

## The Rufford Small Grants Foundation

### Final Report

Congratulations on the completion of your project that was supported by The Rufford Small Grants Foundation.

We ask all grant recipients to complete a Final Report Form that helps us to gauge the success of our grant giving. 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. 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**

#### Grant Recipient Details

<b>Your name</b>	Allai Orimba
<b>Project title</b>	Community Empowerment in the conservation of threatened <i>Hippotragus equinus</i> (Roan antelope) in Yala area.
<b>RSG reference</b>	
<b>Reporting period</b>	September 2011
<b>Amount of grant</b>	£6000
<b>Your email address</b>	<a href="mailto:aorimba@yahoo.com">aorimba@yahoo.com</a>
<b>Date of this report</b>	21 <sup>st</sup> September 2011

**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
Awareness creation			✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Communication Education and Public Awareness: awareness is a crucial factor to mobilise local support for roan antelope conservation.</li> <li>✓ Most people in the Yala wetland/Lake Victoria region and Ruma areas do not know that roan antelope is protected under Kenyan law and does not value its existence besides game meat.</li> <li>✓ The project has succeeded in awareness creation, but this has to be followed up. There is a need for an intensive information and campaign about wetland conservation and the role and responsibility of ordinary citizens in it.</li> <li>✓ Support civil society organisations in advocating for a community voice in decision-making processes and national development plans.</li> <li>✓ Publish articles emphasising poverty, biodiversity and governance issues of the project in RSPB publications.</li> </ul>
Capacity building			✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Local and scientific knowledge increases conservation measures in Yala/Ruma project.</li> <li>✓ Rich information for the conservation of the roan antelope provided by local community.</li> <li>✓ Ex-situ and in-situ conservation is an important approach to the conservation of roan antelope (<i>Hippotragus equinus</i>).</li> <li>✓ Local ordinances/SSGs are generally well respected and are considered legitimate by the majority of the people.</li> <li>✓ By devolving law enforcement to the Yala wetland level the project made a more effective impacts.</li> <li>✓ Villagers are unwilling to provide</li> </ul>

				<p>data on resource use for fear of limitation o resource use.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Improved capacity to trained by experts</li> </ul>
Establish site support Groups			✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Institutionalising Yala site support groups provided the formalisation of the long term conservation of roan antelope and its habitat</li> <li>✓ These SSGs were discussed during Yala stakeholders forum meetings with the whole community. As a result people are well informed about the measures and generally support it: their concerns are often incorporated in the design of SSGs antelopes and wetlands.</li> <li>✓ Enabling environments to build mutual trust between villagers and government officials before monitoring is taken place.</li> </ul>
Alternative livelihoods		✓		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Training needs assessments for nature based enterprises enhanced wetland conservation and stewardship.</li> <li>✓ Creativity/ innovation is still a key factor to improvement of products' sale by local community maximising the use and profits from sustainably harvesting of papyrus.</li> <li>✓ In Kadenge and Lambwe Valley, for example, the Yala town council prohibited the use of destructive fishing methods and plan to create a Roan antelope sanctuary in Ruma Park. In the other targeted vast Lake basin the Kenya Wildlife Service have designed rules with the consent of their constituents in order to protect.</li> </ul>
Roan antelope day			✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Large audience reached out through sport and games awareness.</li> <li>✓ Pressure on wetland released for the protection of the endangered species.</li> <li>✓ Lambwe valley a key and potential area of finding adult roan antelope because of particular vegetation diet in the area.</li> <li>✓ Likewise it is important that</li> </ul>

				<p>everybody is informed what to do when a nest is discovered or a young antelope is seen for data verification, The Friends of Yala is working on clear protocols for specific situations. These protocols have to be disseminated widely, as everybody should agree with it and know what to do. Antelope is an endangered species, every individual counts.</p>
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**2. Please explain any unforeseen difficulties that arose during the project and how these were tackled (if relevant)**

- a. High expectation from the local community to get quicker returns and monetary gains
  - Sensitisation and awareness creation enhanced information dissemination to the local communities.
- b. Suspicions from the local community and their unwillingness to provide needed information.
  - Awareness creation provided the local communities with the insight of the project and the need for its implementation.
- c. Most of the activities are practiced in locations whose geographical sites are in poor infrastructure zones of the wetland
  - Local guides and key informants acted as links and project reach-outs.
  - Reschedule our activities until the roads become bearable.
- d. Unstable leadership structure within the community
  - Capacity building and workshop trainings for leadership
  - Equipping of groups and conservation teams.
  - Training of Site support Groups on assessment needs and skills.
- e. Production of honey and poultry products created a lot of demand for the product, which was not available readily.
  - An increased market sourcing for finish honey products.
  - Provision of household with at least two beehives.
- f. Formation of anglers association within four lake beaches within Lake Kanyaboli resulted in some of the fisher folk groups politicizing the activities of the project and hence decreasing the trend of growth.
  - Constant awareness creation gradually changed the local attitude towards hunting or the roan antelope for game meat.
  - Frequent meetings and discussions with dissatisfied members.
- g. Increased networks and links with the outside world have created pressure from our organisation to meet the demand for information dissemination.
  - Formation of links with different organisation, provision of information on website and increased information dissemination and knowledge transfers addressed the issues.

- Improved measures on handling of conflict of interest.
  - More awareness creation and information dissemination
- h. The institutionalisation of local conservation action plans in Yala ordinances is a long process that has to be followed up constantly. In many instances, Yala town council representatives enthusiastically designed an ordinance protecting roan antelope and wetlands during the 2nd project workshop this development brought about conflict of interest. However, after the workshop little was done to follow up the ordinance (i.e. discussing and presenting the draft ordinance in the community). The project observed this (during the quarterly monitoring activities of the Friends of Yala swamp), and subsequently put a lot of effort in the follow up visits to the communities.
- i. Teachers strike in the whole country in May 2011 because of the need to raise their salary paralysed the learning programme hence our school outreach programme was interfered with.
- We reschedule the outreach programme to the following month.
- j. Habitat restoration was delayed for a period of 3 months because of persistent drought during the months of August to December.
- We generated enough seedlings from February that catered for the activity.

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

#### **Awareness created**

- Promoted the understanding of the basic ecological concepts that motivated grassroot communities within Yala wetland to engage in a lifelong conservation of the roan antelope and their habitat. The systems were very much to instigate PIC/locals to explore various tools and techniques employed to monitor their resources traditionally. Our aim was to conserve the globally threatened roan antelope in its natural habitat by: i). engaging its conservation of the as part of nature conservation (with local knowledge and innovation practices); ii). conserving the roan special zoning areas; and iii). the increasing the awareness to protection of the endangered antelope in zoned areas within the expansive lake region wetland. And it was a more positive approach with equally great impacts.

#### **Established Site Support Groups**

- Site Support as a nuclei of community change was a strategy that enabled a practical process for determining and selecting conservation issues that required the involvement of local communities for natural resource managers, institutions and government agencies to take sound Yala wetland Important Biodiversity Areas (IBA) conservation decisions. It also highlighted partnership development, communication of issues and results, and monitoring and evaluation.
- Ensured proper management of the swamp through monitoring and evaluation of data besides strengthening leadership and site management measures.
- It created linkages between the various environmental players within the region.
- It created a strong constituent in environmental education in the area based at Friends of Yala Swamps offices.
- To assist in implementation of Friends of Yala Swamps' activities and project in the IBA.

### **Habitat Restoration**

- The project succeeded in its core activity of protecting and conserving some of the biologically significant habitat in their pristine condition and offered ideal undisturbed sites for the threatened antelope species while it rehabilitated 70% of the disturbed habitat in line with the project objectives.
- Increased habitat restoration in the River Yala watershed helped maintain the water supply to over 475,000 people in Nandi District and many more within the Lake Victoria basin (over 3.64 million in Nyanza Province), and protected them from floods.
- Up to 6000 tree seedlings were planted within the selected and strategic points of the catchment areas.
- The project succeeded in protecting wetlands biodiversity, endemic wetland species and infrastructure against private developers through capacity building and community awareness
- The project was able to come up with a community monitoring and surveillance scheme to collect data and survey the wetland and shoreline. This will enhanced the development of data base and reports on status and trend.
- The core protection zone is designed to protect and conserve biologically significant habitats in their pristine condition and offer ideal undisturbed sites for scientific research. The zone will be considered as a 'no take' zone to provide a high level of protection where the removal or harm of plants or animals is prohibited. The zone will also offer a level of protection and allow for a range of recreational activities that do not harm habitat, interfere with the services that habitats provide to populations that use them, impact significantly on fish populations or ecological processes.

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

- The project workshop provided approaches that were most effective to facilitate local community development and biodiversity management processes both inclusive and effective to linking indigenous knowledge to conservation of wetlands while protecting roan antelope species, such processes included;
- The formation of a Project Implementation Committee (PIC), whose sole mandate suggested and made decisions in the implementation of the proposed project increased ownership and participation in project activities. The committee members were derived from the local communities that met four times a year including project staff and riparian communities' representatives. They were involved in all aspects of the project, including preparatory activities and monitoring.
- Activities such as zoning/mapping of areas of species abundant provided a practical experience and participatory of the locals. , they became aware that the conservation of natural resource and protection of the antelope is a key requisite to ensuring the sustainability of the project and integrated wetland management process.
- Local community empowered on matters of conservation and ownership, enhanced networks and collaboration with government agencies and conservation partners
- Infusion of the local knowledge of "state and use" in the conservation and protection of the animal species enhanced sustainable conservation besides improved grass-root livelihoods, improved infrastructure, restored watersheds, change community attitude and conservation ethics on antelope species,

- Improved local revenues through their sales of artefacts (wood carvings, weaved materials, pottery and others) to the visitors who comes to view and document the Antelope species.
- Increased in number of local and international visitors provide employment opportunities to the youths and rest of community through services of tour guiding, story-telling and boat rides.
- We worked intensively in 5 villages around the wetland (Ratuoro, Kadenge, Kaugagi, Lambwe and Komenya), but our presence was felt beyond these areas. We provided substantial benefits to 700 households (7–10,000 people) – 67% of the 19,740 people living in the 5 villages (District Development Plan figures). Some of these groups received significant support in the development of income generating activities (e.g. two beehives per household at a cost of c£100). The project showed that this level of investment is needed to make a difference to household livelihoods. A further 1,500 households (20,000 people) also benefited to a lesser extent (e.g. through tree planting, provision of water and agricultural improvements). In addition, we expect the project to create beneficial multiplier effects – e.g. through the greater spending power of those with increased income and the spreading of capacity building via ‘training of trainers’ initiatives.

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

Yes, there is need for continuation of the project.

The central aim of this project on the conservation of roan antelope was to develop a strategy plan to scale up community-based antelope conservation activities in the Lake region wetland corridors, especially along the Yala swamp and Ruma areas. Local communities in the lake region through an earlier baseline surveys had suggested and drafted conservation action plans that they wish to be implemented with the main goal to offering a long term strategy to roan antelope protection.

Therefore, the FYS aims to submit a follow up proposal (as was originally envisioned and discussed with PIC and Village Environmental Committees) to implement the community based Roan Antelope Conservation Action Plan and/or conduct a research on how human distribution affect the distribution of the species in areas of Yala –Ruma. This follow up process will be to compliment and support the up-scaling efforts on the conservation work within Lake Region areas of Ruma-Yala wetland zones and therefore it is crucial at this point of time when there is need for concerted efforts to the conservation of the endangered antelope species.

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

- Written reports such as progressive reports and final reports will be available in our organisation library for public readership.
- The data collected will form a basis for future monitoring and other conservation work at the Lake region wetlands/swamps. This will act as an assessment of effectiveness of previous conservation intervention efforts like the awareness creation to the local people by the government and other CBOs and act as a guideline for other conservation actions.
- In collecting this data which will be later computerised, the Friends of Yala swamp will be helping in providing information that on analysis will answer why the state of Yala swamp as an important biodiversity area has faced substantial levels of degradation and this is likely to help in coming up with an appropriate action and management plan for the site as habitat for Roan Antelope (*Hippotragus equinus*) and other animals biodiversity.

- Conduct organised workshops and trainings for knowledge and skills transfer to the selected local population hence increase replication and up-scaling.
- Through power point presentation and photo slides during education conferences and forums.
- Through publication of Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials such as fliers, brochures, and relevant advertisement at various intervals so as to educate, inform and enhance awareness creation to the general public about the need for sustainable utilization of the habitat and species conservation.
- Explore other linkages of relaying the information such as using information technology. These may include using website, Facebook and Twitter to share the information of conservation and climate change at a global level.
- Organising a seminar to present brief results of research study, especially locally based monitoring systems (methods and interventions) to relevant stakeholders for further Improvement. The comment and suggestion will be integrated into the final conservation/research manuscript and journal articles if deemed necessary and useful.
- Members of the project team and other targeted stakeholders would create discussion forums to exploring insights and relevant mechanism for long-term conservation of roan antelope (*Hippotragus equinus*) and local community sustainable livelihood.

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

- We used 14 months, while the project was designed to take 12 months. The project took long as per the anticipated time

**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
Awareness Creation	3061	3200	139	The difference funding was obtained from groups' kitty.
Roan Antelope Day	1067	1067	0	Marking of Roan Antelope Day is very key to the protection of the animal species. The activity is self sustainable
Monitoring	1442	1442	0	Need for more training workshops to train for expertise for accurate data dissemination hence need for more funds.
Training Workshops	2194	2300	106	In-kind support from the Local community, e.g by offering training venue, water and electricity bills
Habitat Restoration	231	300	69	This difference was provided in kind by the community and remaining from the FYS kitty.
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£7995 (KSH,919,425)</b>	<b>£8309 (KSH,955,535)</b>	<b>£314 (KSH,36,110)</b>	

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

- Improve linkages with stakeholders;
- Strengthen communication and information sharing activities;
- Design a corridor wide community-based roan antelope (*Hippotragus equinus*) conservation strategy.
- Identify low-cost interventions and actions that community can undertake to protect the species and wetlands such as designing corridor wide community-based Yala –Ruma roan antelope (*Hippotragus equinus*) conservation strategies.
- Explore the need for a captive research and breeding programme as an additional option in partnership with research institutions.
- Employ scientific approach in investigating the distribution patterns and persistence occurrence of the Roan Antelope, (*Hippotragus equinus*) in the predominantly unprotected Lake Victoria swamps in western Kenya and how human activities affect its abundance.
- Provide technical support to the office of the formed Site Support Groups.
- Establish a reward scheme for roan antelope breeding and nesting identification.
- Continue the annual monitoring of antelope populations.

### 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?

- Yes, it did. We use the RSGF logo mostly in awareness creation items (T-shirts, Fliers and networking write-ups).

### 11. Any other comments?

- For a successful long term conservation of the antelope species a new paradigm shift is necessary where the approach is “a bottom up” as opposed to “top down approach. This will try to address all the issues with regard to the active involvement of concerned stakeholders in management of natural resource (Miller and Lanou, 1995; Keough and Blahna, 2005).
- A system of closed seasons, quotas or zones for exploitation of resources need to be explored in consultation with the local community as an alternative management measure.
- Relevant government agencies need to issue additional regulations and by-laws as well as appropriate resolution mechanism for the protection of endangered animal species like *Hippotragus equinus*.
- Study community dynamics, especially aspirations and links with the government and private sectors.