

## Final Evaluation Report

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Your Details	
Full Name	Wangechi Kiongo
Project Title	Assessing the impacts of Lake changes on the livelihood of communities around Lake Turkana: Does any alternative livelihood exist?
Application ID	25032-1
Grant Amount	£4,965
Email Address	preciouswangechi@gmail.com
Date of this Report	30 <sup>th</sup> January 2021

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
Establish the current levels of dependence on the lake for food, water, livestock pasture and other basic products and services				This objective was successfully evaluated. Local communities extensively depend on the lake for subsistence. A great challenge considering the depreciation in the state of the lake.
Determine if alternative sources of livelihoods exist if the lake was to reduce drastically				Data collected helped evaluate this with success. Although we established that overdependence on the lake is real, a few alternative sources of livelihood exist.
Determine the level of awareness on developments affecting the Lake ecosystem				Communities are fully aware of what's happening with the lake and causes of decline in water levels, etc. Only challenge is that they are so much limited in terms of what they can do to control this.
Establish Alternative livelihoods for the local communities				Objective half achieved. We established a few tree nurseries, but we are now working on further fundraising to build onto this objective.

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

Although expected transportation within these communities was a great challenge. The roads were in a much poorer condition than expected which made moving around a challenge. This caused us to spend a lot of time on the road that expected but we managed to achieve all our objectives no matter the situation. In future, more funds will be put into the travel budget.

Secondly, over the years, the lake issue has created both local and international attention and a lot of NGOs and private projects have been established with a goal of fighting for better conditions for the lake. As a result, and beyond our knowledge, the communities have for some time perceived this as taking advantage of the situation for personal benefits by the private entities. But our project extensively involved local participation which helped create a positive perception towards what our project and our goals.

Lastly, we never anticipated that communities would move long distances away from their native homesteads in search of grass and water for their livestock. This happened during the project period, but we were able to follow them through guidance by the local research assistants.

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

First, we were able to change the perception of the people in terms of utilizing other alternative sources of livelihoods. Somehow, this will alter their overdependence on the lake.

Second, we managed to bring together multiple stakeholders who are keenly interested in protecting the lake from further destruction, while working closely with the communities to help them establish other livelihood sources. As a result, the local leadership is now working more closely with the Kenya Forest Service and many other local NGOs. Although we have not achieved the exact goal of this work, we will keep working closely with every like-minded partner in the region.

Third, for the first time in history for the region, we were able to show that tree nursery can actually be established with a long-term goal of growing trees which can be used for subsistence in future. I successfully managed to establish two tree nurseries and we have plans to continue with this effort.

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

This project was initially created with the local communities in mind. Similarly, the locals were the main beneficiaries of this work.

First, we were able to hire local guides who apart from the monetary benefits of this project, also benefited through gaining skills on project management and data collection.

Second, a big part of this project was aimed at capacity building. We were able to train over 100 local participants on survival skills, subsistence methods and alternative sources of livelihood which do not involve the lake. With this, the communities are slowly adapting to the existing alternatives based on our findings such as basketry for commercial purposes. Although the fruits of this might not be evident in the next few days, this will have a long-term influence in the communities.

Third, we established the tree nurseries, and the local communities are now very aware of the benefits that come with this. As a result, they now own the tree nurseries, working to both nourish and take care of them.

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

Although we successfully achieved our objectives of this work with me as the lead principal investigator, we realised that there's still a lot to be done. There is a need to do serious follow-ups on how the communities are adopting to the new changes on

livelihoods and changes with the lake. One of the most important findings of this work was that through capacity building, the local communities are adaptive and ready to adopt many ways of thriving in this rather challenging environment. There is a need to create educational documentaries that can be shared with the locals and further work needs to be done to strengthen their livelihood sources.

My next phase of this work will target telling the untold story of the lake. It came as a realisation that the condition of the lake and the struggles of the local communities have been neglected for many years mainly due to lack of information on the on-going challenges and the way to bring this to limelight will be through documentation of these.

I will also put more focus on alternative livelihoods. During this project, some of the findings were that there exist many livelihood alternatives which are untapped. Most people depend on the lake which is slowly becoming unsustainable. We will therefore focus on capacity building, community empowerment and resource mobilisation to help the communities venture into these alternatives.

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

The results have already been shared to the necessary stakeholders through the detailed report. This involves key decision makers in this marginalised region so as to provide insights of the current state of the Turkana communities.

The communities have been seriously engaged in the project and hence are up to date with the results, but I intend to reach out to more people during the next phase of my project.

I have presented this project in various conferences and workshops which has been very helpful in increasing collaborations as I intend to continue with this project.

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

This grant was awarded towards the end of June 2018, and I started the project activities in mid-July 2018. I completed all project activities around July 2019 as anticipated.

All the same, my reporting is late and happening way after the completion date reason being that I had to go for a maternity leave. I'm now back to work and ready for fieldwork.

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
Purchase of a camera for photography @ 102	102	110	+8	Camera was a little more expensive than anticipated
Purchase of a projector for use during the workshops @ 135	135	135		
Purchase of a camping portable tent @ 170	170	165	-5	Cheaper than anticipated. Helped cover then camera cost
Purchase of a GPS unit @ 170	170	170		
Workshop allowances for food and transport. @ 4.9 per person* 60 people* 3 workshops	884	900	+16	Extra cost covered from a personal budget
Tree Nursery establishment. Labour needed per tree nursery @80* 3 tree nurseries. Buying of seeds, security and care @ 60 per tree nursery* 3 tree nurseries	420	432	+12	Extra cost covered from a personal budget
Food for camping. @7.02 a day* 10daysamonth* 10months	702	702		
Assistants' allowances. 2assistants@ 4.2perdar* 10daysamonth* 10 months	840	840		
Camping charges at inside the communities. @5.62pernight* 10nightspermonth* 10months	562	560	-2	Put towards the camera cost
Fuel. 2 fill-ups @ 49perfillup * 10 months	980	1002	+22	Extra cost covered from a personal budget
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4965</b>	<b>5016</b>	<b>+51</b>	Exchange Rate used: 1 Sterling Pound= 142.47 Kenyan Shillings

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

As listed in question 5 above, I plan to continue this work to mostly build on my already started work. Results from former work suggested that there's a need for

more capacity building to the local communities which is what I intend to do in my next project. Furthermore, we realised that there's a need for public awareness on the predicaments of the lake. I intend to prepare films which will bring the message out to both the government and private stakeholders. Through this I hope to trigger some reaction towards the betterment of the lake and better protection of the indigenous people. Furthermore, I will put more emphasis on better utilisation of the alternative sources of livelihoods.

**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, I printed questionnaires and workshop t-shirts both of which had Rufford logos on them. All materials used during the workshop were branded with the Rufford logo. Throughout all the project activities, we ensured it was clear that all were supported by the Rufford Foundation.

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

As suggested in the proposal, **Mr. Malala**, head of Kenya Marine and Fisheries Research Institute was very helpful in providing past data on Lake water Levels, as well as giving the go-ahead to do my research around Lake Turkana.

**Ms. Narissa Alibhai**, being my co-founder of the Save Lake Turkana Movement helped design the questionnaire and having worked in Turkana before, she provided the necessary links and networks.

**Mr. Dedan Ngatia** (Kenya Rangelands Wild Dogs and Cheetah Project) and **Ms. Epuri Lebasha** (Founder, Save The Pastoralists Initiative), helped guide the project to its logical conclusion with their expertise in research.

**Mr. Tioko Nkeny** was the head of involved community members and was very helpful in creating a rapport with the community and ensuring my relationship with them is smooth and transparent.

**12. Any other comments?**

This project has been very influential both for me and for the communities around Lake Turkana. I would therefore be very keen, with the support of The Rufford Foundation to continue and progress with this project. I believe there is so much that can be done to elevate these marginalised communities and I look forward to being part of this elevation process.