

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	Dickson Baseke
Project title	Integrating Cultural Values in Managing Human Elephant Conflicts in Northern Uganda
RSG reference	10690-1
Reporting period	October 2011 to October 2012
Amount of grant	£5300
Your email address	Dicson24@gmail.com
Date of this report	November 25 th 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
To capacitate 20 cultural elders and 40 youths [Green Stewards] from the remote areas surrounding national parks and wildlife reserve in northern Uganda to become youth leaders who assist farmers to understand the human-elephant conflict scenarios				However we were also able to add on a few stewards who offered to volunteer in this cause making a total of 50 green stewards.
To capacitate the young adults above to assist farmers and the community to establish and popularise conflict prevention methods and act as stewards for elephant conservation				The support and mobilisation among the community greatly facilitated the achievement of this objective.
To develop, design, print and distribute awareness posters, folklore story books, and a board game that provide information integrating Acholi culture and human-wildlife conflicts as well as conflict prevention				This was because we agreed to exclude the board game out of this objective and project deliverables.

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

The following were the unforeseen difficulties that arose

1. School programmes calendar

The project was designed to work with school going youths, because the project commenced at a time when schools in Uganda were about to begin their end of year national examinations, it meant that we had to delay the training workshop and the selection of the green stewards by 2 months. This greatly affected the work plan as planned. However, later we proceeded as planned, and due to this we increased the team to include non school going green stewards later on. This was agreed upon after a village inception meeting and this recommendation was made by the community which turned out a great and successful solution.

This meant that these had more time with the farmers as opposed to the school going stewards who are available during weekends and holiday time due to school time. So to this regard we trained 17 School going green stewards and 20 out of School going green stewards during the initial training. Later on we added on 10 out of School who were inaugurated by the first cohort to step up the effort in the community due to the demand for meetings that arose.

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

1. We successfully trained and put in place a vigilant force of green stewards who are spearheading human- elephant conflict resolutions

With this funding, we were able to successfully conduct a training workshop that brought together 37 green stewards and 20 cultural elders in an initial training workshop that integrated human elephant conflict scenarios and Acholi cultural values.

At this training the elders emphasized and pointed out to the young stewards that indeed it was important to conserve the wildlife and environment, as their fore fathers were also indirectly engaged in conservation efforts.

An elder called Mzee Oyet emphasized that the only way the old men were conserving the environment during their days was by discouraging cutting down big trees as it was believed that if you cut a big you will have a bad omen and may not bear children hence conserving the environment and doing other cultural rituals.

The elders were very impressed with the idea of including their traditional roots and pledged their full support to this cause. Green stewards were then demonstrated how to apply the various methods of conflict resolutions. The chilli method and how to set it up in the gardens was demonstrated and passed on to the stewards.

Today green stewards are able to independently mobilise the various farmers into periodic meetings and train them on conservation as well as assist them in setting up chilli fences. The most notable achievement is that the green stewards have formed themselves into an association that brings together the community and they engage them in conservation discussions.

2. Increased community awareness about elephant conservation

The project has successfully mobilised community support for the African elephant and in addition increased awareness about the importance of conserving the African elephant. Today the farmers will report incidents of any elephant invasion and any other wildlife invasions as opposed to the earlier violent means which included threatening to slaughter or burn the elephants. This is evident in the number of community people who turned up for the community awareness meetings that were spearheaded by the green stewards and the cultural leaders.

We are confident that the information we have passed on to this segment of the community in northern will surely stay long after today and will be passed on for generations, the continued and strengthened youth stewards are also constantly working hard to continue with the sensitisation meetings.

3. Reduced elephant raids due to the introduction of routine farmer consultative and training meetings on Managing Human-elephant Conflicts

The initiative is credited for spear heading the effort to reduce the number of elephant raids to the community farmers' gardens in the region. Through the farmer consultative meetings we

were able to equip the various farmers with skills through which they could indeed reduce or even completely wipe out elephant raids to their gardens.

The project team did this on a demonstration basis and to measure our success and evaluate our approach we closely monitored three gardens at different locations using chili agronomy as an elephant deterrent.

The first site monitored was on a maize garden in Purongo that was successful over the period we monitored it the owner of the garden was able to harvest. The second demonstration was on a site of a rice garden in Koch goma was not successful because the rice garden was raided but this was because the poles used were weak, in addition chilli was not smeared on the poles and the farmers were not checking if the chilli had not been washed away by the rain from the strings. The third site that was monitored was a cassava garden in Arinyapi parish was not raided and the owner of the garden was able to harvest. In conclusion the area we were operating in indeed registered success as far as reducing elephant raids is concerned which forced other areas to request us to extend the same initiative to the areas but funds were limited to the initial planned area.

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

The project greatly engaged the local community right from inception and the planning, we had to consult a number of village elders during the mobilisation exercise, the community to this regard really welcomed the idea and gave us a recommendation to substitute the school going youths with out of school youths, which advice I took into consideration and helped to register success.

The local elders together with the green stewards also engaged with support from the project team a section of community farmers in a series of community meetings which at times included dance and drama cultural performances and drama; this indeed drew a lot of community awareness about the plight of the African elephant.

The village farmers have indeed benefitted from the project especially as far as strengthening chilli agronomy as a way of deterring elephants from raiding their gardens which helped to step up their yields and we are hopeful that they will continue to benefit from this knowledge and the skills of the green stewards.

Furthermore the project helped to spearhead the Acholi cultural values among the young generation of the community which was one of the reasons that attracted community support for the initiative and increased their enthusiasm to participate. So in conclusion I would say the project did not only help to save the community farmers gardens but also provided an avenue to promote Acholi cultural traditions and norms so as to mobilise support for the elephant.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes there are plans to continue this work; the area of operation for the project was in Nwoya district, and due to the success, farmers made suggestions that we need to increase more stewards in order to fully strengthen the efforts in conflict resolutions.

The communities from the adjacent areas also requested that we consider replicating the same approach in their areas, especially in Adjumani and Moyo districts where an elephant was reported burnt. We therefore hope to expand this work to these areas and also increase the number of stewards in Nwoya to at least 100 by the end of next year, which will leave a full force to further greatly reduce the raids to the gardens.

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

The project was able to closely develop partnerships with a number of key players, including the wildlife clubs of Uganda, and joined a number of networks and we hope to utilise these networks to share our works results.

We hope to participate in a number of conservation symposiums and workshops including conferences; we have ably participated in so far two conferences where we shared out results in Uganda. The wildlife clubs convention which brings together about 1000 young people, and the angels initiative forum which is a plat form for young people who spear head change.

We are planning to develop an association for the green stewards and put up a project blog so as to raise funds for the continued work of the project through sharing the results of our work. We shall also develop a website for the project that will be used as a plat form for sharing all project results.

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 and 2 weeks; the delay is because the school calendar of Uganda really affected us in terms of mobilising the school going stewards. However thanks to involving the community we were able to include out of school youths and work moved smoothly as planned.

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.

	Budgeted Amount	Actual Amount	Difference	Comments
Printing and Photocopying	197	203	-6	We needed more documentation during the initial planning and mobilisation meetings
Airtime for Communication	9	9	-	
Travel and Accommodation for Project Team	786	820	-34	The travel was more than planned especially to support the green stewards
Postage	29	0	29	This money was transferred to travel as letters were hand delivered

Accommodation for Green Stewards and Elders at Initial training	274	250	+24	We negotiated for a discount
Meals for green Stewards and Cultural Elders	914	957	-43	The cost of meals shot up more than planned
Transport refunds for Green Stewards and Elders at initial training	343	365	-22	The cost of living pushed the transport cost a little high
Stationery for training workshop	103	103	-	
Facilitator's Honorarium	57	57	-	
Steward Caps and T. Shirts	171	186	-15	Also here the cost rose up on the market for the T-shirts
Chilli Pepper Seed	57	102	-45	We needed more chilli for the work so we increased the amount
Grease	257	302	-45	Same thing for the grease
Rolls of Strings	857	907	-50	Same for the strings
Purchase of local equipment tools for green stewards	114	138	-24	Same for the equipment
Local Travel by Green Stewards for village farmers' trainings	686	721	-35	The travel was also increased to reach more farmers
Designing and Printing Folklore story books	217	0	+217	These books were not designed because they were meant to accompany the board game which was earlier eliminated
Designing awareness Posters and Brochures	71	141	-70	We increased the number of posters to support more farmers
Printing Posters and Brochures	107	121	-14	Same for this
Total	5250	5382	82	

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

Looking forward what I feel as the most important next steps is we need to step up the action and introduce this initiative to the adjoining areas as the elephants have now moved and increased raids in the adjoining areas where we are not working.

This should be immediate because Murchison Falls National Park is now experiencing oil activity and this is further pushing the elephants to the mainland in the community, which still takes us back to the reason why we should increase the number of stewards in the current project area as well. In Adjumani an elephant was found burnt by the local community, and just a few weeks back an

elephant was knocked dead by a speeding bus. This means we have lost two elephants in one year so I believe I need more funding to cover a larger area.

I also feel we need to ensure that now the community owns the project as a next step, this should be done through putting in place an association through which the community especially the green stewards can probably manage the conflicts with off course support from the project team.

We are therefore considering registering a community based association owned by the community that will spear head the village trainings of the community and the farmers. Since we now have people with skills and knowledge and I feel this should be documented and stored in the community probably in the association office so that people don't go away with the knowledge.

In a way they will also have a permanent contact point in case of any issues and concerns as opposed to the project team which is most likely leaving after the completion of the project.

We also realised that it was imperative to establish chilli nursery gardens within the community as compared to purchasing the chilli seeds, that way a greater part of the community will be able to benefit and probably it's cost effective to extend it to the neighbouring communities.

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 I used the RSGF logo in all invitations and mentioned support from the RSGF on all village meetings, included it in all presentations during the meetings and on posters and the brochures we produced. In conclusion RSGF received publicity during all throughout the course of the work.

11. Any other comments?

We thank RSGF for the funding support towards this project, and we feel that with continued funding we shall use the lessons learnt and success stories to even deliver much more pragmatic results in the adjoining areas so as to save the plight of the African elephants in northern Uganda.