

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	Martha Mutiso
Project title	Promotion of an Advocacy and Environmental Management Strategy for Sawaiti (Barina) Wetland.
RSG reference	14904-2
Reporting period	May 2014-July 2015
Amount of grant	£6000
Your email address	marthanzisa@gmail.com
Date of this report	August 2015

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
Environmental Management Planning		X		<p>The project established a steering committee for development of the Sawaiti management plan. The management plan was participatory with communities and key stakeholders taking part. Situation and threats analysis was conducted and the suggested solutions to the threats were also identified. The social, economic, political and cultural attachments of the wetland were identified and their effect on conservation discussed.</p> <p>The management plan is being worked on and feedback is yet to be shared with the local community and other stakeholders to verify the contents of the management plan through a consultative workshop comprising of representatives from the region.</p>
Education and awareness		X		<p>Given the diversity of threats on the wetland as identified in the first phase of the project, education and awareness was conducted both in schools and community. Community awareness was conducted in both formal and informal settings especially during interactions with the communities on the different issues on the wetlands. A number of issues like importance of the wetland, localising of the IUCN Red List status of endangered species and what can be done to conserve the wetland and their resources were covered.</p>
Research and biodiversity assessments		X		<p>Both fauna and flora assessments are still being conducted on the wetland to establish their status. Avian, herps, mammals and invertebrate surveys were conducted. The team identified some of the species where inadequate taxonomy skills are identified; the different photos or samples were referred to the relevant scientists and the National Museums of Kenya for identification.</p> <p>The same applies to plants. A comprehensive species list and</p>

				accompanying photos are currently being generated highlighting species abundance and IUCN status. This will be used to mobilise more support for conservation of the wetland as well as raising the profile of the wetland through increased advocacy especially for the identified endangered species.
Livelihood improvement		X		From the previous project phase, interactions with the communities indicated that they were interested in alternative income generating activities as one of the means of reverting the pressures on the wetland. Although the management plan will give a comprehensive approach to the alternative livelihood activities, the communities identified poultry and beekeeping as some of the activities, which were implemented. Some pastoralists were interested in developing biogas from the dung of their cattle. Biogas designs and technical construction personnel were provided to the community.
Project Monitoring and Evaluation			X	This was carried out quarterly by the project team. Project advisors, local community and other stakeholders were kept abreast of the project progress through progress reports and meetings. The project team is currently working on the draft management plan; it will be shared in a separate report. The project team will keep monitoring and assessing the impact of the project even after submission of the final report.

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

- i. **Delay management plan data collection: This was due to unavailability of some stakeholders.** The meeting and consultation of stakeholders took more time before filling in data forms. The team is currently compiling collected data and will share the management plan as a separate report.
- ii. **Climate Change:** There was extended drought in July and August which affected the biodiversity populations in the wetland. This also affected the community interactions and activities on the wetland and there was recorded poaching during these months.

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

- i. **Contribution to conservation science:** Three team members, led by Caroline Njoki contributed to the development and publishing of a new environmental education toolkit (shared in earlier project updates). It was published by Birdlife International. This toolkit has been instrumental in our environmental education activities at the wetland and the community as a whole. The team Leader (Martha Mutiso) also contributed invertebrate photos to the newly published Pocket Guide to the Insects of East Africa by Dr Dino Martins (also shared in earlier updates). Some of the photos published were photographed from the project site.
- ii. **Water analysis:** The team, led by Moses Odhiambo, sampled the water from the main wetland and the adjacent water pan. The water samples were analysed by the Water Resource Management. The results were shared as a separate report.
- iii. **Sawaiti Management plan:** The team is finalising the management plan, which is the first of its kind in this region.

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

- i. **Ecotourism:** During this project phase, we recorded a high number of visitors (including the Swiss Ambassador to Kenya) to the wetland. The local community members benefited in terms of guiding all the visitors around the wetland and other adjacent attractions in the area.
- ii. **Capacity building:** The team held several training sessions on beekeeping and poultry farming for local community members and demonstration sites were installed with the help of community leaders. Local community members helped facilitate some of the workshops after previous team's capacity building activities. Some community members are currently involved in sale of honey.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes: During our monitoring, educational and capacity building activities at the wetland, more local community youth expressed interest in continuous mentorship especially on biodiversity identification, data collection and information dissemination.

There is need to make an integrated management plan that will also include the upstream ecosystems and implement more income generating activities to discourage the unsustainable misuse of the Sawaiti ecosystem.

There is also a need to make a comprehensive biodiversity guide booklet to promote education and tourism in the area. In regards to this, the team has been photographing, identifying and saving biodiversity photos for use in the development of the booklet.

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

Apart from the Rufford Foundation report, we post project photos on our Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/Sawaitiwetland?fref=ts>). We plan to share the report with the project

advisors, local community and the stakeholders. A sample of the work (in terms of article and photos) will be shared on various platforms.

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

The project team received the grant in May 2014. We anticipated completing the project by end of May 2015 but due to delayed inception and unavailability of some stakeholders during management plan data collection, the project started a month later. Thus the grant was used over 14 months instead of 12.

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
Management Plan formulation	1000	1150	150	The meeting and consultation of stakeholders taking more time and due to addition of more stakeholders, the amount budgeted for was surpassed.
Awareness creation and outreach to schools and communities	1050	1200	150	The difference (150) was available from the project team and some community/stakeholder contributions in kind.
Biodiversity Assessment and documentation.	600	700	100	The documentation of the biodiversity and printing was increased as we tried to reach more community members.
Livelihood improvement (Establishment of IGAs)	900	900	0	Trainings on bee keeping and poultry farming were carried out and demonstration sites installed with the help of community leaders. Already there are some community members involved in sale of honey.
Project operational cost	1100	1100	0	This included the project team's main transport and per diem costs, Printing and emailing with also some other overhead costs during stakeholders meeting.
Project monitoring and evaluation	350	450	100	The monitoring and evaluation of the project is still ongoing as we have had to do more site visits.
Capacity building and local community	700	700	0	Community outreaches were done with the community and culminated in the drafting of a site action plan that is currently being finalised.
Miscellaneous	300	300	0	
Total	6000	6500	500	

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

- i. **Finalise the Sawaiti Management Plan:** After the management plan is finalised, it will be shared with Rufford Foundation and the project stakeholders for approval and implementation. Should the management plan be approved by the committee and relevant stakeholders, we would like to be the implementing team.
- ii. **Continue with biodiversity monitoring survey:** During this project phase, new biodiversity was recorded during our monitoring and survey activities. There is still more that is not yet recorded in the existing checklists and we believe that with both financial and technical support we shall continue to explore and record more biodiversity in the wetland.

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 team is putting together various posters of the wetland biodiversity and these are yet to be shared with the local community and other stakeholders.

11. Any other comments?

The project team would like to thank the Rufford Foundation for availing these small grants that have enabled us to carry out this noble cause.