

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.

Thank you for your help.

Josh Cole, Grants Director

Grant Recipient Details

Your name	Jamestone S. Kamwendo
Project title	Scale up/out environmental education and awareness campaign in fighting against poaching of threatened wildlife species and environmental degradation on the Zambian side of Kasungu Wildlife Reserve through community participation
RSG reference	38.03.08
Reporting period	30.07.08 - 31.07.09
Amount of grant	£5996
Your email address	jkamwendo3@yahoo.co.uk
Date of this report	14.09.09

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
(i) To educate and raise public awareness on wildlife conservation and problems associated with poaching, bushfires and deforestation				<p>About 90,000 people living near Kasungu Wildlife Reserve on the Zambian side benefited from these activities as of now, over 60% of them have formed wildlife and environmental clubs in schools and at grassroots/village level. This clearly indicates that the project activities were of beneficial to local communities and traditional leaders.</p> <p>All activities (mounting of traditional dances, drama, songs, sensitization meetings, radio and TV programmes, education materials, etc) under this objective were fully achieved (Fig. 1)</p>
(ii) To increase community's interest to participate in nature conservation				<p>A total of 350 people were fully trained in tree nursery and woodlot establishment and management. Of the 350 people trained, 64% were women (Fig.2). At present, 10 nursery committees have been established in the area and about 25,000 tree seedlings have been raised by committees and planted in degraded sites on the western side of Kasungu Wildlife Reserve.</p> <p>All activities under this objective were fully achieved and on time. Five short training courses in five zones of the project site were successfully organised and conducted.</p>
(iii) To lobby local stakeholders to form wildlife and environmental protection clubs and committees				<p>15 consultation meetings with local leaders, local communities, teachers and pupils in schools that are near Kasungu Wildlife Reserve were conducted. A total of 10 wildlife clubs and 4 environmental protection committees consisting of about 30 people per club/committee (Fig. 3) were established after these interventions. It was pleased to note that 45% of club/committee members were young girls and 60% of office bearers/patrons of these clubs/committees were females, mostly teachers. At present, these clubs/committees are actively involved in nature conservation activities and</p>

				some are teaching their fellow local communities on the importance of conserving nature and use it sustainably. All activities outlined to be undertaken under this objective were also successfully achieved.
(iv) To develop with local stakeholders reliable wildlife and environmental and evaluation programmes				Twelve consultation meetings (Fig.4) were held with local stakeholders in 15 villages near Kasungu Wildlife Reserve. One of the remarkable outcomes of the meetings was the formation of the 10 Task Forces/Working Groups whose objective is to implement Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Programmes in the area. Each Task Force had about 20 members. Members of the Task Forces were also trained in M&E concepts and their roles and responsibilities were also drawn up in order to guide them on their work. All activities under this objective were successfully achieved and were implemented on time as required resources were available.
(v). To conduct short training courses to the representatives of the M&E Working Groups on principles of wildlife management and environmental protection				Four short tailor-made training courses were successfully conducted to 157 members (75 men, 52 women and 30 school pupils) from the 10 Task Forces (Fig. 5). These people were intensively and effectively trained in wildlife management and environmental protection and also in M&E concepts and its application in nature conservation. In the meantime, members are successfully collecting and analysing data on wildlife management and environmental protection which will be useful to policy-makers, decision makers and conservation agencies in both Malawi and Zambia. All activities outlined under this objective were also fully achieved.

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

The only unforeseen difficulties that arose during the project were communication barriers in terms of the local language that communities used to speak to the project team. This problem was tackled by hiring a well educated local interpreter. It was discovered that that local languages varied greatly

from village to village and the local project team from Zambia were also not able to couple with some of the local languages spoken by some local communities in the project area.

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

- I. Local human capacity building at grassroots level. This is one of the most important outcomes of my project as local communities especially those living near Kasungu Wildlife Reserve on the Zambian side have acquired wide and varied relevant knowledge and skills in the field of nature conservation and environmental protection through this project. The knowledge and skills will help them undertake any nature conservation work effectively without always relying on external personnel for technical nature conservation assistance.
- II. Information assimilation and acquisition. Environmental education and awareness campaigns have helped about 90% of the Zambian population to learn more about the importance of the environment and nature (wildlife, plants, etc) and why it is importance to conserve it through posters, leaflets and radio and TV programmes. These activities have helped them to acquire knowledge which will assist them to actively take part in nature conservation but also in promoting advocacy in nature conservation in the country.
- III. Formation of wildlife and environmental protection groups. This is another remarkable outcome of my project. The formation of these groups will help the Government of Zambia to protect the environment, wildlife and take active part in nature conservation. Further, the groups will also help various arms of the Government and other conservation bodies by providing them with useful information and data which can be vital in nature conservation.

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

Involvement of local communities in this project has helped a lot in sense that some of the information used in developing M&E protocols were gathered from local and indigenous communities and so identification of other degraded sites on the western side of Kasungu Wildlife Reserve and the rehabilitation of these sites. In return, these local communities have been trained in various nature conservation programmes and have acquired relevant knowledge and skills which will help them go a long way in nature conservation in their areas. Further, some of the knowledge and skills acquired will help them broaden their avenue base in income generation through sales of propagation of tree and fruit seedlings.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes, there are plans to continue this work as it has been observed that even though this project was successful and also the one implemented on the Malawian side in 2005, it has been discovered that invasive alien plant species are displacing indigenous biodiversity and also they are colonising important habitats for both wildlife and indigenous plants. This has great negative impact on the biodiversity of Kasungu Wildlife Reserve. Further, poverty among local communities has also been observed to be a threat to the wildlife and trees in the wildlife reserve hence there is great need to address these problems if the biodiversity is to be effectively conserved.

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

The project team is sourcing some funds so that we should organise a one-day information/results dissemination to various stakeholders, including government officials from both Malawi and Zambia so that they should appreciate goodies, problems and challenges that Kasungu Wildlife Reserve and its biodiversity is facing.

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

The RSG has exactly been used for twelve months as indicated in the project document. This indicates that the activities of the project were implemented according to plan.

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	1,314.50	1,314.50	00.00	N/A
Tree nursery tools and supplies	629.25	629.25	00.00	N/A
Environmental education and awareness materials	1,350.00	1,350.00	00.00	N/A
Environmental and wildlife education programmes	290.00	290.00	00.00	N/A
Purchase of fuel	1,580.25	1,580.25	00.00	N/A
Communication expenses	622.00	622.00	00.00	N/A
Cost of printing final reports	210.00	210.00	00.00	N/A

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

Looking ahead, I strongly feel that a lot of success about dissemination of information about environmental protection and wildlife management, and changing peoples' attitudes toward nature conservation has been achieved. Now it has been discovered that the biodiversity is still being threatened by invasive alien plants that are brought in by both local and foreign tourists, I think the next step should be addressing this problem but also the poverty of the people that might force them to turn to wildlife reserve to exploit the conserved wildlife and trees.

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, I used the RSG logo on all environmental education materials. From observations, I should clearly state that the RSGF did receive the publicity during the course of our work as many people wanted to know more about the RSGF and what do they do.

11. Any other comments?

On behalf of the project team, I would like to sincerely thank the RSGF for the financial assistance that was rendered to us and enabled us to conserve nature of the Kasungu Wildlife Reserve and also knowledgeable and skilfully empowered local communities through various training courses that were organised and conducted to them on nature conservation and monitoring. I hope in the next future, your organisation will assist us again to conserve the biodiversity of Kasungu Wildlife Reserve and other threatened ecosystems which are rich in biodiversity.



Fig.1. One of the sensitization meetings held along Kasungu Wildlife Reserve in Zambia.



Fig.2. Mr. W. Changunda conducting short training course on nursery and woodlot establishment and management.