

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	Mary Ngozi Molokwu
Project title	Promoting rural participation in conservation through rural empowerment
RSG reference	10280-2
Reporting period	February 2012 to February 2013
Amount of grant	£6,000
Your email address	mnm04ng@yahoo.com
Date of this report	May 8th 2013

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
Reappraisal of the previous fuel-efficient wood stove project and baseline survey			X	A reappraisal of the previous fuel-efficient wood stove project was conducted. Based on a previous assessment and a baseline survey before commencement of this project, women abandoned the stoves after they were broken from exposure to rain or domestic animals. This was mainly because they lacked the skills to repair them. Women of all three communities expressed interest in learning how to repair broken stoves. Two workshops were held during this project where 34 women were trained on stove repair and production.
Increase environmental awareness through environmental education		X		The youth conservation education group formed during the previous project has been very active. They were given a refresher course in November 2011 supported by a GEF-SGP grant. During this project, they conducted Conservation education for six schools around the community, training 420 school children on the importance of conservation. A calendar of indigenous trees is currently in press. When produced, 200 copies will be distributed along with photos of the fuel-efficient stove to local communities around the Reserve and the Jos metropolis while promoting conservation at the community level in the local dialect. We expect that it will encourage people to plant trees and make them think more about indigenous species rather than exotic tree species.
Conducting tree planting in a woodlot provided by the local community		X		A 2.3 ha plot of land was provided by the Laminga community for a woodlot. This reflects their support for the project and willingness to contribute to nature conservation. However, only 450 tree seedlings have been planted so far, a little over 10 % of the originally proposed number (4,000 trees). Tree planting is still on going and has been slow due to the challenge in obtaining indigenous tree species. Also, the originally anticipated number of

				trees may not be immediately achieved due to the small size of the woodlot.
Provision of portable water through the construction of a borehole.			X	During this project, a piece of land was provided by the Zarazong community and a borehole has been constructed and is now in use.

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

We planted many fewer trees than anticipated mainly due to the scarcity of indigenous tree species. However, tree planting is still ongoing and in addition to purchasing seedlings, seeds of some local fruit tree species have been purchased to raise seedlings in the community nursery. This part of the project is being done in collaboration with an agroforestry project at the Amurum Forest Reserve under ProNatura. The originally anticipated number of 4,000 indigenous trees may not be achieved due to the size of the woodlot, which will only allow up to about 640 trees. However, more land will be sought from the local community to enable us achieve this goal.

Also due to the topography of the area in Zarazong community in which the borehole was drilled, we could not construct an electricity-powered borehole. A hand-pump was instead installed for the borehole. The geophysical survey report states that the area is generally not a high yield area; hence it would take a while for water to recharge after pumping and for this reason, it will not be economical while running a generator. The borehole contractor advised that a hand pump would work better since it will take up water slowly, allowing water to run more steadily. This was however to our advantage as the electric powered borehole cost much more than originally anticipated.

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

This project has been fully supported by the local communities around the Amurum Forest Reserve through their involvement and contributions, reflecting the success of the project. The most important outcomes of our project include:

Provision of borehole water

During this project, a piece of land was provided by the Zarazong community and a borehole was constructed to alleviate the problem of water in the local communities. Construction of a borehole within the local community has significantly reduced the distance women trek to fetch water and makes clean water more readily available to all three communities. The community also depend on the stream for bathing, washing of clothes and other domestic activities. Being located close to their homes, the borehole should reduce dependence of community members on the forest stream. We are currently conducting a post-project survey and will provide the results from questionnaires distributed in a more detailed report. We expect use of the forest stream to be completely reduced.

Active participation of Community youths in Conservation Education

Community youths trained on a Conservation Education Training of Trainers workshop during our previous RSG project planned, organised and implemented conservation education in schools around the reserve. A staff member of the Nigerian Conservation Foundation (NCF) had trained them on a refresher course in Environmental Communication in November 2011. Applying a training

of trainers approach will multiply the overall impact of our work as a lot more people will be reached in the end. This was evident during this current project.

Five out of the 18 community youths trained were available to carry out the training. One of them, Elisha Izang, a school teacher in one of the community schools was highly enthusiastic about the opportunity to impart his community with knowledge of conservation. Being a teacher in one of the community schools, he designed the instructional materials to best communicate to the children in the community schools. His enthusiasm reflected the kind of impact we hoped to make in getting community members to participate in conservation. Observing Elisha and his team teach knowledgeable about conservation gave us the satisfaction that our aim of promoting environmental awareness among communities around Amurum Forest Reserve had been achieved to a great extent. The Head Master of one of the schools was so captivated by the zeal of the team and content of their message that he asked to be allowed to participate in any other environmental communication activities lined up during this project. In total, we visited six out of the seven schools in surrounding communities of the Amurum Forest Reserve and a total of 420 children were educated. The children were taught the following topics:

- What is a forest?
- The importance of conserving the forest
- The dangers of losing the forest
- Your role in making sure the forest around you remains intact

Provision of land by the community for a woodlot

The Laminga Community provided a 2.3 ha plot of land for the establishment of a woodlot. The project collaborates with an Agroforestry project funded by the French Embassy in Nigeria and implemented by ProNatura. The agroforestry project had earlier conducted training for community members on different methods of tree propagation. Consultants from the Federal College of Forestry Jos were invited during this project to lead the tree planting exercise in order to ensure that generally accepted standards are met, such as ensuring that the appropriate distances between trees are kept. Twenty-one youths and three women were mobilised for tree planting during this project and over 50 school children from four schools participated in tree planting on World Environment Day, June 5th 2012. A total of 450 seedlings were planted and seeds have been purchased to raise seedlings in the community nursery with the help of ProNatura. We intend to plant only indigenous trees. Although only seedlings of *Parkia biglobosa* have been planted, we intend to purchase seeds and raise seedlings of other indigenous species. The tree planting exercise will continue during 2013.

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

Community members were actively involved throughout and fully supported the project. The youth conservation education group led the children conservation education activity and were actively involved in the tree planting. The fuel-efficient stove workshops were coordinated by youths trained on stove production during the previous RSG project. Women came out in their numbers to learn how to repair broken fuel-efficient stoves produced during our previous RSG and new stoves were also produced. Land was readily provided for the woodlot and borehole. One immediate benefit for the communities during this project is the provision of borehole water for domestic use and farming, particularly during the dry season. Long-term benefits will accrue over time through sustainable harvest of wood from the woodlot, which also serves as a carbon sink.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes. More funding will be sought to support the youth conservation education group and the woodlot as well as the promotion of the fuel-efficient stoves in more communities. We hope to apply for a RSG Booster grant.

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

A detailed report is in preparation and will be submitted to RSG and the Amurum Forest Reserve management. A copy of the report will also be sent to the Nigerian Conservation Foundation (NCF) and the University of Jos as the Deputy Vice Chancellor of the University has expressed interest in our work.

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 over a period of 12 months, February 2012 – February 2013, in line with the anticipated time frame. However, the project was expected to commence in January 2012, but funds for the project were received in late February 2012 due to delays in bank transfer.

Due to the challenges in procuring indigenous seedlings for the tree planting, we will continue the planting of trees until the next rainy season in June 2013.

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.

The grant amount was received in US Dollars due to inability of our intermediary bank to transfer in Pound Sterling. Total amount received was \$ 9205.60 (£5814.53, exchange rate: 1.583 USD to 1 GBP - www.oanda.com). The expenses below are based on 246.60 NGN (Nigerian Naira) to 1 GBP.

Item	Budgeted Amount	Actual Amount	Difference	Comments
Borehole construction	2060	2161	-101	Borehole cost slightly more than originally anticipated.
Tree seedlings	320	217	103	Fewer seedlings were purchased. This helped to offset overspends from borehole construction.
Subsistence for project team	2400	2068	332	Balance from this budget line covered "Environmental Education" and "Refreshments"
Local travel	840	778.5	61.5	
Environmental education: stove workshop, media, communication, educational/publicity materials)	280	527.1	-247.1	Offset with balance from "Subsistence"
Refreshments for participants	100	188.7	-88.7	Offset with balance from "Subsistence"

TOTAL	£6000	£5940.3 Actual amount received = £5814.53	£59.7 (Covered by funds from GEF- SGP)	Actual Balance = £ 5814.53 – £ 5940.3 = -125.77 This was covered by funds from GEF- SGP.
--------------	-------	---	--	--

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

A website will be created for this project as one of the ways our results will be disseminated and for increased visibility of the project. The youth conservation education group has been very active and efficient. In the previous RSG project, they led a stove campaign that publicised the fuel-efficient stove in seven communities. During this project, they have successfully taught conservation to schoolchildren, encouraging school heads to promote conservation education in their schools. We will source more funds to support the youth group and encourage the establishment of children conservation clubs within community schools. The woodlot will need to be continuously managed until the trees have reached maturity after which sustainable harvesting of wood from the woodlot will be carried out.

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?

The RSGF logo was printed on publicity materials such as face caps used during tree planting on the World Environment Day and the calendar. The event was also aired on local television and a video clip is available. The logo is also displayed on two sign posts mounted by the Zarazong Community borehole and the Laminga community woodlot.

11. Any other comments?

We will continue to be grateful to the Rufford Small Grants Foundation for this 2nd RSG and the 1st RSG, without which the initiation and establishment of this project would not have been possible. Thanks to the RSG, our project at the Amurum Forest Reserve has now gained considerable publicity within the Jos East local government area and the University of Jos and has received the support of new collaborators. Our project has also received adequate visibility through our webpage on the RSG website. We have been identified and contacted by organizations such as Tree Nation for possible collaboration as a result.