

## The Rufford Foundation Final Report

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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](mailto:jane@rufford.org).

Thank you for your help.

**Josh Cole, Grants Director**

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Grant Recipient Details	
Your name	Seguya Henry Kizito
Project title	Garnering more support for Conservation of Sangobay Forest Reserve through cultural values approach towards on-farm biodiversity
RSG reference	16871-2
Reporting period	May 2015-June 2016
Amount of grant	£4995
Your email address	<a href="mailto:hsegy@yahoo.com">hsegy@yahoo.com</a>
Date of this report	9 <sup>th</sup> August 2016

**1. Please indicate the level of achievement of the project's original objectives and include any relevant comments on factors affecting this.**

The project was done in two parishes of Gwanda and Kanabulemu, Kyebe sub county, Rakai district, Uganda. These are the main parishes in which the Sangobay forests lie. The results of the project are summarised in the table below and a detailed project report is also attached for further details.

Objective	Not achieved	Partially achieved	Fully achieved	Comments
<p>Improve ecological integrity of the forest adjacent communities to act as alternative habitats for forest biodiversity</p>			√	<p><b><u>Training on tree planting and nursery establishment</u></b>                      The training on <i>Ficus</i> tree planting and its management was done within the new villages where the project was implemented. Follow up checks were done by members of the tree management committees who oversee the growth of the trees in order to get the right quality of the barkcloth. Overall the community focal persons estimated that the biggest number of tree will generate quality backcloth and substantial tree cover will be realised in the next three years due to better management techniques.</p> <p>A tree nursery was established and over 4000 trees of <i>Mesopsis eminii</i> were distributed the different farmers and planted on their farms. However, although we anticipated the tree nursery to be a selfsustaining project, this was not the case. Majority of the community members preferred picking the <i>Mesopsis eminii</i> seedlings directly from the forests and hence low sales were realised. The leadership of the community based organisations are however looking beyond the landscape for better sales with support from the district environment department and the National Forest Authority.</p> <p><b><u>Tree planting in farming landscapes.</u></b>                      The project has promoted tree growing on the people's farms adjacent to Sangobay Forest reserve.</p>

			<p>Though the project provided 8350 cuttings of <i>Ficus nantalensis</i>, an approximated total of 25,000 ficus trees were planted within the project landscape.</p> <p>The surplus of the trees was planted through voluntary efforts of the community members which we attribute to the awareness done mainly by the project focal persons. During the awareness meetings, emphasis was placed on ownership of the tree planting processes by the community members basing on the benefits to be accrued (Such as fodder for animals, backcloth sales, improved soil carbon content etc) as opposed to the view of a project activity.</p> <p>The surplus of the trees planted was estimated after the project team sampled at least 100 households within the landscape and it was established that at least every house had <i>Ficus</i> trees ranging between five and 150 depending on the size of land owned and other factors.</p> <p>Also an estimated total of 6,000 <i>Mesopsis eminii</i> trees were planted on the farms within the landscape. The low numbers of the <i>Mesopsis eminii</i> were mainly attributed to the long time the trees take to mature for financial benefits.</p> <p><b><u>Restoration of sacred sites on farmlands</u></b></p> <p>Four sacred sites on people's farms were restored. These included, Nyanga, Kisasa, Sango and Kalangalo in Gwanda Parish. Through awareness creation with the landowners, some of the sites were left to undergo natural regeneration while others were involved engaging the owners to source native tree species they deemed culturally appropriate for their sites.</p> <p>These sites act as buffers for on farm biodiversity especially birds and by the</p>
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			<p>These sites act as buffers for on farm biodiversity especially birds and by the end of the project, birds were seen to occupy such sites during monitoring sessions done by the project team and the community members.</p> <p><b><u>Training in barkcloth making</u></b></p> <p>A total of 35 youths (Gwanda (10) and Kanabulemu (25)) were trained in barkcloth making. The training entailed commitment of the learners from the time of the debarking the tree, treating it to enable regeneration of the new bark to processing the bark into the barkcloth. The training was mainly done through mentoring processes where trainees were attached to experienced personnel in making of the barkcloth. Though the youths who had started the learning process were over 50, few (35) managed to complete the training and are now actively engaged in barkcloth making. The low commitment was mainly attributed to the competing financial needs of the youths to sustain their families and the negative attitude towards the activity. However the youths who have engaged in the learning process were encouraged to entice others to continue learning and view the process as a livelihood activity which can enable them earn extra income in the future.</p> <p>10 barkcloth making points "schools" (locally called <i>ekomagi</i>) were rehabilitated with support from the project to accommodate the trainees.</p>
<p>Promote awareness about cultural values as an approach to conservation</p>			<p><b><u>Community Awareness meetings</u></b></p> <p>A total of seven formal meetings were held in the two parishes. These meetings were themed on different issues ranging from conservation, ecosystems services and valuation, threats analysis, policy, advocacy culture and linkages to conservation. Majority of the formal meetings were done in the new villages which were formally integrated in the</p>

			<p>project. By the end of the project, the cumulative number of individuals who attended the meetings was 756 (495 men and 261 women). Also informal meetings were done in the community led by the community coordinators. The informal meetings were done in churches, parent school meetings among others. Such informal meetings were an avenue to give a face to the project activities as community owned in order to achieve sustainability and integration of the activities within community social systems. As a result of the awareness meetings;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Voluntary planting of trees on people's farms has since taken place,</li> <li>• Increased awareness of the importance of on farm biodiversity and how it relates to the health and fertility of the farms</li> <li>• Community members actively engage with district leaders, National Forestry Authority representatives on conservation of Sangobay forests and related issues</li> <li>• Community organisation towards natural resource management and advocacy has been observed by the end of the project</li> <li>• Increased understandings of the linkages between natural resources, culture and livelihoods among community members</li> </ul>
<p>Contribute to improvement of livelihoods of the forest adjacent communities</p>		√	<p><b><u>Direct livelihood improvement</u></b> A number of project activities have directly contributed to the livelihoods of the community members. For example;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All planting materials (especially <i>Ficus spp</i>) were purchased from the community hence boosting the incomes of the community members who had mature trees</li> <li>• Proceeds from the sale of the trees in the nurseries trees are managed by the respective community based organisations, a contribution to their</li> </ul>

			<p>incomes.</p> <p><b><u>Indirect livelihood improvement</u></b></p> <p>To establish the indirect benefits of the planted trees to the communities, an ecosystem valuation exercise was done and the following were the prices as estimated by the community members per tree planted;</p> <p><b><i>For example:</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Carbon fixing benefits in soil from rotting leaves for improving fertility (£20 per farm)</li> <li>• animal fodders (£5),</li> <li>• Price of the bark estimated at 20,000 (£4) for each tree</li> </ul>
<p>Strengthen community institutions for effective delivery and sustenance of conservation outcomes.</p>		√	<p><b><u>Training communities in advocacy and CBO management</u></b></p> <p>One training lasting 2 days was held for selected committee members from the CBOs. A total of 22 members were trained comprising of eight women and 14 men.</p> <p>Prior to the training, a needs assessment was done to establish the status of the capacities of the members within the CBOs using the birdlife site support assessment tool<sup>1</sup>. It was established that although the CBO members had the will to promote conservation, livelihoods, tourism and other related objectives, their capacities to achieve these objectives and run their organisations was still low.</p> <p>The capacities of the communities were built on the different aspects as identified in the needs assessment. These included;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strategy (missions, goals and visions as well as formulation processes),</li> <li>• financial management, inter-organisation relations, operations planning,</li> <li>• budgeting and accountability, monitoring and evaluation,</li> </ul>

<sup>1</sup> [http://www.birdlife.org/sites/default/files/attachments/BirdLife\\_Africa\\_SSG\\_Capacity\\_Assesemen\\_%20Tool\\_v4\\_1.pdf](http://www.birdlife.org/sites/default/files/attachments/BirdLife_Africa_SSG_Capacity_Assesemen_%20Tool_v4_1.pdf)

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Internal communication, mobilisation among others.</li> </ul> <p>At least by the end of the project, some of the aspects which were integrated in the training were being realised. For example, the CBO management improved their report writing skills, mobilisation, systematic recruitment of members, cooperation with other CBOs, budgeting and accountability of funds, advocacy and lobbying especially through the district local government leaders.</p> <p><b><u>Biodiversity monitoring</u></b></p> <p>A 2-day training was done in biodiversity monitoring. This involved 20 community members (eight women and 12 men) from the two parishes especially those from the new villages which were integrated in this phase of the project. The training consisted of various themes which included; identification of birds, birds and conservation, using binoculars, using a bird guide book, transect and point count walks among others.</p> <p>Four bird guide books were also handed to the community.</p> <p>Though a similar training was conducted in the previous phase of the project, the team established that the skills of the members trained were skill at amateur level basing on the fact that they can only identify the common big birds. Community members attribute the low skill in bird identification to inadequate mentoring from experts in small birds' identification especially their calls.</p> <p>They were encouraged to increase the frequency of monitoring and also share lessons with each other as a means of boosting their experience.</p> <p>Though the project team had anticipated periodic collection of bird related data and submitted to the common birds database, this was</p>
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			<p>this was not the case given the low skills level of identification by the community members as earlier mentioned. However with more practice by the communities, we anticipate better data which shall be routinely submitted to NatureUganda for integration in the common birds</p>
<p>Publicity of project concept and results</p>	√		<p><b><u>Meeting with the Buganda kingdom government-Culture custodian within the project area.</u></b></p> <p>One meeting was held with the Buganda Kingdom environment minister and his team. This was meant to provide an update of the project and its contribution to culture preservation through conservation in landscapes surrounding Sangobay area.</p> <p>As an outcome of the meeting, selected community representatives from the project area and joined the Buddu county<sup>2</sup> team to show case the project work during the Buganda culture and tourism expo 2015. Among the exhibitions made by the community members included the barkcloth making process and also how tree planting promotes on farm biodiversity and environmental conservation generally. The county team emerged as the best exhibitor during the expo.</p> <p><b><u>Articles to conservation related news letters</u></b></p> <p>One article was submitted to the naturalist magazine, published by NatureUganda and accessed by over 2000 members. By the time of project reporting, the magazine was not yet published but we shall share the link once published.</p> <p><b><u>Meetings with district leadership and project recognition</u></b></p> <p>Meetings have been held with the district environment and natural resource department. During such</p>

<sup>2</sup> Buddu is the Buganda kingdom county where the project is located.

			<p>awareness about the contribution of culture to conservation among others. As outcome of such engagement and innovative approach towards the conservation of Sangobay forest, the project team was recognized and awarded a certificate by the minister of water and Environment during the world environment day held in Rakai district.</p>
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**2. Please explain any unforeseen difficulties that arose during the project and how these were tackled (if relevant).**

- Study commitments; towards the last quarter of the project, I was awarded a scholarship by the Open University to pursue my PhD and during process left the country. However this never had a profound effect on the project implementation given the fact that majority of the project activities were already implemented. Also the community coordinators and community based organisations were empowered to take lead on the different project activities and throughout the project, the core project team mainly provided guidance on technical support. This enabled continuity of the project activities like tree planting, awareness creation among others. As the team leader, I participated in the wrap up of this project during my study break in June 2016.
- Integrating women into participation in the core project activities like barkcloth making processes remained a challenge given the cultural limitations despite the will by women to participate in such processes. To mitigate this challenge, women were encouraged to actively participate in planting trees in their gardens (due to the increased soil fertility benefits) given the fact they are the main custodians of the farms and also in charge of food security within the rural households. The project team also envisages integrating them more during the transformation of barkcloth into different crafts in the subsequent phases of the project.

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

- Institutionalising of tree planting culture in the community where at least every household sampled by the project team had a minimum of five trees on their farm. The estimated 25,000 trees planted within the landscape is also remarkable because the project had estimated a maximum of 10,000 trees planted during the project period.
- Project was recognized for its contribution to environmental conservation in the district and innovative approach to conservation. This raises the profile of culture as a means to conservation within district and among other conservation practitioners.
- The community based organisations started by the project are now engaging with Fauna and Flora International on a new project aiming at

promoting the community conservation areas concept where the communities manage and have the final say on their natural resources.

- Sub county Learning and advocacy platform which brings together the different community based organisations and the different actors with an aim of environmental conservation and livelihoods improvement was formed. At the moment, three community based organisations, i.e, Kagera Tourism and Conservation Organisation (KATOCO), Sangobay Twezimbe farmer's group and Mituba ena Sangobay Tourism and Conservation Association (MIKESATACA) are learning from one another on farm practices, fish farming, and village savings and loan association schemes, culture and conservation related issues.

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

Implementation of project activities was mainly done by the local communities in Gwanda and Kanabulemu subcounty, Kyebe Subcounty, Rakai district. The activities were mainly implemented by the CBOs (which were formed and managed by community members) and the project team mostly provided technical expertise in areas where we found capacities of the CBOs or community leaders were not sufficient.

This approach bore results for the project, the proximity of the CBOs and the community project coordinators with the community made the tree planting more engrossed within the community social and agricultural systems. The community project coordinators managed to convince other community members to use their own resources to plant the *Ficus spp* trees and *Mesopsis eminii* trees on their farms. This in a way rejuvenates or institutionalises the tree planting culture within the community and may be an important factor which accounts for the over 25,000 *Ficus* trees planted by the end of this project. With such approaches, we believe that these activities will be sustained within the landscape.

#### **5. Are there any plans to continue this work?**

- We plan to replicate the project model to other areas where similar cultural values are held or build on the cultural values held in other places to promote conservation both in-situ and ex-situ. The team also plans to source for more funds to integrate women in the project by promoting product making from barkcloth. This will entail creating strategic partnerships with institutions like schools of design and other personnel involved in the art and design business to transfer or share such skills with the community members.
- Tree planting as an activity will also be ongoing on both people's farms and commercially. Awareness on the project approach and conservation of Sangobay forest will also be an ongoing activity.

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

- An article about the project has been developed and submitted to the naturalist magazine which is accessed by over 2000 people in Uganda.
- The team has presented the project work to the Buganda Kingdom government who were impressed with the approach and as an outcome the community members were integrated on the Kooki county team to show case their work during the Buganda tourism expo 2016.
- The team is in the process of preparing a journal article to be published on the project work and the approaches used. At the moment we are targeting the *Oryx* journal and also later publish an academic article with journal of environment and human values. We shall share the article once published.
- We plan to continue sharing our experiences, lessons and project approaches in the different conferences as they arise.

**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 biggest part of the grant was used during the first 9 months of the project. The last quarter was mainly preoccupied with monitoring of the project activities, trainings in biodiversity monitoring, institutional management, and advocacy as well as engaging the different government institutions on the threats on Sangobay forests and the Sangobay Musambwa Kagera (SAMUKA) Ramsar site at large. These trainings were strategically done during this period to enable communities reflect on the flaws they had in management of the project activities which in a way stimulates learning.

**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
Awareness about the culture and conservation approach to new communities, district local legislators and sub county technical committees	200	250	-50	The costs involved mobilization of the communities, facilitation of the NFA and district staff to the meetings, refreshments during the meetings
Train community institutions/CBOs in institutional management and other capacities like advocacy, Monitoring and Evaluation, financial management, leadership	200	189	11	venue hire during the training, transport facilitation for distant travelers, facilitation of Rakai district and other

etc.				partners
Training Communities especially the youths in bark cloth making	500	550	-50	Facilitate the youths during bark cloth training, facilitate the trainers, purchase of materials to be used in bark cloth making
Purchase agrobiodiversity trees for planting in old and new community member gardens ( Ficus spp)	1000	1000	0	Purchase of cuttings to be distributed in the community
Training new communities in ficus tree planting and management especially for Ficus sp, setting up and facilitating monitoring committees	100	80	20	support community members with experience in planting and managing ficus spp trees
Train community members in setting up tree nurseries especially for agrobiodiversity species propagated by seeds like <i>meopsis eminii</i>	300	280	20	Hire of trainers on nursery bed setup, facilitate community in collection of materials used setting up nursery beds, purchase of planting materials like polythene bags, monitoring of progress on implementation of taught skills
Facilitate restoration of Sacred site, awareness creation and stakeholders engagements	300	200	100	support sacred site custodians in restoration of the sites, facilitate meetings with custodians, monitoring the community project focal personnel, support community in buying of cultural materials and required tree species for restoration
Train new communities in bird identification skills as well as refresher for the previous trainees	100	200	- 100	venue hire, transport for distant participants,
Meetings, Reporting and results dissemination to partners and stakeholders	100	250	- 150	facilitation of meeting with Buganda government, Sponsoring community members to the Buganda Tourism and cultural expo (perdiem,

				transport, accommodation and out of pocket )
Enhanced GIS training for project team and selected community members both in-house and field techniques	200	100	100	Training was conducted in advanced GIS tools
Reinvigorating and Rehabilitation of bark cloth training schools within the community	200	300	-100	10 bark cloth training schools were rehabilitated
Train community members in birds research techniques like transects, points counts, data collection and simple analysis	280	0	280	training venue, meals, transport for distant participants, out of pocket
Facilitate communities during periodic data collection	200	200	0	Costs towards lunches and out of pocket, costs also went to facilitating the learning and exchange forum
Purchase of 2 more bird guides and used binoculars for new communities	100	96	4	4 bird guides purchased
Transport for project activities (car hire, fuel, Public transport)	500	600	-100	for 7 trips made during the project period
Facilitation for team (Accommodation and meals)	480	500	-20	for 7 trips made during the project period
Communication (Internet, Phone and Postage)	100	80	20	
Stationery and other utilities	100	90	10	printing of letters, internet, purchase of bird monitoring forms, training materials
Bank Charges	30	0	30	
<b>Total</b>	<b>4990</b>	<b>4965</b>	<b>25</b>	

- **Exchange Rate=4000 Uganda Shillings**

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

- Encourage the community based organisation leaders and community focal persons to continue promoting the project activities especially tree planting on farms and advocating for conservation of SAMUKA ramsar site.
- Source for more funding to compliment the project activities

**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?**

- Yes, on the letters we used to communicate to the different stakeholders, we acknowledged that the project was funded by Rufford Foundation and also the logo was included there.
- In all our meetings and in the articles written, we acknowledged that the project was funded by the Rufford Foundation.

**11. Any other comments?**

The project team and the community members adjacent to the Sangobay forests in the parishes of Gwanda and Kanabulemu, Kyebe subcounty, Rakai district are grateful for the financial support which enabled us to implement this project.



Kanabulemu Community Project coordinator showing extent of growth of some of the trees planted in the first phase of the project.