

## 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](mailto:jane@rufford.org).

Thank you for your help.

**Josh Cole, Grants Director**

#### Grant Recipient Details

<b>Your name</b>	Makhathe Moahloli
<b>Project title</b>	Semonkong Community Nursery and Botanical Garden
<b>RSG reference</b>	49.12.07
<b>Reporting period</b>	March 2008-February 2009
<b>Amount of grant</b>	4,906.00
<b>Your email address</b>	<a href="mailto:Katileho.moho@gmail.com">Katileho.moho@gmail.com</a>
<b>Date of this report</b>	April 16, 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 increase community awareness and participation in nursery development, execution, evaluation and future planning through workshops and training			x	<p>15 Nursery technical committee selected and trained on nursery management and leadership skills. 150 people attended training on biodiversity conservation, production, management and value of agro-biodiversity for supporting rural livelihoods and poverty alleviation</p> <p>Key stakeholders briefed about the project and become aware. Several community platform, gatherings, forums were conducted in all project cycle and all people at the project site are well aware of activities involved. The training that was conducted was extremely beneficial to both project team and locals to understand and share local experience and academic knowledge.</p> <p>Key stakeholders were government ministries who claim have limited resources (transport) to participate when needed. This had some negative impact on project schedule and technical backstopping. Government officials expect incentives when attending our meetings. At least awareness raising increases our project publicity.</p>
To alleviate immediate hunger through increased production of wild plant food and diversity of nutritious food consumption.			x	<p>About 15 potential horticultural crops genetic resources (wild and semi-domesticated species) were collected and planted within the nursery. Although we are not expert in botany in terms of scientific names and species.</p> <p>We encouraged consumption of non-cultivated edible plants (leafy vegetables and tubers) among community. The project beneficiaries (youth group, vulnerable people) were encouraged to establish home gardens for cash crops, staples and/ supplementary foods.</p>

<p>To contribute to the government efforts to promote social and economic development of the vulnerable /most disadvantaged populations</p>		<p>x</p>		<p>The project introduced tourist's payback scheme and tour guiding within the nursery and to the places of visitors interests in order to uplift income among the target community. Target group/community was encouraged to enter into vegetable production within the nursery and at their homestead. With both funds balance from BTCV and project, four youth were hired on part-time basis in order to ensure continuity.</p>
<p>To analyze the dynamics soil degradation processes around project area and demonstrate rehabilitation and restoration activities</p>		<p>x</p>		<p>The project encouraged community participation in donga rehabilitation and construction of stone-lines to reduce water velocity and prevent continuation of soil degradation which might affect the nursery. We also build local capacities in support of the land rehabilitation and restoration activities.</p>
<p>To establish initial botanical and nursery to conserve plant genetic resources (PGR) which are endangered due to environmental and social changes in Semonkong</p>		<p>x</p>		<p>The project managed to plant over 6 variety of exotic vegetables within the nursery as short-term benefits and plantation of (120) fruit trees, (8) varieties) and indigenous plants (10) that have traditional medicinal value and because such medicinal plant resources under the pressure of commercial exploitation. We have also planted over 300 wind breaker trees received from Department of Forestry. Limitation of expertise from KMA inhibits satisfactory execution particularly the layout and setting component of the nursery. The nursery is within the village which render security and protection. There is need to have store room for tools and equipments and handicrafts house for tourists.</p>
<p>Development of management documentation and infrastructure to ensure long-term viability</p>			<p>x</p>	<p>Project review meeting/workshop conducted to document lessons and experiences of the project. The participants agreed that the project has to continue, this time a botanist (agronomist) is a MUST to deal with Scientific and relationships between the different plants. the second phase of the project planned to kick-off from 2010 - 2013</p>

				<p>National Environment Secretariat express satisfaction with the initiative of establishing botanical garden and facilitated to network with Sweden Environmental Sustainable Development which promote partnership with ESD institutions in the South. Executive Director undertook a Monitoring during project implementation to observe the feeling and involvement of the beneficiaries. There we over 5 formal monitoring visits and 15 informal visits. Project mini-evaluation task conducted to find what went wrong and challenges as perceived by project beneficiaries, project staff, BTCV and key stakeholders. We constructed the botanical trail and entrance in order to allow free movement within the nursery.</p>
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**2. Please explain any unforeseen difficulties that arose during the project and how these were tackled (if relevant).**

Key stakeholders contribution to the project was beyond expectation, more time spend on consultations and reminder of what need to be done but failing to keep appointment with the ground that they have limited resources (Finance for lunch and accommodation). Flexibility and change of plans were alternatives, sometimes use of project staff limited knowledge and skills to perform duties that were supposed to be done by stakeholders who are very much professional.

Community expect incentives which reduced regular participation. With the BTCV money, local volunteers were provided with lunch during BTCV two weeks. The balance was used to employ part-time labourers. Initially local community were told to undertake collection of a plant species that will be planted in the site. But the presence of BTCV team leader change such plan with the ground that uprooting is against their (BTCV) policy. So, alternative was to use cuttings which brings the likelihood that number of plants did not survive.

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

Increased skills, knowledge and transformed or new patterns of thinking or behaviour of individuals, groups and society towards the importance of agro-biodiversity and nature conservation for support of livelihoods. Over 500 people living at project site understand the benefits of natural resources towards their livelihoods and are keen to support activities that reduce the loss of biodiversities.

Improved income, food security and nutrition among target communities and the exploration of links between biodiversity conservation, poverty reduction and sustainable livelihoods. Vegetable seedling (cabbage) produced by project was sold among the community and free given to some vulnerable members (25) and orphans.

A better-informed public able to voice their concerns about natural resources conservation and management to decision makers and public and traditional leaders and strengthened the linkages with like-minded institutions at local and national level. In several occasions management committee had organized herd boys meetings, public gatherings and chief with the purpose creating awareness on the value of conserving the wildlife and ecosystems.

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

Local communities identify and provide project site. They have attended workshops, meetings and forums convened by project staff and contributed their views. They participated in the nursery layout, fencing, plantation of fruit trees seedling and donga rehabilitation close to the nursery. They also involved in collection of wild plants from their original habitat to the botanical garden. Community decided to have four (4) part-time labourers from youth group to work at the nursery. The project had organize public gathering that suit the local communities time, location and duration because our experiences have noted the multiple workload in the family which render them to have less free time and cannot be absent from the household for long periods. We were also aware that in a community women cannot speak freely in the presence of men therefore separate gatherings/meetings and workshops were arranged. There were some activities that focus on women than general public (establishment of women social forum, home garden production for female-headed families etc.

Local community has gained experience on working with international tourists (BTCV). The project has potential to generate income through sales of vegetables and commission from tourists. Medicinal plants that used to be far away and likely to disappear are close to reach and conserved. Through training workshops, local community has gain knowledge that can be used at community development and individual level. Some individuals have established vegetable production and botanical garden at their homestead as a resulting of participating at project activities.

**5. Are there any plans to continue this work?**

Yes, Access Benefit Sharing (ABS) will be a potential project. Consultations and establish inter-institutional linkage with regional botanical gardens, research and academic institutions for plants characterization, evaluation, enhancement, exchanging materials and experiences is the priority in order to continue this work. The project to some extent (when fundraising) will be assisted by a sister programme (CBDC) as both share a common conservation concept. On the other hand, Department of Environment and local council will be encouraged to take over. The project will invest more on public awareness and environmental education about the importance and values of conservation and sustainable utilization of plant genetic diversity as effort to sustainable livelihoods, economic development and poverty reduction.

The plan is to carry out a survey and study the genetic erosion, nutrition and vulnerability of plant genetic resources (Agro-biodiversity) and exploring, identifying, collecting, conserving and evaluating indigenous fruit and vegetables including the uncultivated but edibles and their importance. We will focus on institutional capacity building in terms of human resource and infrastructure to make the programme effective and efficient and strengthening the conservation capacity of the institute both for in-situ and ex-situ

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

We have made a board placed at main road indicating project site. The copy of this report is distributed among key stakeholders that were engaged throughout the project cycle. We request that this final report publicized at Rufford website. Articles on success stories of the project will be sending to local media houses. We will be as open and accessible as possible in sharing information with others. We will organize open an information sharing discussion to people interested in botanical gardens and establish strong relationship. Project team will share their most effective activity suggestions with colleagues. Information will be shared during professional meetings, at local, national, regional and international conferences, or through websites. Project activities will be shared in local primary schools to encourage them to establish school level ex-situ conservation and management. We will use the facebook to share information. Pictures and pamphlets will be placed at office notice board and given to general public. The achievements of the project will be send to Africa Community Biodiversity Development Conservation Newsletter (April-June 2009 and beyond).

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

The project was executed for 11 months as to compare to anticipated period of 12 months.

## 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
Tool & Equipment	3,191.31	1,906.18	1,458.40	Quantity of some tools and equipments were reduced due to over estimates during project design but maintaining the budget.
Plant purchases	252.71	79.44	173.27	Some other fruit trees seedlings such as grapes, pears were hard to find, otherwise would have been more expensive to get in Cape Town (RSA) which is more than 12 hours drive from Lesotho
local volunteer subsistence	364.00	525.00	-161.00	-
3 x workshops	1018.14	2,264.72	-1,246.58	More people than expected to attend training workshops
Review and reporting	100.00	82.55	17.45	-
Bank Charges & Commission	-	21.65	-	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4,906.00</b>	<b>4,879.54</b>	<b>26.46</b>	

### Exchange Rate

Foreign exchange rate applied to convert funds received in Great British Pounds was GBP 1= M15.97

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

We need to have development worker (botanist) who is expert on botanical garden in order to reduce dependency on government officials. continue second phase of project which will be at least 36 months and activities among others include publication and documentation, information exchange, plants collection and sustainable use, capacity building and awareness on biological diversity conservation, marketing research on Access Benefit Sharing of materials under conservation. Meanwhile, the sister programme (CBDC) will offer support to the project (field staff will allocate 10% of their time to the project) to ensure that local communities are paying attention to the project.

**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, billboard has the RSGF logo. We submitted information for publicity in July 2008.

**11. Any other comments?**

Project has been the first one in the locality, it is recommended to have expansion/replication or second phase project. The project requires special expertise in the area of botany and environmental management. Policy advocacy work and capacity building for project staff is much important.