

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	Folaranmi Dapo BABALOLA
Project title	Efficient Fuelwood Use as a Strategy to Reducing Household Pressure on Natural Forests of Guinea Savanna Zone of Nigeria
RSG reference	21222-1
Reporting period	February 2017 to December 2017
Amount of grant	£4950
Your email address	folababs2000@gmail.com
Date of this report	January 2018

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
Information on person responsible for cooking in households.				Women (mainly wives) are responsible for cooking in households of the selected communities. Female teenagers and girls assist their mothers in the cooking as a way of training them for the future responsibility in their respective homes.
Type of fuelwood energy used by the household as well as available clean alternative energy.				Firewood is mainly used for cooking in the communities. Charcoal was not used by household as much as firewood. Kerosene was only use to start firewood while none of the sampled people indicate the use of agricultural waste, electricity, cooking gas (liquefied natural gas) and briquette for domestic cooking.
Sources of fuelwood and frequency of collection by households.				Firewood collection was carried out freely in the wild, twice a week and within the distance of 2 km to the communities. However, the firewood collection in the nearby forest is decreasing and the people have to travel farther distance to get the firewood.
Location of cooking unit / kitchen and cooking devices in households.				Majority of the local stoves (mainly three stones) are located in kitchen detached from the main building followed by those that have their stove in open space outside the house. Only a few of the households have other cooking stoves (charcoal stove) in the living room.
Challenges and implication of fuelwood energy use to households				More than half of the sampled women were always affected by eye irritation coughing, sneezing and irritation of nose and throat. Considerable number of the household members was also affected by these negative impacts of using firewood as domestic cooking fuel.

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

One oversight of the project team during the reconnaissance survey was not taken along a picture of the efficient cookstove proposed to be introduced to the communities. The picture was later produced and taken along for the main data collection.

The initial questionnaire produced was too cumbersome and complex to complete by the research team. However, after the pre-test phase of the survey, followed by in-house meeting of the research team, the questionnaire was properly redesigned.

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

- 1) **Energy Use in the households:** Firewood was the major domestic cooking energy in majority of the households in the selected communities. Charcoal was used in small quantity and not by majority of the households. Kerosene (paraffin) was only used to start fire with firewood while none of the sampled people indicate the use of agricultural waste, electricity, cooking gas (liquefied natural gas) and briquette for domestic cooking.
- 2) **Firewood collection, use and accessibility:** Women and girls are most responsible for the firewood collection in the communities. The firewood collections were carried out freely in the wild, twice a week and within the distance of 2 km to the communities. The firewood collection is difficult in the rainy season than dry season. Nevertheless, firewood collection in the nearby forest is decreasing and the people have to travel farther distance to get the firewood.
- 3) **Location of cookstoves in households and implications:** Majority of the local cookstoves are located in kitchen detached from the main building, this was followed by cookstoves that were located in open space outside the house. Only few of the people have charcoal stove in their houses. Despite this, more than half of the sampled women indicated that they were always affected by eye irritation, coughing, sneezing and irritation of nose and throat when cooking with firewood. Quite a number of the household members were also affected by these negative impacts of firewood.

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

On arriving each of the three communities selected for the project, the community leaders, such as *Baale* and religion leaders (mainly Imam) were first visited. On meeting leaders, the project goal was properly explained. Through this channel, good relationship was established with the local leaders. The leaders eventually assisted in giving permissions for the project to be carried out in their respective communities. They also assisted in assembling the women for the data collection

and during the awareness campaign meetings. Contacts of all the community leaders have been kept and will be used for the second stage of the project.

In addition to contributing to community development, the project has the potential of empowering the women and youth in the communities. Relationships were therefore established with Women and Youth Associations in the communities. The women and youth leaders have promised to work with the research team in the second stage of the project which is the introduction of the improved cookstoves in households.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes, we plan to continue the project with the introduction of improved cookstoves to selected households in the communities. The community people are already motivated and in highly expectant of seeing the research team for implementation of the second stage of the project. The leaders have given their full support. We also plan to engage the youth in the project, and incorporate conservation education activities in primary and secondary schools in the communities.

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

During the second stage of the project, there is plan to carry out conservation education programme in which seminars will be organised in primary and secondary schools located around the communities. During these seminars, findings of the first stage of this project will be shared with the students and teachers. This will also assist in the introduction of locally produced improved cookstove.

There is also plan to present findings of the projects at local and international conference and workshop. This will also be published in reputable journal. Most importantly, as lecturer and researcher, lessons of the project will be incorporated into research and teaching of students.

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

The grant was used from February 2017 to December 2017. This is within the 10 months proposed for the study.

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
Transportation to and fro study sites by the research team members	650	960	-310	The number of research team increased from the initial plan, as well as the frequency of visit to the communities.
Accommodation and feeding on the field for 6 months	2470	2570	-100	This increased a bit due to the increase in the number of field assistants.
Stipend for Field Assistants at the four Communities	600	500	100	Gifts were bought and given to the community leaders as well as women and youth leaders to facilitate lasting relationship in the selected 3 communities.
Stationary and Communication	300	300	0	These include printing paper and toner for the printer to produce questionnaire and reports. Also, phone calls to contacts established in the communities and among the research team, writing materials on the field, and internet bundle for browsing and emails.
Printer (for production of questionnaire and printing of reports)	150	150	0	
Laptop computer (for data capturing and analysis, and report writing)	380	380	0	
Awareness Materials at the campaign programme	180	90	90	The planned material could not be produced. However, some gifts were bought and shared to the women that partook at the awareness meetings.
Dissemination in print Media	220	0	220	The fund is not sufficient to carry out press release, hence transferred to other activities. However, there is plan to publicise findings of the project in the second stage of the project.
Total	4,950	4,950		

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

The next step for the project is to introduce locally produced improved cookstove in the three selected communities. Some of the reasons for failure in the previous improved cookstove elsewhere were introduction of cookstove which people don't know how to produce or repair when damaged. The planned improved cookstove for the communities are those that will be produced from locally available materials. The major materials to be used are clay, plant materials, mould and water. The people will be involved in the production of the cookstove. The people can also personally carry out maintenance of the cookstove as required.

Furthermore, we plan to carry out conservation education activities in the secondary and primary schools identified in the communities, as well as for the youths. Carrying out of the conservation education activities in these schools is opportunities to instil attitudinal change in the next generation. The educational activities will focus on the impact of deforestation to biodiversity as well as other negative impacts to the environment. This is believed to diffuse to different households, through the students, within and around the communities.

The youth associations have been identified as another avenue to incorporate in the production and introduction of the improved cookstove in the communities. Contact of the President of the Youth Association has been obtained for proper collaboration. Finally, seminar will also be organised for the women and youths to create the attitude of forest and tree protection in their mind and adopt efficient utilisation of biomass energy.

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?

We have not been able to use the Rufford logo. However, we plan to use it in the next stage of the project, especially in all the educational and publicity materials.

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

Dr Fola BABALOLA. Is the Principal investigator and coordinated the entire field survey, data collection, data analysis, interpretation and report writing.

Dr Lawal Lateef ADEFALU. Coordinated the reconnaissance survey that led to identification of the local communities selected for the project. Also facilitated establishment of contact with the local chiefs and religion leaders.

Alex O. ONATUNJI. Produce draft copy of the questionnaire. Keep records of field activities, and involve in field survey and data collection.

Dr (Mrs) Grace AKINSOLA. Involved in field data collection and coordinated computer data entry and data analysis.

Dr Adeola OLOYEDE. Field Assistant, and involved in field data collection.

Oladoyin Ernest OJO. Field assistant, and involve in field data collection.

Sinmidele Mercy JACOB. Field assistant, and involve in field data collection.

Enoch ADEBAYO. Field assistant, and involve in field data collection.

12. Any other comments?

The community leaders and people are accommodating and gave their full support for the project. They are already motivated to participate in the second stage of the project, which is the introduction of the locally produced improved cookstove. The proposal will soon be submitted for kind approval for the 2nd Rufford Small Grant. We strongly believe that introduction of the improved cookstove will make positive impacts in the cooking of the local communities, hence facilitate efficient use of fuelwood as a strategy toward reduction of household pressure on natural forests of Guinea Savanna Zone of Nigeria.