

## 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](mailto:jane@rufford.org).

Thank you for your help.

**Josh Cole, Grants Director**

Grant Recipient Details	
<b>Your name</b>	Jamestone S. Kamwendo
<b>Project title</b>	Conservation of critically endangered biodiversity (fauna & flora) for promotion of eco-tourism and livelihoods at Kasungu Wildlife Reserve
<b>RSG reference</b>	16.12.09
<b>Reporting period</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> February 2010- 31 <sup>st</sup> July 2011
<b>Amount of grant</b>	£11999
<b>Your email address</b>	<a href="mailto:jkamwendo3@yahoo.co.uk">jkamwendo3@yahoo.co.uk</a>
<b>Date of this report</b>	12 August 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
Identify and eradicate all invasive plant species				<p>The project team with partnership with some forestry and biology students from Mzuzu University carried out vegetation surveys in the project area. Invasive plant species were identified and most of these were <i>Lantana camara</i>, <i>Pinus patula</i> and some fern species (Figure 1). These invasive plant species because illegal poaching are the main drivers of biodiversity loss in KWR. In order to minimise the impact of these invasive plant species on indigenous biodiversity, the project team in collaboration with some local communities embarked on the eradication exercise of <i>Lantana camara</i>, <i>Pinus patula</i> and fern species. So far 32 ha of the 35 ha colonised by invasive plant species were cleared of these pests. Of course, there are some few ferns which are sprouting particularly those species whose their rhizomes are deeply rooted in the soil. However, the situation is not devastating as it was before this project.</p>
Restore all IAPs infested areas and conserve healthy diverse habitats				<p>Because of the work that had been carried out, most of the areas that were previously infested with IAPs and those that were deforested as a result of charcoal production (Figure 2) and firewood collection were re-vegetated. This has been done through promoting natural regeneration and random planting of indigenous plants. In addition, existing firebreaks were maintained and in some areas on the Zambian side, a number of firebreaks were constructed. Nursery equipment such as hoes, water cans, polythene tubes, garden forks, wheel barrows, slashers and axes were purchased and distributed to community groups in order to strengthen their commitment towards nature conservation. The re-vegetation of infested areas has helped create natural environment where plants</p>

				and wildlife can live side by side thereby helping to maintain ecosystem functioning.
Strengthen capacity building of wildlife frontline guards and patrolmen.				<p>Eight meetings were conducted with scouts from both Malawi and Zambia on capacity building. The capacity needs assessment meetings assisted the project team to develop short tailor-made training courses for the scouts.</p> <p>Three thematic areas for capacity building were identified during the meetings and these were Wildlife Act and law enforcement, conflict resolution and management, and natural resources and good governance. In order to respond to the capacity needs of the wildlife scouts, four training courses were conducted (Figure 3). Two were conducted for scouts on Malawian side and another two for scouts on the Zambian side. In total, 41 scouts ( 18 from Zambian side and 23 from Malawian side) were intensively trained on Wildlife Act and penalties involved when one breaks the law(s), law enforcement which best work when there is a strong network and good working relationship with local communities living around protected areas, handling of conflicts raising amongst members of staff and between local communities and law enforcers, and natural resources and good governance where corruption was zeroed in as one of factors which fuels wildlife poaching, unsustainable use of natural resources and brings down development.</p> <p>The results of the implementation of the activities are enhanced law enforcement, increased number of well trained personnel on law enforcement, increased knowledge and skills on part of scouts when conducting law enforcement, reduced cases of poaching and a good rapport between local communities and scouts.</p> <p>In addition, two parliamentarians, eight traditional chiefs and key profile community leaders were trained on good governance and natural resources management. The training had equipped them with up to date information on their duties and responsibilities in promoting and supporting</p>

				nature conservation so that their subjects should always emulate good examples from them as responsible leaders.
Promote networking between wildlife front staff and established community groups				<p>Six meetings were facilitated and held between scouts and established community groups (Figure 4). The whole aim was to strengthen the working relationship between the two groups if the battle against wildlife poaching in the project area was to be realised. To strengthen the working relationship further, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed by key representatives from the two parties. The MoU articulates the mandate of the two parties in working together to enforce wildlife laws and regulations, and monitoring in order to address the problems of poaching and illegal harvesting of plants. In order to promote communication and exchange of information and reports, 30 mobile phones were purchased and distributed to community leaders.</p> <p>Further an exchange visit was organised for community groups that are established in Malawi and Zambian side. The aim of the visit was to enable community leaders to share and exchange vital information on law enforcement and monitoring but also to learn what others are doing in regard to nature conservation. The visit had assisted community members to learn from each other new knowledge and skills that are used to tackle poaching and deforestation and it is believed that the knowledge gained will go a long way in addressing environmental problems in the two countries.</p>
Establish village cultural tourism and environmental education & information centre.				<p>This objective was done by 65%.</p> <p>In the project proposal, it was stated that 17 Traditional Village Cultural Tourism Centres (TVCTCs) (10 on Malawian side and seven on Zambian side) would be built. Due to the escalation of the prices of the building materials on the local market, the amount of funds allocated were not adequate and as a result, seven TVCTCs were built (four in villages on Malawian side and three in villages on Zambian side) and similarly one</p>

			<p>environmental education and information centre (Figure 5) was built in each side. These facilities will help tourists to get information on types of wildlife that exist on KWR and also get entertained by local communities living around the reserve thereby promoting income to alleviate poverty and which can act as a conduit to offset poaching and deforestation.</p>
<p>Promote livelihoods for local communities living around KWR in both Malawi and Zambia</p>			<p>Twenty meetings were held with local communities and traditional chiefs on both sides of KWR. The meetings focused on income generating activities (IGAs) that communities themselves wanted to promote in their respective areas in order to assist them to improve their daily livelihoods. During the meetings, the following IGAs were identified to be promoted; bee keeping and wax production, fish farming, poultry and guinea farming, vegetable farming, improved bananas and fruit farming and also art and craft making, e.g. cane furniture making, cane basket making, etc.</p> <p>The meetings resulted in formation of 50 farming associations/clubs. Of these, 30 were established on Malawian side and 20 on Zambian side (Figure 6). About 800 local club members were intensively trained in promotion and management of various IGAs mentioned above. Selected club leader members were also trained in leadership and business management skills. Further, assorted IGA materials (such as bee hives, fish fingerings, chickens for eggs and meat, vegetable seeds, banana suckers, fruit seedlings, guinea fowl, etc) (Figure 7) were purchased and distributed to established agri-business clubs. The random surveys that were undertaken in the impact areas showed that club members are benefiting quite a lot from the skills and knowledge that they gained during the training as they are engaged in undertaking various IGAs which assist them to generate a lot of money to support their families. The survey also showed that the rate of poaching and deforestation had gone down due to the introduction of these interventions. It is our</p>

				sincere hope that these activities will go a long way in addressing nature conservation problems in the area.
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**2. Please explain any unforeseen difficulties that arose during the project and how these were tackled (if relevant).**

The unforeseen difficult that arose during the project was scarcity of fuel (both petrol and diesel) in Malawi. This problem had significantly derailed the implementation of the project. However, the problem was tackled by rescheduling our work plan and activities such that we had finally managed to complete the implementation of the project activities even though a bit late compared to the actual planned implementation period.

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

The followings are the most important outcomes of our project:

- Eradication of pernicious IAPs which were responsible for the loss of some important indigenous biodiversity through displacement, suppression and altering soil pH and soil chemistry. The restoration of the infested areas in the reserve has helped create natural environment which is suitable for indigenous wildlife and flora. This effort has therefore, assisted in improving natural habitats and promoting conservation of indigenous biodiversity for eco-tourism.
- Local and institutional capacity building of communities and frontline staff in effective law enforcement, monitoring and networking is another important outcome of the project. The capacity building of these people has enhanced new skills in them and are now more able to effectively carry out patrols and enforce wildlife laws and regulations than before. The efforts have helped and will continue helping the protection and conservation of our important natural heritage in KWR.
- Promotion of various IGAs has helped poor local communities living around KWR who directly depend upon wildlife and other reserve resources for livelihoods to find sound alternative activities which can assist them to generate more money and food rather than always relying on poaching and deforestation in order to meet their livelihoods. The intervention has helped to offset over-dependency on poaching and cutting down of trees for charcoal production. This effort will therefore, help to enhance nature conservation in the project area.

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

The project received support from local communities living around the reserve right away from the beginning and as such most of the activities were carried out by local communities. Because of their active participation in the implementation of the activities, the majority of local communities have gained new various skills and knowledge ranging from project design, planning and development; project implementation; monitoring and evaluation; law enforcement and wildlife monitoring; and also running and management of agri-businesses such as bee keeping, fish farming, poultry and guinea fowl rearing, fruit juice processing and art and craft making just to mention a few. Some of

the skills gained have already assisted local communities to venture into various agri-businesses where they are generating a lot of money thereby reducing poverty levels in the area.

**5. Are there any plans to continue this work?**

Of course there are plans to continue this work in some areas of the country which face similar problems.

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

We are planning to share the results of the work with others by distributing both hard and electronic copies of the final report to various government departments and NGOs in Malawi and Zambia which are responsible for nature conservation.

**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 for a period of 18 months. When compared to the anticipated or actual length of the project which was planned to be 12 months, it is discovered that the project had been extended by a period of six months mostly due to lack of fuel of the market.

**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
Assorted stationery and software equipment (flash disks)	1770	1770		Money allocated were adequate for all stationery and other materials
Tree nursery equipment and supplies	2092	2092		As above
Production of environmental education and awareness materials (posters and leaflets)	420	420		As above
Training of frontline staff and key community member leaders	308	308		As above
Training of traditional chiefs, parliamentarians of the area and other community members on good governance and natural resource management	328	328		As above
Training workshop on eradication IAPs and tree seedlings raising and management	511	511		As above
Purchase of field equipment and protective clothing	990	990		As above

Transport expenses (fuel & lubricants)	1646	1646		As above
Construction of environmental village cultural and environmental education centres	500	500		Not adequate and we had to reduce the number of village cultural centres to be built as originally planned.
Purchase of IGAs Starter Packs	3325	3325		As above
Printing cost of final project and final report to be distributed to stakeholders	110	110		As above
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>11999</b>	<b>11999</b>		

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

When I look ahead, I feel the next important step is to go back and eradicate the sprouting ferns probably using chemicals (herbicide) but first needs to be experimented to see if the chemicals do not have negative impacts on the indigenous biodiversity. Then, we need to replicate the project results to other protected areas which face similar conservation problems.

**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, the project team used the RSGF logo in all environmental education that were produced and distributed to various community groups. The RSGF therefore received the publicity that it deserved during the course of our work and many stakeholders have come to know RSG because of our publicity.

**11. Any other comments?**

The project team including local communities that have benefited from this project in one way or another would like to express their great gratitude to the RSGF for the financial support which had enabled the project to be implemented.