

## 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. 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**

Grant Recipient Details	
<b>Your name</b>	Julie Weah
<b>Project title</b>	Continuation of enhancing the participation of women in natural resource management - Liberia
<b>RSG reference</b>	11.09.09
<b>Reporting period</b>	January 1st 2010 to February 10th 2011
<b>Amount of grant</b>	£5,854
<b>Your email address</b>	<a href="mailto:fcommunityinitiatives@yahoo.com">fcommunityinitiatives@yahoo.com</a>
<b>Date of this report</b>	February 22, 2010

**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
Hosting of three training workshops in Leadership, Mobilisation and Participatory techniques in three additional Districts in Rivercess and Grand Bassa counties			Fully achieved	Three training workshops were held in three additional districts for 75 women from Morweh, Zaflahn in Rivercess county and Compound # 4 in Grand Bassa county. This training provided leadership skills and created the space for women to discuss how their participation can be increased in the management of natural resource in their counties.
Facilitate the transformation of the trained women groups into Women Conservation Groups (WCG).			Fully achieved	Nine women's groups in Grand Bassa and Rivercess were clustered into three Women Conservation Groups (WCGs) after the training with two of the groups in Rivercess and one in Grand Bassa Count
Conduct three follow up meetings			Fully achieved	Three follow up meetings were conducted in Bolowhea town, Zaflahn town in Rivercess and Deewor in Grand Bassa County. The purpose of the meetings was to help the groups evaluate their activities after the training and design plan for the future. The meetings were also used to facilitate the process of election of officials for the Women Conservation Groups and develop byelaws and constitutions for their smooth operation and to develop action plans.
Final reports			Fully achieved	Final narrative and financial report submitted to RSG

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

During the rainy season in 2010 many of the roads that were generally accessible during the dry season got damaged because of the heavy downpour of rain. This created problems in gathering women in a specific location for training and meetings. As these roads could not be used by vehicles, women and FCI staff had to use motorcycles which increased the cost of transportation. This, also coupled with the fluctuation of the exchange rate reduced the USD in which project funds were expended.

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

The three most important outcomes are:

- Seventy-five women from three districts in Grand Bassa and River Cess counties were trained in leadership, mobilizing and participatory skills.
- Three Women Conservation Groups were organised by clustering the trained women.
- The Women Conservation Groups have been trained to develop action plan and have developed a 3-month action plan from January to March and will develop subsequent plans at the end of every 3 months.

#### Women Conservation Groups work plan

Activity	Location	Time frame	Remarks
General awareness meeting	Zaflahn, Morweh and Compound #4	Jan 7-15,2011	To encourage other women to join the group
Election of officers and finalisation of constitution	Zaflahn, Morweh and Compound #4	Jan 25-March 5,2011	To put in place a proper leadership
In-house training workshop on conservation issues	Zaflahn, Morweh and Compound #4	March 22-26, 2011	To increase the knowledge of the women on conservation

*Note: The activities cross cut all of the groups.*

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

Local people, especially the leaders, have shown great deal of commitments in support of FCI's work in Grand Bassa and Rivercess counties during the two projects supported by RSG in the counties. During workshops and training, high ranking local leaders were invited to make opening speeches which they honoured. They have during these events encouraged their people, especially women, to seize the opportunity provided by FCI in the county to contribute to the development of their counties. Women from the communities were the ones involved in all of the project activities and benefited from training. Knowledge gained from the training and action plans is now being used to develop local communities and their involvement in the decision-making processes about natural resources in the various communities. Twenty of the direct beneficiaries from the training and women Conservation Groups participated in the regional women conference of 35 women under the theme "Women Involvement in Forest Governance" in Grand Bassa County hosted by FCI.

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

Increasing women's participation in decision making about natural resources and development is still a new issue in Liberia that needs to be sustained with constant follow up on women who are trained and training additional women to increasing the number of women participants in development activities. This is essential for the purpose of sustainability of the activities while FCI gradually phase out of the communities.

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

After the submission of this generic report, FCI plans to develop a comprehensive narrative and financial report that represent activities carried out in the two counties with support from RSG over the past 2 years. This report will be hosted on FCI and RSG website for easy access to stakeholders who intend to work in these counties on similar issues. The report will also be shared with organisations focusing on women development in Liberia for the purpose of sharing information and networking.

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

Activities	Proposed	Actual
Hosting of three training workshops in Leadership, Mobilisation and Participatory techniques in three additional Morweh and Zaflah , Rivercess and Compound # 1 in Grand Bassa County	October- December 2009	March- April 2010
Facilitate the transformation of the trained groups into Women Conservation Groups (WCG).	January - April 2010	April 2010 –May, 2010
Conduct three follow up meetings	May -August 2010	May -August, 2010
Final narrative & financial report	September 2010	February 10,2011

## 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
Three training workshop for the three districts	£ 2,027	£ 2,115	-£ 88.05	Overspent on the training workshop because of other women that came to observe the training session.
Production of training materials	£ 200	£ 198	£ 2	Underspent on the production of copies of training material
Formation of women conservation groups	£ 225	£ 236	-£ 11	Overspent on the formation of WCG
Stationary for training	£ 147	£ 147	0	The amount was fully spent on the purchase of stationeries to carry out the project
Project Coordinator	£ 1,240	£ 1,240	0	This amount was fully spent as agreed in budget for the project coordinator
Training Facilitator	£ 340	£ 340	0	This amount was fully spent for the training facilitator.
Follow up meetings	£ 750	£ 745	£ 5	Underspent on the follow up meetings

Transportation ( vehicle rental)	£ 400	£ 500	-£ 100	Overspent on transportation because of bad road condition during the raining season.
Gasoline	£ 325	£ 340	£-15	Overspent of gasoline because of price increase on the market.
Administrative support	£ 200	£ 200	0	This amount was fully spent for administrative support to the organization
<b>Total</b>	£ 5,854	£ 6,061	£-207	

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

1. Hold more follow up meetings with these trained women and groups.
2. Provide initial logistical support to the Women Conservation Groups (WCGs) until their activities are sustainable
3. Hold additional training in other relevant areas to enhance their capacity.
4. Increase the scope of the project by reaching out in additional counties targeting existing women groups.
5. Hold a national Forum for rural women to share the participation and leadership skills with other women groups from other parts of country.

**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?**

The project participants and other community members were informed that the implementation of this project was made possible from funding received from the RSG. Information of the work of RSG was also share with members of our coalition.

**11. Any other comments?**

The Foundation for Community Initiatives (FCI) would not have implemented this project without the financial and technical support from the RSG. This funding was able to give the women of Liberia specifically Rivercess and Grand Bassa the opportunity to be engaged and reassured that they have not been forgotten by the outside world. We highly appreciate and remain grateful for the grant and hope that a continuation is considered to help in the struggle for women empowerment and sustainable forest management.