

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.

Thank you for your help.

Josh Cole, Grants Director

| Grant Recipient Details | |
|----------------------------|--|
| Your name | Naftali Mungai |
| Project title | Building a local community conservation group and establishing ecotourism activities around the Ondiri Swamp, Kenya's only quaking bog. Kenya. |
| RSG reference | 24.2.10 |
| Reporting period | 12 months |
| Amount of grant | £6,000 |
| Your email address | naftalik@yahoo.co.uk |
| Date of this report | 2/8/2011 |

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 |
|--|--------------|--------------------|----------------|--|
| Lease a facility in Kikuyu town to establish a community conservation resource centre | | | ✓ | The facility has been operational for the entire project period and has been used for producing the online newsletter on Ondiri Swamp, <i>The Bog</i> |
| Purchase of computer, furniture, stationery and software for resource centre | | | ✓ | A laptop computer has been purchased in addition to a desktop computer. Second-hand furniture including a desk, chairs, stationery have also been acquired |
| Construction of a website for Ondiri Swamp to help market the wetland online | | | ✓ | The website www-fowcon.org was constructed and has been updated regularly. Several documents including copies of <i>The Bog</i> and a Guide to Birds of Ondiri have been posted on the site. |
| Exchange visit for Community to Kimana Conservation area to learn from others' experience | | | ✓ | This materialised much later than initially planned. Due to the high cost of fuel and accommodation, the visit took place on only a single weekend and was limited to 15 participants who also had to cost-share |
| Dissemination of information on community conservation activities and marketing the swamp for ecotourism | | | ✓ | Three issues of the Ondiri Newsletter, <i>The Bog</i> , have already been published. In addition, an article has been published in <i>The Platform</i> issue of July 2011. <i>The Platform</i> is a monthly newspaper that covers Kiambu County, home to Ondiri Swamp. A second issue highlighting the ecotourism development of the swamp will appear in August 2011. |

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

N/A

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

The project has had a number of important outcomes. The first one is the formation of a community conservation group that is in the forefront of conservation efforts. Now numbering more than 200 members, the Ondiri, Nyongara, Kabuthi and Rungiri Water Resource Users Association (ONKARU-WRUA) is one of the most active in the country.

The project has attracted many partners, among them the Water Resources management Authority (WRMA), the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA), the Tana and Athi Rivers Development Authority (TARDA) and the Community Development Trust Fund (CDTF and the Green Grants Fund (GGF). Our proposal to the CDTF is in its second stage and will have a field appraisal on 3rd August, 2011 in preparation for funding.

I have managed to put together a comprehensive colour guide of the birdlife of Ondiri Swamp, which will be used in popularising the site as an ecotourism facility.

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

The local Ondiri Community has been fully and actively involved in all aspects of the project. They have been involved in tree-planting activities and in capacity building initiatives. Towards the latter, WRMA has contributed a grants of KSh 1 million (£6,700 at current exchange rate) to be used for a capacity building workshop for the community members and other stakeholders. The community will benefit further when the CDTF releases funding for the project, whose total budget is KSh 8 million (£55,000) over a 3-year period.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes, there are plans to continue this work in order to realise the goal of establishing Ondiri as a case study of community conservation and ecotourism. The progress so far indicates that this is on course and will be fully achieved as envisioned in the initial proposal. The next phase of the project will see Ondiri partnering with Nature Kenya to establish a Site Support Group and putting up a nature trail and other ecotourism facilities.

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

I shall continue publishing *The Bog*, the newsletter that highlights developments within the project. In future, we also hope to print about 2,000 copies of the newsletter for every issue. These will be distributed free of charge to relevant stakeholders to raise awareness on the ecotourism facility. I shall also continue publishing the online version which will be distributed electronically to all relevant bodies

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

The RSG was used over a period of 12 months which is what was initially anticipated.

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 |
|--|-----------------|---------------|-------------|--|
| Lease a facility in Kikuyu town to establish a community conservation resource centre | 3,000 | 3,000 | 0 | The facility in Kikuyu was leased throughout the year but now there are plans to lease bigger and better facilities with a board room where members can hold meetings. |
| Purchase of computer, furniture, stationery and software for resource centre | 1,000 | 700 | -300 | The project purchased one desktop computer, stationery such as desks and chairs. One laptop was donated to the project by Idea Wild, an American organisation. |
| Construction of a website for Ondiri Swamp to help market the wetland online | 500 | 800 | +300 | Constant updating of the website continued but in future, a different website encompassing the whole ONKARU-WRUA will be constructed. |
| Exchange visit for Community to Kimana Conservation area to learn from others' experience | 1,000 | 1,500 | +500 | The high cost of petrol meant that the visit became much more expensive than was initially envisaged. During the period, fuel costs in the country rose by over 40 per cent and members had to cost-share. |
| Dissemination of information on community conservation activities and marketing the swamp for ecotourism | 1,000 | 1,000 | 0 | There was no difference and the budget was squeezed to accommodate the Bird Guide for Ondiri Swamp. |
| TOTAL | 6,500 | 7,000 | +500 | The difference was mainly in travel Kimana which was met by members who travelled. |

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

From the work done so far, the project is on course and has achieved most of the objectives it set out to do. The next steps are to market the swamp as an ecotourism facility. This will involve establishment of a Nature Trail that goes round the swamp. It will have ten resting points where visitors can do bird-watching and study the plant biodiversity of the swamp. Tourists visiting Ondiri will require the information about Kikuyu District and Kenya in general. Its history, from the days before the missionaries arrived, during the missionaries time, early education, struggle for independence, the birth of a new nation and the Who is Who in Kikuyu. All this information needs to be stored in a museum of history to be located at Ondiri to serve the locals and tourists who come to visit the wetland. The museum will form part of the information, entertainment and culture for tourists to learn from. It will also house performing artistes who will popularise the area as a leading

ecotourist destination in Kenya. Weddings are part and parcel of the Kenyan culture and for this reason there will be Nuptial Gardens where weddings can be hosted. The project will establish an apiary where ecotourists who visit can buy honey and it will also develop a handicrafts industry that will see women members make beautiful items such as trays, baskets and carpets which will also be marketed to visiting ecotourists.

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, the RSGF logo was used in all the newsletters and in the guide to the birds of Ondiri Swamp. I also had an article published in *The Platform*, a monthly Kiambu County newspaper which highlighted the support that RSGF has given to the conservation of Ondiri.

11. Any other comments?

In addition to the achievements outlined above, a Guide to the Birds of Ondiri Swamp has been published. This guide, which has detailed information on all 42 bird species sighted at the swamp over the years, will be sold to tourists who come bird-watching.