

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	Leonard Omondi Akwany, Ecofinder Kenya
Project title	Community Based Biodiversity Monitoring and Conservation for Yala Wetland, Kenya
RSG reference	45.12.07
Reporting period	2009
Amount of grant	£5000
Your email address	ecofinder@yahoo.com
Date of this report	September, 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 undertake basic diagnostic habitat survey for Yala wetland ecosystem status under the prevailing human threats.			X	The wetland was subjected to First Tier-Basic Monitoring and Second Tier-Detailed monitoring which resulted into survey report submitted earlier to Rufford. This provided baseline information and threats facing the wetland as a concrete basis for consequent conservation interventions and impact evaluation. Moreover, local volunteers had the opportunity to acquire hands-on experience and training on wetlands survey.
To establish sustainable community-based detailed monitoring scheme for Yala wetland.			X	The project managed to localise and produce monitoring data form for Yala Wetland. The form will be used to undertake periodic monitoring of the wetland to gauge impact of interventions on the ecosystem species and processes.
To undertake training, conservation education and public awareness for attitudinal and behaviour change towards wetland conservation among Yala Wetland community.			X	Training through participatory workshop in Hawinga primary school was undertaken for eighteen patrons of nature clubs from ten respective primary schools who develop school specific action plan for follow-up wetland conservation activities within the involved schools. The conservation site group (Friends of Yala Wetland and Ecofinder Kenya) 15 volunteers were trained on wetland survey and monitoring. Moreover, 28 video outreaches, 12 theatre shows and radio talk show on wetland day via Radio Lake Victoria were undertaken.
To showcase sustainable alternative livelihoods for community households adoption to eliminate human pressure on the		X		The project only managed to organize for training and talks on ecological sanitation, organic farming and tree nursery enterprises for its members and friends of Yala wetland through its partnerships. This was purely due to inadequate resources to facilitate establishment of demonstration projects on ecological sanitation (ecosan toilets),

wetland.				organic farming and tree nurseries enterprises for they were not factored into the current budget. Resources are being mobilised to enable tangible demonstration of the same.
----------	--	--	--	--

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

The project was supposed to be accomplished in 12 months but overstretched by months due to school calendar which entailed vacation and since the schools were critical partners in this project, project delayed to complete school outreaches which was only possible when school was in session. Moreover, national and local politics in terms of conflicting interests with respect to best use of Yala Wetland (reclamation for agriculture, promotion of traditional uses and transformation into community conservation area) meant that project implementation had to be undertaken with utmost care to ensure political goodwill.

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

Firstly, the project produced baseline survey report on wetlands biophysical condition and threat. The report will be used as basis for impact evaluation of consequent conservation interventions.

Secondly, the project trained 18 patrons/teachers on wetland education from 10 schools which developed respective wetland conservation and education activities action plan for their respective schools.

Thirdly, the project trained fifteen volunteers on wetland survey and monitoring to spearhead wetland monitoring and survey at grassroots level. Likewise, developed specific monitoring data form for Yala Wetland to be used in periodic monitoring exercises. The 28 video shows, 12 theatre outreaches and radio talk show on wetland day via Radio Lake Victoria with listenership of over 3 million enabled improving wetland conservation consciousness not only among Yala wetland communities but entire Lake Victoria region.

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

The proactive local communities' involvement was deliberate in project design and implementation. The implementer of the project, Ecofinder Kenya, is a local community-based organization whose capacity and profile was greatly improved through this project. Moreover, Friends of Yala; site conservation group, was involved in project implementation through planning of activities and prioritization, wetland survey and community mobilization for wetland conservation education in numerous social networks. They benefited through training, capacity and profile enhancement in the community and among other stakeholders. Ten local schools benefited through training and being involved in wetland conservation education outreaches. Local administration and leaders were involved in our project through briefing on our activities and soliciting of their advice, community mobilization, and providing keynote speeches during our training or capacity building events.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes, there is an urgent need to continue this work in terms of strong advocacy for transforming Yala Wetland into community conservation area since there is government goodwill. Likewise, the demonstration of sustainable alternative livelihoods for community to adopt en masse.

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

The work has produced good reports and lessons which are already being shared with stakeholders involved in wetland conservation in Lake Victoria region and Kenya through various stakeholders forum. The baseline information will be used to advocate for the transformation of Yala Wetland into a community conservation area. Ecofinder Kenya is planning to create website to share its experience on this project in Kenya, East Africa and the world.

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

The RSG was used within 16 months. The planned project length was 12 months but was not attainable due to reasons provided herein.

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
Conservation Education	1554	1860	-306	The critical Public Address System cost was higher than anticipated
Training of Schools Patrons and Site Conservation Group Volunteers	1060	878	182	The training hall was provided free of charge by Hawinga School and transport reimbursement balance for only 18 patrons were trained
Habitat Survey and Wetland Monitoring	1237	1237	0	None
Administration and Evaluation	1325	1525	-200	The administration cost was surpassed in terms of field mobility for volunteers and project staff
Contingency (5%)	259	259	000	The contingency fee was used in meeting bank charges and catering high field mobility costs
TOTAL	5435	5759	-324	
Fund from RSGF £ 5000 or Kshs 660,000 (Exchange Rate 1 £ goals 132 Kshs (Received on 21 st February, 2008)				

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

The RSGF has enabled Ecofinder Kenya to establish capacity, local structures and baseline information on Yala Wetland. This is a great advancement which we must sustain. The next steps are to advocate for declaration of Yala wetland as community conservation area as provided for by National Environment Management and Coordination Act (1999) and promote sustainable alternative livelihoods such as ecotourism and sustainable agriculture. Wetland monitoring to gauge impact of conservation interventions on wetland biophysical and processes should continue being integral activity.

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?

RSGF logo was used in our reports and training certificates. RSGF received publicity as funder of our initiative whenever we had functions related to this project such as wetland conservation education outreaches.

11. Any other comments?

Ecofinder Kenya requests for continued support from RSGF in areas of advocacy to transform Yala Wetland into community conservation area and demonstration of sustainable alternative livelihoods such as ecotourism and organic agriculture.