

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	Leif Petersen
Project title	Herbanisation: Open-Access, Indigenous Medicinal Street Gardens for Healing, Greening and Connecting in Marginalized Neighbourhoods of Cape Town, South Africa
RSG reference	17422-2
Reporting period	1/2016 – 7/2016
Amount of grant	£5,000
Your email address	Leif.petersen@livelihoods.org.za
Date of this report	7/2016

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
Strengthening linkages between park activities and urban conservation efforts, making local nature a key driver of urban renewal efforts.			X	A number of planting events in two new sites were undertaken which brought together the herbalist and conservation community. Most significantly were the activities in Retreat (images in previous update). The nursery grown plants were bolstered by a matching plant donation from the City of Cape Town Nature Conservation. The inclusive urban greening guidelines will also be instrumental in taking the premise of Herbanisation forward to larger audiences.
Extend the Herbanisation street garden network to new locations in Cape Town through the establishment of at least two new street gardens, totalling approximately 1,000 indigenous medicinal plants.			X	Two new gardens – Retreat and Muizenberg were established. These collectively represent the 1,000 plants paid for by the Rufford grant.
Bolster local biodiversity and expand the scope of community engagement with indigenous plants and associated knowledge.			x	Planting days were used to bring together local neighbourhoods and share knowledge on the role of indigenous plants and herbalists in people's health and cultures
Bring together diverse			X	At planting days and at the recent

stakeholders in the stewardship of biodiversity in Cape Town				Fynbos Forum the project brought together representatives of the conservation, herbalist and other communities where dialogue and planting activities were undertaken towards common goals of urban greening with indigenous plants.
Installation of a toilet at the Hillview Community Nursery which lies at the centre of the existing Sea winds street garden site.		x		The toilet building was constructed, and the toilet and relevant fittings have been purchased. However connecting the toilet facility to the main sewer line at the Retreat Community Nursery has been restricted through the inability of the local municipality to indicate to the team exactly where the main sewer line is and to grant permission for attaching to it. In the interim the project has hired the use of a toilet from a residential neighbour of the project. This has proved a satisfactory intervention for the time being until such permissions are granted.
Survey of 10-15 residents who harvest from the gardens will be conducted to inform future garden design, composition and placement.			X	A group of Rasta herbalists and local residents have provided input on how the garden project should be pursued to meet the wide range of objectives the project aims to meet. These were captured in the urban greening document developed as part of the project and launched at the fynbos forum.

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

An important conceptual constraint has been planning the future of the project, and considering the relative success of the pilot how it can gain leverage for a larger scale rollout. The learning from this pilot has been sufficient for development of a large scale rollout of Herbanisation over a considerably larger landscape and with increased community participation.

Furthermore, theft, maintenance and watering remain as challenges to the development of street gardens in socioeconomically-marginalised areas of Cape Town. We are constantly thinking of novel means of ensuring greater plant survival and reducing the need for garden maintenance. A successional planting scheme has been developed and is being trialled in Retreat. Furthermore a collaborative herbalist led “seed bomb” strategy is being developed which builds on Herbanisation principles and combines the skills of the Herbalist community and a lower maintenance planting regime. We intend testing seed bombing in 2017 at a pilot site within a degraded conservation area north of Cape Town.

The toilet installation has been temporarily halted until City of Cape Town officials are able to ascertain the location of the main sewer pipes for attachment of the toilet drainage. In the interim an arrangement has been made with a neighbour to the propagation site to use their facilities.

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

In the last 12 months the project has achieved the following important outcomes;

1. The garden sites have grown to include approximately 4,500 plants in four street gardens in socio-economically depressed areas of Cape Town (including 1,000 plants in the Retreat garden, and a contribution of plants to a further recreational park initiative in nearby Muizenberg directly financed by RSG)
2. Hosted ground-breaking engagement between Rasta bush doctors and conservation stakeholders which has fostered relationships and influenced perspectives.
3. Building into the longer term project RSG support contributed to the learning now released a range of useful guidelines for supporting the development of conservation, cultural and economically viable landscape rehabilitation within the fynbos biome. The guidelines are attached to this report.

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

1. As a consequence of RSG funding plants were propagated in the nursery previously established in Hillview for the Herbanisation street gardens. All tools, inputs, infrastructure and propagation materials were procured and used in the project site. At varying points up to seven people were employed conducting propagation, site preparation planting, and maintenance on the project.

2. Four garden sites of varying size and species composition were planted in the local area. Five local community members were also supported with plants for their own street garden efforts. Three people (Neville van Schalkwyk, Joseph van Schalkwyk and Gammad Asia) have been supported on an ongoing basis over the course of the project for the maintenance of the four community gardens.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

The success of the Herbanisation pilot and its related programmes indicate that there are distinct possibilities for increasingly inclusive conservation processes that speak to a variety of conservation, urban renewal, cultural and economic perspectives which take into account the Rasta herbalist perspective of informality and harvesting from public open space. There is a medium term requirement for the project to enhance its scale and operations to make a meaningful conservation impact and attain a larger target audience. Such scale can be achieved through the injection of large scale funding, but also through important continuation of the pilot in ways that test how ongoing costs (in particular propagation and maintenance) can be reduced. As such the project intends continuation through;

1. Applying for enhanced funding commitments potentially of the scale supported by the Extended Public Works Programme or other regional projects.
2. In the interim, enhancing learning through developing a lower maintenance propagation and planting strategy – specifically by developing seed bombs and a seed bomb distributor for aerial propagation. In this way continuation of the pilot is possible for it shall enhance learning in sufficient ways to better inform future larger scale developments, should they happen.

Attempts at securing funding at the required scale are ongoing. We intend applying for an RSG Booster Grant to develop the seed bomb technology and strategy in 2017.

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

The urban greening guidelines developed as a consequence of the Herbanisation project were distributed at the yearly Fynbos Forum for conservation managers and local government officials in July 2016. More than 100 copies of this document were shared with this community, to whom the project was presented and discussed. The guidelines will become part of the arsenal of tools used in the ongoing SLF campaign for enhancing inclusiveness in conservation in the Western Cape, and its distribution to this audience has directly mainlined the Herbanisation concept to those directly mandated for land management in the fynbos ecoregion.

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 utilised over a 12 month period, nested within the broader context of the project which had support from other funders. The duration and expenditure was largely according to schedule.

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.

RUFFORD - HERBANISATION Budget (GBP Sterling)			
	Proposed	Actual	Variance
Andrew Salary	1 052.63	0.00	1 052.63
Neville Salary	526.32	-1 694.74	-1 168.42
Plants	1 578.00	-1 808.00	-229.05
Tools	105.26	-127.79	-22.53
Mulch and Compost	263.16	-389.47	-126.32
Labour	526.32	-1 142.11	-615.79
Catering	105.26	0.00	105.26
Printing	52.63	-123.89	-71.26
Toilet	421.05	0.00	421.05
Transport	0.00	-31.58	-31.58
Retreat Stipend	0.00	-157.89	-157.89
Forex Gain (ZAR19.00 = GBP1.00)	369.37	0.00	378.37
Total (GBP)	5 000.00	-5 475.47	-465.53

The project, whilst conducted within time and budget, encountered some changes within line item expenditure. Most significantly the salary contribution for Andrew Reid was transferred to Neville van Schalkwyk as Andrew left the project in October 2015. His portion was absorbed in a rate increase for Neville who took over project management activities.

Labour, plants and the Retreat stipend were all costs that were underestimated in the proposal but exceeded in the execution of the project. A budget surplus for the toilet which could not be built and the exchange rate gain on the payment amount meant that these line items were able to be paid for and the main objectives of the project were attained.

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

Enhancing the creativeness of landscape rehabilitation in order to reduce the maintenance components and enhance areas rehabilitated. A valuable area for new work will be the development of a seed bomb project (with accompanying seed bomb launcher) for wholesale landscape restoration in the fynbos ecoregion. A degraded site within a proposed conservation area has been offered for a pilot for rehabilitation in this regard.

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 – in the final urban greening guidelines attached to this report (RSG logo on the back page). These were presented at a public event with over 100 participants, all of whom are mid- and high level conservation and landscape managers.

11. Any other comments?

Thankyou RSG for the support. The programme provides a flexible and useful contribution to our ongoing conservation work within the Sustainable Livelihoods Foundation.