

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	Fatima Ramzy James
Project title	Environmental clubs and Tree planting campaigns as tools to mitigate desertification and loss of biodiversity in Gombe state, North-eastern Nigeria
RSG reference	24913-1
Reporting period	March 2018 to March 2019
Amount of grant	£4997
Your email address	ramzeefatee@gmail.com
Date of this report	16/2/2019

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
To determine the extent of desertification in the state				We used remote sensing tools including NDVI analysis to determine changes in plant cover in the state over the years, this has provided more accurate results than the tree census, due to the fact that it can only be carried out within a way and with no historical data, it may not really show the difference across the years.
To set up environmental clubs which will be used as tools for conservation awareness.				We successfully set up the clubs in three local government areas and met with very enthusiastic people, who knew about the environmental challenges but did not know how to go about saving it. Our project has been able to enlighten them on conservation issues and how to conserve nature.
To plant indigenous trees in some affected areas of the state.				We planted 1000 indigenous tree seedlings in three local government areas of the state

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

We successfully set up conservation clubs in the three local government areas of Gombe State. However, we had difficulties with the females being actively able to participate in all the activities, but we were able to hold few meetings with them. During the farming season we had challenges meeting with all members of the clubs because most of them are farmers and had farms far from where they live, but after that short season they resumed fully and gave us their undivided attentions.

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

1. We established the extent of desertification in the state. It was observed that over the years, plant cover has drastically decreased which has led to desertification in the state.
2. We have been able to successfully plant 1000 tree seedlings in the three local government area and they have been well taken of. After a survey, we

found out that, 70% survived, 15% were donated to local community members which they took to their various homes or personal farms, so were not able to track all progress, 15% did not survive where we planted them. Of the 15 % that did not survive, 10% were taken away and 5% died naturally.

3. The project has been able to ignite the interest of the youths in bird watching and recycle of plastics. They have also been enlightened on what conservation is, desertification and its effect, and how they can conserve their environment.

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

All members of the conservation clubs are members of the local communities. They participated fully during the project and are still taking care of the trees planted in their communities to ensure its survival. They have also acquired lots of knowledge about the environment and conservation. And we also learned from them through the information they gave us of the folklores they know about nature, including trees and birds.

The local chiefs also participated during all tree planting campaigns and encouraged members of their communities to give us their full cooperation.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes, the potentials for further work in this field is great. There are so many other areas within the state and the region with desertification fast encroaching. It is therefore highly important to carry out more projects in more of these areas.

Currently, the conservation club members have assured us that they will continue to enlighten their community members about issues relating to conservation which they have learned in the course of the project. We intend to increase awareness by setting up more conservation clubs in other parts of the state and region (north-eastern Nigeria) where our project has not been able to reach out to and carry out more tree planting campaigns. We also want to provide local community members with alternative means of livelihoods and introduce them to fuelwood efficient stoves, which will reduce the intensity of tree felling in the state and region entirely.

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

We have shared a lot of our activities on social media handles. We also intend to publish our results in peer reviewed journals and with all organisations who partnered with us during the project.

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

The grant was used within 12 months of the project just as we proposed.

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
Report production and result dissemination	60		-60	
Shipping/insurance cost	280	350	+70	
Accommodation for three persons	315	300	-15	
Transport costs	250	300	+50	Exchange rate difference
Subsistence for three guides	450	450		
Purchase of customized T-shirts	250	389	+139	Exchange rate difference
Conservation education seminars	300	280	-20	
Media awareness	207		-207	
2 sets of Rechargeable batteries and batteries for GPS	60	8	-52	We found and opted for a cheaper and durable product
Communication/internet	85	100	+15	
Printing pamphlets and posters	200	200		
1 set Nikon D5300 Digital SLR Camera + Case + 32GB Memory Card - Black (24.2 MP, AF-P 18-55VR Lens Kit) 3-Inch LCD Screen	518	518		
Seedlings (1000)	1040	1055	+15	
1 set New HP 255 G3 Quad Core Laptop, 4GB RAM, 500GB HDD, Windows 7 Pro, Microsoft Office 2013 Professional, DVDRW, 1 Year Warranty	465	465		
1 set Garmin GPS MAP 64s Handheld Navigation Unit with GB Discoverer Bundle	145	145		
Hiring of electric generator set	90	90		This was highly important, as we needed for all our meetings/seminars due to

				unstable electricity
Projector/screen	282	282		
Allowance for a consultant at centre for remote sensing		30	+30	
Purchase of 2018 satellite image for Gombe state		40	+40	This was purchased to carry out analysis (NDVI) that will show how desertification has proceeded over the years
Total	4997	5002	+5	

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

- Encourage conservation club members to continue activities.
- Provide alternative means of livelihoods and fuelwood efficient stoves. This will ensure that logging is greatly decreased within the affected areas.
- Establish more conservation clubs in areas we have not yet been able to reach.
- Find more organisations to collaborate and partner with.

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?

Yes, we used the Rufford Foundation logo on the t-shirts, pamphlets, posters, and application letters for partnership/collaboration distributed during the project. We also used it while making publicity for our project and hence spreading information about Rufford Foundation and how they have funded several of such conservation projects.

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

The project management committee selected as follows:

Fatima Ramzy James: she coordinated the project (Team Leader)

Elisha Barde He is a Botanist, he was involved in conservation education, plant identification and training and tree planting campaigns during the project

Waldi Gurumse He was involved in conservation education and tree planting campaigns during the project

We got few individuals who participated, by volunteering and partnering with us during the project. They include

Dr Babale (Gombe State University), He is the director of research at Gombe state university, He helped us while making efforts to contact village heads and participated fully during all tree census campaigns.

Dr Charles Nsor (Gombe State University), He is a lecturer at Gombe state university, He also while making efforts to contact village heads and participated fully during all tree census campaigns.

Mr Denis Jerry, he is a sociologist who helped us with reaching out to the local community heads, and was also involved in all activities of the project

Mr Longji Bako, he is a conservationist also participated and helped us reach out to community members during the project

Mrs Sarah Ahmadi, she is a community worker with Save the Children Nigeria at Gombe, she also participated fully during all activities of the project

12. Any other comments?

This project would have not been able to hold if not for the support and sponsorship obtained from the Rufford Small Grants. Rufford has made our dream come to reality, and this has encouraged us to think of even more projects to protect and conserve our environment. We are therefore very grateful to the foundation for its great effort to see that the earth's resources are conserved.