

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	Susie Weeks
Project title	Mount Kenya Trust Horse Patrol Team
RSG reference	9144-1
Reporting period	January 2013 to December 2013
Amount of grant	£5,980
Your email address	susie@mounteknyatrust.org
Date of this report	January 2014

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. To decrease illegal activity on Mount Kenya and the incidences of elephant and bushmeat poaching			Yes	Numerous snares were destroyed each month and poaching with domestic dogs is on the decline. The men are able to go much further afield and are based in an area where very few patrols were carried out in the past.
2. To work with KWS to secure the areas of the National Reserve between Meru and Sirimon from illegal activity.		Yes		The horse patrol team cannot presently reach these distant places when operating from one base they will get closer to their goal of covering greater distances when we have set up satellite camps. In the meantime information gathering and work with the MKT Joint Wildlife Protection Team who are mobile (and currently working near Meru), the MKT Marania Wildlife Guards and the Kenya Wildlife Service units in Sirimon, Imenti and Meru benefit from improved communication and surveillance in the larger area.
3. To increase awareness and conservation education within the communities living and around Mount Kenya			Yes	By engaging the Ntirimiti Community with news of the activity of the horse patrol team and training the men we have employed to learn more about their natural environment we have started a buzz in the community that may not be as strong when you are dealing with a regular foot patrol team. We hope to add a stronger educational component in 2014.
4. To improve the links between stakeholders of Mount Kenya and wildlife NGO's so that response times and information gathering		Yes		The KWS contingent did not physically join the patrol team as expected in 2013 but they are in contact with the nearby team and alert them of any

and sharing can be improved for the benefit of Mount Kenya's wildlife.				action that needs to be taken depending on the observations. The HPT have worked with them on several occasions to help extinguish forest fires and help them apprehend illegal loggers and poachers.
5. At the National level to enable the Trust to contribute information and catalyse ongoing anti-illegal animal trade and poaching dialogues with the mountain and adjoining ecosystems that are being directly supported through other complimentary initiatives.			Yes	All our teams are recording daily surveillance sheets that allow information to be easily fed into MIKE and MIST data collection at a national and international level. We known to have good data collection and are asked regularly to comment, advise and contribute with respect to Mount Kenya for forums and media on the ivory trade, poaching and the threats to Mount Kenya. We do this on a local, national and international level. The Horse Patrol Team has only increased our knowledge and influence.
6. To bring awareness of the importance of Mount Kenya as one of the most important water catchment areas in the country.		Yes		The uniqueness of this team and the success of MKT employee Edwin Kinyanjui as a finalist at the Tusk Trust Awards in the UK with patron Prince William has brought more attention to the area locally and internationally than any other teams working in the area in the past. We also held a fundraising ride which raised money for the Horse Patrol Team and its aims were internationally circulated. The Horse Patrol team has brought the Trust more international media than ever before, and such attention gives us a better audience to talk about the importance of Mount Kenya as a vital water tower.
7. At the Global level to protect the integrity of Mount Kenya for climate change mitigation.		Yes		

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

The team was not joined by the KWS contingent as we had hoped so the team was unarmed. However, this did not deter the team from achieving their main goals. Their presence on the Northern side of Mount Kenya is already making a marked difference to the number of illegal incidences reported, how many people are apprehended and how swiftly fire is responded to. We are extremely pleased with the team's successes in this early stage.

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

- a) Wildlife numbers in the area have increased in the area since the team began operations.
- b) Recorded incidences of people hunting with domestic dogs has decreased since the first year of the project in part due to this extra presence.
- c) Data Collection has improved drastically since the start of this new project. Reliable data is the key to long term monitoring.

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

The team employs local communities and uses information gathered by friends and contacts from the surrounding areas to help other teams in the area find and apprehend illegal activity. When the team fight fires, they are able to call on people in the area to assist with fire fighting.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Not only do we plan to continue this work, if funding permits later on we will increase the area they are able to patrol by adding satellite camps for the team to patrol from and ideally we would form another team to work from a different area of the mountain at a later stage. We believe that the numbers of snares that the team are finding alone is enough justification to keep the team going. The snares are responsible for barbaric wildlife death and injury and keeping a large area patrolled by the team clear of snares will have made an untold difference. The number of sighted live zebras and waterbuck with snares on them and trapped dead mammals each month is a testament to the level of bushmeat poaching that needs to be curtailed. In February 2013 and Jan 2014, the team worked with KWS to extinguish large forest fires which can destroy indigenous forest and wildlife overnight. Coupled with intelligence gathering and the incident reports of poachers, the elephant carcass and illegal loggers passed on to our other teams and the authorities for further action in 2013 we have no doubt in our mind that this team is assisting wildlife in a big way.

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

We already have a great deal of interest in the work. We share the outcomes of the work with all our stakeholders and donors in monthly reports and regularly meet with the Kenya Wildlife Service to support strategies. The team now uses a tracking system with a SIM card, which allows us to track their movements and make more concise reports and follow ups of their position which can be shared with trusted partners.

At a later date, if our stakeholders KFS and KWS are supportive we will set up a low cost tourism venture with the team so as to help fund it but also to help spread the word about our work further afield. During the 10 to4 Mountain Bike Challenge, a fundraiser of the Mount Kenya Trust we use the Horse Patrol Team to assist with the management of the event and look out for elephants when they are cycling in the forests. This has caused enormous interest.

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

The funding was used over 12 months but we hope to keep this project running indefinitely due to it's success and the fact that the Government Agencies charged with looking after Mount Kenya are not provided with sufficient resources to enable them to do this on their own.

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
Horse Feed	367	628	261	Better feed sourced.
Veterinary Costs	369	1258	889	Need to increase the budget for drugs and veterinary costs through much of the work was done FoC thanks to Kisima Farm and volunteers.
Salary – Team Leader	3231	0	-3213	Team leader left in October 2014 but the team were running well and we saw no need for the extra expense.
HPT Community Contingent	3325	4465	1142	Well targeted. 2014 Team will be increased to six members to make allowances for off days. Training costs will need to be accounted for.
KWS Rangers	5538	0	-5538	Would have been covered by KWS. Rangers were appointed elsewhere. Two KWS rangers may join the team in 2014. Training costs will need to be accounted for.
Northern Area Supervisor	1015	1040	25	Well targeted
Rations and Allowances	3323	3099	-224	Well targeted
Uniforms	253	440	-313	Need to increase the budget for uniforms for the men.
Riding equipment	3077	2032	-1045	Some equipment was donated free of charge and does not therefore appear in the costs.
Radios	1077	840	-237	

Other Communication	0	257	257	Need to account for airtime and phone costs in next budget.
Management interventions, training and meetings (Field Co-ordinator / Project Officer & Executive Officer costs related to HPT)	0	3050	3050	Without a leader for the team and with extra training provided for the Northern Area Supervisor Management costs for the team need to be more realistically budgeted.
Admin Costs	3311	2566.35	-744.65	Based on 15% of total for reporting, fundraising time for the team and general admin work allocated to this particular project.
TOTAL	25384	19675.35	-5708.65	

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

- a) The set up of two satellite camps.
- b) The purchase of equipment for use at the satellite camps.
- c) Employment of an additional community member for the team.
- d) Further training for a KWS contingent of the team so that some of the men will be armed.

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?

We shared the info about the grant on our Facebook page and our website with a link to the relevant page about the grant on the RSGF website.

11. Any other comments?

Just a note of thanks for your support with this team.

Some 2013 Mount Kenya Trust Horse Patrol Team work in pictures



Snares, discovered and immobilized by HPT



Illegal logging of Rosewood



Field patrols



Elephant mortality incidents



Other mortality incidents uncovered by HPT



Snared warthog



Poached waterbuck



Snares along fence lines



Illegal logging of Cypress



Arrest of illegal honey harvesters in bamboo zone



Identification of poacher hideouts



Identification of Bhang fields



Awareness raising through horse riding



High altitude field patrols



Fire fighting by the HPT