

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	Kato Stonewall
Project title	The role of Non Governmental and CBOs in sustainable management of forest, water and soil in Mount Elgon ecosystem in Uganda.
RSG reference	25.09.09
Reporting period	February 2010 to February 2011
Amount of grant	£5977
Your email address	stonewallkato@yahoo.com
Date of this report	27 th September 2011

1. The level of achievement of the project's original objectives with some comments on few alternations

Objective	Not achieved	Partly achieved	Fully achieved	Comments
To evaluate the role of NGOs/CBOs in sustainable management of forest, water and soil (FW&S).				During actual survey, all NGOs identified were contributing indirectly through CBOs in the study area. This resulted into evaluation of the role of CBOs only.
To assess NGOs/CBOs characteristics, opportunities and challenges in FW&S.				Only CBOs were assessed due to the above factor.
To identify and analyse stakeholders' contribution to the management of FW&S.				There were no factors affecting this objective directly.

2. Explanation of the unforeseen difficulties that arose during the project and how they were tackled.

One of the major difficulties was exceptional heavy rains on Mt. Elgon in 2010. This resulted into numerous landslides, mudflows and floods that broke down infrastructure especially roads and bridges. For instance, on 1st March 2010, a village called Nametsi, located in the study area, was buried by landslide and over 300 inhabitants lost their lives. It led to difficulties in accessing many sample villages. This particular difficulty was overcome by mainly doing the survey on foot-walking over long distances before reaching study area.

The above difficulty made the project not to be completed on time as planned. The project implementation was extended for 6 more months after completion of the 1 year allocated period. During the project implementation period, there was general sharp price increase of commodities. For instance, the price of fuel and food increased by 56% and 40% respectively, it made me to borrow more funds (an equivalent of £3442) from wellwishers, friends and colleagues to complete the project and I am still looking for some funds to refund them.

3. The three most important outcomes of my project.

The research survey found out that CBOs had contributed positively to sustainable management of forest, water and soil by 6.5% at [$r = 0.716$, $p \leq 0.001$ level 2-tailed]. This was arrived at using relative ecosystem measurement methods, after carrying out random sampling of 364 respondents in 52 villages (43 villages with CBOs and nine villages without CBOs) adjacent to Mt. Elgon National Park. The moderate positive impact of CBOs is a good step in the right direction. What is required now is to strengthen CBOs' low capacities to effectively implement conservation activities.

The survey also found out that the overall management of Mt. Elgon ecosystem's forest, water and soil was poor and unsustainable. This was arrived at by using Barometer of Sustainability method. The method compared levels of indicators of opportunities and challenges of 34 CBOs operating in the neighbouring villages Mt. Elgon National Park. The challenges stood at 43.7% and opportunities at 34.9%. Major factors that have led to poor and unsustainable ecosystem management were deforestation and poor farming methods that led to severe land degradation; high human population engaged in subsistence agriculture (96.7%) while 92.7% live on land holdings that are less than 2 acres each, putting pressure on land and climate change issues such as unpredictable and excessive rains and drought effects.

Lastly, the survey found out that there exist tremendous will by stakeholders to support sustainable management of Mt. Elgon ecosystem. Among the 11 stakeholders identified include local, national, regional and international agencies such as the community, Uganda Wildlife Authority, East African Community and African Highland Initiatives. However, the support being given for sustainable management of Mt. Elgon ecosystem forest, water and soil has not reversed the trend of degradation.

4. Local community involvement and benefit from the project.

Communities were only effectively involved during the 35 parish-based focus group interviews in assessment of characteristics, opportunities and challenges of CBOs and stakeholders analysis. The assessment process offered them opportunities for learning. For instance, they learnt how to derive community-based indicators for ecosystem sustainability and how to use those indicators to measure ecosystem using participatory process.

5. Continuation plans for the project.

I plan to continue with the project. First, I need to report back to the communities in the sample villages the research findings. Thereafter, I intend to select two CBOs and work with them to conserve forest, water and soil on Mt. Elgon. I still hope RSG will support my plans.

6. Plan for sharing the research results with others?

I intend to organise Mt. Elgon ecosystem conservation stakeholders' regional conference in one of the nearest towns (e.g. Mbale) in order to disseminate my findings and recommendations. I also would like to publish three academic papers based on the research results for public consumption. I will put my PhD thesis on the internet for everyone interested to access.

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

The RSG was used for 9 months out of the 1 year allocated. After exhaustion of the RSG, the project continued for another 9 months. The actual length of the project was supposed to be 18 months and RSG funding was to be one and half times what was approved for this project.

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
Stationary	423.6	333	-90.6	Mt. Elgon N.P offered free photocopying services
Field materials: Camera, laptop computer, software program, printer, maps, field gears and GPS hiring.	1,002.6	480	-522.6	Did not buy laptop computer as someone offered one for project use
Transport	1986	2230	+244	Rapid fuel price increases
Stipend	914	950	+36	Used three research assistants
Services: photocopying, binding, internet, airtime	1126	947	-179	Some free photocopying from Mt. Elgon N.P office
Accommodation at Makerere University	240	240	00	Paid at once for a year
Miscellaneous 5%	284.6	-	-	-
Remittance and bank charges	-	797	+797	Actual cash received on my account excluded this amount as approved
Total	5976.8	5977		

N.B exchange rate used is £ 1 being equivalent to Uganda Shillings 3,500.

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

The first step is widely disseminating the research findings and recommendations, particularly targeting communities on Mt. Elgon, government agencies working on ecosystem conservation, policy makers and donor communities. This is to rally support and promote advocacy for sustainable management of Mt. Elgon ecosystem.

As a short term measure, forest, water and soil conservation activities should be intensified but with effectively involvement of local communities on Mt. Elgon.

As a long term measure, government should take a leading role in developing and implementing appropriate policies to rescue Mt. Elgon ecosystem from degradation. A policy that emphasises integrated mountain ecosystem management approaches and should include human population control (birth control and relocation of some excess population elsewhere); taking affirmative action to highly improve education facilities to the Mountain dwellers so that they can take to other jobs for livelihoods other than subsistence farming and to effectively initiate poverty reduction schemes for the rural poor.

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?

I used un-receipted expenditure forms with RSGF logo for acknowledgement of un-receipted expenditures. During the focus group discussions and stakeholders' workshops, we verbally publicised RSGF as the organisation that was supporting such activity. There was also a mail list network initiated by beneficiaries of RSGF in Uganda that I always contributed to in regards to my project.

11. Any other comments?

Thank you very much RSGF for supporting this important project and I urge you to continue with such conservation effort to protect our mother Earth from degradation.