

The Rufford Foundation

Final Report

Congratulations on the completion of your project that was supported by The Rufford 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	Henderson Maposa
Project title	Introduction of agroforestry practices within the Mikolongwe valley for soil improvement and wood supply to protect the new mountainside forest
RSG reference	14033-2
Reporting period	September 2013 – September 2014
Amount of grant	£5986
Your email address	hendersonmaposa@gmail.com
Date of this report	16 September 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
Reduced cases of mountain invasion by community members			x	Despite the fact that it was too early for communities to harvest any wood from the agroforestry model, owing to the fact that the newly planted trees were still too young for any wood harvests, no cases of forest invasion for wood fetching were recorded during project implementation. This was attributed to the stringent local legislation as well as peoples understanding of the need to preserve the mountain-side forest.
Reduced rate of tree cutting by promoting use of wood saving stoves			x	A short study was conducted by the a team of 10 students from the agriculture school and revealed that the frequency at which women went out fetching wood drastically reduced the moment that particular household acquired a wood-saving stove. Stove making attracted more women to participate in the forestry programme as they were quick to see its benefits than their male counterparts.
Erosion control as a result of reduced runoff velocities from within field catchments.		X		Satisfactory levels of reduced erosion have been recorded in almost 90% of the cropland mainly as a result of trash lines made along contour lines in which trees have been planted. Tree canopy cover never showed significant benefits in erosion control as the trees are still young. Canopy cover is expected to attain the required density to intercept raindrops in the next rainy season.
Soil Improvement both chemical and physical by incorporating leaf biomass from short coppice nitrogen fixing species in the agro-forestry model.		X		Achievement is rated at 50% due to the fact that the trees planted are still young for any biomass to be harvested and incorporated in the soil. The major step taken towards achieving this is the planting of the right species whose biomass is expected to be incorporated during the preparation of crop fields for the next planting. Species of <i>Gliricidia Sepium</i> , <i>Albizia</i> , <i>Lebbeck</i> and <i>Acacia polycantha</i> have been planted in an inter-row system in the crop fields. The project team discouraged use of <i>Tephrosia vogelli</i> in the agroforestry

				<p>model due to its poisonous effect on aquatic life. It had been learnt during the initial meetings that local fishermen were using <i>Tephrosia</i> leaves to poison fish in the river and private ponds.</p>
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2. Please explain any unforeseen difficulties that arose during the project and how these were tackled (if relevant).

a) Theft of tree seedlings for sale

A total of 8360 tree seedlings were found to be missing from the big nursery and the culprits were never found. It was speculated that the species which the project had planted were in demand due to their ability to form a thick canopy, good for backyard shading, and that the seedlings which went missing had most likely been sold in the residential areas of Blantyre. To counter this, the forestry committee agreed on a system whereby community members took turns guarding the nursery sites during the evenings in addition to regular meetings convened by the chiefs in which issues of discipline took centre stage.

b) Late commencement of project activities resulting in failure to plant the trees in the 2013-2014 rainy season

The reception of funds in September resulted in seedlings being raised through the rainy season and the first planting of mature seedlings took place in March 2014. Farmers were encouraged to look for areas with sufficient residual moisture and plant the seedlings. Those with fields close to the river were advised to do the planting and water the seedlings until their root systems got established well enough to fend for themselves. Most of the seedlings which were still too young by planting time during the RSG 1 were planted during the RSG 2 period.

c) Unavailability of community leaders during crucial communal activities

The environmental campaign period, aimed at mobilising community members to prepare their land for the second phase of tree planting coincided with the electoral campaign period as the country was drawing close to general elections in May 2014. The forestry committee doubled their role as community mobilisers, which normally was the role of community leaders.

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

i. High adoption rates in the use of wood-saving stove

Almost after a month of its introduction 3685 fixed stoves had been made and were in use in mostly women-headed households. This was due to the fact that women understood quickly enough the need to save time fetching firewood and do other things instead.

ii. The wood-saving stove turns out to be a business

While women looked at the stove from a convenience point of view, men and school leavers found a business opportunity in the same. They developed a mobile version of the stove, selling it in markets and other public places. The design has been reviewed several times by local craftsmen, improving on weight, size and durability which were considered as design flaws in the original fixed version.

iii. Women empowerment

Community leaders called for the restructuring of the forestry committee, advocating for the inclusion of women in the process. This was a result of lessons learnt in previous community activities implemented during periods when the country was holding its general elections. During such periods men tend to spend most of their time in campaign rallies due to the immediate financial gains from parliamentary and presidential aspirants. The committee was

therefore restructured and 60% of the members were women. In the previous committee only 30% were women. The increase in the number of women in the forestry committee brought about an increase in the number women participating in discussions and activities related to the project so much so that almost 65% of trees were planted by women.

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

All activity planning and supervision of field work was done by the forestry committee, which was a group of local community mobilisers from the five beneficiary villages. Actual field work was done by groups of community members, taking turns village by village. The trees raised in the community nurseries were distributed to the participating households for planting in their fields, supervised by students from the local college.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

This work will continue as there are still some tree seedlings in the nurseries. They will be planted in the 2014/2015 rainy season. Planting had to be curtailed when there was no longer any moisture to support plant growth for the seedlings, having matured late in the rainy season. We intend to raise more seedlings from the remaining plastic tubes and seeds so that there are even more trees for planting when the rainy season starts next November.

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

The project team will continue attending district environmental meetings convened monthly at the District Headquarters and present the achievements of the project, lessons learnt and problems encountered during implementation either as a result of organisational or technical flaws.

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

The RSG was used in a period of 12 months and fits well with the original planning. A no cost extension of 7 months is proposed in order to get all the trees to the field.

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
12 x18" polythene sleeves	995	1328	-333	There was a sharp rise in the cost of polythene tubes, we had to increase the amount in order to get the same quantity.
Nursery operations	861	861	0	As planned
Supplementary nursery tools	480	480	0	As planned
Environmental conservation campaigns - materials and sessions	2150	1967	183	We used some of the materials from the RSG 1 with an aim to save money for the plastic tubes.
Training sessions	750	750	0	As planned
Stationery	270	270	0	As planned

Transportation of seedlings	580	688	-108	Transportation costs went up as trees had to be delivered to a distant village which joined the program two months after it had rolled out.
Well and pump for new nursery	420	420	0	As planned
Total	6506	6764	-258	

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

With regard to this project the next steps would be: (a) sowing the remaining seeds; (b) distributing the seedlings towards the beginning of the rainy season; (c) planting the trees; and (d) holding a final evaluation meeting.

10. Did you use The Rufford Foundation logo in any materials produced in relation to this project? Did the RSGF receive any publicity during the course of your work?

All project documentation had the RSG logo on them. All environmental awareness posters had the logo on them.

11. Any other comments?

On behalf of the project team, the forestry committee, community leaders and the people of my area we are very grateful for the support the foundation has rendered to us during these two grant phases. Our area has since become a model in implementing nature conservation activities without using employed labour.