

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	Michael G Prettejohn
Project title	Bongo Surveillance Project - Kenya
RSG reference	12225-B
Reporting period	October 2012 to September 2013
Amount of grant	£6000
Your email address	mike@mountainbongo.org
Date of this report	15 September 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><u>BONGO WILDLIFE CLUBS – OUTREACH</u> There are now less than 100 mountain bongo in the wild in Kenya. A protection strategy was urgently required. To develop the next stage of the BSP- Bongo Surveillance Project “outreach” was vital to communities through development of Bongo School Wildlife Club members. The educational programme aims to engage local communities in bongo and forest conservation. Bongo School Wildlife Clubs located on the forest edge are selected by their proximity to the last remaining groups.</p> <p>They will be the future custodians of the wildlife in these areas.</p> <p><u>Alternative income generation projects,</u> to help reduction in charcoal, kerosene. To help schools with</p>			<p>Fully Achieved</p>	<p>In 2012/2013 240 - new pupils this year have had the opportunity to experience the BSP conservation programme in schools located in the Aberdares and Mt Kenya area. As an outreach this means with the inclusion of the new Primary school Kariki in the N. Aberdares over 350 completely new community members have become involved through this school's partnership with the BSP.</p> <p>This means for outreach for the total Aberdare's and Mt Kenya area alone during 2012/2013 is over 1500.</p> <p>The schools in the total BSP Programme, including SW Mau and Eburu have now increased to 19.</p> <p>140 pupils, parents and community members have attended the William Holden Mt Kenya educational Centre in November 2012 and February 2013. At this centre pupils have learnt about alternative sources of fuel to charcoal and seen the repatriated bongo group from the USA.</p> <p>There have been environmental educational films shown including protecting the bongo.</p> <p>“Bongo Hotspots”- Giant painting. Identification of Bongo locations using camera trap pictures and watercolours to paint the forests. This painting is used as a communications tool for pupils to present to communities/other pupils.</p> <p>Painting now completed in 4 schools in region. Mt Kenya (1) Aberdares (3).</p>
		<p>Partially achieved Re: maize</p>		

				<p>Kariki Primary School – a rain water harvesting kit. Sponsored 2 x 2500 litre plastic cylinders and guttering have been purchased and delivered. BSP and community will arrange fixtures.</p> <p>BSP tree planting programme.</p> <p>Indigenous trees and some exotics for fast growing have been donated by BSP to the Aberdares and Mt Kenya schools. Some schools are starting up tree nurseries.</p> <p>Transport set up for BSP coordinator and schools activities. Highest costs for Mt Kenya educational centre visits.</p>
<p><u>BSP TRACKERS SURVEILLANCE PROGRAMME ABERDARES & MT KENYA</u></p> <p>To establish a monitoring and reporting programme for known bongo groups in the Aberdares and Mt Kenya area</p>			Fully Achieved	<p>Bongo Hot Spots are being challenged in some areas with illegal timber extraction.</p> <p>Up to 30 bongo estimate Mt Kenya (1 group) Aberdares (Honi) Kanjwiri – 2 groups S. Aberdares (only male /single bongo tracks)</p>
<p>Employ BSP personnel in Aberdares/Mt Kenya</p> <p>Equipment for monitoring bongo movement or presence and illegal activity.</p> <p>Collection of data from the trackers surveillance.</p> <p>Maps of bongo hotspots.</p> <p>Camera trap evidence of bongo (as possible)</p>				<p>Bongo Surveillance Trackers recruited for monitoring and new surveillance in Aberdares and Mt Kenya.</p> <p>GPS Etrex 20 purchased (3), Memory cards, Batteries. 1 new camera trap – Bushnell, 1 video camera trap and solar charging unit.</p> <p>On returning from each monitoring/surveillance trip in these areas, information is downloaded at field base, for central data collection. Maps and GPS coordinates and handheld photographs are downloaded and collated in reports. KWS KFS work in partnership with BSP. Illegal activity is reported.</p>

<p>Dung, tissue, hair collection of samples Hand camera to take records of area changes, Bongo tracks, reporting illegal activities Transport for BSP trackers activity to/from Aberdares. Mt Kenya area.</p>				<p>Camera trap evidence has shown amazing results for Aberdares, Honi bongo group. There is higher level of protection here, being within the Aberdares National Park fence project. With a new video camera trap – Spypoint the BSP have recorded on camera trap the first ever bongo film in the wild. http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4THh9xKxclI</p> <p>Samples are collected, stored through BSP scientist for future genetic studies.</p> <p>Photographs of activities recorded, also valuable evidence of illegal timber activities, continued in Kanjwiri.</p> <p>The BSP trackers are monitoring these areas 2-4 times during a month.</p> <p>Transport has been used for BSP trackers to/from the field using BSP vehicle (fuel and driver required) and for returning to field base, after surveillance for downloading of records – where possible other transport by local Matatu.</p>
<p><u>BSP School Wildlife programme coordination and set up of initial BSP Patron’s Workshop</u> Planning BSP curriculum and training for Patrons representatives</p>			<p>Fully Achieved</p>	<p>A Patrons Workshop was set up to review the BSP educational programme. All area patrons from the teaching staff of the Bongo Primary schools or community were invited. Discussions took place over 2 days at the Naro Moru campsite.</p> <p>This was the first opportunity as sponsored by Rufford to have a workshop of its kind, since the inception of the Bongo Wildlife Clubs. The patron’s review of the conservation programme will help form the BSP curriculum based on the most successful activities. The patrons in future will also come from the community – as teaching staff move on. This will give continuity to the</p>

				<p>programme.</p> <p>A Patrons' Workshop will be held in October 2013. During 2013 area community patrons have been recruited to over - see the BSP programme. Best practice of training will be discussed. i.e.</p> <p>SW Mau Community – beekeeping course with community and school representatives forming a cooperative,</p>
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2. Please explain any unforeseen difficulties that arose during the project and how these were tackled (if relevant).

Re: Income Generation project: - The unforeseen disease that attacked the maize planted. The Maize Lethal Necrosis (MLN), before harvesting at Kamburaini Primary School was a sad and frustrating situation. This was a countrywide situation and also attacked many of the local shamba. Due to issues with contamination no maize could be offered for milling for posho for the community.

A maize crop had been planted (in between seasons of potato crops). It was very demotivating for all parties.

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

- a) Through the BSP School coordinator working with the community and Logiss (innovators of a micro smart grid – solar solution) the community – 11 homes and the primary school benefitted of a free lighting solution saving at least 1000 ksh a month per home giving increased expenditure available per home and health benefits by not breathing in the smoke of the kerosene.
- b) To achieve through the constant monitoring of the Honi Aberdares Bongo group the first ever live video recording of bongo in the wild, through a new technology - camera trap. Web link to YOU TUBE, video. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4THh9xKxcLI>
- c) BSP Patrons' workshop - To get together for the first time in one location over 2 days in October 2012 all the Bongo BSP Patrons for the Wildlife Clubs to share best practice, discuss and review how best to take the programme forward.

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

Directly, the communities that have been involved and most benefitted are particularly those that invest the resources and commitment in managing and developing the BSP income generation projects, once the sponsorship has been made and a start-up project initiated.

With the micro solar grid project 11 homes and the primary school benefitted of a free lighting solution saving at least 1000 ksh a month per home giving increased expenditure available per home and health benefits. The Kariki village offered 2 persons per home to dig the trenches for the cabling between each home. It was very much a community effort.

- a) The Headmaster Clement Gachuri has increased teaching time for pupils if they wish to learn more, and take evening study groups. See www.mountainbongo.org for his interview.
- b) A community leader now has more time to spend on his own shamba during the daytime and instead hold evening community group meetings.
- c) Another home offers other pupils with homes with no lighting, an area in their home that has the benefit of free solar as a place to do homework together alongside their own family. This increased personal development and educational time can only in the long term benefit pupils and increase employment opportunities.
- d) More income can be made from activities such as sewing, with increased working time possible.

Within 2 months, one householder member has been able to buy shoes for his children.

The BSP Trackers by having an income allowance have directly given benefits to their families and thus the community. They have income for expenditure and can employ others to do small tasks therefore supporting the wider community.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes, with funding opportunities, the bongo surveillance is vital for the protection for these last remaining groups of bongo.

It has shown the bongo groups are increasing at Honi where the necessary protection is also in place with monitoring. There are now a number of camera trap photographs showing the young.

Likewise with the school Bongo Wildlife Clubs it is hoped each year to continue the experience for a new group of pupils who are in the age group 11 years. This education can make a difference to how the forests are used, timber taken for cooking and making/selling of charcoal to raise income, instead income generation, solar could be set up and can reduce charcoal production and present an alternative to poaching.

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

Through the BSP projects website. www.mountainbongo.org Wildlife/Conservation magazines SWARA, through stakeholders/workgroups, Kariki Open Day for Micro Smart Grid – held 8th August 2013 for Micro Smart Grid, other school open days, presentations to other organisations – EAZA – 28/9/2013.

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

12 months. Each year a new group of pupils have the opportunity to be part of the BSP Programme. The RSG funding help support 2012/2013 intake of BSP Wildlife Members and their associated communities. During this year, the BSP tracking team have put more resources into monitoring and the camera trap results of young growing in Honi group has been very motivating and great result for the BSP team.

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
BSP Personnel Aberdares and Mt Kenya	£3000	£3100		There has been increased monitoring at Honi helped with new equipment. Illegal activity has extended reporting activity Mt Kenya, Kanjwiri
Transport for surveillance and school visit	£750	£650		
Equipment purchases for surveillance – camera trap, GPS, forest outdoor clothing	£250	£250		
Wildlife Club Activities Projects Mt Kenya Educational Centre visit	£1000	£1300		The cost of transportation to Mt Kenya educational centre has been increased.
School coordination Train the Trainer	£1000	£700		Savings were made using Naro Moru campsite and utilising sponsored materials.
TOTAL	£6000	£6000		

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

To ensure the BSP programme has continuity with trained and equipped community representatives to assist with the conservation curriculum at the Bongo Wildlife Clubs. See feedback from Rufford sponsored visit to Mt Kenya centre.

- A. I have been living in darkness until today. We have destroyed the Bongo environment and hurt them. This is my time to make a difference to help change my community's behavior towards conservation. I intend to pursue a career in wildlife to help save the remaining mountain bongo and its environments and the Aberdare water tower. Thanks to BSP for introducing Bongo wildlife club in my school. Kamburaini Primary School pupil

B. Bongo Conservation Self Help Group Chairman commented: - "I thought I knew all about conservation but today I have realized, that I only know 40% and now I have 150% all courtesy of mountain bongo. This knowledge I have gained today will be a great investment to our conservation group and I intend to help replicate it to my community. Thanks to BSP and its coordinator for introducing the Bongo wildlife club to our area and having faith in us.

I am going to lead my team to make and do the little we can to make a difference in the world of conservation."

- To provide the necessary protection and monitoring for all the bongo groups in the wild. Working closely with Rhino Ark who are assisting with the construction of the forest fencing project, completed in the Aberdares. Now working on Mt Kenya and Eburu forests.
- Seek sponsorship for the new Young Trackers programme. Motivating pupils to learn "how to be BSP trackers". GPS, mapping, field base set up, dung identification, track signs, plants. To pass on the instinctive tracking side from the elders.
- To seek sponsors for the solar Micro Smart Grid. The impact has been so significant for this village trial. See quote Clement Gichui

As quoted by Kariki headmaster - Clement Muchemi "This invention is unique, it is targeting the poor and vulnerable. For Kariki, electricity would be many years away for our community Kariki. These villages could not afford the monthly costs of electricity, and the maintenance charges, anyway. This installation has made a difference now. Thank you".

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?

Patrons Workshop BSP – Logo used on materials in relation to project

Yes article submitted to SWARA – will be published in next edition (Autumn 2013)

Yes, Mt Kenya educational centre visit - RSCF logo SPONSORSHIP for pupils visit.

11. Any other comments?

Thank you so much for your support with this grant. It has made such an impact in 2013.