

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	Dennis Kamoga
Project title	Community Based conservation of Endemic-Ugandan cycad, <i>Encephalartos whitelockii</i> P.H.J. Hurter in the Mpanga gorge areas
RSG reference	49.09.09
Reporting period	September 2011
Amount of grant	£5362
Your email address	denniskamoga@yahoo.com
Date of this report	3 rd 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
1. Conduct community awareness on conservation and importance of <i>Encephalartos whitelockii</i>		Partially achieved		Because participation of community members reduced gradually over the implementation phase. Some community members were much more enthusiastic about commercial gains from the project. This derailed many people from active participation. They preferred being engaged in their usual village work than the project activities. As a result of the initiative made, one community member, Pius Twijuike (who owns over 15 acres of land on which some population of the cycads exists) expressed interest to collaborate with the project and other local authorities to ensure survival of the cycads. Pius was willing to sale off part of his land upon negotiations, for nature and cycad conservation. Because of lack of financial capacity, JERA could not further this to the end-point. Otherwise the offer still remains open, and once an opportunity strikes, JERA will greatly harness the management of the area as 'a conservation island' and a gene reservoir for <i>Encephalartos whitelockii</i> .
2. Build local community capacity to propagate <i>Encephalartos whitelockii</i> seeds and establish a community nursery		Partially achieved		Trainings on propagation were done and 3216 seedlings were raised (majorly because of fewer reproducing cycads, and competition from commercial seed collectors who have market linkages with unknown foreign buyers). Besides the low availability of seeds, the low germination percentage of <i>Encephalartos whitelockii</i> also contributed partly to this number of raised seedlings other than the projected 10,000. All the 3216 seedlings were re-planted in the wild.

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

There was a shortfall in manpower because of community members absconding from participation. Rotational management of the nursery and subsequent project activities among the fewer community members who remained active was no longer effective. Those who remained could hardly allocate enough time to the project alongside their day-to-day domestic work. An additional full-time person (attendant) from the community had to be called on board to compliment the first nursery attendant, to ensure all the nursery routines were fulfilled.

Field days that were projected for the entire project were not sufficient to accomplish the project tasks. More days had to be allocated to facilitate my physical presence in the field. This enabled us to at least collect substantial seeds for propagation, amidst the competition from commercial seed collectors, and also render more time for the propagation process.

There were limited funds to facilitate timely execution of field activities during the extra days that were sought.

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

- We trained an average of 25 community members on propagation of *E. whitelockii* seeds, and raised 3216 seedlings in the established nursery. Those trained can serve as trainers of trainees in the village.
- Through the replanting exercise, the project boosted the wild population with 3216 seedlings. This would have probably taken several years to be realised since cycads are slow growers. Furthermore the project counter balanced impaired natural seedling recruitment as a result of illegal collection and trade of seeds by an unknown people.
- Four hundred posters were produced to help in the dissemination process on conservation and ecological importance of *E. whitelockii*. Though the cycads existed for several decades in the Mpanga gorge before, its occurrence and conservation importance was not known to many people other than a few biology scientists. Through this publicity, perhaps more attention will be created in future, to have a multitude of scientific studies conducted in the plight of ensuring survival and replication of the *E. whitelockii*.

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

Local community members were initially active with 50 individuals volunteering on project activities at the start. But because their expectations were high and inclined to monetary gains, the number reduced to 43 individuals and eventually to 25 people who would occasionally take part in the activities, but at least kept on until the end of the project. Besides the cycads, we raised Eucalyptus seedlings, which were distributed to the local communities for planting in their gardens, and each of the 25 individuals received 20 seedlings.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Certainly yes! Attempts were made to solicit for additional support, and an application was submitted to Colchester Zoo's Action for the Wild Fund UK. But the application was unsuccessful. Other than wishing to raise more cycad seedlings, we are still committed to search for funds to purchase land from Pius Twijuike, and gazette this as a genetic reservoir for *E. whitelockii*, to be directly under management of JERA in collaboration with the local communities.

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

Through environment and nature publications, journals, workshops and conferences.

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 between Feb 2010 –July 2011. An extra 5 months were spent, but the delays arose majorly because of the problems related to seed collection and the long propagation period of seeds, coupled with the slow growth rate of seedlings.

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
1.1 Local area authorities	62.5	66	3.5	Increment in fuel prices
1.2 Community members	25	21.31	3.69	Expenditure per participant on refreshments was less than budgeted
2.0 Travel to the project site	62.5	66	3.5	Increment in fuel prices
3.1 Production of posters	594	459	135	Cost of production was lower as compared to 1.5 £ budgeted per poster
3.2 Travel for community awareness meeting	125	131.15	6.15	Increment in fuel prices
3.2 Refreshments during awareness meeting	50	29	21	Expenditure per participant on refreshments was less than anticipated
4.1 Travel to the project site for community trainings on selection, collection, processing of cycad seeds for propagation	62.5	66	3.5	Increment in fuel prices
4.2 Planning and preparation of nursery bed	25	37	12	Increment in fuel prices

5.0 Travel to the project site to collect & process seeds for propagation	125	294	169	Increment in fuel prices
5.0 Inland Travel while in the field	162.5	380.32	217.82	Increment in fuel prices 14 more field days were taken to ensure ample collection of seeds & offer man power to the propagation process in the nursery. (Because the project had competition from local seed collectors who were involved in trade to outside sources)
6.0 Travel to the project site to establish the nursery	62.5	73.44	10.94	Increment in fuel prices
6.0 Inland Travel while in the field	37.5	57	19.5	Increment in fuel prices Heavy rains destructed operations at the site, causing extra days of extension in the field other than the budgeted duration
6.1 Capital costs for nursery establishment	617	608	9	The Market prices were less for some items
6.2 Nursery management	125	302	177	Payments to the two nursery attendants during propagation & management of the nursery were extended for 4 months because of the inadequate seed supplies, slow germination and growth rate of the cycad seedlings. As stated in the first bullet, an extra person from the community had to be hired to complement the initial attendant because community participation had reduced in number amidst the quest by local communities to balance with domestic chores in their respective homes.
7.0 Travel to the project site for the re-planting in the wild	250	298	48	Increment in fuel prices
7.0 Inland Travel while in the field	200	310	110	Increment in fuel prices, coupled with heavy rains subjected the team to have extra field days. Hence a deviation from the planned budget line.
8.0 Project stationery	187.5	124	63.5	Had some extra stationery from another project that had ended, which saved us from more spending

9.0 Communication	125	244.3	119.3	Telephone bills were under estimated, yet constant communication was necessary
10. Stipend	3250	3250	0	
11. Management overhead	307.4	0	0	Spent under column with budget differences
Total	6455.5	6816.52		

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

- Solicit for funds to purchase land and gazette it for conservation of E. whitelockii.
- Develop the gazetted area into an ecotourism site since it is adjacent to the beautiful scenery overlooking the Mpanga gorge.
- Integrate local people's involvement into ecotourism activities vis-a-vis cycad conservation such that the revenue collected can be utilized as an incentive for the local community to jealously guard the survival of E. whitelockii. By doing so, the community with minimum supervision can maintain a self-sustaining cycad nursery.

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. The logo was used on posters and leaflets issued out during the awareness programme.

11. Any other comments?

Support from RSGF is highly appreciated, and it is our wish that RSGF remains a partner in our search for more support to enable us realise our future plans as indicated under section (9).