

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. 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	Thomas Nana Bayansford Acquah
Project title	The impact and resultant effect of fuel wood collection and urbanization on Owabi Wildlife Sanctuary situated in Kumasi, Ashanti Region, Ghana.
RSG reference	43.12.09
Reporting period	August 2011
Amount of grant	£5,972
Your email address	tnbacquah@yahoo.com
Date of this report	8 th August, 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
Training of trainer's activities for 100 stakeholders.			√	The funds came in timely. 120 stakeholders were trained in all.
Conservation education in 13 basic schools and 15 communities.			√	The training helped to generate more awareness such that more and more schools and communities got educated.
Ecological restoration and habitat improvement activities involving the planting of 10,000 indigenous woodlot, 12,000 orange and 300 mango seedlings.			√	The raining season was favourable and so planting was successful backed by the full commitment of the community members.
Alternative livelihood training activities in the development of products of high market value.		√		The pressures that came from this training were not fully met due to inadequacy of funds to train the huge numbers.
Resource utilisation and conservation activities involving training community members in the construction and utilisation of fuel-efficient stoves.		√		More resource users were not trained due to limitations of funds.
Revolving credit fund for women.			√	The revolving credit fund could not meet the demand because more and more people were truthful in their payments and so more and more people gained trust in the fund.

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

The first challenge was that the community heads thought they could keep the things we were planting to themselves as personal properties instead of it being solely for the communities. We solved this problem by involving the communities in all we did and so the communities on the whole saw what was planted as communities' properties rather than personal ones.

More people subscribed to the revolving fund that expected and so running of the revolving fund became very difficult as our staff on several occasions were insulted. There were frustrations also on the part of those who could not get the first crunch of the revolving fund. Those who could not get the first crunch were assured that once it is a revolving fund, they will get their fair share at a later date of which they got.

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

- a) There has been a high level of awareness created about the need to conserve our natural resources for the sake of us not losing the focus on conservation and environmental safety awareness. This will also lead to our unborn generations knowing more about conservation and environmental safety.
- b) Ten thousand teak seedlings have been planted around the Owabi Wildlife Sanctuary. Twelve thousand orange seedlings and 300 grafted mangoes have been planted at Esaase and Owim.
- c) There has been a face lift in the lines of duty of the women through the revolving credit fund, cost-effective farming, sustainable farming, improvement and increments in the value of beads, batik and animal farming.

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

The project was community-based and so the working times were all selected to be times when all community members were available. This made the work more community involving and interesting. They also used the period after the various work times to discuss community matters. The community heads were always in full support of the various activities and that has been a plus from the community heads.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes, the community heads were impressed about the works that has been done so far and are ready to coordinate and collaborate with us in all our efforts in conserving the environment and keeping the environment safe for our future generations yet unborn.

The administrative funds from our outfit will be used to sustain some aspects of the work, especially, on education and monitoring.

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

Through the network of recipients, website updates, publications, visits to other parts of the country as well as some parts of Africa and the world to share my expertise, international forums, conferences and symposia.

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

The duration was 18 months. The activities were widely spread and timely executed for effective monitoring and evaluation at regular stages.

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
Training, education and awareness creation	770.00	1,070.00	300.00	Coverage of the schools and communities increased and so more were catered for.
Habitat improvement and ecological restoration	3,586.00	4,068.50	482.50	More seeds were bought and so was the working tools.
Alternative livelihood	450.00	540.00	90.00	Catered for the more than anticipated.
Resource utilisation and conservation	466.00	506.00	40.00	Catered for more than anticipated.
Disbursement of revolving credit fund	500.00	740.00	240.00	Catered for more women than anticipated.
Aquatic health monitoring	200.00	820.00	620.00	Long distances were covered and that accounted for the difference.
Total	5,972.00	7,744.50	1,772.50	Exchange rate – GHS2.48

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

The gains made with the communities through this project needs to be sustained. The restoration needs to be expanded to cover the whole area in the long term. The monitoring of what has been done will be taken very seriously. The educational programmes will continue unabated.

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?

The logo was used in the project materials made (T-shirts and training materials).

11. Any other comments?

It is a very good idea that Ramsar sites like the Owabi Wildlife Sanctuary has been supported through the small grant from Rufford. This will go a long way to send the message across that Ramsar sites such as the Owabi Wildlife Sanctuary is not a waste land but a place to conserve.