

## 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](mailto:jane@rufford.org).

Thank you for your help.

**Josh Cole, Grants Director**

Grant Recipient Details	
<b>Your name</b>	Thandiwe Chikomo
<b>Project title</b>	Developing environmental indicators as a tool for effective management of wetlands and conservation of key bird species: Tana River Delta and Floodplain
<b>RSG reference</b>	8890-1
<b>Reporting period</b>	January 2011 to December 2011
<b>Amount of grant</b>	£5600
<b>Your email address</b>	<a href="mailto:Thandie_Chikomo@yahoo.com">Thandie_Chikomo@yahoo.com</a>
<b>Date of this report</b>	10 December 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
(i) Analyse and describe the current state of environment (SoE) from the local community perspective			<b>Fully achieved</b>	The local communities were able to describe and analyse the current state of the environment.
(ii) Develop Pressure-State-Response indicators that are amenable to practical implementation at the local level			<b>Fully achieved</b>	The local communities were able to identify indicators and selected those that they could easily monitor
iii) Institute a monitoring programme and conservation of key bird species.			<b>Fully achieved</b>	Two monitors per sites (total 6) were provided with further training and they monitored their areas on a monthly basis. The conservation of bird species is work that is still going on.

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

Noting that there was no ongoing monitoring programme at the start of the project, the local community knowledge about bird identification was very limited. The initial focus had been to monitor the two Near Threatened, restricted-range species, *Anthus melindae* and *Acrocephalus griseldis*. The project had to put more energy in raising awareness about the importance of monitoring as well as bird identification. To that end workshops were held during the course of the project, creating general awareness raising as well ensuring that monitors regularly monitored their sites on a broader scale and produced summary reports.

The area of study as planned was Kipini and Lake Shakababo. The two sites are 98 km apart, on different sides of the Delta. This could consume a lot of time and logistics. The research thus concentrated on one part of the Delta. Thus, monitoring was conducted on the Eastern side covering Kipini and Didewaride wetlands and Lake Moa for easy access even during the rainy season.

Considering the high low literacy levels in the Delta, the study resorted to producing a detailed report rather than developing a detailed manual. This report however details the indicators as identified by the local community and what their plans are for monitoring these indicators over time. This in itself is an 'indicator' that of the targets willingness to continue to be engaged on this subject spearheaded by the project.

It is anticipated though that as contact will continue with the targets, a manual on indicators, with graphic illustrations of key bird species and habitats in the delta will be produced.

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

- Strengthened local community awareness about the importance of birds and their habitats.
- Created awareness about the Tana Delta and FloodPlain being as being a site of international biodiversity significance.
- Instituted a monitoring programme and PRS indicators that can be monitored by the local community developed.

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

The local communities have been involved in the formulation of this concept and were directly and actively involved during the implementation, both as actors and as beneficiaries. The inhabitants of the Tana Delta and FloodPlain are the *final beneficiaries* of this action. Using the internationally acclaimed BirdLife Site Support Group concept, women, men and the youth have been directly involved in the training workshops as well as in embarking on a monitoring programme, from April to October 2011. It is envisaged that these monitors, two per site and six in total, will continue with monitoring of biodiversity and take part in conservation efforts.

The project worked in close collaboration with the staff that are well aware of the cultural and societal norms of the local community with special emphasis to gender issues.

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

- This project has been designed so that its impacts are sustained beyond the lifetime of the project. It is aligned to BirdLife's core work and is already benefitting from long-term interest from BirdLife International, through its Partner in Kenya- Nature Kenya. Nature Kenya has already started rolling out plans for a robust monitoring programme to cover the entire delta. During the month of September 2011, Nature Kenya convened a biodiversity monitoring training workshop for field personnel/ technocrats, mainly from government departments working in the Delta. It is envisaged that more fully functional Site Support Groups comprising of the local communities will be established. This project funded by RSGF will be keen to see how the local communities are monitoring the said indicators and assess whether any changes are taking place on the ground i.e. addressing the threats facing wetlands/bird habitats. There are also plans to provide the site level monitoring teams with bird guidebooks as this will enhance knowledge about birds in their area.
- There are future plans to document a 'best practices report', which will include all relevant experiences and analyses based on those experiences. The report, together with a policy guidelines report, will be sent to identify target groups at relevant government agencies and rural development NGOs who work with community-based management techniques. The best practices and policy guidance documents and a video will also be disseminated amongst the stakeholders within the Tana Delta and elsewhere, where appropriate.

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

The monitoring workshop reports as well as the report on local community biodiversity indicators will widely be distributed in hard as well as soft copy. The PowerPoint presentation templates of the

monitoring workshops/indicators will also be presented to other relevant Local Community Organisations or their use in existing trainings to ensure the multiplication of capacities across other IBAs within the BirdLife Africa Partnership that have faced the brunt of climate change and are keen to monitor biodiversity at the local scale.

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

Preliminary consultation with the local leadership as well as the relevant local level institutions began during February 2011. The researcher conducted a baseline survey and identified particular areas of monitoring since the Tana Delta is vast. The selected areas for monitoring were selected and identified as Kipini location covering the estuary and Mununji wetland, Didewaride wetland and Lake Moa

Further to the identification of monitors, a monitoring workshop and the field visit to Ozi was conducted in April 2011. Site level Monitors from each of the study areas began observing and recording changes between April 2011 (after having received training) to October 2011. The duration of the project is thus from February to December 2011. Initially plans had been to commence in January 2011- however delays were encountered.

**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
Consultation meetings with key stakeholders	300	373.0158	-73.0158	Broader stakeholders engaged
Community based awareness raising workshops	700	1166.66	-466.66	Much higher transport costs than initially thought
Consultation meetings with the local community on SOE	1000	1095.2380	-95.23	
Consultation meetings on the identification of PSR indicators	1000	976.19	+23.80	
Production of a User manual with biodiversity indicators	1300	1079	220.63	Project opted to produce a report rather than a manual due to the high low literacy levels amongst the targets
Monitoring of the biodiversity status and trends	1600	765.23	+834.76	
	5900			

**NB: A detailed excel spreadsheet attached with breakdown of costs**

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

The site monitors and the local communities will be provided with bird guidebooks. The site level monitors that have been working on this assignment will form part of the Nature Kenya team and will assist with monitoring at the local level. One of the key finding is due to the vastness of the areas

there is need for establishment of a permanent researcher at the site to allow for daily survey and therefore enhance coverage of the entire delta in future.

**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?**

During the consultation meetings as well as the conduct of the monitoring workshop and the field visit, the facilitators acknowledged the funding from the RSGF. In appreciation of the funding provided by the RSGF, the logo was used in the final detailed report and this report will be widely circulated to all the relevant stakeholders. It is anticipated that when the guidebooks are disseminated to the local communities, mention will be made of the critical role the RSGF has played in laying a foundation for site level monitoring and development of indicators at the local scale.

**11. Any other comments?**

There are other unseen yet important benefits that have come up as a result of the funding from RSGF. This has effectively contributed not only to Nature Kenya's efforts to conserve biodiversity at the local scale but also to the broader BirdLife International's Local Empowerment Programme.