

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	Peter Lukwiya
Project title	Sustainable community conservation of Palabek-Kal forest reserve in Kitgum District, Northern Uganda.
RSG reference	RSG 57.04.08
Reporting period	April 2009
Amount of grant	£5,761
Your email address	lukwiya@yahoo.co.uk
Date of this report	4 th May 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
Mobilise the rural people living in and around Palabek-Kal forest reserve and build their capacity to effectively engage in this project			X	Information disseminated as well as awareness created about the significance of environment/nature conservation and how people can derive economic benefit from such conservation without destroying the nature. Use was also made of Local radio FM and drama groups.
Provide environmental conservation education to the rural people and train them to sustainably utilise and collectively participate in conservation of the forestland.				Rural people trained about significance of forest and its sustainable utilisation (conservation). Rural members of the Palabek-Kal community trained in apiculture (beekeeping) technologies.
Introduce the practices in modern beekeeping and establish beekeeping project sites equipped with modern hives and other beekeeping facilities.			X	Modern beehives were made, and honey harvesting equipment's such as smokers, overall, storage cans etc. were bought and donated to the beekeepers in a selected site in Palabek-Kal forest reserve.
Establish community tree seedlings nursery bed points, where free seedlings will be distributed to the people to expand the already destroyed parts of the forest land.			X	On-farm crop production and the harvest of non-timber forest products, especially sheanut butter from <i>Vitellaria nilotica</i> and honey production were introduced.
To develop village forest sustainable management plan and model conservation centre where capacity of the rural people are built in environmental conservation policies and legislations, and sharing project experiences and lessons learnt.			X	Participatory workshops with people in communities; development and distribution of Information, Education and Communication materials (IEC) were conducted, thus community-based information and activity centre was established at Palabek-Kal forest reserve. Village forest sustainable management plans to combat deforestation and bush burning was developed. A forestry project partner's forum to share project experiences and lessons was also establish, thru meetings with decision makers, project committee members and local authorities; group discussions and workshops.

To create strong community-government partnerships to ensure participatory community involvement in conservation management programmes.			X	Strong community-government partnerships were created through frequent meetings between government and people in community.
Monitor and evaluate project progress and write final report			X	Field visit, self reporting and used of questionnaires were done to obtain responses from the community.

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

The project fund was obtained at the time when exchange rate of pound sterling to Uganda Shillings dropped so low by almost 50% of the rate used in the application. This affected purchases of equipment, materials and transport.

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

- a) Provide environmental conservation education to the rural people and train them to sustainably utilise and collectively participate in conservation of the forestland. Brochures and education newsletter on environmental conservation of forest were designed. Contents of the materials included: uses of forest sustainably; causes of forest degradation and its impacts - inadequate knowledge, cultural practices and poverty and economic importance.
- b) Nursery bed establishment and Forest conservation
The rural community members were first trained in nursery bed establishment. This training was conducted in two selected community groups of Palabek-Kal Sub County (with 150 members). Content of training included: seed quality management (seed source identification, processing and storage); nursery management practices (sowing, soil mixing and other silvicultural practices in nursery bed); pest disease control and management in tree nurseries; nursery records management; nursery planning and designing calendar; and practice in seed quality and nursery management techniques. Fifteen nursery beds were established each with over 4,000 seedlings while the community members are now planting at least 20 trees each since the beginning of rains in March 2009. Although sheanut tree (*Vitellaria nilotica*) seed was not available at National Forestry Authority (NFA), communities collected the seeds and planted them in the nursery beds locally. Capacity gaps in biodiversity conservation were identified and bridged, and community-based information and activity centres at Palabek-Kal forest reserve was established
- c) Training in Beekeeping and establishment of apiaries
Trainings were conducted by Kitgum district entomology department. The project bought and gave each community group 30 beehives and full pairs of harvesting gears for apiary demonstrations. It is estimated that each of the modern hive will produce 10-15 kg of honey per annum. This will reduce dependency on forest logging and provide alternative source of income to the rural people. The following topics were covered;

An introduction to establishing a beekeeping enterprise (By James Owiny and Otim Patrick)

The training aimed at beginners and already those with experience in beekeeping. The training covered an introduction to bee biology and behaviour (African bees – *Apis mellifera scutellata*),

beekeeping equipment, apiary establishment, bee and hive management, harvesting, handling and marketing of honey.

Processing of bee products (By James Owiny and Otim Patrick)

This training covered details in bee products (harvest methodology, applications and quality control) and how to process and add value to bee products including honey, beeswax, propolis, bee brood and pollen. Local and international markets/marketing for these bee products was also covered. Much time was spent in practical lessons making a variety of value-added recipes which can then be marketed and sold in locally in Uganda and overseas. Recipes include a variety of candles and creams, polishes and medicinal/nutritional products from the beehive.

Bee breeding and multiplication (By James Owiny)

The training was designed to assist beekeepers how to occupy the many empty beehives in their areas. The training also covered details of simple methods of bee multiplication like swarm attractants, making divisions and how to rear queens.

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

Local community participation in this project was much pronounced since they took ownership of the project themselves. The local community were involved throughout the project period i.e. collecting socio-economic and bio-physical data for the research, assess management systems, drawing out the best management options, and formulation of forest management committee, preparation of operation plan, training and income generating activities. Active community involvement in sustainable conservation of Palabek-Kal forest reserve has had environmental significance as this invariably reversed current the speeding deforestation practices and provided valuable sources of livelihood opportunities for the rural poor people through a range of non-timber forest products such as honey.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

This project achieves overwhelming support and recognition from local communities, academicians, biodiversity experts and local governments in Kitgum District. I am enthusiastic to continue this project in the neighbouring Lukung Sub-County. I also want to maintain the established modest nature/environmental conservation training centres and projects in other rural parts of Kitgum District where people in the community are themselves managers, integrating beekeeping practices among rural communities with forest management and crop production as a means of improving people livelihoods. A community revolving fund will be established after the first honey harvest and sale to continue funding the project well beyond the end RSG grant. In this way the community can use the fund to build up a "living bank". Honey products from the community hives and other forest products can be sold when the community decides to provide for microcredit loans or to pay directly for other essential goods and services needed for the project.

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

The final output and document are a very concrete one for managing the forest reserves in Kitgum. This can be a very prominent document for the local communities, the students, local government and the scientific community. The final report will be submitted in libraries of Gulu universities and environmental conservation organisations to help in promoting ecotourism in Kitgum District. I also plan the opportunities to conduct both paper and verbal presentations in at schools/academic institutions and local media such as radio FM station in Kitgum. Brief information shall be published in my project webpage through which communications have been done with various universities of the world. This report will also be published in RSG website and in my personal project webpage.

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 over ten month's period than the one-year anticipated time. This was because the local community responses were so excellent and effective in implementing some of the project activities.

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
Consultative meetings	90.00	87.00	+3.00	
Community mobilisation and sensitisation	503.00	458.00	+45.00	
Education and Training	870.00	1020.70	-150.70	Costs for training materials were increased due to increased fuel price.
Incentives for community facilitators/ field assistants	1,454.40	1454.00	+0.40	
Establishing Bee keeping and seedling nursery bed centres	395.20	349.00	+46.20	
Establishment of community based-IEC and activity centre	360.00	356.76	+3.24	
Community dialogue sessions-Project partners forum	52.00	63.50	-11.50	
Running costs (Communication, Hire and Fuel for Motorcycles (Transport), M/cycle maintenance)	1,108.80	1000.95	-107.85	Increased fuel costs made costs of transport very high.

Project equipment and materials (<i>Modern beehives and bee keeping equipments, Purchase of tree seeds and/or seedlings and Watering cans</i>)	647.00	803.00	-156.00	Increased costs of beekeeping materials and tree seedling.
Indirect support costs (<i>Monitoring and Evaluation</i>)	280.00	220.00	+60.00	
TOTAL	5760.40	5812.91	-268,21	

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

I want to maintain the established modest nature/Environmental conservation training centres and projects in Palabek – Kal forest reserve and spread this notion to other rural parts of Kitgum District where people in the community are themselves managers, integrating beekeeping practices among rural communities with forest management and crop production as a means of improving people livelihoods. A community revolving fund will be established after the first honey harvest and sale to continue funding the project well beyond the end RSG grant. In this way the community can use the fund to build up a "living bank". Honey products from the community hives and other forest products can be sold when the community decides to provide for microcredit loans or to pay directly for other essential goods and services needed for the project. For the marketing of products, certification (forest and food) of products is very important that requires further technical support as villagers are unaware about these phenomena.

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?

The RSGF support was acknowledged during presentations at training workshops. RSGF logo has been used in every material produced and, in every training,, seminar and presentations.

11. Any other comments?

I am so grateful to RSG, for providing the funding opportunity to support the implementation of this significant project in Kitgum, Northern Uganda.