

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	Fanuel Kawaka
Project title	Integrating the Local Community in the Conservation of Wild Orchids in Kericho Forest, Kenya
RSG reference	17193-1
Reporting period	March, 2015 to March, 2016
Amount of grant	£ 5,000
Your email address	fkawaka@tum.ac.ke
Date of this report	15 th , March 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
To conduct wild orchid inventory in the forest			Yes	The survey was successfully carried out and 11 wild orchid species identified and rescued.
To establish nature trails and home gardens			Yes	Two community conservation groups formed. Each group established two nature trails and home gardens in their homes
To train and sensitize the local community		Yes		30 local residents, four forest wardens and four local administrators were successfully sensitised and trained on wild orchid conservation, rescue, setting up home gardens, nature trails and seed banking. There was a high demand and increased request for more training and capacity building. Several local schools requested the project team to visit their schools to initiate similar projects and give conservation talks.

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

Project Challenges

a) Community reluctance to participate in the project

The local community was initially reluctant to take part in the project because they imagined that we wanted to stop them from collecting firewood from the forest. However with the help of the community leaders, local administrators, forest managers and local guides, we managed to convince them by providing the right information about the project goals and objectives. The local residents were later excited and assisted in popularising the importance of conserving wild orchids. In fact more local residents volunteered to be part of the project than we had anticipated.

b) Increased community demand for participation in wild orchid conservation, establishing nature trails, seed banks and home gardens

The project had planned activities to promote the conservation of wild orchids among forest managers and organised local community groups living around Kericho forest and train them on the importance of conserving wild orchids, establishing nature trails and home gardens. However, setting up of the demonstration community nature trails and home gardens elicited so much interest from different conservation stakeholders in area including local schools, county conservation officers and community based conservation non-governmental organisations (NGOs). These different groups requested that we extend our wild orchid conservation programmes to their organisations. In

response, we advised them to ask the local community members whom we had trained to help them set up wild orchid nature trails and home gardens. However the major drawback for this initiative has been on language barrier encountered between the stakeholders and the local community. Based on these challenges, we have requested the local schools and county conservation officers for patience as we fundraise so that we can also empower them on conserving wild orchids.

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

a) An inventory of wild orchids in Kericho forest

Reports and publications on the distribution and conservation status of wild orchids in Kericho forest were produced and shared with the local community and all the collaborating partners. In the publications, recommendations on the activities that should be adopted to promote conservation were clearly highlighted.

b) Setting up of community wild orchid nature trails, seed banks and home gardens

Local nature trails, seed banks and home gardens for the orchids were successfully set up. In addition, several wild orchids were rescued and re-established on the bark of indigenous trees in the forest. The home gardens are currently serving as *ex situ* conservation and demonstration points as well as sources of planting for the other community members. Wild orchid germination protocol was developed during the community field training.

c) Enhanced local community awareness on wild orchids and Kericho forest conservation

There is notable increased local community awareness and knowledge on wild orchid conservation including benefits associated with forest conservation. Conservation brochures, posters, technical manuals and information booklets have been produced and made available in local libraries and shared with both the local community/residents as well as other scientists.

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

Local community involvement:

First, the project successfully integrated the local community in to the conservation of wild orchids and Kericho forest. Two local community based wild orchid conservation groups (WOCG) consisting of 24 members were formed. The groups were trained on wild orchid identification, propagation, setting up of nature trails, home gardens and seed banks. The community can now rely on the wilds orchids planted on their home gardens and nature trails for food and medicinal use. This has reduced pressure on over harvesting and over exploitation of wild orchids from the forest. The project therefore has not only promoted orchid conservation but also improved the local community livelihood. Local leaders also had an opportunity to learn about orchids and appreciate the benefits associated with their conservation. Secondly, the WOCG are currently selling clean planting materials in the home gardens and nature trails to the other local residents thereby earning income.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes. The project has seen an increased demand for information on wild orchid conservation, establishment of nature trails and home gardens from different interest groups living around Kericho forest. Successful setting up of community nature trails and home gardens elicited interest from conservation stakeholders in area including local schools, county conservation officers, community based conservations and local non-governmental organisations (NGOs). The groups requested that

the wild orchid conservation programmes be extended to their organisations. Therefore there is an urgent need to increase wild orchid conservation awareness, empower local schools and other organisations in setting up home gardens, nature trails and seed banks.

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

The results of this project has been published in form of brochures, posters, technical manuals and information booklets that are currently available in local public and school libraries, shared with both the local community as well as other scientists and other interest groups. We believe that the publications will help in enhancing awareness on orchids. Project partners have also been requested to link the project reports and findings on to their institutional websites to increase online awareness and visibility among users.

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 RSG funds were received in March, 2015 and 1 week later, the planned project activities began. The project was successfully implemented and lasted for 12 months according to the work plan.

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
Orchid survey and sampling	950	940	10	1 team member used his own gumboots during the survey
Field subsistence and accommodation	700	730	-30	More community members turned up during our initial meetings
Demonstration plots/ and or land	400	420	-20	Community members reduced the cost as a sign of ownership
Casual labourers fee in the field	650	700	-50	We hired extra labour to help to help meet our deadline
Seed banks, nature trails and home gardens	800	790	10	We got a community volunteer who assisted
Transport (car hire and fuel)	980	950	30	Fuel cost per litre reduced during the project period
Capacity building and awareness activities	650	650	0	No variation
Cost of laboratory reagents	400	400	0	No variation
Publications and report writing	220	220	0	No variation
Total	5750	5750	0	The extra £ 750 was supported by collaborating partners

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

The following are our immediate plans;

1. Based on the unexpected and increased interest that the project elicited from among local residents around Kericho forest, we plan to introduce wild orchid conservation programmes in local schools around Kericho forest. We hope this will help in reaching a wider conservation audience/community and ultimately scaling up the conservation of wild orchids and Kericho forest as a whole.
2. In addition, we plan to partner with more local conservation stakeholders including county conservation officers and community based organisations, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to support the conservation of orchids in the forest.
3. More awareness should be created among the conservation stakeholders regarding the annual Kenya Orchid Society Annual Show in Nairobi, Kenya. This will really increase awareness on the importance of orchid conservation in Kenya.

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. Rufford Foundation received publicity on the ground among the local community and local leaders where all the partners and participants were informed that that the project was supported by RSG. In addition, the RSG logo was used on the following materials

1. All our reports and publications on the conservation status of orchids in Kericho forest.
2. Germination protocol for orchids.
3. Brochures, posters, technical manuals and information booklets.
4. All the equipments and laboratory reagents purchased with funds from the RSG had stickers with RSG logo on them.
5. RSG logo was displayed on the poster at the Kenya Orchid Society Annual Show in Nairobi, Kenya.
6. Rufford Foundation was publicized during the community capacity building and awareness activities with RSG logo printed on T-shirts and all the stationary materials.
7. Further we will use the RSG logo and give acknowledgement on any future publications resulting from this work.

11. Any other comments?

The entire project team are very grateful to RSGF for generously supporting this project. The team is looking forward for further future support to promote the conservation of the wild orchids and the entire Kericho forest. We hope to integrate all the stakeholders around the forest in protecting Kericho forest biodiversity. Further, we believe that in the longer term, creating awareness about wild orchid and Kericho forest conservation among children in local schools will pay off when they become decision-makers, forest managers and users. The focus should shift to alternative economic activities for the local residents that can reduce pressure on the forest.