

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. The Final Report must be sent in **word format** and not PDF format or any other format. 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. Please note that the information may be edited for clarity. 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	Johanna Kolehmainen
Project title	Magoroto Mlinga Community Ecotourism Project Phase II
RSG reference	09.04.66
Reporting period	1 st September 2009 - 31 st August 2010
Amount of grant	£12,000
Your email address	jkolehma74@gmail.com
Date of this report	13 th 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
1. Increased number of community members give high priority to forest conservation, especially to conservation of the <i>Saintpaulia</i> habitats, and apply forest conservation techniques.		X		<p>About 400 villagers have participated in the conservation awareness raising events and conservation training. If each of those 400 people shared the message he/she learned with, for example, four household members and two neighbours, a total of 2000 more people have received the message indirectly. Thus, about half of the population of the project area (ca. 5000) have received the conservation message directly or indirectly.</p> <p>41 farmers have established soil conservation structures, which help prevent landslides and nutrient leakage on the existing farmlands (this reduces the need for farm extensions) and ca. 70 farmers planted trees of their farms (reducing the need for firewood and timber from the forest).</p> <p>Since the start of the project, there has been a decreasing trend of tree cutting and other illegalities in Mlinga Forest Reserve and village land forests, but occasional tree cutting, agricultural encroachment and gold digging has continued in the Magrotto Estate forest.</p>
2. Communities have increased capacity for development of tourism services		X		<p>A week long introductory course on tourism has been arranged for 34+20 villagers, tour guide training for 10 villagers, a study excursion to nearby nature reserve for 16 villagers, and a week-long English language training for the tour guides.</p> <p>Communities' institutional capacity to develop tourism has been increased by establishing the Magoroto Mlinga Conservation and Ecotourism Association (MAMCEA) that has representation from three forest adjacent villages.</p> <p>The project has also arranged</p>

				opportunities for the villagers to host foreign visitors.
3. The area has better infrastructure for provision of tourism services		X		<p>Several optional trail routes have been identified and documented, but the trails are not marked in the field.</p> <p>A room has been renovated in the Mwembeni village office building for the use of MAMCEA and the local tour guides (it also serves as a visitor information centre).</p> <p>After the tourism promotion tour organised by the project, the Amboni Sisal Properties Ltd. decided to start renovating some houses for visitors and establish a visitor information centre at the Magrotto estate HQ. We believe that the promotional tour was one of the factors that encouraged the company to proceed with the plans of developing the estate as an ecotourism resort.</p> <p>Campsites and picnic sites are yet to be established and signs are needed at the entry points (e.g. road junctions).</p>
4. Tour operators, tourists and travellers become aware of Magoroto Mlinga as a new tour destination		X		<p>The promotional tour was a significant first step in tourism marketing. Key players of Tanga tourism sector are now aware of Magoroto as a potential tour destination. It is expected that they will market the area for their clients as soon as the Magrotto Estate visitor houses start to operate.</p> <p>The project area will also be mentioned as one of the tour destinations in the next edition of Tanga Region Tourism Guide.</p>

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

Four people requested to work as volunteers in the project for 1 – 2 months. We agreed to take them because their contribution seemed relevant for the project. However, we did not realise early enough how much their participation will increase project costs (security, foodstuffs etc.). We revised the budget once more when they had already arrived in the project country and realised that we will have to request more money from them than was originally agreed. They resented but paid what was requested. The sudden raise of the fee however affected the spirit of the team work and especially one volunteer complained much if some facilities were out of use for a while and also continuously criticised that the project field coordinator was not responding enough to the

volunteers' needs. The coordinator, however, felt that the volunteer(s) were demanding too much and bothering him purposely. Two of the volunteers were very useful for the project, one somewhat useful and the fourth has not reported her work yet. From this incidence, we (the project leaders) learned very good lessons: 1) Involving volunteers increases project expenditure so the budget needs to be revised carefully in order to know how the fee to be requested from the volunteers; 2) Volunteers need different kinds of assistance which increases the work load of the project staff (this must be taken into account when budgeting staff's allowances; and 3) The volunteers need to be given comprehensive information well in advance about the payments requested from them, the facilities available for them and what they are expected to do.

Unfortunately, towards the end of the project, we realised that expenditure will exceed the available funds. The only solution was to use our own money in order to complete all started tasks. We wouldn't have had to invest so much of our own money if we had charged the volunteers all the extra expenditure they caused for the project (we charged only part). Clearly, we had made a too optimistic budget.

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

1. The local communities (both school children and adults) are more aware of the importance of forest conservation and have new knowledge that is likely to lead them to a more conservation-friendly behaviour.
2. Some of the villagers are practising sustainable farming methods and have planted trees on their farms, which reduces the pressure to utilise forests. The benefits they will get will encourage other villagers to follow their example.
3. Key members of the regional tourism industry are now aware of Magoroto as a new tour destination.

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

Local communities (three forest adjacent villages) have been the main beneficiaries of the project:

- The villagers have received training in forest conservation, tourism and sustainable farming.
- A community-based organisation (MAMCEA) was established with the help of the project.
- The project helped the local communities build a link with tourism entrepreneurs who will bring visitors / income to the communities.
- Some villagers got short term employment as supporting staff of the project.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Unfortunately, we have not been able to identify an organisation through which to apply further funds (e.g. the Rufford Continuation Grant is for organisations only) and chances for further personal grants to the project leader seem very limited. Running this project has also required much voluntary work and devotion from the project leaders, and it seems difficult to continue in the same way in our current life situation. Although the project is unlikely to continue as an externally funded project, I and the project co-leader plan to continue some parts of the project through our own tour operating firm. As entrepreneurs, we will work with the local communities to take tourists to the area and also keep contact with other project stakeholders to encourage them continue working for

the goals of the project. We hope that we will be able to support MAMCEA, as part of our company's charity work, to implement some of the activities we had planned for the project (e.g. establishment of campsites and picnic sites, training on construction of firewood saving mud stoves).

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

The project reports are available on the project website for anyone interested (we continue to maintain the site even after the end of the project). Moreover, in future, when we work as tourism entrepreneurs, we will educate both the travellers and other tourism entrepreneurs about the importance of protecting the forest (and environment as a whole) and the importance of involving the local communities in that effort.

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

The grant was used according to the anticipated length of the project (12 months), i.e. from 1st of September 2009 to 31st of August 2010.

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.

Most of the project funds were spent in Tanzania (paid in TZ shillings) but some also in Finland (paid in euro). For the budget breakdown shown below, all expenditures in Tanzania have first been converted to euro. Total expenditures (Finland + Tanzania) in euro were then converted to £ sterling using the exchange rate 0,862441.

Item	Budgeted Amount	Actual Amount	Difference	Comments
International travel	1171	1077	94	The project was not charged for the travel insurance
Stationary, photocopy and printing	305	279	26	
Bank service fees	81	53	28	
In-country transport	1578	1879	-301	The need for vehicle hire was underestimated
Per diems / subsistence allowances	6820	7318	-499	Need for supporting staff was underestimated, e.g. security guards were completely forgotten from the budget (the lengthy stay of volunteers increased the need for supporting staff)
Consumables	2452	3600	-1146	Need for diesel was underestimated. The lengthy stay of volunteers increased the cost of foodstuffs.
Equipment	1196	1594	-398	Renovation of the MAMCEA's office was more expensive than

				expected (note: this item would better belong to consumables)
Communications	211	177	34	The project leaders did not charge the project for all the phone calls they made
Other	0	502	-502	Unbudgeted costs: MAMCEA's registration fees, car services and repairs, medications, hotel accommodation, map production by a GIS consultant
Total	£ 13817	£ 16481	£ -2664	

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

Perhaps the most important next step is to get tourists in the project area. Arriving tourists and the money they bring will be an incentive for the communities to continue and expand conservation friendly lifestyle. We will make personal follow up on this by encouraging some tour operators to include Magoroto in their tour packages.

It is also important that:

- A memorandum of understanding will soon be developed between the Tanga Catchment Forests Authority and the communities to determine the communities' role in conservation of the Mlinga Forest Reserve and the system of sharing tourism income generated by that reserve.
- The Amboni Sisal Properties Ltd. /the Magrotto Estate will have fruitful collaboration with the surrounding communities in conservation and ecotourism development because they share the conservation interest and their services for tourists complement each other.
- The Muheza District Agricultural Department will make follow up and extend sustainable farming methods in the project villages (there is some uncertainty about the district's ability to do this as their resources are very limited).
- There will be follow up of the functioning of MAMCEA (the community association established with the help of the project) by the patron of the association (the Manager of the Tanga Catchment Forest Authority) to ensure that the association can stand on its own feet and get help if needed.
- Tourism infrastructure will be improved step by step (signs, improvement of trails, picnic sites, campsites etc.). These can be implemented on village lands in the coordination of MAMCEA, but it will need external financial and technical support, and also legal advice if structures are placed on land owned by individual villagers.

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 logo appears in the full project phase II final report, on the main page of project website (www.mamcep.org) and in 2011 it will appear in a project poster in the visitor information centre that will be established in the Magrotto Estate headquarters.