

Final Evaluation Report

Your Details	
Full Name	Hudson Christopher Laizer
Project Title	Restoration of Degraded Habitats of Mount Loleza Forest Reserve to Enhance Preservation of Ecosystem Services through Community Conservation Education
Application ID	29974-2
Grant Amount	£6,000
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Date of this Report	21 st 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
Assess the activities threatening the ecosystem health and services in the MLFR.				
Provide conservation education and trainings to the local communities around and adjacent to the MLFR.				Limited gatherings due to COVID 19 pandemic.
Support the environmentally friendly activities to help reduce pressure and over dependence of the natural resources from the MLFR.				

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

The conservation education and training exercises were largely affected by the gatherings ban as a result of the COVID 19 pandemic. All public gatherings were restricted by the government from March to June 2020. During this time, the project continued with the education but mostly through texts and flyers which were distributed to the villages adjacent to the MLFR.

Some villages in the project area were not easily accessible by the car or motorbike due to terrain and trails - the team had to walk long distance and this was a challenge particularly during rainy season.

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

- i. The project identified anthropogenic activities such as grazing, etc. which are threatening the sustainability of the environmentally friendly activities such as tree plantations initiated during the phase one of the project.
- ii. The project supported the village environmental committees and game scouts with technical knowledge through training as well as equipment such as GPS, camera, etc. to help the conservation activities of the MLFR.
- iii. The project also discovered the knowledge gap as far as conservation is concerned; most of the communities around the MLFR regarded conservation as the government initiative therefore lacked the sense of ownership of the MLFR.

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

The local communities were involved in all project activities. The village environmental committee and VGS, for example, participated in assessing the activities threatening the conservation of MLFR. The communities around the MLFR in general participated in replantation of trees in areas where the trees didn't grow well, attending conservation education meetings for public awareness on benefits of MLFR as well as the sustainable use of resources. The project organises these meetings, training and seminars, and cater for all costs that were associated.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes, we are planning to continue to support and monitor the activities that were started during phase one and two of this project particularly the beekeeping and tree nurseries in order to generate income that maybe used by the villages to support conservation activities and pay allowance for environmental committees as well as VGS. We (project team, TFS, MUST, NM-AIST and other partners) will also be available to offer technical assistance as far as conservation of MLFR is concerned.

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

The results from this project will be shared though village assemblies, leaflets, presentations, workshops, seminars and publications in open access journals.

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

The project planned to start field activities in February 2020, but due to COVID 19 pandemic the government imposed public gatherings for 3 months. So, the project plan was adjusted, and field work started in June 2020 and all the project activities were accomplished in January 2020 as planned.

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
Local transport (Bus tickets, hiring motorbikes, taxi)	600	400	-200	Fewer trips due to COVID 19 travel ban
Accommodation	200	300	+100	
Field equipment (Camera,	2500	2700	+200	

GPS, Flashlights, T-shirts, Boots)				
Allowances (Village leaders, Conservation officers and Project team)	1500	1200	-300	
Beehives		450	+450	30 beehives were donated
Tree seedlings		200	+200	Tree seedlings were purchased to replant in areas where trees did not survive
Meetings (Refreshments, Room hiring, Subsistence allowance for attendees)	300	200	-100	
Stationeries (Flipcharts, Marker pen, Leaflets, Notebooks, Pen, Printing)	700	400	-300	
Contingency	200	300	+100	Purchase of WiFi router and Internet cost
Total	6000	6150	+150	The additional £150 was covered by the project through contribution from the team

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

The support from The Rufford Foundation enabled the implementation of the phase 1 and 2 of this project. The project played a big role in promoting conservation of Mount Loleza Forest Reserve (MLFR) in communities around by providing conservation education, training and supporting environmentally friendly income generating activities to help reduce over dependence and pressure on the MLFR. The big work ahead is to ensure the sustainability of the income generating activities and ensuring the benefits from these activities support the conservation of the MLFR. There is therefore a need for close monitoring and evaluation to ensure the survival and equitable benefit sharing of the income from the started activities in all the villages surrounding the MLFR.

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?

The project acknowledged The Rufford Foundation as a funder in all presentations, village meetings and reports. The Rufford Foundation logo was also used in materials such as leaflets, banners that were used in meetings, training and presentations. The project also printed t-shirts with the foundation logo for the project team and VGS to wear during fieldwork, village meetings and presentations. The beehives that were donated to the villages were written "Donated by the Rufford Foundation" and the tree plantation areas had a signpost that featured the name of the foundation.

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

Hudson Laizer: Team leader, arranged and coordinated all project activities including village meetings, provide conservation education to the surrounding communities, tree seedlings planting, and other project activities.

David Mlay: Train village environmental committees and village scouts on conservation and patrolling.

Dr Filemon Elisante: Surveyed and identified suitable trees for planting in MLFR.

Lusekelo Silabi: Assisted in survey and planting tree seedlings.

John Enos: Provided conservation education and trainings to the communities and planting tree seedlings.

12. Any other comments?

The project and other stakeholders particularly the villages where the project was implemented appreciate the efforts and role played by The Rufford Foundation in supporting conservation activities particularly from low-income countries. Through this support communities around the MLFR are now aware on the activities that threaten the conservation of the MLFR. Also, the villages were supported by the project through training and gear which were provided to the environmental committees as well as the scouts to help with their day-to-day activities that will help to conserve the MLFR. Lastly, the project supported the income generating activities such as beekeeping, and tree nurseries by donating beehives and buying tree seedlings. These activities will help to generate income that will be used to support the conservations activities in the communities around the MLFR.



