

Final Evaluation Report

Your Details	
Full Name	Alphonse Karenzi
Project Title	One Improved-Stove Per Household Initiative to Enhance Forests Conservation
Application ID	23199-C
Grant Amount	£14,774
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1. 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 district-wide map of the households-without-improved-stoves will be made and continually updated				Three project volunteers, including the project manager, have GIS skills and ArkGIS software on their computers. This enabled them to effectively do and update the map.
A more efficient and cheaper version of improved stove will be developed with 70% energy saving capacity (10% increased efficiency) at 1500 RWFs (25% price decrease) compared to the current improved stove version				The RSG funding was used mainly to empower the stove potters cooperative to improve their production and distribution processes. They were helped to easily transport their raw materials and stoves and to maintain a network of effective distribution partners.
A Public-Private-Partnership (PPP) business model will be developed and engage the Rufford Resource Centre, previously trained school conservation clubs, teachers, women cooperatives, Community Bank SACCO and local leaders in stoves dissemination				Some of the partners took long to get fully involved due to, for instance, busy schedules, waiting to see how it works with others, and a lack of enough financial motivation as the project philosophy was to sell a stove at the cheapest price possible.
13 massive awareness sessions will be conducted in most populated areas of Gisagara where at least 6000 heads of households will increase their awareness on the importance of forest conservation				Gisagara District administration has maintained the monthly community work and meeting in every geographical sector of the district. And the community attendance has been high. This enabled the project volunteers to attend and talk to as many locals as possible.
At least 3000 stoves will be installed in 3000 forest-edge households				The potters have been involved in both production and distribution due to the fact that many distributors took

during the project and in other thousands of households after the project			a long time to get involved. However, as time went on the distributors' engagement improved. Then we have developed a long term plan and we are still working to install 1400 stoves as planned.
50 indigenous young potters and stove distributors will increase their incomes through production and installation of 3000 stoves			They definitely increased their income by selling stoves but not as much as they would, had the 3000 stoves been sold. Fortunately they are still selling and our goal is still to sell more than 3000 stoves.

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

- Stove potters and distributors tended to sell at higher prices than agreed:
The potters were empowered and helped by the project in order for them to sell a stove at 1500 Rwandan Francs but in some instances they attempted to sell at usual 2000 francs. This was making more profit for the potters in the short-term but negatively affecting them and the project in long-run as the number of potential buyers/ rate of distribution was reduced.

As a solution, we had several meetings to explain to them how this negatively affects their potential to make better profits in long-term. We also made clear how much project inputs they receive so that they can deliver a cheaper stove. They eventually understood and improved on this behaviour. We also used our volunteers in distribution and awareness sessions to make the standard price of the stove widely and mutually known to locals/buyers and distributors.

- Some of the stoves distribution partners took long to get involved:
Some of the partners took a long time to get fully involved due to, for instance, busy schedules, waiting to see how it works with others, and a lack of enough financial motivation as the project philosophy was to sell a stove at the cheapest price possible.

As a solution, we used the RSG funding to make their work easier, for instance, we bought bicycles for potters and in some instances hired trucks to get stoves to their locations without their expense. We also motivated them through allowances and giving small awards to high performers. In addition, we paid much attention to the active partners especially the district and sectors local leaders, tried to meet their needs and expectations and insured a long-term relation is maintained.

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

a. Decreasing the level of deforestation in the area:

Through encouraging the use of ICS, this campaign has reduced the level of household firewood used by up to 70% in more than 1500 families that use this stove. Our current improved cooking stove version saves more than 60% of fuelwood comparing to traditional stoves. In addition, hundreds of household leaders and youth have been aware of the danger of cutting trees and importance of conserving forests through our awareness outreaches/ meetings.

b. Saving biodiversity:

By reducing the level of firewood consumption and educating household leaders and youth (young environmental activists) about the role of forests, the movement of people in natural forests has been significantly reduced. Therefore, this district has protected more of its natural forests and the natural habitats of numerous bats, birds and small animals living therein.

c. Increased environment-friendly income for the indigenous people –the former hunters/ biodiversity destroyers:

50 indigenous young potters and stove distributors were able to increase their incomes through stove production and installation, thus improving their lives and reducing their forest resources dependence through hunting and wood selling.

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

50 local indigenous young people have been fully involved and benefitted from the project as beneficiaries. They had a say in every stage of the project from planning to project closure. They were empowered to make cheaper stove and earned daily income from selling many stoves during and even after the project closure.

26 local group/ association leaders and their respective group members have been fully involved and benefitted from the project as beneficiaries. They have been trained as stove distributors and enabled to start making and selling improved cook stoves as income generating activity.

More than 300 poor households received free improved cook stoves: these improved stoves were installed for these poor families as the district and sector leaders requested. The Mayor of Gisagara District himself participated in this memorable activity of the RSG Project.

More than 1500 local families who bought the stoves: they continue to enjoy the benefits of daily energy cost/time saving and using a cleaner/ healthier cooker.

Different local enterprises and businesses have benefited from project significantly. As the project only used local services and products in all steps.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes. We want to distribute this version of stove in all rural areas of Rwanda, Uganda and Burundi - the countries where our Sustaining Africa Youth Organization (SAYO)

work. We want also to make it an attractive business that the public, private and civil organisations and individuals can locally or remotely do.

We have developed a crowd-funding platform www.CharityVentures.org and our local offices in Rwanda, Uganda and Burundi, where organisations and individuals will be called to locally or remotely do the following:

- **INVEST:** one can identify investment opportunity/project (like stoves production unit) with high community impact and return on investment (ROI), track projects online, and reinvest or withdraw his/her shares and ROI.
- **LEND:** one can lend to a poor family/business (e.g. money to buy stove) with no/minimal interest, and withdraw or re-lend the payment to other needy.
- **SPONSOR:** one can donate or sponsor a child, poor family, etc. money goes direct to the beneficiary with an ability to track the use and impact of your funding online.
- **VOLUNTEER:** one can check the various skills/expertise needed by communities/stove makers and pledge to volunteer or post your shareable skills for an invitation.

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

At Local and National level:

Rufford Conservation Centre keeps attracting the individuals and groups of visitors from different backgrounds especially local leaders in Gisagara district. In addition to that, as usual, Sustaining Rwanda Youth Organization has an important stand in annual district partners' exhibition (as the main district partner in environment protection) where the Rufford Conservation Centre and its results will be on forefront. So, we are ready to have the most visited stand in a whole exhibition where all categories of stakeholders and decision makers will know what the project has achieved.

This event attracts visit of different national government officials and non-governmental institutions, private companies, students, parents, local and international communities as well as national radio and TV station and other wide media corporations. The whole nation will surely get to know what Rufford Conservation Centre is and what it has achieved through national TV and radio stations.

At International level:

I have been the organiser of the five current Rufford Small Grants Recipients conferences, Rwanda, Ghana, Uganda, Kenya and Ethiopia. I have established communication and email groups of hundreds of fellow RSG recipients from the most of east and west African countries. I plan to establish and coordinate a NETWORK OF AFRICAN RSG RECIPIENTS to not only share my project achievements but also to enable the fellows share their project achievements.

My Rufford projects are highly recognised by USA Embassy in Rwanda, whereby I have been not only nominated by the U.S. Department of State to participate in its

most premier program of International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP), but also recently nominated by the USAID Agriculture Innovation Lab, where I will be presenting my projects at Washington Trellis Fund Conference from March 24-29, 2019. In addition, as an active member of US Department of State alumni platform, I'm planning to keep using this online and conference platform to keep sharing my Rufford Projects results with thousands of international leaders.

We are planning to use more social media tools than ever to share our stories with as many people as possible worldwide (our current Facebook page and Whatsapp group, opening Twitter and YouTube account in the name of Sustaining Rwanda Youth Organization). We are developing and going to use a crowd-funding platform www.CharityVentures.org to publicise our RSG work.

In addition, we present our centre activities to our international participants who volunteer with Sustaining Rwanda Youth Organization and encourage them to be our ambassadors back in their respective communities. This has been a very effective tool for centre to share its results with international communities.

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

This project has taken 1 year- the exact anticipated project length.

8. Budget: 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. It is important that you retain the management accounts and all paid invoices relating to the project for at least 2 years as these may be required for inspection at our discretion.

Item	Budgeted Amount	Actual Amount	Difference	Comments
A map of households-without-stoves made	690	690	0	
a more efficient and cheaper version of stove developed	900	860	40	£40 under-spent because the stove materials were bought £160 rather than planned £200
a two day workshop of 26 Project PPP actors	1,880	1,910	-30	£30 was over-spent for facilitating a volunteer to conduct an unplanned meeting with partners after training
13 outreaches for awareness and stove promotion conducted in 13 populated areas	4,290	4,230	60	£60 under-spent because, the 2 stoves installers missed two outreaches and thus never received their allowance (£15x2

				volunteers x2days = £60)
3000 improved stoves produced	9,260	7,860	1,400	£1,400 under-spent is the unpaid co-funding in terms production labour as 1,400 stoves (£1 each) are still being made
3000 improved stoves distributed and installed	9,590	8,470	1,120	£420 is the unpaid co-funding in terms distributing stoves using bicycles as 1,400 stoves (£0.3 each) are still being distributed; £700 is the unpaid co-funding in terms installing stoves as 1,400 stoves (£0.5 each) are still being installed;
monitoring and evaluating the project	1,930	1,890	40	£40 under-spent because two volunteers conducted 4 days field visits rather than 5 planed days. (1 days x 2 people x £20 = £40)
evaluation, lessons sharing and closing ceremonies conducted	672	672		
Final report written and submitted	82	82		
£1=1187 Rwandan francs				
<p>NB: The overall total of the project budget was £29,294 and the overall actual expenditures have been £26,664. This results into the overall actual balance (under-spent budget) of £2,630.</p> <p>The remaining under-spent RSG funding is £110 while the un-paid co-funding, mainly due to the 1400 stoves which have not yet been delivered, is £2,520.</p> <p>The £110 remaining under-spent RSG funding will be used for monitoring the distribution of the remaining 1400 stoves which are being produced and distributed by the Potters and Partners.</p>				

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

- Documenting the process and formulas of: building a stove production unit, production of stove, and distribution network.
- Fundraising and building more two stoves units in southern province of Rwanda.
- Fundraising and incorporating the expansion of the stove production units and distribution network at www.CharityVentures.org
- Building more production units in Uganda, Rwanda and Burundi.
- Continue improving and innovating the environment-friendly energy and stoves.

10. Did you use The Rufford Foundation logo in any materials produced in relation to this project? Did the Foundation receive any publicity during the course of your work?

We have used the logo of RF in all materials and documents in relation with this project, including PowerPoint presentations, Letters to different officials, posters, announcements, booklets that circulated in our partners which insured the RF publicity during the course of our work.

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

On this project I worked with the following 10 members:

Alphonse Karenzi, the overall Project Manager;

Gloria Umulisa, the Project Treasurer;

Henry Rugamba, the Monitoring and Evaluation Officer;

Jean Paul Munyaneza, the Communication and Mobilizing Officer;

Hussein Harerimana, the Logistics and Stoves Production officer;

Wasekuru Umwiza, the Field Activities and Volunteers Coordinator;

Mable Mutoni, the Partnerships Manager;

Racheal Namubiru, a Volunteer

Mico William, a Volunteer

Josephine Mbabazi, a Volunteer