

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.

Thank you for your help.

Josh Cole, Grants Director

Grant Recipient Details	
Your name	Julie T. B Weah
Project title	Enhancing the participation of women in natural resource management in Grand Bassa and Rivercess counties
RSG reference	43.10.07
Reporting period	March 2008 to April 2009
Amount of grant	£4,984
Your email address	fcommunityinitiatives@yahoo.com
Date of this report	May 6, 2009

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
To provide a forum for women to discuss and analyse their role in natural resource management and identify opportunities for promoting them			Fully achieved	Community meetings were held with women during which time women were able to talk about their level of involvement in forest related activities and how they could improve. Suggestions were outlined for implementation.
To create a conscious grassroots movement for conservation and development with women position to play active role in leadership		Partially achieved		The trainings which were conducted served as a start up point for this process. Bearing in mind the level of the participants, reaching them to the level of a conscious grassroots movement which is process based, will require more of such engagement and regular interactions.
To outline strategies for capacity building for women in targeted areas to meet the myriad of challenges facing their development and wellbeing			Fully achieved	This was an integral part of the training. Participants were able to see what is needed to be done in order to have the skills and knowledge to actively get involve in the management of natural resources in their communities as well as other developmental issues.

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

Not applicable

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

I. A forum was created for women to discuss and analyse their role in natural resource management. During this process, women had the opportunity to talk among themselves about their level of involvement in natural resource issues in their communities. They were quick to admit that they have not been actively involved and outlined factors responsible for this as follows:

- ✓ Lack of knowledge and skills needed to participate in activities;
- ✓ High rate of illiteracy among women and lack of interest in development activities;
- ✓ Marginalisation and exclusion of women by their male counterparts;
- ✓ Corrupt practices by local authorities who are mostly men; and
- ✓ lack of understanding on the importance of the environment and Ignorance of their rights and responsibilities to their communities

II. About forty five women's leadership skills and abilities enhanced. This was as a result of the knowledge and skills provided to them during the training. During the follow up visits to these communities, it was observed that the women started the process as was outlined in the action plan. They have restructured some of their groups and developed guidelines to govern them. Regular meetings have become a part of them as compared to the past. In some cases women were seen conducting meetings and documenting the proceedings of the meetings. Some of the topics that were discussed during the training which led to this outcome included; group dynamics/conflict resolution, communication and listening techniques, community mobilization, participation and decision-making, natural resource management issues, PRA/DELTA techniques and leadership styles

An integrated action plan for networking amongst women groups in Rivercess and Bassa was developed. This plan outlines activities to be carried out by women to strengthen their work in both counties with anticipated results.

Activity	Location	Responsible person(s)	Result
Election of leaders	Rivercess and Grand Bassa Counties	Small working group	Proper and elected leadership in place
Mobilization and registration of women	Same as above	Small working group	Roster of membership for each group
Developing of by-laws and constitution	Same as above	Small working group	Legal guidelines in place for operation for each group

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

The involvement of local communities was a key part in this project. All of the activities were carried out with the consent and assistance of the local leaders who encourage their people to participate. Women from the communities were the ones involved in all of the project activities and are now using the knowledge gained for the development of their communities.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes, there are plans to continue this work. As stated above, there is a need to conduct additional training to fully prepare these groups (women) to actively participate in natural

resource management issues in their communities. This is because they are just being introduced to this concept which requires interacting over a period of time. Also, the enthusiasm shown by the project beneficiaries during the project period was very encouraging which spoke of their readiness and willingness to work for their communities.

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

We intend to share our results with others through distributing copies of our report and making briefings at meetings including our network meetings when it shall have been published on the RSG website. Already briefings are being made to forums and meetings in the sector whenever we are invited.

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

Activities	Proposed	Actual
Community meetings	January-February 2008	March –April 2008
Trainings	March –August 2008	June-August 2008
Action plan development	September-November 2008	November 2008-January 2009
Final report	December 2008	April 2009

Note: It was anticipated that the project funding would be available in January and concluded in December. However, funding arrived later than January which changed the implementing period of the activities. This did not change the result in any way.

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. 1

Item	Budgeted Amount	Actual Amount	Difference	Comments
Personnel	£1,000	£1,000	-	This amount was spent on project personnel that were directly involved in the implementation of the project.
Transportation	£937.87	£ 958	£ 20.13	Over spent due to rainy season and the cost of transportation to project site increased
Training	£780.50	£780.50	-	This amount was spent on the training for the participants.
Social mobilization	£859.37	£859.37	-	This amount was spent on the social mobilization.
Stationery	£156.25	£156.25	-	This amount was spent on the purchase of stationery for the

				training and communities meetings in Rivercess and Grand Bassa Counties.
Computer ink	£250.00	£250	-	This amount was spent on purchasing ink to produce training materials and project reports
Administrative support	£1,000	£1,000	-	This amount was spent as administrative support to the implementation of the RSG project.
TOTAL	£ 4,984	£5,004.12	-£20.12	

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

As stated previously, the next important steps for this project are:

- ❖ Provide initial support to these groups in terms of basic needs such as stationery to facilitate their record keeping process.
- ❖ To conduct follow up training for these groups in other relevant areas such as advocacy and project identification, planning and management.
- ❖ Hold additional community meetings to afford more women the opportunity to discuss natural resource management issues in order to generate interest.

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?

RSG received praise and gratitude for the assistance afforded the women and communities in Rivercess and Bassa counties for providing them the grant to provide them the opportunity to discuss their participation in natural resource issues and benefit from the training.

11. Any other comments?

The Foundation for Community Initiatives (FCI) would not have carry out this project without the support from the RSG. This funding was able to give the women of Liberia specifically Rivercess and Grand Bassa the opportunity to be engaged and reassured that they have not been forgotten by the outside world. We highly appreciate the grant and hope that a continuation is considered to help in the struggle for women empowerment and sustainable forest management.