

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

Thank you for your help.

**Josh Cole, Grants Director**

#### Grant Recipient Details

<b>Your name</b>	Evarastus Obura
<b>Project title</b>	Promotion of Networks to Enhance Advocacy for Dunga Swamp Conservation
<b>RSG reference</b>	48.07.08
<b>Reporting period</b>	November 2008 to October 2009
<b>Amount of grant</b>	£10,000
<b>Your email address</b>	<a href="mailto:evarastus@yahoo.com">evarastus@yahoo.com</a> or <a href="mailto:evarastus@lakevictoriasunsetbirders.org">evarastus@lakevictoriasunsetbirders.org</a>
<b>Date of this report</b>	20 <sup>th</sup> October 2009

**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
-Promoting information sharing between local schools to enhance school partnerships for Dunga swamp conservation.			YES	11 schools were involved in discussions to establish an environmental magazine (Ecochat) for local schools. These were enabled through 3 workshops for school patrons and environmental club leaders. 8 schools are already partnering through contribution of environmental articles to the magazine and one edition has already been published. The community is also involved through contribution of environmental conservation articles.
-To build the capacity of community group leaders to facilitate community based advocacy and lobby for Dunga swamp conservation			YES	Two workshops were held to train 20 community group leaders on Dunga wetland scouting and custodianship. Awareness on conservation threats facing Dunga swamp is currently ongoing through community leadership meetings.
-To promote the involvement of the private sector, the government and non governmental organization in advocating for Dunga swamp conservation through partnership enhancement.		YES		Four partnership promotion workshops held. In these, only two representatives from the private sector (Kenya Airways and Nakumatt supermarket) were involved in designing a strategy for Dunga swamp marketing for ecotourism. 25 Dunga community groups' representatives and school environmental club leaders were involved in an experience learning trip to Kijabe Environmental Volunteers community group in Kireita forest. LVSB website was also updated twice to market ecotourism in Dunga and to enhance environmental conservation partnerships. 6 radio awareness programs done through partnership with radio Lake Victoria.

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

**Project Challenges**

- i) Minimal participation in planning by the private sector.

Though we had anticipated full participation of at least six private companies in the project, only two were supportive in promoting Dunga swamp conservation through marketing. This was as a result of failure by their representatives in turning up for planning meetings even after promising to participate. Most later on gave the excuse of busy schedules. We encouraged their involvement by requesting them to act as distribution points for Dunga swamp marketing brochures. We also initiated a door to door campaign to the private companies targeting company managers to talk to them on importance of their involvement in the swamp's conservation. Two (Kenya Airways and Nakumatt supermarket) are currently supporting the production of the second issue of the environmental magazine for Dunga swamp. We are currently in discussions with Davis and Shirliff engineering company and it is promising to support community based water conservation initiatives for Dunga swamp.

ii) **Contribution of Articles by Schools**

Delays in submission of environmental articles from project school children delayed the production of both the first and second issues. This was due to school programmes prioritizing academic work to other activities considered to be extracurricular activities. This biased focus by school communities on academic excellence delayed the production of magazine editions within the planned timelines. We have tried to counter this by holding meetings with project school administrations on nurturing writing talents among their pupils by encouraging them to actively participate in articles contribution to the "Ecochat" magazine.

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

i) **Enhancement of Advocacy for Dunga Swamp Conservation**

- ❖ The first edition of an environmental magazine for Dunga swamp (Ecochat) was produced and launched with 8 schools in the area participating in its production. The schools are currently partnering in communicating environmental issues facing the swamp through this magazine. Eighty copies of the first issue have been produced and the second issue is currently under production to be out by December 2009.
- ❖ The Youth ministry is currently working with LVSB to promote more networks in the country for environmental conservation. The relationship between LVSB and the ministry of youth kisumu office was as a result of the exchange programme organized by LVSB to Kireita forest. The exchange also supported peace building initiatives in Kenya between two rival communities (Luo and Kikuyu) since it involved Luos from kisumu travelling to learn about environmental conservation from Kikuyus in Kiambu district.

ii) **Increased Partnerships for Ecotourism Promotion in Dunga Swamp**

- ❖ Through the partnerships borne by this project, a **Dunga cultural exhibition** was organized and held at Dunga bay which enabled communities around the wetland to display and market their ecotourism wares and products to the public and also advocate for the swamp's conservation. Another exhibition was held in Kakamega town to educate the public about Dunga swamp threats, actions and interventions and encourage support at country level. Both exhibitions were supported by the Nile Basin Initiative through their Environmental Transboundary Programme after their officials attended one of our partnership enhancement workshops.
- ❖ Updating the LVSB website to market ecotourism products at Dunga swamp has brought splendid results: LVSB has found new international partners i.e. My Ticket Inc. which is a licensed travel agency in Japan and Artefact Solivol Programme in Germany which is a

volunteer placement organization. So far two volunteers from Germany have been sent to LVSB for a one year programme and are currently participating in LVSB activities. Plans are also underway to partner with My Ticket Inc. in sending Japan tourists to the western Kenya tourism circuit the region where LVSB operates.

- ❖ The partnership enhancement has seen Moi University tourism department contributing a tour boat to Dunga community tour association to enhance their capacity in income generation through nature based enterprises. This has seen the reduction in number of papyrus users by 20 individuals translating to 40% in Dunga beach area.
- ❖ Increased partnership skills by the trained Dunga community groups has resulted in the birth of a strong partnership between the corporate companies and community groups evidenced by Safaricom mobile communication company supporting boat racing in Dunga area. The company has also been using banners with pictures of Dunga swamp to advertise its wares around the country and this has resulted in more awareness about the site. The local people are also using opportunities offered by Equity bank to generate income and create more awareness about Dunga.
- ❖ Statunga Ecotours which is a network of community groups working to promote ecotourism in the western Kenya tourism circuit was established as a result of community partnership meetings.

**iii) Increase in number of ecotourism products at Dunga swamp**

- ❖ Cultural tourism is currently picking up at Dunga after an experience learning trip to Kijabe Environmental Volunteers who are using cultural tourism to promote ecotourism for community based Kireita forest conservation. Boat racing competitions have intensified and are attracting the involvement of more community members and corporate support. One of the achievements

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

**Community Involvement**

The project has established a community based Dunga swamp conservation through creation of a scouts and wardens unit to spearhead community involvement in the swamp conservation.

This was enabled through two training workshops that have equipped 20 community leaders with skills for conservation leadership. The leaders were also equipped with current environmental policies and how they can use them to intervene against new environmental issues facing the swamp.

**Exposure learning trips**

25 Community leaders have gained skills through training and an exposure trip organized for them to Kireita forest. Synergies created between Dunga community and other best experiences of the country have inspired community's attention to cultural tourism thus promising more ecotourism opportunities for the community in future.

**Increased partnerships**

Partnership promotion meetings involved networking community representatives with representatives from various organizations in the private sector, Non-governmental organizations and respective government ministries and departments already mentioned. This has facilitated links

for ecotourism product marketing and will in the long term sustain community based conservation of Dunga while at the same time improving local livelihoods through extreme poverty alleviation.

#### **Increased income for community ecotourism practitioners**

Since Dunga swamp website updates and partnership initiatives to promote ecotourism begun, visitor numbers at Dunga swamp have increased by 50% since December 2008 from 200 individuals per day. Most of these are domestic tourists that include schools, families, college and university students and other organized groups and also foreign tourists directed to the site by partners and LVSF website. These turn into stable income for the site. Most of this income is drawn from boat rides, bird walks, sightseeing, adventure and boat racing competitions. There is currently increased concentration on cultural tourism by the community after new experiences.

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

Yes. A lot of awareness and advocacy has been created. Many partnerships have been initiated and built though there is still need to enhance corporate support and synergies to sustain Dunga swamp conservation initiatives. There is also need to concentrate efforts on livelihood improvement as a sustainable way of conserving Dunga swamp biodiversity. Future plans will involve concentrating on promoting community involvement in nature based enterprises more so ecotourism and establishment of a revolving fund so that consumptive use of Dunga's natural resources is curbed. Concentration will be focused on promoting bird tourism, wildlife viewing, culture, boat rides, boat races and site seeing.

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

Results of this work will be shared through LVSF annual report, Nature Kenya national workshops, partner workshops, the Ecochat magazine already in production, regional environmental magazines and the local environmental radio talk shows. Results will also be disseminated to the community through and weekly Dunga swamp community meetings. LVSF website will also be updated to include achievements of this work and shared with the world to encourage suggestions and market the site further for ecotourism.

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

I received the RSG on 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2008 and the project officially begun on 17<sup>th</sup> November 2008 due to the timings for the project's initial activities. The initial plan was that the project takes 12 months but due to delays by some partners like schools to meet magazine production deadlines, we have had to delay the production of the 2<sup>nd</sup> issue of the magazine by two months.

#### **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.**

**Local exchange rate used is £1=122**

Item	Budgeted Amount	Actual Amount	Difference	Comments
<b>Partnership Enhancement workshops</b>				
Meals	819.7	756.1	63.6F	The occurring variances

Stationery	44.6	37	7.6F	were either favourable (F) or adverse (A) as indicated. The adverse discrepancy in facilitation occurred because of failure to budget for facilitators' accommodation and transport since both came from outside Kisumu town. Expenditures for transport, meals and field excursions were lowered by failure to attend most workshops by the private sector representatives.
Transport refunds	819.7	610.2	209.5F	
Facilitation	393.4	542.3	(148.9)A	
Hiring venues	196.7	203	(6.3)A	
Production of two issues of environmental magazine (150 copies)	360.7	322	38.7F	
Field excursions	655.7	459.0	196.7F	
<b>Training Workshop for Dunga scouts</b>				
Venue hire	98.4	118.6	(20.2)A	The adverse effects sighted in this section occurred due to price hikes in basic items which were unforeseen during the budgeting.
Transport refunds	360.7	423.7	(63)A	
Meals	360.7	460.9	(100.2)A	
Facilitation	196.7	237	(40.3)A	
Flip charts	16.4	11.4		
Field excursions	327.9	254.2	73.7 F	
<b>Learning Exchange Trip for Schools and Community</b>				
Transport	491.8	590	(98.2)A	The discrepancies observed were due to price increases in fuel and food commodities. The favourable variance is caused the location of the site (Kireita forest) which is in a rural set up thus minimizing accommodation costs
Accommodation	327.9	297	30.9F	
Meals	295.1	369	(73.9)A	
Guiding fee at site	32.8	32.8		
<b>Purchase of equipment</b>				
Overhead projector	532.8	390	142.8F	The overhead projector cost less than it had been budgeted for. Though a camera was not budgeted for, we bought one to help document project activities since the project teams were divided into two and each occasion had to be covered.
Camera		107	107	
LVSBS website update	409.8	423.7	(13.9) A	LVSBS website was updated twice to market

				Dunga swamp for ecotourism.
<b>Project Administration</b>				
Transport	491.8	737.7	(245.9)A	Transport for most of the project required using public means during planning and implementing project activities thus consuming more than had initially been planned. Bank charges and taxes took close to 2% of the entire grant.
Airtime	491.8	295	196.9F	
E-mails	196.7	295	(98.3)A	
Postage	73.8	8.6	65.2F	
Cartridge	393.4	115	278.4F	
Paper	49.2	32.5	16.7F	
Lunch allowances for project staff	1180.9	1180.3		
Bank charges and other contingencies @5%	480.9	200	280.9 F	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>10099.4</b>	<b>9402</b>	<b>598 F</b>	

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

From past experiences in working to conserve Dunga swamp, enhancing partnerships to promote Dunga swamp marketing for ecotourism and promoting value addition to local products is key to sustainable Dunga swamp conservation. Our future plans involve working with partners that include the government, non-governmental organizations, international partnerships and private company links established in this project and more to be formed to add value to local products and market Dunga swamp ecotourism.

The environmental magazine produced currently works with 11 local schools alone. We plan that it involves the community in future. We also plan to promote links between the local people in Dunga and the media in order to market their ecotourism products and advocate for Dunga swamp biodiversity conservation.

More emphasis will also be focused on using sports like football and boat racing to attract corporate sponsorship as a tool for public mobilization and awareness for Dunga biodiversity conservation. Exhibitions will also be used for public education on Dunga resources and ecotourism promotion.

It is important that joint ventures between private ecotourism practitioners and community ecotourism practitioners be promoted to enhance experience learning and product marketing for the benefit of Dunga ecotourism. Therefore future initiatives will involve creating forums for focus group discussions to enhance Dunga ecotourism promotion partnerships.

Initiatives for local groups need to be established and should focus on value addition for local ecotourism products and helping the community develop new products that are attractive to both domestic and international tourists. We plan to ensure this through documentation of indigenous information and capacity building programmes for local community educators on environmental advocacy and culture as an ecotourism product that can help alleviate extreme poverty among local people.

**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. The environmental magazine produced by this project had the RSG logo displayed in a prominent position of the magazine. I also had business cards for the project to help enhance partnerships for the project. These had an RSG logo. Equipment purchased from this grant like the overhead projector and a camera have stickers of the RSGF logo on them just like equipment purchased in the previous phases like the television, a camera, a bicycle and DVD player. The RSGF received publicity through radio Lake Victoria and radio Nam Lolwe which hosted live talk shows for the project. We also shared more about RSGF with partners and the public through conservation and development national workshops organized by partners like PLAN international, Nature Kenya, Wildlife Clubs of Kenya and Ecotourism Kenya. RSGF was also publicised through Nature Kenya brochures and periodic magazines. RSGF has also been mentioned in LVSB website [www.lakevictoriasunsetbirders.org](http://www.lakevictoriasunsetbirders.org) as one of our main donors and the financiers of the website update.

**11. Any other comments?**

Of the total grant made to this project, a balance of £ 598 remained which we will be using for follow ups with the community through community meetings and to supplement office running costs.