

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	Dr. M. Nicholson
Project title	Indigenous Forest Project, Plants for Life International, KENYA
RSG reference	01.01.10
Reporting period	February 2010 - December 2010
Amount of grant	£8000
Your email address	mjlni@yahoo.com
Date of this report	January 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
Tree planting			Yes	We planted up a further 7 acres of forest using approximately 3500 trees of 74 species.
Plant biodiversity			Yes	We have the largest number (>1100) of indigenous plant species in an <i>in situ</i> and <i>ex situ</i> collection in one area in any collection in East Africa. In 2010, we have collected the rare African pawpaw <i>Cylicomorpha parviflora</i> , a giant tree growing to 50 m and only collected four times in Kenya's history. We have also collected the largest of the Rubiaceae trees, <i>Mitragyna rubrostipulata</i> . We are believed to have the only cultivated specimens in the world of these two species and our 40 <i>Embelia keniensis</i> , which we are ensuring goes on the IUCN Red List as Critically Endangered.
Avian and mammal biodiversity		Yes		We now have recorded 167 species of birds compared with baseline in 2001 of 35 species. Forest still too young for rarer canopy species and breeding colobus. Bush pig and clawless otter recorded in the forest.
Forest maintenance		Yes		Paths and forest maintained with new paths in main arboretum but invasive species are a major problem. Forest maintenance included removal of invasives, thinning, beating up, native forest mensuration, some labelling and extensive photography for field guide.
Control of exotic and invasive plant species		Yes		The most expensive part of the whole operation, especially <i>Cestrum aurantiacum</i> , bug weed, and wattle and eucalyptus regrowth.

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

- Limited funds: we still need much more labour to control exotic invasives.
- Rainfall was good in 2010 and forest growth has been impressive.

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

- a. Plant biodiversity conservation: with over 1100 recorded species of native plants we have the largest collection of *ex situ* and *in situ* plant spp in Kenya and probably East Africa. We have the only specimens in cultivation of three rare species, *Cylicomorpha parviflora*, *Embelia keniensis* and *Mitrgyna rubrostipulata*. We also have cultivated 28 of the plant species on IUCN Red List, a list which is in major need of revision.
- b. Positive environmental impact is obvious. We have less soil erosion into the valley, soil organic matter is rising under the forest canopy. The visible impact is striking and widely commented upon by visitors. Springs are returning. The birdlife is our main indicator of environmental health and this is increasing, as is the small mammal population.
- c. Awareness raising: we had several hundred visitors from Nairobi and around plus school tours. Brackenhurst received about 20,000 visitors. The project has encouraged eight neighbours to start indigenous tree planting.

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

We continue to have several local and Nairobi-based schools and churches that have visited for environmental training and started getting trees from us and planting up their compounds. We are now doing plant ID training for Maasai forest guides from community ranches in the Maasai Mara area.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes, we need funds for another 2 years to complete our target of 60 acres over the period 2001-2012. We have been given access to government land on the other side of the river and are negotiating with Unilever to protect the immediate catchment upstream of our dam.

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

Yes. Our work has been the catalyst for others in Tigoni to replant with native forests. About 12 acres have been planted in Tigoni under private initiative in about eight different areas using our tree seedlings and advice.

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

The RSG grant was used throughout 2010 for salaries, fuel for machinery and transport and tools/equipment. The grant was for 1 year and used up by December. Our main limitation is shortage of funds. A larger grant would allow work to proceed much faster, especially on the control of invasive species. We are seeking support from RSG for another 2 years to complete our forest planting as we have cleared more eucalyptus in 2010. Forest maintenance will have to go on for at least a further 5-10 years to ensure invasive plants are controlled.

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
Salaries	6510	6671	+161	We need more funds for labour.
Tree nursery	500	362	-138	More tools and equipment needed
Forest	390	394	+4	Casuals for invasive removal & planting
Fuel	600	572	-28	
TOTAL	8000	7999	1	

Exchange rate in May 2010 was Ksh 116 to the pound. It rose in 2010 but after we exchanged the funds. We were very accurate with our expenditure as we were unable to spend beyond our funding levels. See attached file for exact financial statements.

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

If we can attract more funding, the first priority is to expand our tree nursery and plant 15 acres in 2011-12, which includes government land. After 2012, the costs will mainly be forest maintenance; we need 2,000 man days to clear invasives in 2011, and we also have plans for more paths and signage (a gift from Missouri Botanical Garden). We are also developing an indigenous herbaceous garden as the growing forest shades out many species.

10. Did you use the RSGF logo in any materials produced in relation to this project?

The Rufford name is on our signboards. Several people asked us about Rufford and we always encourage branding of our donors.

11. Did the RSGF receive any publicity during the course of your work?

Yes, RSGF has been added to our billboard advertising the arboretum and will be going onto our website. Whenever we get visitors we inform them of our donors prior to our educational walks. RSGF was our main funding agency in 2010, along with American Forests.

12. Any other comments?

Costs continue to rise. Apart from biodiversity conservation, the project has a major impact on livelihoods and poverty alleviation: we employ seven fulltime workers and numerous casuals in an area where unemployment and poverty are very high.