

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	Samora M. Andrew
Project title	Mobilizing Local Communities for Conservation and Management of the Threatened Lake Natron Basin, Tanzania.
RSG reference	8545-2
Reporting period	1 year
Amount of grant	£6,000
Your email address	smacrice@yahoo.com
Date of this report	21/01/2012

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
Inception meeting			√	
Field advanced course to educators			√	
Study tour to tourists' attraction sites			√	
Strengthen school programme on environmental education		√		We planned to develop a training manual to educators but we couldn't finalise it due to time scarcity.
Promotion of eco-cultural tourism		√		Major activities were done but we couldn't plant grasses along the river banks as planned due to prolonged drought (the area is semi arid).

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

Time to finish the project was not sufficient even after an extension and prolonged drought has been a challenge particularly for rehabilitation activities such as planting grasses.

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

(i) The project was well received by the local communities and majority of the stakeholders and we unravel ecotourism as a livelihood alternative in the area.

(ii) Educators were well equipped theoretically and practically and we are confident that they will spear conservation endeavours around the Lake Natron.

(iii) School environmental education programmes were established strengthened and is continuing and all the 3 outcomes leads to improved livelihoods and status of the Lake Natron ecosystem.

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

Local communities were fully involved from the beginning to the end of the project. They were involved directly through active attending meetings and asking and answering questions. They also got involved indirectly through various representatives, government officials and community leaders.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes, we are working with the district authority to further this project especially continue with the rehabilitation activities and see possibility of establishing ranches. We have also agreed with the educators to continue with education programmes at schools and encourage ecotourism.

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

The knowledge and skills developed could be used in other places where there are similar challenges to conservation of wetlands. We are going to share our gained experience with other local communities, learning institutions and conservation agencies in Tanzania. This will be achieved through poster development and distribution, seminars and workshops. Some of our project members are teaching and we will impart that knowledge to our students.

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 during the period of the project. However, we have exceeded the original thought duration by 3 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
Inception	£1048	£1048		
Field course to educators	£1324	£1324		
Study tour	£424	£424		
Strengthening school programmes on environmental education	£780	£780		
Promotion of ecotourism	£2184	£1980	£204	Transferred to transport cost
Administrative costs	£90	£90		
Transport	£150	£354	£204	
TOTAL	£6000	£6000	0	

*The exchange rate considered was 2062.72 Tshs for 1 £sterling (Bank of Tanzania February 2010)

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

We are keen to see that the livelihoods of Maasai communities and the entire Lake Natron ecosystem improved. We shall continue working with the districts authorities, schools and local communities. We are negotiating with the districts to start putting aside funds specifically for restoration and management of the Lake Natron cross boundary ecosystem while ensure livelihoods of the surrounding communities is improved. We plan also to apply for the booster fund to facilitate preparation of local communities taking overall responsibility in the conservation.

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, we used the logo on the introduction letters and in all the correspondence with district officials. The RSGF received publicity during the project period through seminars and school presentations. The logo will also be put on the poster once developed.

11. Any other comments?

RSGF is acknowledged for providing funds which enabled the execution of this important and well timely project. Thanks to district authorities, local leaders, educators and entire Maasai communities surrounding Lake Natron for your good corporation.