

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	Youndjie Koleoko Gabriel
Project title	Analog forestry: pathway for biodiversity conservation and agro-enterprise development in Bafut.
RSG reference	11101-2
Reporting period	February 1, 2012, to January 31, 2013
Amount of grant	£6000
Your email address	info@cendep.org cendep2001@yahoo.com
Date of this report	February 7, 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
<p>a. Mitigate the conflict over ownership of the Akofungubah watershed by facilitating dialogue between the stakeholders and averting such conflicts in other communities through further education and sensitisation workshops;</p>			√	<p>One of our local partners, Forest and Agroforestry Promoters (FAP), with good knowledge on conflict management, assisted us in identifying and analysing the causes of the conflicts in the community. We held 10 sensitisation/stakeholder identification meetings and conducted two workshops aimed at resolving the conflicts.</p> <p>Community members now have a better understanding of the laws governing watersheds and other communal resources such as pastoral land in Cameroon. These are the basis for the complete eradication of conflicts in the region.</p>
<p>b. Manage the three established forests through mulching, weeding, replacement of dead seedlings, control against bush fires and domestic animals:</p>			√	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There was no incidence of bush fires during the project period. - More women became interested in project activities. For example, the CICAM women (a group of underprivileged women in the community) started taking part in project activities. This means that there was ample labour for mulching, weeding and fire tracing as against the past when mostly men did these activities.
<p>c. Assist at least 50 pilot farmers to establish private analog forestry farms in the peripheral zones of the watersheds:</p>		√		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 37 farmers established private nurseries where they produced a variety of fruits and medicinal trees/herbs for their analog forests - Mr. Akombo Gregory (Herbalist) has as many as 24 different crops/trees on his young analog forest - Mr. Neba Francis has 38 different species of exotic and indigenous trees on his farmland. During the project period he planted 800 trees as against 300 in 2011. He is currently nursing cocoa to be introduced in his farmland. Apart from the trees he has mounted four beehives. - The CICAM women were motivated by the variety of plants on Mr. Akombo's farm. Mrs

				<p>Cheryl Evelyn is trying to mobilise these women under the Bafut Analog Forestry Network (BAN) that she and others created</p>
<p>d. Improve the incomes of local farmers by training 100 farmers on beekeeping and helping them to market their produce by linking them to buyers in the city:</p>		✓		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – 87 farmers received training while 30 more who could not be trained received guidance from the field staff and the trained farmers – Trainees of the beekeeping workshop produced and installed 77 beehives, 40 of which were colonised. Harvesting is currently going on. – We could not link the producers to buyers because production is still inadequate to attract outside buyers
<p>e. Improve the capacity of the local people to manage communal resources through learning visits to other communities;</p>			✓	<p>27 participants selected from the project villages visited the Mbiame and Kitiwum community nursery, communal forest, and forest and farmland areas under analogue forestry intervention. This visit enabled them to appreciate work done in these communities and share experiences on successes and failures. The visit was in two phases: a visit of field activities and a working session. During the field visit participants appreciated the progress in activities such as soil fertility management using techniques like soil erosion control using vetiver, use of contour bonds and agro-forestry species. They assessed the number of tree seedlings out-planted, survival rates of the out-planted trees, and shared experiences on ways of eradicating eucalyptus from protected areas as well on how to manage community nurseries.</p> <p>Resource farmers gave talks on the following topics, and this was followed by discussions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Stages in creating and managing a community forest. – How to raise and manage funds from a community forest. – Protection and management of water catchments. – Ways of harvesting and handling honey

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

- It took us a while to diagnose the root of the problems between farmers and grazers. The herdsmen it was noticed do not report damages caused by cattle to the animal owners. These damages result from the negligence of these herdsmen, but the blame always goes to

the animal owners who are ignorant of the situation. These herdsmen do not accept to compensate crop owners because they think that it is the duty of their employers. It was agreed that cattle owners should sensitise their herdsmen to be responsible and control cattle at all times to avoid unnecessary conflicts in the community

- Sometimes it was difficult for us to know which herd of cattle was responsible for crop damages especially those damages that occurred at night. Grazers from neighbouring areas like Sabga periodically graze their animals in the project communities and did not take part in the project and so did not know the issues discussed or measures to address identified problems. It was agreed that herdsmen of the local cattle owners should be watchful and report any strange animals in the community to the “Ardo”, the cattle owners’ leader, who would liaise with his colleague in the Sabga area to discipline herdsmen who were negligent.
- It took us time to convince a critical mass of the population of the importance of the project. Some of the farmers cultivating near water sources were not participating in the project and did not regulations sometimes causing the destruction of the planted trees through the fires they set. It was agreed that further sensitisation be done through announcements by town criers in public places like markets, churches etc. If changes are not observed these farmers would be banned from farming in the area. They would only be allowed to farm if they agree to stop the use of fire and protect planted trees.

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

The three most important outcomes of our project were:

- a. Recognition of the dialogue committee created to implement the action plan of the “Akofonguba Water Management Dialog Platform”, by the community. This committee successfully handled some disputes between crop and cattle farmers. They have continued the mediation process, identified and invited non-Bororo grazers (another category of grazers) to community events such as the Annual General Assembly Meeting and training workshop on bee keeping organized by CENDEP. The traditional authorities and notables have been made to understand that they are by law members of the commissions created to implement the action plan of the “Akofonguba Water Management Dialog Platform” and can not stay away from meetings called by the by the chairperson of the committee. In this way they take part in the making of decisions that affect their subjects.
- b. Two members of the community were present at the constituent meeting of the Cameroon Analog Forestry Network (CAFON) and co-opted as founding members. They initiated the creation of the Bafut Analog Forestry Network and are represented at the National Network.
- c. We witnessed the organisation of a community meeting comprising 45 participants, representing various stakeholder groups. The aim of the meeting was to look into ways of promoting good working relationship between farmers and grazers in their communities. A neighbouring village, Mulueh, that is not part of project, was invited to the meeting because cattle from this community contribute to the problems encountered in the project villages.

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

At the end of the beekeeping training, the trainees suggested the contract with their trainer should not be extended so that they themselves should continue the production of beehives. The number

of hives increased from the targeted 50 to 77 because the local people provided local materials reducing the unit cost of a hive and enabling many more farmers to own a hive.

37 farmers established private tree nurseries in their backyards containing tree species of their choice. They sold some of the tree seedlings to the project and diversified the crops/trees on their farms. The seedlings produced were to meet their needs in conservation, fruit production, medicine, vegetables and beekeeping. 2000 polythene bags were donated enabling them to transplant seedlings from seed beds into bags in view of eventual transplanting in the field. Surplus seedlings were bought with funds donated by one of our partners, SETAC.

The community members started resolving their disputes themselves using the people they had elected. This saved them a lot of money. In the past they would invite government officials, some of whom were corrupt, to solve their problems. To displace these officials to the village required resources that only the rich cattle farmers could afford. Mr. Aladji Daoh, the chairperson of the Njimuya Water Management Dialogue Committee summarised this in the following quote during a meeting that took place in his residence

"I am very happy to receive all of you here in my home for this important meeting at Ntaya. I am particularly happy to see farmers and cattle owners coming together to seek solutions to problems that affect them. We have taken the right step of beginning to seek solutions to our problems rather than waiting for or calling outsiders to come and bring us more problems. I believe that together we can address the issues of theft of cattle, crop damages and unnecessary friction at community level before seeking outside intervention for issues we cannot manage. Nothing stops us, farmers and cattle owners, from living and working together like brothers and sisters".

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes, this project is far from completed. We started project activities (first phase) on October 1, 2010. Because we were introducing a new technology, we needed time to convince the local people. This we have been doing and very successfully up to January 31, 2013, because many more people are indicating interest. In the course of our work new challenges such as stray cattle from neighbouring communities came up. These issues need to be managed. We embarked on income generating activities such as beekeeping but in one year we have not done all there is to be done. As way forward we are elaborating a third phase of the project.

At the moment, we are doing a one-year project with CAME Women and Girls Development Organization (CAWOGIDO), a UK based charity. The project is about "Strengthening the farming and entrepreneurial skills of women in Cameroon"

This project is supported by COMIC Relief, a UK based charity. The concept note that our UK partner submitted hadn't sufficient data so COMIC Relief gave a grant to enable CAWOGIDO and her partners to do research, consultation and planning before submitting a 3-year project for appraisal. One of the expected outcomes of the project is to "create new rural enterprises and expand existing ones". This provides an excellent opportunity for us to take into consideration the needs of the women in Bafut, through CICAM (mentioned earlier in this report).

With regards to activities on honey production that we were carrying out, we now intend to

- a. Sensitise and mobilise more honey farmers to constitute interest groups to reduce costs per unit of production and processing. Legalise groups and build their capacity for effective functioning (leadership training, communication skills, group dynamics, record keeping, etc).
- b. Step up honey production through training on improved techniques of production and processing, quality control, support in inputs and equipment for honey production.
- c. Identify a segment of the community with entrepreneurial skills to lead in the setting up and running of honey cooperatives. Build capacity of cooperatives to manage and sell processed honey, and other by-products of honey.
- d. Organise producers to supply products to cooperatives, under clear terms of reference and agreed payment, benefit sharing and financing mechanisms.
- e. Construct a central processing unit to collect and process honey produced in each community.
- f. Build capacity to identify and access markets, taking into consideration transportation, negotiation, distribution and contractual arrangements.
- g. Establish collaborative links with micro finance (credit unions) institutions.

These are our ideas on the continuation of the project. These activities will be built around protecting and expanding the forests we have been creating. Once our report is approved, we shall focus on preparing and submitting a third phase of this project for appraisal

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

We have already been started sharing the results in Cameroon and outside Cameroon. We have held sensitisation meetings in Malawi, Tanzania, Uganda and Ghana. This has been with the support of our partner BOTH ENDS, Netherlands.

The objective of the sensitisation is to familiarise Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) from these countries with Analog Forestry and to encourage them to show interest to take up this method in their work. After the meetings, CENDEP helps by providing a short report with recommendations on possible starting points for the CSO's to take up Analog Forestry in their work and what can be next steps.

We also produced a video titled "Making Communal Watershed Management Work". This video highlighted the successes and challenges of analog forestry with rural communities in Cameroon and was distributed to participants at the workshop on "Climate Change Mitigation with Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples: Practices, Lessons Learned, and Prospects" that held in Cairns-Australia in February 2012. One of CENDEP staff made a presentation at the workshop titled: "Analog forestry: pathway for climate change mitigation and livelihood improvement in North-western Cameroon". This presentation is available online at http://www.unutki.org/downloads/File/E-2_FONDZENYUY_Wirsiy.pdf

At the national level we participate in many workshops and whenever possible we ask for a slot to present our work on analog forestry. To facilitate take up of the technology by other organisations we collaborated with the International Analog Forestry Network in the preparation of a field guide that is being distributed to interest persons.

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

The RSG grant was used from February 1, 2012, to January 31, 2013. In the Northwest Region of Cameroon, communities usually have competing and conflicting interests in watershed resources. The Analog Forestry ecosystem restoration approach is a strategy for the integrated management of land, water and living resources that promotes conservation and sustainable use in an equitable way. For this system to work considerable time must be invested resolving conflicts over communal resource use. Once this is done restoration work can be fast. From our experience, ideally it requires about five years for analog forestry to work. We have been working in the area for the past two years (with RSG support). We still require about 3 years to meet our dream for the area.

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.

Exchange Rate: 1£ sterling=FCFA£ sterling

Item	Budgeted Amount	Actual Amount	Difference	Comments
Telephone	80	80	-	
Salary community facilitator (50 % of time)	799	799	-	
Writing and workshop material (markers, flip charts)	60	60	-	
Coffee/refreshment during stakeholder meeting	80	80	-	
Coffee/refreshment during committee meetings	80	80	-	
Consultant	266	266	-	
Materials for hive construction	999	1,066	- 67	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - More hives were constructed than previewed - Local people donated materials for the construction
Bee suits	300	300	-	
Smokers	67	67	-	
Hand outs & didactic materials	200	200	-	
Field allowance (trainer)	200	200	-	
Feeding of trainees for three days	400	333	67	- Food was cheaper in the village than previewed.
Transport for community members (per return trip)	360	360	-	
Refreshment and accommodation	719	719	-	
Transport allowance for field staff	719	719	-	
Total				

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

In course of the first 2 years of the project we addressed to some degree environmental, socio-economic and policy issues affecting our target group. We shall now commence monitoring the impacts arising from our intervention, documenting the lessons learnt and disseminating them. In addition, we shall build the entrepreneurial skills of the target groups in order to enhance the development of rural agro enterprises in our target communities. A detailed plan on how we intend to do this shall be submitted to RSG for appraisal.

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, we used the logo in our bimonthly e-newsletter. The RSGF was acknowledged in the documentary on analog forestry that we produced in 2012.

11. Any other comments?

The phased support by the RSGF is an ideal way to support small organisations that cannot easily access large funds. We have had the opportunity to dialogue with our target group and agree on activities that can take conservation work ahead.