grand total	5,947.35	5,947.35	-	

Exchange rate: 1£=FCFA 759.642

Details of Expenditure				
Item	**Unit type**	**Number of units**	**Unit rate (£)**	**Total Spent (£)**
1. Human Resources				
1.1 Salary				
1.1.1Community facilitator	Month	12	60.0	720.00
2.Training sessions for natural resource management committees				
Flip chart paper	Ream	1	52.7	52.65
Bold makers	Piece	5	3.3	16.45
Notebooks	Piece	25	2.0	49.36
Pens	Lumpsum	1	6.6	6.58
Coffee & Lunch	Piece	25	3.9	98.72
Renting of projector	Piece	1	32.9	32.91
Renting of chairs	Lumpsum	1	10.0	10.00
3. Nursery materials				
3.1 Wheelbarrow	Piece	3	28.0	84.00
3.2 Raincoats	Piece	6	13.0	78.00
3.3 Rain boats	Piece	6	13.0	78.00
3.4 Cutlasses	Piece	6	4.0	24.00
3.5 Seed trays	Piece	6	5.0	30.00
3.6 Watering cans	Piece	6	8.0	48.00
3.7 Hoes	Piece	6	2.0	12.00
3.8 Polythene bags	Piece	10,000	0.1	666.67
3.9 Scissors	Piece	6	1.0	6.00
3.10 Spades	Piece	6	6.5	39.00
3.11 Rakes	Piece	6	3.3	19.80
3.12 Files	Piece	6	2.0	12.00

4 Collection/collection of agroforestry/indigenous seeds	Lumpsum	1	400.0	400.00
5. Transport allowance for field staff	Lumpsum	12	53.3	640.00
6. Supervision and monitoring				
5.1 Vehicle cost	Mandays	24	53.3	1,280.00
5.2 Subsistence allowance (supervision and monitoring)	Mandays	24	14.0	336.00
7. Project documentation (Participatory/internal evaluation)	Lumpsum	2	333.3	666.67
Subtotal				**5,406.81**
Administrative costs (10% total cost)		1	540.7	540.68
Grand total				**5,947.50**

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

The just ended project had a strong ecological component as can be evidenced by the number of trees raised for reforestation. In the next phase we shall lay equal emphasis on the economic component. On the social dimension we shall seek to resolve issues of land dispute.

In particular we shall:

- Promote the establishment of private analog forestry farms by farmers as farmers indicated interest in creating their own farms.
- Conduct exchange visits to communities that have started having economic benefits from the practice of analog forestry.
- Incorporate results of the needs assessment (poor crop yields and animal management) in future implementation activities in an effort to solve the food insecurity problems experienced in the communities as well as increase participation in conservation activities
- Promote forest-based income generating activities like bee keeping; activities that have a positive impact on biodiversity conservation
- In the Cameroonian context communal forests can be transformed into other uses such as agriculture and animal grazing. In order to safeguard the trees planted we shall facilitate the legal recognition of the forest management committees by registering them with the competent authorities. This is an important issue bordering on the sustainability of the groups as well as the protection of the forests that the communities are establishing.
- Women complained that project support targeted specifically men as for example the tools donated for nursery work were tools used by men and not suitable for women. Gender issues shall be incorporated in the next phase of the project and activities that target specifically women promoted

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, we used the logo in our bimonthly e-newsletter. We acknowledged support of the RSGF through this medium and in meetings with our partners. We also did publicity for RSG in the first edition of the Newsletter of the International Analog Forestry Newsletter.

We intend to continue this publicity in the month of October, when one of our staff members shall participate in the board meeting of the International Analog Forestry Network in Costa Rica and wherever the opportunity arises.

11. Any other comments?

The community members made some comments about the project:

"Looking at the way things are moving and the time at our disposal I wish to humbly suggest that individual farmers establish tree nurseries to help raise the required number of tree seedlings before the end of the project. For this we humbly request material support from the project promoters, CENDEP." Mr. Exodus Awah (community member)

"I was very committed clearing my farm, so I didn't have time to help at the community nursery." Wambong Godwin Neba, community member

"I personally see this project as beneficiary. This is because some of the plants found in the community nursery are useful for my cattle. When a pregnant cow eats the leaves of the vitex plant for example, it facilitates removal of the placenta after she calves. I would like to have my own forest where I can plan these trees for my cattle" Mr. Christopher Mokwachi

"Some projects gave our community members money. You do not give money, that is why many people do not turn out for the activities we plan" Mr. Christopher Mokwachi

"In the past I did not like participating in project activities because I had plans of leaving the village. Now I realize I have an obligation to my community and so I also put effort in group activities like others" Godwin Neba: Secretary Mughie Forest Management Committee.