

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	Godgift Swai
Project title	Assessment of plant diversity and Ecological Status of the Coastal Tanzania Forests: A case of Mafia Island “Coastal Forest Mosaic”
RSG reference	8553-1
Reporting period	30 th November 2011
Amount of grant	£5999
Your email address	godgifti@yahoo.com
Date of this report	7 th December 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
Determination of species richness and diversity of trees and shrubs species in Mafia Island coastal forests of Tanzania.			Fully achieved	It was successfully done.
Composition and relative abundance of trees and shrubs species in Mafia Island coastal forests.			Fully achieved	Achieved but more techniques are needed in case of further studies.
Developed checklist of the identified trees/shrubs species involving their native and relative scientific names.			Fully achieved	Prepared and being improved for further dissemination.
Trees and shrub species of higher ecological importance and endemism observed will be documented and their relative geographical locations be located with the aid of a GPS.		Partially achieved		The study captured coordinates of the species but knowing ecological importance in relation to others needs time and more expertise additional to what we had.
Ecological status and associated interactions within the coastal forests apart from the trees/ shrubs.		Partially achieved		We were able to identify ecological status, however not all aspects of interactions could be assessed in a given time.

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

Local transport to and from the field site involved hiring motor vehicle and also involved hiring a boat. Vehicles were not reliable so sometimes it was necessary to hire from different institutions, which lead to delayed activities in some days.

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

- We have been able to identify the trees and shrub species of Mafia Island forests
- We have been able to understand the species diversity and composition
- We have been able to know the ecological status of the forest and associated fauna species (especially birds and insects).

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

Through their representatives they were involved in reconnaissance, data collection and results of the research disseminated to them in their native language.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes, if more funds will be available it is our intention to proceed with this study in other parts of the islands in Unguja and Pemba (Zanzibar) where population increase and pressures on forests is alarming. This will enable a good understanding of the real status in the Coastal Forest Mosaic. But also it is our intention to combine ecological studies and socio-economic aspects of the forests.

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

We plan to share the results through publications in proceedings and journals, but also through seminars if resources will allow.

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 in 1 year and extended few days from the anticipated time due to many aspects that were involved compared to earlier expectations. It was important for us to add an entomologist and a bird scientist but due to their scarcity (few experts) in the country we were able to capture them late.

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
Overall transport and fuel expenses	812	1013	-201	Fluctuating oil prices and overall transport costs in Tanzania.
Institutional fee, and technical assistance	170	141	29	Good cooperation from responsible authorities.
Overall herbarium charges for sample identification and processing	325	348	-23	High shipping cost of plant samples.
Overall data entry and analysis expertise	236	235	1.0	An expert accepted reduction.
Overall charges for research equipments purchase and hire	1266	1203	63	Reasonable price, hired some from institution and colleagues.
Stationeries, first aid, communications, and printing charges	267	365	-98	Increased prices for stationeries and communication.

Dissemination of results, community awareness seminar & training	800	800	0	Cost efficient methods, good cooperation.
Overall DSA and living cost (researchers, assistants Forest Officer & botanist)	2123	1891	232	Good division of labour, and alternation of man power.
TOTAL	5999	5996	3.0	Effective fund management

Note: the mentioned figures is according to the earlier exchange rate used in the project proposal according to Bank of Tanzania (BOT) i.e., Overall amount in £ (1£= Tanzanian shillings 2,124). The current exchange rate according to BOT is **1£= Tanzanian shillings 2,547**. Hence throughout the project activities experienced increasing inflation rates as many transactions involved exchange to local currency.

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

- To applying for more funds hence to continue with this research works in other areas of the islands in Unguja and Pemba.
- To include sufficient number of socio-economic studies in relation to diversity and ecological aspects.
- To device efficient mechanisms for local community involvement, dissemination and learning.
- To build more capacity within our team in research, data management and publication.

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 RSGF logo in various materials and documents of the project. A good image of the RSGF was also displayed in all aspects of the project.

11. Any other comments?

- To a large extent the project achieved its objectives for more than 85 percent, however socio-economic aspects emerged to be necessary but they could not be captured efficiently as it was not part of the project specific objectives.