

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	Francis Odhiambo Omungo
Project title	Lake Simbi Nyaima Eco-Cultural Conservation Project
RSG reference	8505-1
Reporting period	18 th October 2010 - 18 th October 2011
Amount of grant	£ 6,000
Your email address	lwefkenya@gmail.com
Date of this report	24 th January 2012

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
i) To undertake eco-cultural research on Lake Simbi Nyaima flora, fauna and cultural attributes to inform its conservation initiatives.			√√√	The gathered baseline information on biophysical and cultural attributes of Lake Simbi Nyaima will form the basis of conservation endeavours and mapping of trends and undertaking of impact evaluation.
ii) To train and build the capacity of Lake Simbi Nyaima Conservancy Officials and Volunteers on integrated lake ecosystem conservation and conservancy management so as to spearhead conservation initiatives at the grassroots level.			√√√	The established Lake Simbi Nyaima Conservancy and training of its officials, members and volunteers was a milestone in enabling grass-root conservation efforts of Lake Simbi Nyaima.
iii. To undertake nature education and public awareness for desired attitudinal and behavioural change among community members and other stakeholders towards the conservation of the lake.		√√√		The project has undertaken 20 nature education and public awareness in numerous social networks. However, the radio outreaches was not possible due to unattainable cost of airing in the radio after drop of promised subsidy.

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

The high expectation from the target community - grassroots communities are used to NGO hand-outs and financial incentives. So there was high expectation that this project will provide the same. The problem was tackled through honest and candid community mobilisation and sensitisation. Moreover, local and opinion leaders were incorporated into our communication strategy to enable the community have reasonable expectations. Likewise powerful figurative language such as “teaching a man (or a woman) to fish as opposed to giving fish” is the best intervention approach for win-win outcome and sustainability.

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

i) The securing of baseline information on the lake biophysical and cultural aspects to inform conservation action and future impact evaluation. The secured information entailed flora, fauna and cultural attributes of the lake. Likewise threats, livelihoods, locals' perceptions and values on the lake conservation. There was emphasis on birds' survey and this has resulted into Lake Simbi Nyaima preliminary birds' checklist which will be populated by future birds' survey and counts. The baseline information is now the basis of conservation actions, resource mobilization and lobbying to the relevant authorities to designate the lake as Important Bird Area and Heritage or cultural site to boost its conservation status and allocation of resources for its conservation.

ii) Establishment of Lake Simbi Nyaima Conservation and legal registration of the same with District Social and Development Office (DSDO) as Community Based Organization (CBO) to spearhead grass-root conservation of Lake Simbi Nyaima. Moreover, training and empowering of 30 officials and local volunteers of Lake Simbi Nyaima Conservancy on strategic lake ecosystem restoration, management and conservation to sustainably spearhead required interventions. The participants were trained on:

- a) Nature restoration
- b) Conservation education and advocacy
- c) Lake monitoring and research
- d) Eco-cultural tourism products development, management and promotion
- e) Natural resources co-management
- f) Tour guiding
- g) Group leadership
- h) Conservancy management and processing or dynamics

iii) The project managed to undertake planned 20 nature education and public awareness outreaches for attitudinal and behavioural change for sustainable utilisation and conservation of the lake. The first round of outreach targeted community networks such as markets and beaches and employed applied live drama and puppetry. The second round of outreach targeted schools and employed video shows and outdoor practical or experiential actions.

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

The project initiated Project Implementation Committee (PIC). This was composed of local communities and other stakeholders and involved in project activities planning and implementation-actual decision-making. Hence building local community capacity building in conservation project management. Moreover, creation of Lake Simbi Nyaima Conservancy provided an avenue for locals organisation, capacity building and involvement in spearheading the conservation of the local resource-Lake Simbi Nyaima.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

The project served as kickstart to our long-term engagement and commitment for the actualisation of conservation and sustainability of Lake Simbi Nyaima eco-cultural attributes. The involved team and partners are committed to continuation of this work in terms of Lake Simbi Nyaima Management Plan and promotion strategic conservation actions such as restoration and scientific bi-

annual monitoring of the Lake for mapping of trends. Moreover provide incentives for conservation through nature-friendly livelihood alternatives such as ecotourism.

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

The project team will share the results through existing networks such as Lake Victoria Wetlands Forum (LVWFEF), Kenya Wetlands Forum (KWF) and East Africa Living Lakes Network (EALLN). Moreover create WEB 2.0 (facebook and blog) platform to share our work with wider audience.

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

The project was implemented between 18th October 2010 and 18th January 2012. The delay with few months was precipitated by need to undertake reasonable number of nature education and public awareness outreaches. This was not timely due farming seasons, schools calendar and delay in securing venues and prerequisite mobilisation of audience. This necessitated employment of more time for the preparation than anticipated in the project design.

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
Capacity Building and Training	1754	1680	74	The surplus was reallocated to project items with deficit.
Eco-cultural Research & Documentation	1100	1250	-150	The deficit was catered with project items with surplus.
Nature Education & Public Awareness	1580	1380	200	The anticipated radio spots subsidy did not materialise so the £200 surplus was reallocated to project items with deficit.
Documentation	200	180	20	The surplus was reallocated to project items with deficit.
Monitoring & Evaluation	250	300	-50	The deficit was catered with project items with surplus.
Project Administration	1550	1620	-70	The deficit was catered with project items with surplus.
Total	6434	6410	24	

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

The project enabled establishment of long-term organisation structure, Lake Simbi Nyaima Conservancy to spearhead grass-root conservation actions. Moreover, availed crucial information through baseline survey on ecological and socio-economic aspects of the Lake Simba Nyaima and peripheral communities to inform ongoing conservation endeavours. Likewise mobilised and created awareness about the plight of Lake Simbi Nyaima to local community and other stakeholders for multi-stakeholders actions. The next important steps will be to consolidate these gains through coming with Multi-stakeholder Lake Simbi Nyaima Management Plan and promotion of tangible conservation actions such as restoration and environmental friendly alternative livelihoods such as eco-cultural tourism. Moreover, capacity building of Lake Simbi Nyaima Conservancy volunteers through provision of Lake Simbi Nyaima ecosystem monitoring and surveillance infrastructure and skills on data analysis and interpretation.

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?

RSGF logo was strategically used in our communication and reporting materials. This included our project letters, reports and announcement in our community outreach and stakeholder meetings that the project is possible due to support from The Rufford Small Grants Foundation.

11. Any other comments?

The Rufford Small Grants Foundation support has enhanced our organization profile in the target community and among other stakeholders. This is crucial for our ongoing work and future plans and partnerships.