

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	Michael Kermah
Project title	Sustainable Community Conservation of Montononso (SCCM) Sacred Forest in Ghana for Generational Ecosystem, Bio-Cultural and Socio-Economic Benefits
RSG reference	14923-1
Reporting period	January 2015 – February 2016
Amount of grant	GBP4,896
Your email address	mike.kermah@gmail.com
Date of this report	February 25, 2016.

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
Conduct ecological survey to compile the diversity and quantity of plant species within the sacred forest and to inform the types and quantities of species for restoration / enrichment planting		X (95 % achieved)		Diversity and quantity of the flora stock of the forest documented. Community nursery established and stocked with at least 6,500 tree seedlings. Biological stock of the Montononso enriched with about 4,500 native trees (seedlings from the nursery) with diverse benefits (both local and global - climate change mitigation). Some 1,000+ seedlings are still available in the nursery for farmers' use in agro-forestry systems. The team planned to further identify some of the endangered wildlife (fauna) present in the forest but could not do so because the best timing to observe fauna wildlife coincided with community taboo days and no entry into the sacred forest was permitted.
Develop community based natural resource vision framework (NRVF) and Sacred Forest Conservation Plan (SFCP) for conservation of Montononso			X	The NRVF and SFCP have been developed and validated. The SFCP contains community action plans and specific roles of the different community stakeholders. CSRAD and NGC with support from the traditional authority and some community institutions will facilitate the implementation of the action plans.
Build capacities of the traditional authorities, community institutions and local/fringe communities on the national forest and wildlife policies/laws which can be asserted for conservation of Montononso			X	The traditional authority and community institutions/local people are well informed of the national forest and wildlife policies and their rights within those laws to help them protect their sacred resource.
Establish strong collaboration and			X	Strong collaborative partnership was established with CSRAD, NGC,

<p>network with New Generation Concern and CSRAD, Forest Watch Ghana, Forest Services Division, Wassa Amenfi East District Assembly and other key stakeholders to create platforms for stakeholder engagements</p>				<p>FSD, Forest Watch Ghana and other key stakeholders that led to successful implementation of the project. The strong network created platforms for communities to engage district level public institutions and the local NGOs for support to conserve the sacred forest beyond the end of this project.</p>
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2. Please explain any unforeseen difficulties that arose during the project and how these were tackled (if relevant).

The death of the chief of Saamang caused a lag in the implementation of some activities. This is because traditional rites had to be performed before certain activities could be performed in the communities under the Saamang stool land. This means that entry to the sacred forest was halted, and royal family as well as community members were focused of burial and other customary rites leading to a delay in implementing these activities.

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

a. The documented flora wildlife in the sacred forest is a very important outcome as most forests in Ghana do not have such documentation. This ecological survey report will go a very long way to help the development of the Saamang Montonso Sacred Forest for the future aspiration of the community to turn it into a tourist site.

b. The developed community based natural resource vision framework (NRVF) and Sacred Forest Conservation Plan (SFCP) for conservation of sacred forest. These documents are owned by the communities as the content of these documents are their own ideas and thoughts. This will ensure continuity and sustainability of the development of the Montonso Sacred Forest.

c. The established strong collaborative partnership between communities and CSRAD, NGC, FSD, Forest Watch Ghana and other key stakeholders leading to the successful implementation of the project. The established collaborations will provide future opportunities for communities to engage these stakeholders and district level public institutions for support to conserve the sacred forest.

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

The local communities were involved throughout the project from the design through implementation to monitoring and evaluation. The idea of the project came from the local people and this is very good in terms of sustainability beyond the end of the project. They have benefited immensely from the project in many ways. The Local Volunteer Team received trainings from the project which they could apply outside the project. Communities also received education and capacity building on forest and wildlife policies and their rights within the laws for the protection and conservation of the sacred forest and other forest resources in the community. The capacity and

training needs assessment carried out as a result of the project provides baseline information for the community for future projects and programs.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Lessons learnt from the project implementation indicates that there is clear need to provide alternative and viable economic livelihoods for the local people whose livelihoods depend largely on the sacred forest resources. This is essential to reduce overdependence on the Sacred forest resources in order to further safeguard and enhance its conservation. Therefore, there is an urgent need for a project to implement this objective. However, CSRAD, one of the local NGOs that was a partner to this project has taken it up to train the local people in forest related alternative economic livelihoods. Our project team will thus support them with the implementation. Other partners to the project of CSRAD is New Generation Concern, Forest Services Division and Ministry of Food and Agriculture at the district level, which were all partners of our project with which we built a strong collaborative partnership for the successful implementation of our project.

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

Hard copies of the detailed project report will be shared with key stakeholders of the project such as the Traditional Authority of Saamang stool land and other community institutions, CSRAD, NGC, WAEDA and other relevant stakeholders. The detailed report will also be published on the website of CSRAD for wider viewing by interested public.

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 Rufford grant was used over a period of 14 months (stretching from January 2015 – February 2016), indicating that 2 more additional months were used in implementation of the project. This is in contrast to the 12 months project implementation period specified in the project proposal. The prime reason was the demise of the Chief of Samaang as explained above.

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
1. Reconnaissance visits, partnership and synergy building meetings				
1.1. Cost of hiring vehicle @ GHc140/day for 12 days	323	323	0	
1.2 Cost of 20 gallons of fuel/day for 10 days @ GHc15/gallon	577	632	-53	This was the result of persistent fluctuations in fuel prices, mostly increases in fuel prices over the period
1.3. DSA for 2 team members @ GHc100/person/day for 12 days	462	462	0	

1.4. Inception workshop and training of local volunteer team	231	231	0	
2. Ecological survey, nursery establishment and restoration planting of sacred forest				
2.1.1. DSA for 2 team members @GHc140/person/day for 7 days for ecological survey to compile biodiversity composition in the sacred forest	350	350	0	
2.1.2. Cost of survey materials	54	54	0	
2.2. Tree nursery establishment and stocking	96	96	0	
2.3. Restoration/enrichment planting in sacred forest	408	408	0	
3. Development and validation of community based natural resource vision and sacred forest conservation plan				
3.1. Community forums for developing and validating natural resource vision and sacred forest conservation plan	346	346	0	
3.2. DSA for two team members @ GHc135/person/day for 6 days	312	312	0	
4. Capacity needs assessment and capacity building of traditional authorities and communities on national forest and wildlife policies and laws				
4.1.1. DSA for two team members @ GHc140/person/day for 12 days for capacity needs assessment and capacity building on forest/wildlife policies	600	553	+46	The team was able to use 7 days to complete the capacity needs assessment. This means a day reduction in the 8 days that was planned to undertake the capacity needs assessment (leading to saving of one day DSA for the 2 team members).
4.1.2. Community forums for capacity building of communities on forest and wildlife policies/laws	231	231	0	
4.2. Cost of developing and sharing of leaflets on forest and wildlife policies to communities	269	305	-35	The cost of printing the leaflets increased over the period. The original unit rate being charged at the time of printing would have led to a little higher cost of printing. However, the team negotiated a good deal that slightly reduced the total cost of printing the leaflets.
5. Project monitoring, printing and duplicating of final project report and contingencies				
5.1. Quarterly review and planning meetings, printing of final project report	404	414	-10	Same as the comment in 4.2.
5.2. Others (5% contingency of	233	233	0	

total budget)				
Total	4,896	4,950	-52	

Note: The interbank exchange rate used was GHc1.00 = 5.70 GBP. This was an average of the interbank exchange rate for the period January 2015 – February 2016. The exchange rate data was from Bank of Ghana.

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

The most important next step is the training of the local people whose livelihoods depend mostly on the sacred forest resources on alternative forest related viable economic livelihood initiatives. However, through the strong network or partnership with CSRAD and NGC, they have taken this up to implement a project to that effect. The other important steps include adequate mapping of the sacred forest indicating locations of specific fauna and ecological systems (watershed etc). However, these are part of the project of CSRAD and NGC.

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?

The Rufford Small Grant Foundation was duly acknowledged as the funder of this project during the inception workshop, partnership and stakeholder engagement meetings and community forums. The leaflets on forest and wildlife policies, and the detailed final project report that will be shared with key stakeholders of the project and published on the website of CSRAD have the logo of The Rufford Foundation and the Foundation acknowledged as the funder of the project. These were done to ensure adequate publicity of The Rufford Foundation for the funding support for our project.

11. Any other comments?

The project team on our behalf and also on behalf of the project partners, communities as well as the future generations (both local and global) are extremely grateful to The Rufford Foundation for the funding support to implement this project. The benefits of the project is greatly appreciated and will be warmly experienced over the long term by different generations. For this reason, The Rufford Foundation will receive a spill-over effect of appreciation directly/indirectly by different generations for helping to conserve a good resource with generational benefits.