

## The Rufford Foundation

### Final Report

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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](mailto:jane@rufford.org).

Thank you for your help.

**Josh Cole, Grants Director**

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Grant Recipient Details	
<b>Your name</b>	Moses Odhiambo Abonga
<b>Project title</b>	Connecting local baseline knowledge for conservation of Ramogi Hill Forest: A collective action of indigenous community
<b>RSG reference</b>	23742-1
<b>Reporting period</b>	Final Report – November 28 <sup>th</sup> 2018
<b>Amount of grant</b>	£4990
<b>Your email address</b>	<a href="mailto:odhiambo.abonga@gmail.com">odhiambo.abonga@gmail.com</a>
<b>Date of this report</b>	November 28 <sup>th</sup> 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
Mapping of				A map with most of the indigenous trees was developed. We were also able to identify the prioritise areas that have been degraded and areas with high human activities. This was shared with the forest guards and a further elaborate map will be done in conjunction.
Biodiversity and forest management assessment				Even though we were very successful in the assessment of the sampling sites we were however not able to complete the full assessment of North-western buffer areas.
Linking locals to conservation of Ramogi Forest				One of the main events that we were able to carry out was the Ramogi Cultural Day, which brought together many different partners and stakeholders. We also carried out ethno-ecological knowledge surveys and participatory appraisals which further helped the community to collectively assess and learn on the status and trend of the forest.

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

Political Unrest: In August 2017, the country went through a turbulent general elections which became chaotic and some of our projects were affected especially community outreach and stakeholders meetings. We however were able to re-schedule once things calmed down.

Four different primary schools and one secondary school are very much interested in setting up tree nurseries and forming of a nature club for the pupils. We were however not able to initiate this as we didn't have funds for this particular activity. We were only able to include them in training on agroforestry and also invite the students for nature trips to the forest.

Rainfall: there were extremely heavy rains during some of our field activities and hence we had to reschedule some day's activities.

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

1. Linking the county government with our project hence providing a means of policy implementation in the forest.
2. Initiated a partnership with the Kenya Forest Service to help in policing of the forest to prevent further illegal cutting of trees. We were also able to ha a pledge from KEFRI to train (Next Year-2019) local community members on sustainable tree planting and utilisation.
3. Started an implementation committee to brainstorm on the need and preparation of the first Got Ramogi Site Conservation Plan

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

The community was directly involved in the biophysical assessment and monitoring. We had two community members who were very conversant with the local names of the trees and their uses provide valuable information.

Through the project we were able to get invitation of 15 community members to the annual Ramogi Cultural Day where the local women's groups were given a free stand to exhibit their local enterprises.

The community was also involved in the outreach, which involved learning sessions both in the field and as focused group discussions.

Three community members were also involved in guided tours for the schools who came to visit the forest for the service learning training and conservation education. They were able to get some guiding fee.

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

Yes. We are hoping to now carry out intensive restoration of the indigenous trees and also continue with the education and outreach programmes. We plan to help in the development of an action plan for Ramogi Hill Forest and support the registration of a local forest conservation group. Through its registration the community will be able to formally seek for partnerships and assistance from the local government and other partners.

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

We have already submitted out draft article to International Journal of Scientific and Engineering Research (<https://www.ijser.org/>).

We are also preparing a stakeholders report, which will be emailed to the county government offices, Kenya Forest Service and to school heads. Five project reports

will be printed and hand delivered to the community leaders since they don't have access to the internet.

Additionally, we are also going to write a feature about the Forest and send to SWARA, a local conservation magazine in Kenya. This will not only help in promoting conservation but also enhancing tourism.

**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 November 2017-December 2018. This was exactly the anticipated project period and timeline.

**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
Project staff	480	480		
Ethno-ecological knowledge survey	550	450	100	Preparation of the surveying method for the study required technical input from a social scientist. The team therefore travelled 30Km to Jaramogi University to seek further advice. We also purchase two voice recorders to help during the interviews
Community forest monitoring training	670	690	20	We carried out an extra field training since on one of the scheduled days there was heavy rains and we could not perform some of our training procedure.
Project monitoring and evaluation/ administration	350	350		
Participatory rural appraisal	450	400	50	There were 6 extra community members who attended the appraisal event and the 50 pounds was used to reimburse them for transport
Community and stakeholders workshop	650	680	30	Due to heavy rains we had to hire a vehicle to drop participants at the market

				centre after the workshop.
Biophysical assessment and monitoring	650	700	50	We donated one vegetation guide to the forest rangers who help with security in the forest.
Reconnaissance and preliminary study visit	350	150	70	We had to extend by one day due to heavy rains.
Equipment purchase	840	1050	210	We had to purchase 3 field software i.e. <b>Theodolite</b> , <b>PlantSnap</b> and <b>PlantNet</b> .
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4990</b>	<b>4980</b>		

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

I believe that reforestation of the forest will be paramount through setting up of community indigenous tree nurseries. Furthermore, school and community education programme will help and ensure that the forest and adjacent buffer areas of the forest are conserved. We would like to promote indigenous medicinal utilisation of the forest as a way to preserve and protect the forest. There is also a great potential for ecotourism being a forest, hill and close to River Yala and Lake Sare.

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

Yes Rufford Logo was used in the official banner of the Ramogi Cultural Day (As seen in one of the attached pictures). In this event Rufford was recognised for its effort in assisting with the conservation of Ramogi forest. The logo was also used in correspondence letters and emails to the stakeholders for project activities/update

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

**Flevian Lungayia:** She was our liaison with the county government and the schools. She also was able to reach out to different stakeholders and also helped the county government in organizing for the Ramogi Cultural Night.

**Ibrahim Onyango:** He was tasked with organizing all our field work, and ensuring that all our field protocol during the assessment and monitoring events were performed to the latter.

**Dennis Njagi:** He helped in the analysis of field data and preparation of the draft article (for publication)

## 12. Any other comments?

On behalf of the project team and the community of Ramogi Hill Forest, I would like to thank Rufford Foundation and all the staff for bestowing and entrusting us to carry out this project, which has had great results. We hope to continue with the same work in the coming year.



Ibrahim (project team member) with the Ramogi forest guards.