

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	Veryl Achieng
Project title	Promoting Conservation of Endangered Fish in Lake Kanyaboli through local community involvement in Alego, Kenya
RSG reference	14262-1
Reporting period	Final Report 22 nd January 2015
Amount of grant	£6000
Your email address	achieng.veryl@gmail.com
Date of this report	2015-01-19

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
Objective 1: Reconnaissance, monitoring and baseline survey.			✓	We were able to carry out comprehensive reconnaissance which later helped in systematic monitoring by both the project team and the community
Objective2: Establishment of alternative income generating activities.		✓		We were able to set up three agro-ecological farms as a demonstration unit. They included kitchen gardening, poultry farming and goat keeping (zero grazing). However, there is need for more replication of the activity as the impact is not very visible since few people are doing it.
Objective 3: Setting up of the Lake Kanyaboli Fish Conservation Committee.			✓	The Lake Kanyaboli Conservation Committee was set up and under this different sub committees consisting of Beach Management Unit, Kanyaboli User Groups and Kanyaboli Women Fishmongers were all tasked with different responsibilities and required to report once a month of any progress, challenges and opportunities on there mandate.
Objective 4: Identification, reduction and elimination of acoustic pollution		✓		We were able to liaise with Bondo University chemistry students who took samples from specific locations to test for dissolved compounds and trace elements in the water and soil. Even though the results were
Objective 5: Education and Awareness on the conservation of the fish and other habitat in Lake Kanyaboli			✓	This was highly achieved as we were able to reach more than 300 people in our awareness campaign and we believe that indirectly we reached more than 700 people. It is good to keep spreading the word so that the community encompasses the conservation of the Lake Kanyaboli ecosystem.

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

The initial planning of the reconnaissance and monitoring was a challenge as we had to train the local community extensively and it took up more time and resources than initially planned. We were however able to involve three students from the community who agreed to volunteer and continue with the training at a more personal level and also guiding the community members in the field work basic experiments.

We were also faced with some lack of cooperation from some industries have set up some activities in the area. These activities include rice milling, flower farming and other large-scale agricultural activities. However, we were finally able to involve them in one of our stakeholder's forum where they managed to send a representative.

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

- a) The setting up of the Lake Kanyaboli Fish Management Committee (LKPMC) which has seen a lot of changes in the fish management in Lake Kanyaboli. Under the LKPMC, there were other sub committees, which were always reporting of any changes in activities. For example, the Beach Management Unit which comprised mostly of youths who are fishermen; they helped in setting up fishing laws and were always monitoring the catch from fishermen every morning and afternoon. Anyone who uses unauthorised nets and catches small fish were punished and penalised. This has helped a lot in ensuring that young fish are not caught and are left to mature and spawn.
- b) Education and awareness on the conservation of fish and other habitat in Lake Kanyaboli was a great achievement as we were able to reach to over 300 community members during the course of the project. These were through direct community campaigns, school outreach programs and also local "*baraazas*" organised by village elders and the chief.
- c) Monitoring and Baseline Survey: We were able to set up a quarterly monitoring on the fish species and the habitat through vegetation surveys and direct fish monitoring. Through the collaboration with Bondo University as a research institution we were able to get firsthand research skills and this also helped the community to appreciate the importance of there natural resource. These initiatives really contributed to the attitudinal change of the community and promoted their involvement in conservation work.

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

Our project was mostly if not wholly inclusive of community participation, right from planning, implementation and even evaluation of the activities. The community was first training on the conservation of the fish species in Lake Kanyaboli and also the various biodiversity. This enabled the community members to later be able to carry out basic monitoring of fish stock and catch and even record in the data sheets. The work was done through the Community Forums that were formed. 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.

The formation of Lake Kanyaboli Conservation Committee is a great level of participation of the group in the conservation of endangered fish species in the area. We were able to directly involve the community in policy implementation through the Beach Management groups and also the Fish Folks groups comprising of women.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

We plan to continue with this education and awareness creation and also promotion of diversity in income generating activities and reduce the pressure on the fish stock in Lake Kanyaboli. We hope to further apply for the RSG second grant to help us with this up-scaling and further activities in our work.

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

We have already started sharing our results in the different forums and "*baraazas*" that the Committees present their work and agree with the village elders on further action.

Secondly, we have also been able to present reports to the county government on our findings of the monitoring to help in spearheading further research and policy negotiations

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 for the entire period of the grant i.e. January 2014-January 2014

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
RECONNAISSANCE, FISH SPECIES MONITORING AND SURVEY (Include numbers caught during fishing) Transport and meals for project staff. Field materials	1050	1350	+300	There were unforeseen circumstances regarding the training of the community on basic monitoring which took a bit longer but we were able to succeed eventually.
AWARENESS CREATION: Charts, portable projector, visual compact discs, portable power supply,	1200	1150	-50	We got a discount on the hiring of the projector for the outreach and education activity

Accommodation for project staff, meals and transport.				
ADMINISTRATIVE COST: Printing, postage and email	350	200	-100	We reduced some of our administrative costs like printing and postage and would opt for calling and emailing
STAKEHOLDERS FORUM: Facilitation of meeting, transport reimbursement,	750	500	-250	The Siaya County government helped in proving some transport for some members and therefore it reduced our expenditure on facilitation of the transport for the participants of the stakeholder's forum.
FISH CONSERVATION COMMITTEE: Website promotion for networking, training of members, Field visits	850	850	0	
KANYABOLI HABITAT CONSERVATION: Purchase of conservation booklets, distribution of booklets and brochures	960	1100	+50	We had to increase the number of booklets as some schools had more kids in the nature club than anticipated.
ESTABLISHMENT OF ALTERNATIVE INCOME GENERATING ACTIVITIES: Poultry farming and kitchen gardens	1320	1320		We were able to use all the funds allocated for this activity and at the same time some of the community members donated some materials
TOTAL	6480	6470	-10	

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

The most important initiatives and steps would be to keep doing more intensive outreach and education on Lake Kanyaboli. We are already continuing to foster and improve our networks especially with NGOs working in the area and also with the county government departments.

We believe that with more stakeholders need to be brought on board so as to achieve a greater impact. However, it is also necessary to reach out to more community members especially in the upstream and in other schools within the area.

There is a greater need for a vigorous campaign on the protection of the Lake under community-conserved areas in Kenya and also the endangered fish to prevent further. There is greater need of an all-inclusive approach in the conservation of the lake, which is already a proven breeding and roosting habitat for many endangered fish species, 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?

We used the logo in all our local publications of letter, on our news flyers and also banners during the outreach.

11. Any other comments?

We appreciate all the help and support from RSG and our partners especially community members who dedicated their time and resources to make sure the project was a huge success. We hope to continue with the same spirit as we gear towards the second phase of the project.