

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 | Martha Mutiso |
| Project title | Integrated Approach to Community Conservation of Biodiversity in Sawaiti Ecosystem, North Rift (Kenya) |
| RSG reference | 12187-1 |
| Reporting period | Final Report |
| Amount of grant | £6000 |
| Your email address | marthanzisa@gmail.com |
| Date of this report | 18 th November 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 |
|--|--------------|--------------------|----------------|---|
| Wetland regeneration and waterfowl conservation | | X | | Through the outreach programmes we were able to positively influence the attitudes of the community, for instance, there was less grazing in the swamp, thus allowing vegetation growth and waterfowl to nest without disturbance from the livestock. |
| Community conservation and capacity building | | | X | One community member attended the Fundamentals of Ornithology and has since been worked with our team during community education and outreach programmes on the importance of biodiversity and wetland conservation. There were decreased bird persecutions in the last 6 months of the project, as the team established community policing of the children's activities in the wetland. Community established and registered a Community Conservation Organization (Friends of Sawaiti), which we are now working with during outreach programmes. |
| Diversification of the income generating activities (IGAs) | | X | | An intensive community discussion was carried out and we were able to identify the most important and viable IGAs. The community group have been involved in guiding activities at the wetland. Only one community member was able to set up a poultry farm and therefore there is a greater need to assist others to start their own IGAs. |
| Information sharing especially on wetland and biodiversity trends. | | X | | There was adequate relaying of information between stakeholders mostly through meetings and communication. The community was also told of the findings from the monitoring and survey activities and were well informed of the trend of the wetland and its biodiversity. The team is currently compiling the biodiversity checklists (including simple photographic brochure/booklet), which will be availed to the Friends of Sawaiti |

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| | | | | and displayed at the Mid Rift Tourism and information centre. The Friends of Sawaiti are also assisting the team in translating the common biodiversity into their local language. |
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2. Please explain any unforeseen difficulties that arose during the project and how these were tackled (if relevant).

Considering that this was the first conservation project that the community was subjected to, it took a bit longer to convince some people of the importance of the project and the objectives. This was overcome by introducing the younger people to birding, this way they relayed the information back to the community in their local languages.

During rainy season we were faced with the challenge of flooding and since we were not well equipped to do monitoring during flooding we were unable to reach certain areas. We accessed these areas after the floods had lessened.

Our country held its national election during March 2013 affecting the rest of the school terms, thus fewer schools were reached. Our team interacted with the pupils, students and some teachers over the weekends instead of weekdays. The wetland acted as our outdoor classroom.

There was a relocation of approximately 3000 internally displaced people from the Mau forest to areas adjacent to the wetland, hence putting more pressure on the wetland and biodiversity. This we could not address as it's political.

We had anticipated registering our existing blog into a website, we only managed to register the domain. We have decided to come up with a new website and keep the blog for updates and other fieldwork updates.

After much interaction with the local community, we realised that they use different names to refer to the swamp, we decided to use Sawaiti, their most commonly used name and adapt Barina, the name that appears on Google maps.

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

a) Friends of Sawaiti: The formation of a conservation committee and group (Friends of Sawaiti; Wetland Conservancy) that has now been fully registered by the social services in Mogotio is a very great achievement as it has shown the great attitude shift and change as in regards to conservation. The community group became registered members of Nature Kenya, an organisation whose mission is to connect nature and people; and thus are now receiving regular updates on other conservation issues through monthly newsletters. The involvement of the local authorities was also a booster to the project, as they have helped in minimising the birds' persecutions and are currently in the process of addressing land grabbing issues.

b) Capacity building, networking: One local community was supported to participate in the Fundamentals of Ornithology, a course that introduces participants to birds' conservation, data

collection and guiding skills. The participant, who is also pursuing ecotourism studies, has been instrumental in working with the team to reach more community members and assist in monitoring the children's activities around the wetland. The team leader (Martha), was supported by friends to participate and present a poster on the project during the seventh World Environmental Education Congress, held in Morocco. The friends saw the importance of the project; the gains and achievements and also the need to share with others from around the world. The Great Rift Valley flyway was recently launched in Eldama Ravine, around 50km from Sawaiti. Stakeholders including County Council of Baringo, Birdlife International, Nature Kenya, Tour Operators, local farmers and the Friends of Sawaiti were invited and they had a chance to take part and network during the event. Later the Friends of Sawaiti guided the group around the project site and had a chance to interact with the stakeholders.

c) A species checklist that was compiled during the whole project period has been very important in further opening up the area for ecotourism. The bird species particularly are very unique and diverse and therefore provides a very important platform for further conservation activities and projects. Other biodiversity including plants, invertebrates and reptiles are also being documented regularly. The community members, through the Friends of Sawaiti, have agreed to assist in the final and production of the checklists by providing names of the biodiversity in their local language.

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

During monitoring activities, the team built capacity to the local community members through binocular and telescope use, using indexes in guidebooks, biodiversity identification and sometimes photography. Most of them were greatly involved in both the biodiversity monitoring and the school outreach programme as they were trained on basic monitoring skills and later they were able to administer and develop biodiversity checklists and carry out some surveys without much supervision. Some community members were very essential in communicating with other community members especially when there was language barrier. Some local community members are currently involved in translating various biodiversity names into their local language, it's hoped that this will enable all members to read, understand and identify biodiversity in common, scientific and local names.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes we hope to continue with this project and upscale it by extending the environmental outreach programs to more schools around the project site, including the ones that weren't reached as initially planned. We aim to create a more interactive website that will enable many more people to be involved in the project and future projects.

We plan to organise and carry out an intensive waterfowl census in January 2014, as this will determine whether the wetland will be included in the already existing Important Biodiversity Areas (IBAs).

We are planning to look into ways of implementing the already proposed IGAs that will help in reducing the pressure on the wetland especially in providing a source of protein and income to the community.

We also aim to develop simple interactive tools like photographic biodiversity checklists and short video clips (about the project and the wetland) that can be distributed to schools, community members and general public. As the community members will be responsible for providing local names of biodiversity, we hope to publish few biodiversity posters that will be displayed at the Mid-rift Tourism and security information Centre in Mogotio.

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

We have already published and created a poster that we hope to circulate in schools and offices so as to pass on the information on the project. Furthermore we have purchased our blog domain and we hope to upload all the information and photos in it so that we can reach a wider audience.

We will print several copies of our project report, including some biodiversity photos and share with our stakeholders including the County council of Baringo, Sawaiti Conservation Group and schools.

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 during the entire period of the project time just as anticipated i.e. November 2012-November 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.

| Item | Budgeted Amount | Actual Amount | Difference | Comments |
|-------------------------------|-----------------|---------------|------------|--|
| Survey and Monitoring | £850 | £810 | +\$40 | The transport charges were reduced, as we were able to travel as a group. |
| Field Materials | £340 | £355 | -\$15 | We had to buy more materials as some were spoiled during the rain. |
| Binoculars | £780 | £765 | +\$15 | We got a discount from the seller. |
| Awareness creation | £700 | £825 | -\$125 | We were unable to get a cheaper and better electric generator for the price we had anticipated. |
| Allowance for project | 550 | £400 | +\$150 | We decided to cut on costs and reduced the allowances so as to be able to cater for other unforeseen expenses from other activities. |
| Administrative cost | £320 | £320 | | |
| Stakeholders meeting | £340 | £340 | | |
| Ecotourism | £350 | £350 | | |
| Training of community members | £400 | £400 | | |
| Field visits | £560 | £560 | | |

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|----------------------|--------------|--------------|------|---|
| Purchase of 3 tents | £430 | £495 | -£65 | There was an increase in price from the last quotation given. |
| Wetland regeneration | £380 | £380 | | |
| Total | £6000 | £6000 | | |

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

Having had the director of Birdlife Africa Partnership Secretariat visit the wetland, he expressed the need for an intensive waterfowl census, which could help in determining whether the wetland could be designated as an Important Bird Area/Important Biodiversity Area (IBA) or included in Ramsar Sites. Thus the best time to conduct a waterfowl census will be in January 2014 before most of migrants start migrating back to Europe/Asia and in July 2014 just before they start migrating from Europe/Asia. Designation of the wetland as an IBA would increase the chances of the wetland acquiring a conservation status.

There is a great need for more stakeholder forums and discussions regarding the policies and laws that should be enforced to help in the conservation the swamp. The team is currently working with several professionals in coming up with the wetland's management plan.

There is a greater need for a vigorous campaign on the protection of the wetland under community-conserved areas in Kenya and also the birds to prevent further persecutions and trade of the birds. There is greater need of an all-inclusive approach in the conservation of the wetland, which is already a proven breeding and roosting habitat for many endangered water birds, invertebrates and reptiles.

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 logos was extensively used especially in our posters and more specifically in the poster that was presented during the seventh World Environmental Education Congress in Morocco and during Rufford grant recipients' conference that was held in Kenya. We also used the logo in all our correspondence letterheads and official communication documents to stakeholders. We will further put the logo and a link to the RSGF on our website. The community member who took part in the Fundamentals of Ornithology was informed that his participation was funded by RSGF.

11. Any other comments?

We would like to thank the RSGF board for entrusting us and awarding us the grant and we hope to continue working with RSGF in ensuring our ecosystems and biodiversity are protected and at the same time benefiting the community.