

## 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](mailto:jane@rufford.org).

Thank you for your help.

**Josh Cole, Grants Director**

Grant Recipient Details	
<b>Your name</b>	Caroline Achieng Odera
<b>Project title</b>	Enabling Local Best Practices For The Conservation Of Kusa And Koguta Wetlands, Kenya.
<b>RSG reference</b>	12657-B
<b>Reporting period</b>	June 2013 To April 2014
<b>Amount of grant</b>	12000
<b>Your email address</b>	lakevictoriatourgs@yahoo.com
<b>Date of this report</b>	30 <sup>th</sup> April 2014

**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 establish a wetland wise use resource centre for promotion of best practices for the conservation of Kusa and Koguta wetlands.			√	Successfully implemented with the community. Some of the best practices showcased include; value added wetland products, green energy technologies such as solar lamps and cook stoves, sustainable farming demonstration unity, conservation information materials e.g. posters, brochures, booklets, etc
To carry out capacity building training for youths, women and men on various thematic areas for improved knowledge hence conservation of Kusa and Koguta wetlands.			√	Local tour guides were trained on professional tour guiding and customer care skills and entrepreneurship. Women involved in local papyrus crafts making were trained on sustainable papyrus harvesting techniques, value addition and marketing.
To undertake wetland ecology education to schools through experiential learning hence involvement in conservation of Kusa and Koguta wetlands.			√	The local tour guides and naturalists were trained on approaches to undertaking ecology education for schools A number of local and visiting schools have benefited from the services.

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



Not applicable.

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

(i) Established wetland resource centre for promotion of local conservation initiatives or best practices.

**Photo 1: LVTOGA Coordinator with a group of papyrus harvesters undertaking green energy entrepreneurship at the newly built wetland resource centre.**



**Photo 2: A trained Naturalist taking students through wetland ecology education**

(ii) Job creation for local youths as tour guides and naturalists while undertaking wetland ecology education to schools and tourists.

(iii) Improved livelihood diversification for the women in local crafts making through green energy enterprises such as sola lamps and energy saving cook stoves.

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

The local communities were involved in every step of the project implementation. The community were represented in the Project Management Committee hence participated in the planning and decision making processes. The community members actively participated by contributing land for construction and also during the construction of the wetland resource centre by giving in kind support through labour, food for the workers or artisans and also providing local security to the construction materials among others. Moreover, the women and youths have benefited from the promotion of environmental entrepreneurship as a conservation best practice through green energy enterprises and ecotourism activities. The women participate through sale and renting of solar lamps and clean cook stoves and the youths undertake tour guiding and ecology education tours hence income generation.



**Photo 3: Community members involved in the construction processes.**

#### **5. Are there any plans to continue this work?**

Yes. This project has been extremely successful in its bid to promote local conservation best practices and has elicited many interests from the wider community and potential partnerships. We therefore plan to expand and accommodate as many conservation initiatives as possible. In future, we hope to put in place various ecotourism facilities such as wetland boardwalks and tourism boats among others in order to promote wetland ecotourism in the region and provide an alternative and sustainable livelihoods to the local communities hence continued conservation of Kusa and Koguta wetlands.

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

We believe in information and knowledge sharing and this is undertaken through compiled reports which can be accessed in the wetland resource centre. We also participate in various forums and organised talk shows in the local radio stations around the lake region, where we have the opportunity to share our work and achievements. Moreover, frequent updates and conversations are shared through our social media platforms such as blogs, Twitter and Facebook pages.

## 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 in a period of 10 months. The actual length planned was 12 months. The project did not experience any difficulty that could delay the planned activities.

## 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
Construction of a mini wetland resource centre	7636	7750	114	This was catered for by the contingency costs budget.
In house capacity building trainings	1836	1950	114	Contributed by the trained community members in kind.
Wetland ecology education for schools	1028	1028	0	N/A
Project Administration costs	1637	2200	563	Partly contributed by the LVTOGA project team and volunteers in kind.
Contingencies	367	367	0	
<b>Total</b>	12,504	<b>13,295</b>	791	

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

Looking ahead, LVTOGA needs to continue with fundraising for the actualization of the much needed ecotourism structures in the wetland sites in order to harness the market potential and promote their conservation. Moreover, we feel the need to map out all the ecotourism products and services, build the capacity of all the local tour guides within the wetlands sites along the Lake Victoria region and establish an effective networking system so as to ensure concerted efforts in the wetlands conservation through ecotourism promotion in the region.

## 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. The RSG logo was used in the training certificates issued to the various user groups trained during our in house and onsite trainings such as the tour guides and the women involved in papyrus crafts production. In addition, RSG is much publicised in the shared information materials such as reports, and social media posts as well as mentioned during attended forums, organized community and radio outreaches.

**11. Any other comments?**

The Lake Victoria Tours Guides Association wishes to extend its manifold thanks to the RSG for the continued trust and support in its cause of promoting the conservation of Kusa and Koguta wetlands in Kenya.