

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	Catherine G. Ngarachu
Project title	City Park – connecting nature and people
RSG reference	16408 - 2
Reporting period	June, 2015 – May, 2017
Amount of grant	£ 5,000
Your email address	catherine.ngarachu@gmail.com
Date of this report	5 June 2017

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
<p>To advocate for City Park to continue to exist for the benefit, enjoyment and learning of urban residents and visitors</p>				<p>The assault on the park has been relentless and it has taken much effort and energy to fend off the various interests and defend the park.</p> <p>Among them, we've had a lawsuit (successfully) challenge a decision to revoke a title to a private company; another private interest seemly gaining permission to encroach on an access road; and appeals from previously revoked titleholders wanting to have the decisions on their parcels reversed.</p> <p>Also, we were taken by surprise by a government project tendered for City Park involving considerable works (landscaping and the construction of a dam).</p> <p>In response we've continuously rallied, attended hearings and sent numerous letters and appeals to the National Land Commission, showing why they should stand by their previous decisions. We have also called time and again upon the County government to protect the park (here is an open letter online: http://friendsofcitypark.org/open-letter-to-governor-protesting-the-use-and-lease-of-city-park-for-other-purposes/).</p> <p>There is so much pressure on this urban park, but I am very glad to note that the area of City Park remains intact.</p> <p>We also successfully petitioned the National Museums of Kenya for the maze area of the park to be listed as a National Monument (adding to the 60 ha already listed).</p> <p>Additionally, with subsequent meetings and discussion the government project has abandoned the idea of the unsuitable dam. We are meeting to have that project reprogrammed to address some of the major infrastructure needs of the park.</p>

			<p>Furthermore, we organised a stakeholder meeting on 7th September 2016, which brought together 230 participants, to discuss how they would like to see City Park developed (See http://friendsofcitypark.org/city-park-stakeholder-forum/).</p> <p>This grant has been immensely valuable for its support in helping to meet these challenges, providing for materials, meetings, volunteers and communications.</p>
To further develop people's active pursuit and experience of nature			<p>This project has supported 23 nature walks, guided with a birding or insect leader. The walks have continued to provide a means by which people can learn and discover nature in the park and now take place the first and third Saturday of each month. The walks have been promoted on Facebook and by email. Though they have attracted people from all walks of life in the Nairobi community, the attendance is still low with 10 or less persons at each walk, despite the online enthusiasm.</p> <p>We also provided materials for a shed for the park. With this support we were able to regain access to the pollinator garden and thankfully we've not had to move the butterfly house as earlier anticipated. Instead we've concentrated on work on the garden including displays, labelling, pruning, and reviving the garden beds with more plants, compost and weekly maintenance. The garden is frequented by butterflies, bees and sunbirds, and is open to the visitors of the park during the week.</p>
To further grow the number of Friends that support the cause to save City Park			<p>This has included most of the promotional and awareness activities of the project. We've kept up on the website (friendsofcitypark.org) to ensure it stays useful and functional. This has included setting up a mobile friendly version. Associated with the website, has been eight blog posts, and nine email-newsletters (see http://bit.ly/2aYvPlx) done over the project time. We've taken advantage of online tools like Mailchimp for mailings and Facebook. The mailing list is now at 331, and an additional 199 subscribers were generated</p>

			<p>from the Forum in 2016, which gave us an extraordinary opportunity to network with other organisations and academic institutions and to introduce City Park to a host of Nairobi's urban community members. The stats on engagement online show that the number of people who see the content associated with our Facebook Page have been an average of 5000 unique users per month.</p> <p>Despite this though turning fans into contributing supporters has proved difficult and has not been achieved.</p>
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2. Please explain any unforeseen difficulties that arose during the project and how these were tackled (if relevant).

We had anticipated the difficulties of securing the land of City Park. However, even after many years of this effort, I was taken by surprise by the incredible number of crisis that arose in the first 18 months. Rallying to keep City Park intact took most of the attention of the project, especially in time spent on planning, meetings and communication. We've had to request project extensions to make sure the other areas of work were completed. Also, while the mailing list is growing slowly, the greater amounts of activity and awareness has not resulted in a greater number of paying subscribers, as I'd hoped.

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

(a) Most importantly the project has helped us reinforce the importance of City Park as a vitally important and unique green space in the city. We've been able to remain in close contact with the relevant government departments and it has also helped to strengthen the role of the Friends of City Park in ensuring that the City Park continues to exist for future generations. Also, largely because of our activity, I was able to raise other funds (about £ 7000) to support the forum and other conservation work.

(b) Secondly that the project activities started with the first grant, were brought to greater maturity with this second grant. The pollinator garden and butterfly house are accessible to all visitors of City Park. It is a place that benefits both the park's biodiversity, and visitors who find information on plants they can grow in their own open spaces and get an understanding for the importance of pollinators. The butterfly house has been especially engaging with children.

(c) The Stakeholder's Forum on 7th September 2016 was another milestone. Though not an activity originally anticipated by the project, it was a very important step needed to advocate for the protection of the park's role, habitat and species. The report and action plan draws out this commitment and the other ways that

stakeholders in the Nairobi community would like to see the park improved for the benefit of all.

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

Despite the other interests and pressure, City Park continues to exist for the benefit, enjoyment and discovery by thousands of people, many of whom come from places around the city that are high-density areas having very little green space.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

We will continue to defend City Park and work for improvements in use and facilities. We need to continue on the people side in developing people's understanding and interaction with nature.

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

The website, newsletter and blog have served for communicating about the park and our activities and I will continue to share by these means. I've also completed a book, to be out in July 2017 (<https://www.amazon.com/50-Top-Birding-Sites-Kenya/dp/1775842487>). Though not directly related to this project, it highlights City Park as a good place to go birding and supports the importance of nature in the city.

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 grant was used over a period of 23 months, though originally slated for one year.

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	Actual Amount	Difference	Comments
Email and promotion	450	369.08	80.92	
Website hosting	170	103.92	66.08	
Blog-newsletter and community	300	208.12	91.88	
Butterfly house move	450	406.54	43.46	
Compost, manure and other inputs	250	152.52	97.48	
Nature walks	180	150.33	29.67	
SMS notification	120	32.68	87.32	

Park map	320	252.78	67.22	
Volunteer stipends	1800	1,638.56	161.44	
Communication and transport	460	769.28	-309.28	The extended life of the project has extended this budget line
Other admin (accounts, auditing, office expenses)	500	495.10	4.90	
Total	5000	4,578.92	421.08	Exchange rate of £1=153

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

I will continue activities on each budget line with the funds still available. Beyond this project I would like to start on some of the actions agreed at the Stakeholder Forum. Participants felt that the park and its visitors would benefit from its conservation, greater recreational utilisation, cleaning the river, being trash free, and having facilities that were better maintained. I'll like to work at bringing this all together in the development of a nature trail.

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 Foundation logo has been used on the website, the garden signage, in the Forum report, on the park map and promotional fliers.

11. Any other comments?

I want to thank the Rufford Foundation for its generous and timely support. It has made a tremendous difference in helping our efforts to protect this amazing park in Nairobi.

