

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 | Richard OLWA |
| Project title | Promoting Population Recovery of Critically Endangered Cichlids Fish Species Endemic to Lake Victoria through Artisanal Fisherfolks Participation, Uganda |
| RSG reference | 18245-1 |
| Reporting period | 8 Jan 2016 to 8 Jan 2017 |
| Amount of grant | £5000 |
| Your email address | richardolwa@gmail.com |
| Date of this report | 14/01/2017 |

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 |
|---|--------------|--------------------|----------------|---|
| (a) Promote and enhance full participation of fisherfolks in protecting and conserving targeted critically endangered cichlids and their habitat. | | | | Fishermen participated actively in implementing project activities and showed a lot of willingness to work with other stakeholders to conserve these fish species |
| (b) Raise awareness about critically endangered cichlids among fisherfolks, school children, teachers and other stakeholders. | | | | Fishermen , pupils , teachers and local communities were engaged in various activities to raise their enthusiasm for conservation of critically endangered cichlid tilapia fishes |
| (c) Establish fish conservation zones for critically endangered native tilapia fish species on lakes Kayanja and Kayugi | | | | Eight fish conservation zones were established on both lakes Kayanja (five) and Kayugi (three) |

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

The following were some of the challenges/ difficulties that arose during the project;

- a) It was a challenge at the beginning of the project to make fishermen, local leaders and government representatives understand the essence of the whole project particularly mapping and zoning off some areas on the lakes. However, after explaining to them the benefits that will accrue from the planned activities, they got involved actively in implementing project activities.
- b) We were not able to start our field activities on Lake Kayugi immediately due to the fact that wooden boats are not allowed to be used on this lake, according to tradition and culture of the people living within and around this lake . However, with the help of local leaders and fishermen, we managed to overcome this challenge by making fishing rafts using bamboos, traditional fishing boat allowed to be used on this lake.

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

The main conservation outcomes of this project include: (a) increased chances for the recovery of native tilapia populations in lakes Kayanja and Kayugi; the Fish Conservation Zones (FCZs) established on these lakes will help young native tilapias to grow and reproduce before they are caught by fishermen. This will in turn make their abundance and size to increase, thereby improving food security and increasing income of fishermen; b) Enhanced conservation of other fish species, reptiles and birds such as the endangered crested crane; - The established zones on both lakes will provide safe havens for other important water resources that support the livelihoods of many millions of people in Uganda; c) Strengthened liaison, collective actions, enthusiasm and commitment of fishermen and relevant stakeholders to conserve and protect critical habitats of these fish species on lakes Kayanja and Kayugi; and (d) Attitudes and behaviours of fishermen and wider public living within and around these lakes were changed positively to conserve and protect these vital resources they rely on as their major sources of livelihoods and wellbeing. This was manifested by the ways they expressed their willingness to conserve these resources during awareness creation.

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

Local communities, namely fishermen, pupils, teachers and wider public, were engaged in implementing various activities to achieve the aims of this project. Main activities they were involved in included: (a) mapping of the breeding and nursery areas of naive tilapia on both lakes, (b) zoning off the safe havens on both lakes, (c) awareness creation and training, and (d) establishment of fish conservation committee for both lakes to conserve and protect native tilapia and their habitats. Local communities particularly fishermen gained practical hand on skills and knowledge such as how to use Global Positioning System (GPS) to locate places. They acquired new skills and knowledge about the actions everyone including them must take to conserve and protect aquatic resources including native tilapia during awareness creation.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes; we plan to continue with this work to: (a) Monitor the recovery of native tilapia fishes in lakes Kayanja and Kayugi, (b) Foster awareness about the conservation status of native tilapia and threats to their habitats among relevant stakeholders, and (c) support the establish and empowered Fish Conservation Committees (FCCs) to conserve and protect critical fish habitats and safe havens mapped on lakes Kayanja and Kayugi

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

The results of this work were shared with others through: (a) delivery of presentations at relevant events, e.g., local community meetings, conferences and workshops,

and (b) distribution of educational materials like chats and posters to school children, teachers, fishermen and local community leaders. Additionally, project results will also be freely available to conservation practitioners, policy and decision makers and developers alike via internet as print downloadable reports and presentations. The project results will also be uploaded on the website for National Fisheries Resources Research Institute for use by public.

7. Timescale: Over what period was The Rufford Foundation grant used? How does this compare to the anticipated or actual length of the project?

Project activities were implemented within the 12 months period as originally planned (January 2016 to January 2017). All the major expected conservation outputs were achieved within the planned project tenure. However, the publication of scientific articles will delay for about 2-3 months because of the step-by-step process required by Publication Company/ Organisation.

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 |
|---|-----------------|---------------|------------|---|
| Facilitation of two Research technicians for a period of 12 months | 720 | 1080 | -360 | Extra 360 was needed to cater for the third research technician |
| Facilitation of Project Steering committee | 350 | 350 | 0 | |
| Hire of Vehicle to transport project team for 12 months | 750 | 1200 | -450 | Extra £ 450 was needed to hire strong 4 WD vehicles |
| Development and Installation of 40 Signboards at FCZs and Key sites | 300 | 200 | 100 | Only placards were used to demarcate and indicate FCZs |
| Hire of boat and Coxswains for a period of 12 months | 300 | 400 | -100 | Extra £100 was used for making three 3 fishing rafts for working on Lake Kayugi |
| Fuel for boat for a period of 12 months | 600 | 150 | 450 | Motorised boats were not used. £150 was used to purchase fuel for electric fisher |
| Fuel for Vehicle for a period of 12 months | 720 | 900 | -180 | Extra £180 was due to fluctuations in fuel prices |
| Hire of Fish Sampling Equipment for 4 months | 180 | 230 | -50 | Extra £50 was needed to pay electric fisher technician |
| Purchase of | 250 | 250 | 0 | |

| | | | | |
|--|-------------|-------------|-------------|---|
| stationary and printing of educational materials | | | | |
| Refreshment during awareness campaigns and surveys | 330 | 330 | 0 | |
| Results Dissemination | 500 | 560 | -60 | Extra £650 was provided by Jana Trust Fund |
| Total | 5000 | 5650 | -650 | Extra £650 was provided by Jana Trust Fund |

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

Basing on the outputs and outcomes realised from this project, important next steps include;

- a) Monitoring the recovery of native tilapia in both lakes to determine the efficacy of the established fish conservation zones in reviving the populations of native tilapia fish species.
- b) Working with the established and empowered Fish Conservation Committees (FCCs) to conserve and protect the created safe havens and mapped breeding and spawning grounds on both lakes.
- c) Enhancing awareness creation about the conservation status of native tilapias and threats to their habitats among all relevant stakeholder particularly fishermen and youth.
- d) Developing strategic recovery plan for native tilapia fishes of Uganda
- e) Replicating similar projects on other satellite lakes of the Victoria and Kyoga lake basins to hedge the risk of extinction of native tilapia in wild.

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 Rufford Small Grant Foundation logo was used in the presentations delivered to research technicians, teachers, pupils, fishermen and local communities, showing them that The Rufford Foundation provided financial support for this project. The logo was also used in educational materials like posters and charts used for awareness creation. Additionally, logo will be used in the articles/ journals to be written about this project for publication.

11. Please provide a full list of all the members of your team and briefly what was their role in the project.

12. Any other comments?

On behalf of my colleagues and my own behalf, I wish to thank The Rufford Small Grant Foundation for providing the necessary financial support for this project. We are very pleased to work with The Rufford Small Grant Foundation and eager to continue working with the Foundation on other future projects. We thank fishing communities, teachers, pupils, government representatives, and technical staff from National Fisheries Resources Research Institute for their support and active participation in implementing the activities of this project to achieve the realised outcomes. Thanks to the Director of National Fisheries Resources Research Institute for the technical guidance and support he offered to achieve the aims of this project.