

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	Harsh Vardhan
Project title	Lake Conservation as Citizens' Initiative in India
RSG reference	10973 - 2
Reporting period	19 January 2012 to end February 2013
Amount of grant	£6000
Your email address	birdfair1@hotmail.com
Date of this report	28 February 2013

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. Survey of the Fish population in Man Sagar lake			Yes	The fishing contract in the lake had been terminated in 2006. There was no culling after that and fish stock had assumed alarming proportions. It was essential to survey the fish species as some of them impact its aquatic character. It was accomplished to realise the lake's ecosystem and a letter from Fish Department was procured to authenticate our survey work. It was carried out through local fishermen.
2. Survey of the aquatic vegetation in Man Sagar lake			Yes	After the first de-silting initiative by the government was made in Man Sagar Lake (2002), lot of vegetation got uprooted and benefits from aquatic vegetation to the lake water were denied. The survey now done has established deficiency of such vegetation to throw light on health of the lake's ecosystem. Rooted and floating species were found most missing.
3. Dialogues with government		Yes		The above two survey-results were conveyed to the government through letters and meetings and the dialogue continues as it is un-ending process.
4. Dialogues with stake holders		Yes		They are continuing and will be continuing. A blog (www.facebook/savemansagar) has featured such meetings and interactions eg., http://save-mansagar-lake.blogspot.in/?view=magazine#!/2012/09/what-is-jaipur-press-doing-at-man-sagar.html & http://save-mansagar-lake.blogspot.in/?view=magazine#!/2012/09/what-is-jaipur-press-doing-at-man-sagar.html ; also at: http://save-mansagar-lake.blogspot.in/2012/09/what-is-jaipur-press-doing-at-man-sagar.html . Interface with stakeholders has been encouraging to result in lake conservation initiatives.
5. Involvement of other organisations			Yes	This issue was debated in three meetings in New Delhi: on 14 August 2012 in Ministry of Urban Development (MoUD), on 29 January

				2013 (CSE Round-table), and in Jaipur on 8 February 2013 (at government level at HCM RIPA), it is further to be discussed in New Delhi on 4 and 5 March 2013 (CSE's Anil Agrawal Dialogue); these are first such and positive developments for this lake conservation.
6. Policy formulation "Lake Development Authority" being set up			Yes	A positive development is that Rajasthan Government has decided to set up the Lake Development Authority (February 2013) following sustained appeals, dialogues opened, meetings done and negotiations made by the RSG recipient, see its report in The Times of India: http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/jaipur/Lake-authority-bill-mooted-for-conservation-of-water-bodies/articleshow/18438709.cms , and also in The HINDU daily on 20 Feb., 2013 at: http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/a-new-authority-for-lakes-proposed/article4433405.ece The RSG recipient has been quoted in these news items, in fact he was the coordinator for creating such measures.

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

No unforeseen difficulties were faced. Difficulties are part of the process especially in a country like India.

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

- (i) The Lake Development Authority being set up in Rajasthan and Man Sagar Lake is poised to be show cased as an example before government and civil society all over India as a result.
- (ii) The fish survey undertaken is a first effort of its kind for lakes in this State (Rajasthan).
- (iii) The aquatic vegetation survey is yet another first to spell out health of this lake's ecosystem.

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

The people living around this lake by now have realised their satisfaction out of the initiatives made through this RSG recipient, holding Birding Fairs to enlist civil society's support and showcasing merits of aquatic ecosystem of this lake (the news reports and blogs, cited above, testify it).

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes, it has to continue: survey outcome now needs to be implemented.

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

By holding meetings and through the Press (as cited above) which is supportive.

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

The amount was received on 19 January 2012, hence its utilisation was up to end February 2013, covering two Birding Fairs (15th on 2nd – 3rd February 2012 and 16th on 1st – 2nd February 2013), the two surveys and meetings.

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
15 th Birding Fair	1200	1200	Nil	On 2nd – 3rd February 2012, to cover cost of organising and bringing out publications
16 th Birding Fair	950	950	Nil	On 1st – 2nd February 2013, to cover cost of organising and bringing out publications
Meetings to show case work	800	800	Nil	Meetings to debate lake conservation and showcase the work executed
Fish survey	1500	1500	Nil	Employing persons to enter the lake, catch fish, sample them and quantify
Vegetation survey	1500	1500	Nil	Employing experts from KN Park, Bharatpur, to adjudge species and quantify them.
TOTAL	5800	5800	175 left out	

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

(a) The invasive fish species (as also highlighted by the Fish Department vide its letter to the RSG recipient, copy already sent to RSG) will need to be removed from this lake to free its water from their negative impact, and

(b) The aquatic vegetation thus surveyed will need to be reintroduced in the lake to serve as cleansing agent for water and also feed for birds to further enhance water quality.

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 publications carried RSG Logo, and were sent to the RSG Office by post (acknowledged by Jane vide 18 October 2013 email).

11. Any other comments?

It is immense pleasure to be associated with RSG and its executives who have displayed a high degree of professionalism giving independence to work in the field, hope such an association will last longer, will be available for any support if so needed.