

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	Karenzi Alphonse
Project title	Improved Cooking Stoves Campaign Against Deforestation (ICOSCAD)
RSG reference	8896-1
Reporting period	One year
Amount of grant	£4211
Your email address	karenzilife@gmail.com
Date of this report	January 19th 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
Twenty volunteers well trained about role of ICSs in resolving local problems related to deforestation and how to construct them.			X	<p>Strict review of the volunteers' application and give much priority to low classes students with environmental interests and experience of latrine construction.</p> <p>To first discuss with the selected volunteers and all agree upon the schedule of training.</p> <p>To recognize and facilitate the volunteers during training (food, refreshments, transport, etc).</p> <p>Using peer-teaching method during both theory and practical parties of training for the volunteers.</p> <p>Keep records of attendance and period of training.</p> <p>Using an external expert as trainer of volunteers.</p>
One hundred and thirty local leaders in the Gisagara district will be trained in the construction of ICS and their role in solving deforestation and social issues.			X	<p>Working closely with the district authorities, especially natural resources officer.</p> <p>Using university students as trainers while the community admires and considers them to know much more than them.</p> <p>To first discuss with both volunteers and selected local leaders to be trained in order to agree upon the schedule of training.</p> <p>Full involvement of local leaders at Sector level in selection of trainees and preparation of trainings.</p> <p>Provision of allowance for participants.</p>
Thirty nine ICS samples (three in each sector) will be constructed for the most			X	<p>Using and full involvement of local leaders (trained ones) and poor families whom the stoves were provided for.</p> <p>This kind of built Improved cooking</p>

vulnerable families.				stove was very flexible for all sort of local construction material available.
Conducting sector public teaching sessions on 4 monthly community work days by the trained local leaders.		x		<p>The factors affected this were sometimes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Community work was replaced by another district programme. - The community work was organised in way people working separately. - Many issues to be discussed after the work. Thus where no time for trained leaders to sensitise/ teach the community. <p>However, each sector has been able to use at least two community work days to conduct the public teaching sessions. As well more than half of adult local people have heard about the aim of the project and the role of Improved cooking stoves in fight against deforestation and the knowledge is still shared among the community by those trained local leaders.</p>

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

A. Public Transport bus was no longer reaching to the most of the project areas as expected:

We had to make contacts and organise activities at the same days for the sectors which are connected one to another by common road network. So that, we can organise a mini-bus for displacing volunteers to and from field.

We also used bicycle transport services to displace those volunteers who had to take bicycles from the bus-stop to the training location.

We provided some drinking water for those who had only pedestrian alternative for displacing themselves from the bus-stop to the training location.

B. Some of selected local leaders to be trained have been the Adventists who do not do anything on Saturday and others have been the Christians who have to go for praying

on Sunday. While Sundays and Saturdays are preferable days for students/volunteers to work for the project:

We discussed with the volunteers and local leaders from Ndola (one of the sectors as a sample) and both sides agreed upon the suggestion of setting the project activities on Friday afternoon as free time for both sides. After agreeing upon this day, we proposed it to the rest of the sectors and it worked perfect for all.

C. Some very old leaders wanted to attend the training while they are not physically able to efficiently use and share the skills gained.

We kindly ask those old people and other no-strategic leaders to attend the training as they wish but to do not expect any recognition or facilities. We could receive 18 local leaders who attended all trainings on their own initiatives.

D. Some of vulnerable families to be provided with improved cooking stoves had no kitchen to accommodate those stoves. While these stoves need to be protected from the rain.

Fortunately, there potentially was district hygiene policy suggests that each house should have its own kitchen. We discussed with concerned sectors this constraint of some vulnerable families who cannot afford their own kitchens. Some of sectors accepted to provide those families with kitchens before we construct for them the stoves and other sectors provided those kitchens over our constructed stoves.

E. We were receiving many questions which definitely couldn't allow the planned time for training to be enough.

We allowed trainees to ask minimum questions and to write down the remaining questions so that we can respond them at the next meeting.

F. Unforeseen political reasons to cancel the community work days while it was when to conduct the public teaching sessions by the trained local leaders.

In collaboration with Sectors leaders, we could make sure at least two teaching sessions will be conducted out of six community work opportunities.

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

a. Decreasing the level of deforestation in the area

Through encouraging the use of ICS this campaign has reduced the level of household firewood used by up to 75% in more than 900 families built this stove (900 ICSs have been counted by project evaluation team in collaboration with local leaders in November, 2011). *MUKANKURANGA Maria, the widow from Ndola sector said "After having my own ICS, I'm using **four times** the same amount of firewood which I was using **only once** to cook the food for my children before".*

ICOSCAD project has educated local leaders about the role of forests. Though, the communities have been encouraged to plant more trees in line with national policy. 2000

trees have been voluntarily planted by local people around Gisagara forest (District natural resources officer said).

b. Saving biodiversity

By reducing the level of firewood consumption and educating local leaders about the role of forests the movements of people in natural forests have been significantly reduced. Though, this district has protected more of its natural forests and the natural habitats of numerous bats, birds and small animals living there.

c. Reduced level of domestic violence against women and primary education enhancement

The burden of household tasks such as firewood collecting falls primarily on women and children, so by using the ICS the time spent wood seeking have been significantly reduced and cooking times have been much faster. Such changes could help to reduce problems of overworking which are often linked to increased domestic violence. Furthermore it could help to improve the attendance and performance of primary school students who had dropped out of school, or who were failing to perform for reasons such lateness or tiredness.

Mr Mutabazi, the Headmaster of Mugomwa primary school said “we have been able to identify the positive change made by ICS on some of our students in terms of either their classes’ attendance or mental performance improvement”.

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

130 local leaders from 13 sectors which compose Gisagara District have been fully participated in the project and left with required skills for continuing the project innovations. For example, so far it has been created five groups of local people (cooperatives) which earn their income from constructing the Improved Cooking Stoves for middle income families. One stove costs 10000 Rwandan francs = \$16.

As all three sessions of training:

- First session – to introduce the project and explain the role of Improved Cooking Stoves (ICS), the local leaders had themselves to identify different local environmental problems (deforestation) and causes as well as to suggest some solutions. They could also ask the questions and get scientific answers from university students (project Volunteers). They really benefited from this peer-training because they could themselves correct their own knowledge and get accurate information for their concerns.
- Second session - demonstration of ICS construction, local leaders had to prepare and organise all materials to be used in construction and ask the volunteers to clarify

each and every step of construction. This helped them to understand a whole system of ICS and construct it effectively.

- Final session – 10 local leaders of each group had to be split into two groups of five to construct an ICS by themselves. This helped them to practice their knowledge gained from second session.
- After this training Local leaders conducted teaching sessions and raised public awareness among their communities (supervised by project leaders).

It was up to local people to choose where to conduct the training from, who is vulnerable person to be provided with ICS for free and to plan with volunteers the schedule of the activities.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes of course, we plan to continue with enhancing the knowledge and experience of the previous trained local leaders by using them to train and sensitise the students aged over 15 and other more young local leaders and local defences as well as to construct more Improved Cooking Stoves for 26 schools (schools are currently the biggest consumers of firewood) and for 26 remaining poor families in the same district.

We feel that our work is still needed in Gisagara due to these following factors:

- How vast has been the district (679.196894 km²)
- How is big the remaining number of local leaders and local defences who didn't get the chance to attend this training (we trained less than one fifth of the number of local leaders).
- How is big the remaining number of poor families who cannot afford the stoves construction requirements while they still use the firewood.
- Most of primary and secondary schools in Gisagara District have started using extreme big amount of firewood as they currently cook lunch for their students.
- Commitment of the local people- we have collected some contribution equals to 120,660 Rwandan Francs = \$201 from the community and primary and secondary school workers help the project to continue.

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

At local level- We plan one day community work in the end of January 2012 when we will invite all District leaders, Local NGOs and local community to present them our achievements and our future plan.

At national level, we have participated in different exhibitions and conferences including National University EXPO-2011, Rwandan Youth Organizations Network exhibition 2011, etc.

We have also shared our achievements with the nation through different media including the Geosatellite newspaper, Radio Salus and RC-Huye radio emissions. We plan also to organise an environmental activism exhibition under the Sustaining Rwanda Youth Organization where different environmental organisations, youth organisations, media and other partners will be invited to share with ICOSCAD team the experience.

At an international level – updates on ICOSCAD project can be found online on the blog of Sustaining Rwanda Youth Organization: www.srwanda.blogspot.com , RSG website: http://www.ruffordsmallgrants.org/rsg/projects/alphonse_karenzi, and on different Facebook pages.

ICOSCAD project has been also invited and presented in different international events including:

- TUNZA International Children & Youth conference on the environment organised by the United Nations Environment Programme Bandung, Indonesia 27th September - 1st October 2011.
- TUNZA Generation Earth Summit, Johannesburg, Republic Of South Africa 23rd -25th November, 2011.
- The Conference of Youth (COY), 27th – 28th November in Durban, South Africa.
- Conference of Parties (COP 17) Process in Durban, South Africa from 29th November to 3rd December.

At COP17, the ICOSCAD project won the second prize of the energy solution in the World Bank Competition also known as Connect4Climate. I the coordinator of ICOSCAD received the prize In front of the media from all around the world including CNN. I had an interview with Chanel-Africa, the NewTimes newspaper, igihe.com, etc.

Some links:

<http://en.igihe.com/spip.php?article1284>

<http://connect4climate.com/blog/connect4climate-photo-video-competition-winners-energy>

<http://www.changingtodayfortomorrow.com/2011/12/the-stories-of-african-youth/>

<http://www.symnews.org/2011/12/06/youth-burdens-climate-change/>

I have been invited to have presentation about ICOSCAD by more than 30 international organisation side events at COP17. African Climate Stories is one of the big events in which ICOSCAD has been presented at COP17 and it has been common consensus that ICOSCAD was the best African youth initiative (according to emails of appreciations I got after my presentation).

I have been already promised the air-ticket by IAAI to go and present ICOSCAD at Rio+20 – the leaders of nations conference in Brazil in June 2012.

We also plan to make a video of the whole project process in collaboration with KILULU video production. This video will be shared on Youtube, local televisions, public cinema hall, and with other organisation in the country.

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

This project has taken over 45 weeks- one week earlier than anticipated period. Unfortunately, the final report submission has taken long time because I, the project coordinator, was not around. I had different events and conferences to addend in relation with the project.

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
Establish contact and seek official permission to start implementation	40	38.5	1.5	We printed 35 sheets of information documents rather than 50 (cost of printing 10 pence per sheet).
Recruitment and training of twenty volunteers	462.5	462.5		
Selecting and informing local leaders	140	140		
Training of 130 local leaders (Theory party)	909	937.6	-28.6	Average transport and communication costs for training by two volunteers each sector got to 7.1 per one volunteer
Selecting and visiting the most 39 vulnerable families who will receive free ICS samples	168	144	24	The work has been fully done by six people instead of seven people as planned
Practical training and building of 39 ICS samples	2 019	1972.2	46.8	Each family had to provide 10 kg of small stones (39 stoves x 10 kg x 0.12 = 46.8)
Evaluation and monitoring	360	308	52	The follow up of 39 families on use of ICS has been fully done for four days by seven

				volunteers instead of five days.
Carrying out a report:	112	112		
Total	4210.5	4114.8	95.7	It remained £95.7 and we are asking the permission to use it for the planned continuity of project.

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

Involving more young people, it has been the case that trained young people have had greater impact than their elders.

It is also important to give priority to and encouraging more those communities to use ICSs as they are the biggest consumers of firewood in cooking for many people. This category basically includes Primary and secondary Schools around Gisagara District.

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?

We have been using the logo of RSGF in all materials and documents in relation with ICOSCAD project including PowerPoint presentations, letters to different officials, posters, announcements, booklets, etc.

RSGF did definitely receive some publicity during the course of our work. For example, more than 10 organisation leaders have directly asked me more about RSGF funds and some tips. More than 400 people from around the world attended the African climate stories side event at COP17 (United Nations Conference on Climate Change) including ministers, organisation leaders, UN officers and countries delegates could see RSGF logo in my PowerPoint presentation and browse my project page on RSGF website.

11. Any other comments?

With RSG I, the project coordinator have been able to realize my ability in leadership and management as well my local activism could be recognized at both national and international level.

For instance, I have been nominated to be the Rwandan Youth Delegate for United Nations Environment Program/TUNZA and to be the national coordinator of Rio+20 Global Youth Music Contest.

With this pragmatic project (ICOSCAD) I could also receive second price in the World Bank Connect4Climate competition.

Additionally, RSG has helped me to make my dreams of founding an environmentally sound development organisation become true! Early 2011 I founded a very ambitious youth organisation called Sustaining Rwanda Youth Organization (SR-YO). This was basically to unit 20 volunteers working with ICOSCAD project and 10 volunteers working with Geosatellite Newspaper.

Now, SR-YO is officially registered as Youth Organization with more than seventy members.
www.srwanda.blogspot.com