

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	Dr. M. Nicholson
Project title	Indigenous Forest Project, Plants for Life International, Kenya
RSG reference	48.12.07
Reporting period	Feb 2008-Jan 2009
Amount of grant	5000 pounds
Your email address	mjln@africaonline.co.ke
Date of this report	Jan 2008

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
Tree planting			Yes	We planted up a further 5 acres of forest using approx. 2500 trees of 45 species.
Plant biodiversity			Yes	We have the largest (in terms of number of species) ex situ collection of indigenous plants in one area in any collection in East Africa
Avian biodiversity		Yes		We now have recorded 158 spp of birds compared with baseline in 2001 of 25 spp
Forest maintenance			Yes	Paths and forest maintained. This includes thinning, beating up, native forest mensuration and photography
Control of exotic and invasive plant species		Yes		The most expensive part of the whole operation, esp. Cestrum aurantiacum, bug weed, and wattle & eucalypt regrowth.

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

- Limited funds: we need much more labour to control exotics.
- Rainfall was good and forest growth has been impressive.

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

- a. Awareness-raising: we had several hundred visitors from Nairobi and around plus school tours. The project has encouraged 7 neighbours to start indigenous tree-planting
- b. Biodiversity conservation: with nearly 1000 recorded spp, of native plants we have the largest collection of planted ex situ and in situ plant spp in Kenya.
- c. Environmental impact obvious:
We have less soil erosion into the valley, soil organic matter is rapidly rising, and the visible impact is striking. The bird life is our main indicator of environmental health and this is increasing as is the small mammal population.

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

We have several local schools and churches that have started getting trees from us and planting up their compounds

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes, we need funds for another two years to complete our target of 50 acres over the ten-year period 2001-2010.

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

Yes. Our work has been the catalyst for others in Tigoni to replant with native forests. About 9 acres have been planted in Tigoni under private initiative in about 7 different areas using our tree seedlings and advice.

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

The RSG grant was used throughout 2008 for salaries, fuel for machinery & transport, and tools/equipment. The grant was for one year and we are seeking support from RSG for another 2 years to complete our forest planting.

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
Salaries	3800	5000	1200	We needed more labour
Tree nursery	500	800	300	Cost of plastic soared
Forest	500	1500	1000	Cost of labour soared
Fuel	200	1400		Fuel soared and we greatly underestimated cost of seed collection in other areas
TOTAL	5000	8700	3700	

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

If we can attract more funding, the first priority is to maintain our tree nursery and plant 7-9 acres in 2009.

10. Did you use the RSGF logo in any materials produced in relation to this project?

The Rufford name is on our signboards. Several people asked us about Rufford and we always encourage branding of our donors.

11. Did the RSGF receive any publicity during the course of your work?

Yes, RSGF has been added to our billboard advertising the arboretum. This is on the main road. Whenever we get visitors we inform them of our donors prior to our educational walks. RSGF was our main funding agency in 2008. We have not used the formal logo yet but if we can find funds for an updated brochure we will be using the logo.

11. Any other comments?

Costs have gone up hugely in 2008. The value of the UK pound has plummeted. Food costs have doubled and as our workers spend 65 percent of their salaries on food, this has had a major impact.