

## The Rufford Small Grants Foundation

### Final Report

Congratulations on the completion of your project that was supported by The Rufford Small Grants Foundation.

We ask all grant recipients to complete a Final Report Form that helps us to gauge the success of our grant giving. 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. 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

<b>Your name</b>	Fellia Gubudu
<b>Project title</b>	Community capacity building participatory training programme in wildlife management and monitoring for local communities living around selected protected areas
<b>RSG reference</b>	18.10.09
<b>Reporting period</b>	October 2010 – July 2011
<b>Amount of grant</b>	£5995
<b>Your email address</b>	<a href="mailto:fgubudu@yahoo.co.uk">fgubudu@yahoo.co.uk</a>
<b>Date of this report</b>	29 July 2011

**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
(a) To build local community wildlife and flora policing, monitoring and law enforcement task forces			×	<p>One of the significant achievements of this project objective is the establishment of 30 Community-Based Wildlife Protection Task Force Committees (CBTFCs). Nine of these CBTFCs have been established in the Northern Region of the country in areas around Vwaza Wildlife Reserve, Mughese Forest Reserve and Mafinga Forest Reserve. Eight CBTFC are established in the Central Region around Nkhotakota Wildlife Reserve, Dzalanyama Forest Reserve and Chongoni Forest Reserve while 13 CBTFCs are established in the Southern Region around Mulanje Forest Reserve, Lake Chilwa Wetland and Liwonde National Park. These committees or community groups have been successfully established through organising constant consultative meetings and discussions with local communities, community-based natural resource management groups in these areas, traditional chiefs and District Councils.</p> <p>In total, 220 people volunteered themselves to undertake the proposed tasks and therefore, they underwent an intensive training course on wildlife protection, monitoring, law enforcement, skills in gathering evidence of environmental crimes and building of legal cases against those who transgress the wildlife and forestry laws.</p> <p>It has been observed that due to the establishment of these community groups, the incidence of wildlife poaching and illegal harvesting of forest resources has declined. It is expected that through community wildlife policing and monitoring, including taking offenders to court will reduce the incidence of wildlife poaching, illegal harvesting of forest resources and encroachment.</p>
(b) To promote awareness programmes for National Parks and			×	<p>The project team had carried out a number of sensitisation and awareness meetings with technical personnel working for the Department of National Parks and Wildlife</p>

<p>Wildlife and Forestry personnel on the importance of law enforcement</p>				<p>and the Department of Forestry. In total, 18 awareness meetings were organised during the project and at each project site, two meetings were conducted.</p> <p>In addition, eight radio programmes on the socio-economic and cultural impacts of illegal trade in wildlife and flora species were aired on Malawi Broadcasting Corporation (MBC). However, due to sharp increase in the cost of TV programme production and airing, we did not afford to hold any similar programme on TV and hence we channelled all our financial resources available towards radio programmes which were relatively cheaper.</p> <p>The main aim of the sensitisation and awareness meetings was to inform and educate the technical personnel from these two departments on the importance of carrying out routine law enforcement as this initiative can help to flush out illegal wildlife hunters, plant harvesters and other communities who encroach protected areas for agricultural expansion and settlement in the country.</p> <p>Because of environmental education and awareness, some technical personnel from these departments have intensified law enforcement which has resulted in confiscations of bush meat at Vwaza Wildlife Reserve and charcoal in Dzalanyama Forest Reserve. It is our sincerely hope that if this continues, the rate of deforestation and wildlife poaching will be possibly eliminated in the next ten years.</p>
<p>(c) To promote networking between and amongst wildlife community policing groups and relevant law enforcement authorities to curb illegal trade in wildlife and flora species.</p>			<p>×</p>	<p>A total of 20 meetings have been held between established CBTF members established in project areas with relevant law enforcing authorities that are working in respective areas such as personnel from the Department of Forestry and/or the Department of National Parks and Wildlife.</p> <p>The meetings conducted have assisted to develop a good rapport between community policing groups and the relevant law enforcing authorities in various areas. In addition, Memorandum of Understandings (MoU) have been signed to ensure that the two parties/entities do work together in</p>

				enforcing wildlife and forestry laws and gathering evidence of any environmental crimes to ensure that the perpetrators are brought to book for prosecution. This good working relation between community groups and wildlife and forestry law enforcers in some selected areas of the country will help to regulate access to wildlife and forestry resources thereby ensuring sustainable utilisation and management for the benefit of the present and future generations.
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**2. Please explain any unforeseen difficulties that arose during the project and how these were tackled (if relevant).**

The only unforeseen difficult that arose during the project implementation was scarcity of fuel both petrol and diesel on the market. This problem was tackled by rescheduling our timetable and when the project team faced the problem whilst in already in the field, we had to travel by hired bicycles to the site of the activity as long as the venue activity was not more than 50 km. The arrangement had assisted the project team to implement of the planned activities on time.

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

The three most important outcomes of my project are:-

- (a) Establishment of 30 Community-based wildlife and flora policing and monitoring committees, in short CBTFs in all project sites. The establishment of these committees has helped to increase the number of law enforcers that exist per site as previously the number of government law enforcement in the project areas, including other protected areas is usually inadequate. The evolving of community policing groups in the project areas has helped to strengthen law enforcement in order to curb illegal hunting and harvesting of forest resources, including flushing out encroachment.
- (b) Environmental education and awareness conducted in the project areas have helped to increase the understanding and appreciation of nature conservation and why it is important to protect our wildlife and flora species. The knowledge gained by both local communities living around and the government personnel working for the Department of National Parks and Wildlife, and the Department of Forestry has changed the mind set and the behaviour of people towards law enforcement. Because of the intervention, law enforcement has been strengthened in all project areas which have seen a number of suspects being arrested, prosecuted and illegally hunted wildlife and collected flora species confiscated.
- (c) Establishment of networks between community policing groups and relevant law enforcers. The establishment of the network has helped the law enforcers to share information of environmental crimes, gather of relevant data/evidence of any environmental crimes, and how to prepare for court cases for the suspects. The network has helped to build a good working relationship between community groups and relevant law enforcers and this kind of a working relationship has helped to strengthen law enforcement in all project areas to ensure that wildlife and flora are protected.

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

Local communities living around the selected protected areas were fully involved in the implementation of the project activities. Local communities were able to suggest to the project team how the project activities could best be implemented and they were therefore, freely to participate in environmental education and awareness activities by singing traditional songs, citing poems and holding drama which carried messages on environmental protection.

Looking at the work that communities are undertaking themselves on the ground and in some cases with other counterparts from the Department of National parks and Wildlife and the Department of Forestry, I have no doubt to conclude that they have benefitted a lot from the project. It shows that local communities have gained wide in-depth knowledge and skills on how they can develop conservation projects in their areas, how they can implement the activities, including monitoring of the activities. They have also gained in-sight knowledge on how they can enforce wildlife and forestry laws, gather evidence on any environmental crime and prepare court cases for the transgressors to ensure fair trial is administered. In my opinion, I believe that such knowledge and skills gained by local communities are vital for wildlife and flora conservation in any country.

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

Yes, I am planning to scale out the activities of the project in other protected areas of the country which face similar environmental conservation challenges.

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

The project team is planning to share the results of our work by organising a one day stakeholder's workshop where other similar work would be presented.

**7. Timescale: Over what period was the RSG used? How does this compare to the anticipated or actual length of the project?**

The RSG had been used for a period of 18 months as the actual implementation started in December 2009 and ended on 15<sup>th</sup> July 2011. When compared to the anticipated length and the actual length of the project, it is discovered that the implementation of the project has been delayed by 6 months. This delay was due to fuel problem that the country has had been facing.

**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
Assorted stationery	1,593.00	1,593.00	0	Budgeted funds and approved were adequate
Production of environmental education and awareness materials	1,190.00	1,190.00	0	

(posters, leaflets, calendar)				
Networking workshops	707.00	707.00	0	
Community capacity building through training workshops and short courses	2,505.00	2,505.00	0	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5,995.00</b>	<b>5,995.00</b>		

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

Looking ahead, we feel the next important steps are to educate the all the poor local community groups living around the remaining protected areas that it is their duty to safeguard and protect wildlife and flora that are found in protected areas that are adjacent to them that if used wisely are sources of income, food and traditional medicine. We are also planning to scale up and out the work in other protected areas which face similar environmental conservation problems.

**10. Did you use the RSGF logo in any materials produced in relation to this project? Did the RSGF receive any publicity during the course of your work?**

Yes, we used the RSGF logo in our environmental education and awareness materials, and meetings organised and stakeholders were very eager to learn more about the Rufford Small Grants Organisation and what can they do to seek financial support for community conservation project. The RSGF logo therefore, it received the deserved publicity during the implementation of the project.

**11. Any other comments?**

The project team would like to thank the administration and the entire staff of the Rufford Small Grants Foundation for the financial support that it rendered to us which had made it possible for the project to be implemented and have positive impacts on the ground as evidenced by the establishment of CBTFs and the development of a good working relationship between sectoral law enforcers and community policing groups.