

## 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>	Wanyoike Wamiti
<b>Project title</b>	Bird ringing as an opportunity for research and training of rural community bird guides at Nyahururu, Kenya.
<b>RSG reference</b>	20.11.07
<b>Reporting period</b>	June 2008 – January 2009
<b>Amount of Grant</b>	GBP 9,726.26 (Received Euros 12,313/ <sup>00</sup> )
<b>Your email address</b>	wamsnarina@yahoo.com
<b>Date of this report</b>	23 <sup>rd</sup> January 2009

**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
Undertake ornithological surveys at Marmanet Forest and Lake Ol' Bolossat to build area's bird species checklist and publish "Checklist of the Birds of Nyahururu".			Yes	Data now available awaiting analysis and publication. Additional funding is required for publication and launching online of the checklist as a marketing strategy.
Facilitate trainees understand the economic and cultural values of their natural resources, threats facing them and promote desire and stewardship for conservation awareness.			Yes	This was achieved through field visits, on site discussions, and lectures. Appropriate and classic examples were given. Trainees were asked to conduct research on cultural aspects during the 3 weeks breaks.
Train 10+ local youth in fundamentals of ornithology - bird identification, low-impact bird-watching techniques and handling and care of field equipment.		Yes		The project offered an opportunity for 9 local youth who were trained in principles of bird watching and guiding as well as in other areas such as advocacy and public environmental education.
Level the progress of accomplices' cultivation of interest and enthusiasm in nature for leisure and economic gains.			Yes	The accomplishment of this objective is demonstrated by the fact that the participant's own declaration of how much ignorant they have been as far as environmental conservation was concerned, and have formed a bird club for advocacy and guiding services to generate income.
Purchase basic ringing gear as part of the author's long-term career field equipment for research and education.			Yes	A comprehensive ringing kit was purchased and shipped from the British Trust for Ornithology. The kit has already been used outside the project and will continue to be used as the PI indulges in avian ecto-parasites long-term study.
Assess possibilities of establishing a ringing station and constant effort site in the forest.	Yes			Though this has a potential, it is subject to a discussion with the Kenya Forest Service HQs upon the submission of a report highlighting key species observed and the need for continued study of the bird communities in the forest and surrounding areas. All is not lost yet.

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

- ✚ A high inflation rate post proposal submission and award and actual receipt of funding. This was addressed by adjusting the budget accordingly e.g. foregoing some proposed costs and reducing on major expenses e.g. allowances cutting.
- ✚ Insecurity – we had little anticipation of the return of elephants in the forest reserve since 1986 (when they were last reported). Their arrival meant limited venture in the forest interiors. We overcame this by avoiding very early entry in the forest and requesting the company of armed rangers while going deep in the forest. However, we could not have avoided being applauded by armed Kenya Police officers for having been mistaken for belonging to an outlawed sect while we were only ringing birds. The fact we lost an 18 metre mist net left overnight required that we set them up early in areas that were unsafe.
- ✚ Requirement for crucial equipment – as the project progressed, I realised the need for a printer, binoculars, an LCD projector plus some DVDs/VCDs on environment yet the budget could not cater for this. I therefore approached other donors who generously provide these: RSPB (six pairs of binoculars), Idea Wild (LCD Projector), ABC (printer) and African Environmental Film Foundation (12 titles of DVDs). I am so grateful to them.
- ✚ I had initially budgeted for production or purchase of a training manual but this was one of the items removed as the budget was adjusted. However, the Tropical Biology Association gave permission for the use of their manual (Fundamentals of Ornithology) while Ms Betty Paterson of the American Birding Association provided an online link to a manual for training community bird guides.

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

- ✚ Training of 9 local community bird guides who towards the end of the project formed the Nyahururu Bird Club on 30 October 2008. They have already started working with local conservation institutions e.g. Kenya Wildlife Service to address the bird shooting at Lake Ol' Bolossat and has since registered with the Wildlife Clubs of Kenya and the Ministry of Gender, Sports & Social Services. An invitation has been extended from the Marmanet Forest Reserve's Community Forest Association and Kenya Eco-Birders Guides Association. The Club had a field trip to some of Kenya's precious national parks that was described as a great achievement.
- ✚ A detailed checklist of the birds of South Marmanet Forest Reserve and Lake Ol' Bolossat. Both are key sites with great potentials for attracting bird watching tourists who in return would promote local socio-economic growth and development. Publication of this checklist and research findings will go a long way in publicising the area among the tour operators and conservation community.
- ✚ The project has provided an opportunity for me to start sampling and study of avian ectoparasites, my new career area. A number of parasites such as ticks, lice, flies and mites have so far been collected and preserved for the National Museums of Kenya natural history collection.

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

The 9 trainees are drawn from the local community surrounding the Lake and Forest. By training as bird guides, this knowledge will help them when opportunities will arise as bird guides and/or research assistants. The local businesspeople have also benefited from purchase of food supplies either from shops and markets or directly from their farms. We also hired transport services from the local operators. Publication of findings will make the world know the importance of this area. While we made

field visits, we had an opportunity to speak to them on what we were doing and why, as well as how they could help in natural resources conservation.

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

Yes. I am intending to seek additional funding or receive an invitation for a follow-up grant from RSGF since this project just tackled a tip of the iceberg as far as research and socio-economic development needs are concerned. A biodiversity inventory is required in the forest, grasslands and wetland so that key species of conservation concern are identified. The newly founded Nyahururu Bird Club too requires nurturing skills and running of her activities and functional office. The local Kenya Forest Service needs assistance to develop eco-tourism facilities to generate the much-needed revenue for this newly legislated state corporation. We also need to support a sustainable bird monitoring scheme for forest birds, waterfowls and grassland specialists.

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

I will share my findings through publications of scientific paper(s). Collected photographs will be made available to those who may require them. Small articles will be published in magazines and newsletters e.g. Kenya Birds. The link to RSGF website where the progress reports of this project are posted shall be distributed to friends and made part of my e-mail signature. The participants, forester and Kenya Forest Service HQs do receive copies of the progress reports. Sightings of birds have already been shared with enthusiastic bird watchers, some of whom have already shown great interest in the area.

#### **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 between June 2008 and January 2009. The project was however scheduled to last for 12 months but could not due to running out of funds. I therefore stopped earlier and still had 3 months. However, the overall performance was excellent given that emphasis was put to the realisation of the objectives (especially training) when funds were known that they could not make it to the 12 months mark. The shortage of the 3 months means too that I will be short of data on birds over the seasons.

#### **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.**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Budgeted Amount</b>	<b>Actual Amount</b>	<b>Difference</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Transport	3,571.43	3,652.61	-81.18	Fuel cost increased to as much as 47% during the project period.
Equipment Purchase	2,525.21	2,546.89	-21.68	All desired equipment were bought or availed at a little cost/fee.
Stipend & Allowances	2,100.84	1,813.03	287.82	Allowance rates were reduced to fit budget; trainees increased from 6 to 9.
Stationary	71.43	102.58	-31.10	Photocopying of notes/handouts took greatest share of this budget item.
Communication	42.02	25.34	16.68	There was more need to communicate than expected

				so was increase in cost.
Bank Transfer Commission	8.40	8.40	0.00	
ATM withdrawal fee	12.61	12.18	0.42	
Food Costs at Camp/Outings	453.15	446.42	6.73	Stable food (rice, maize flour) increased with over 100%. Other foods too e.g. meat, bread, cooking fat increased costs
Field trip to Lake Nakuru & Hell's Gate National Parks	941.18	1,109.29	-168.12	A few trips had been budgeted for but due to inflation rates of KSh at grant award, only 2 in 1 trip was possible.
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,726.26</b>	<b>9,716.69</b>	<b>9.57</b>	Exchange rate is 1 GBP = KSh 119 as at the time of receipt of grant in March 2008.

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

- ✍ Immediate analysis and publication of the research findings arising from this project on the forest birds of South Marmanet Forest Reserve with recommendations for forest and her biodiversity management.
- ✍ Seek funding to equip an office for Nyahururu Bird Club (NBC) with what is required to operate effectively e.g. stationary, storage cabinets, computer, and fixed telephone line, among others. The local Kenya Forest Service has offered an office space free of charge.
- ✍ Establishment of a constant effort site to continue with the study of the forest birds. This too will be a training opportunity for the NBC members in the skills of bird ringing to enable them to conduct the sessions on their own in future.
- ✍ Funding to publish the first edition of the *Checklist of Birds of Nyahururu* and making it available online for would-be bird watchers and other users.
- ✍ Designing and launching of a website for the NBC as a marketing strategy that will also link them with other localised bird guides in Kenya and the world in general.
- ✍ A feasibility study to identify needs for developing the tourism products (eco-tourism potentials) in the area for the good of the environment, NBC and community at large.
- ✍ An active education program is much needed. This may start with establishment of an education resource centre and its equipping to deliver to schools and community.
- ✍ Train NBC members in areas identified in the third and final field report for Dec 2008 and January 2009.

### 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?

The RSGF logo was used in all print outs e.g. notes handouts, presentations and shall be used in future when such materials as posters will be produced where data obtained from this project is used e.g. the publication of the proposed Checklist of Birds of Nyahururu. It was also used on the certificates that were awarded to the nine trainees.

**11. Any other comments?**

RSGF has done a great thing to support me in this project. It has enabled me to achieve a big goal in my career, more so to help my own community. I suggest that the Foundation also provide some funds to grant recipients who may want to advance education like myself so that their capacity is also built as it's through this I can become even a better scientist in future. I thank RSGF for all the support so far.