

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	Lou Vanny
Project title	Building local adaptive capacities to climate change-induced changes in water levels for sustainable livelihoods in Mekong River in Stung Treng Ramsar Site, Cambodia
RSG reference	12216-2
Reporting period	30 August 2012 – 30 August 2013
Amount of grant	£5,940
Your email address	louvanny@gmail.com
Date of this report	September 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
(i). Organised a local meeting with stakeholders and local people to inform them of the second stage of funding from the Rufford			x	<p>A local meeting was conducted at a small Buddhist pagoda on 19th October 2012 with the active participation of Samaki commune chief, Thmey village head, Thmey community fisheries committee members, Stung Treng provincial Fisheries Administration officer and 27 local full-time and part-time fishers. The main objective of the meeting was to inform local authority and people of the second stage of Rufford-funded integrated small-scale fish culture and vegetable production project aimed at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Replicating the integrated farming system of fish-vegetable production to enable local community to cope with and build more resilient to climate change; (ii) Identifying climate change-induced underlying risk factors posing threats to economics and livelihoods of small-scale inland fishers
(ii) Conducted a training course on fish-vegetable integrated farming system and raising techniques			x	<p>A training course on fish-vegetable integrated system was provided by Mr Iv Vichet, Stung Treng Fisheries Administration cantonment officer on 23rd December 2012 at Samaki commune chief's house. The main objectives of the training course were to increase more understanding of the project's beneficiaries financially supported by the Rufford Small Grants Foundation at the second stage</p>

				<p>about the fish-raising and vegetable growing integrated system and to mainstream this culture technique into their livelihoods activities as a strategic mechanism to deal with the likely changes in the availability of the natural resources and uncertainty about the climate. 23 local people including Thmey village chief, Samaki commune chief and Lou Vanny were directly involved in the training course.</p> <p>Training manuals from Fisheries Administration Cantonment were distributed to all trainees during the training course. The trainer clearly explained about stages of fish culture from fish-fry stock into the ponds at an appropriate way, care, feeding, and pest control and harvesting.</p>
Implemented practical project activities of integrated fish-vegetable systems			x	<p>20 local people who directly benefit from the project at the second phase started their integrated fish-vegetable system after the completion of training course. 10 local beneficiaries from the first stage of funding used their existing ponds and 10 more prepared new ponds for this system. 510 catfish fry were stocked into every pond of each project's beneficiary by themselves just under direct technical observation from Stung Treng fisheries administration officer.</p> <p>Some project beneficiaries have already grown some kinds of vegetables close to the fishponds, by using water from the ponds for irrigation while some others have just prepared land for growing them.</p>
Invited Mr William Murray to pay a visit to the project site			x	<p>Mr William Murray—unpaid Rufford-funded project technical advisor— visited the project site in Samaki commune of Stung Treng</p>

				<p>province from 10th-12th February 2013. The main purposes of his visit were to visit the project site and meet with project's beneficiaries, other interested people, Thmey community fisheries committee members and Stung Treng fisheries administration cantonment to seek his technical advice on the implementation of the project and find ways for future project's intervention to strengthen local people's livelihoods.</p> <p>He also recommended that a local hatchery, if there is continued funding from the Rufford, be established to increase more seeds and reduce purchase from outside. By so doing, it will not only increase local fish seeds, but sell them to other people for more income.</p>
<p>Conducted Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (VCA) to identify problems caused by climate and non-climatic aspects and risks they are facing and threatening their livelihoods;</p>			x	<p>Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment was conducted on 2nd April 2013 on a small Buddhist pagoda with the participation from local authorities and local people. VCA provided information about the most vulnerable livelihoods, natural resources/ecosystems and land use/infrastructure in Thmey village. In terms of livelihoods, the ranking of rice farming and fishing as one of the most susceptible/exposed livelihoods to the impacts of climate and non-climate hazards. Fishing activities are most vulnerable to nature-related hazards including water temperature increase and non-climate-related activities such as illegal fishing activities, water pollution, upstream dam construction and change in hydrology.</p> <p>Rice farming was identified as second most vulnerable livelihood,</p>

				<p>particularly due to the sensitivity/exposure to climate hazards such as big flood during the rainy season and soil topology which cannot store water for a long time (cannot cultivate any crops during the dry season).</p> <p>Regarding to natural resources and ecosystems, the most vulnerable one is changes in hydrology caused by upstream dam construction affecting fish breeding season. In terms of human-made hazards, social practices, among local fishers and outsiders are posing the major challenges to the sustainable use and long-term availability of fish populations.</p> <p>Regarding land use and infrastructure, the capacity of the local fishing zone (CFI) management committee is not strong enough to conduct law enforcement and public awareness programs and to carry out management plans, towards a more sustainable and profitable use of fishing grounds.</p> <p>Soil erosion (river embankment), ranked as most vulnerable land use seems to be more affected by big flood during the rainy reason, abnormal rainfall (alteration of dry-wet season cycles) and clearance of vegetation along the embankment for agriculture purpose such as vegetable farming. Furthermore, bad local infrastructure such as road and bridges to the village was also main threats to their livelihoods.</p>
Carried out Promoting Local Innovations (PLIs) to prioritise the identified problems for intervention to sustain their livelihoods;			X	As a result of the discussions held in the Thmey village, soil erosion and bad local road and broken bridges to the village was selected as the immediate first priority vulnerability. Furthermore, low fish catch and impact of flood on rice

				<p>farming were selected as the immediate second priority vulnerability to be addressed by the villagers.</p> <p>In terms of the first priority challenges, options of technical solutions is to encourage the commune authority to mainstream it into the commune development planning and encourage local people to make in-kind contribution to the maintenance and rehabilitation of the existing local infrastructure.</p> <p>Regarding to the second vulnerability, integrated farming system is considered a good solution to complement and make their livelihood less dependent on the collection of fish from the river. The second vulnerability which local people are expected will be financially supported by the Rufford at the third stage to translate this integrated farming system in this village into a good model for other villages and have local hatchery set up in this area.</p>
Carried out public awareness campaigns			X	<p>Five-member CFI committee carried out three small public awareness campaigns on climate change and its effects on biodiversity and people and the importance of local people's active participation in the protection and conservation of aquatic resources at the grassroots level to communities. The themes of the campaigns included: what is the climate change? What causes climate change? How are local livelihoods affected by climate change? What action and measures can be taken to address the climate change, the significant roles and responsibilities, planning and participation of the local people in the protection and</p>

				conservation?
Producing a documentary video		X		Short video was produced because the project manager didn't get fully involved in all project activities such as education and awareness programme as the whole process of fish culture.

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

About 5% of fish population in the ponds died of improper care such as hot water in the pond and water seepage from the pond. However, this problem has been solved by encouraging them to put water hyacinth into the pond as a shelter.

The project is planned to encourage the project beneficiaries to contribute \$20 from all 20 project beneficiaries as a revolving fund in order to other poor people. However, not all of them made contribution as planned. Only 12 of them contributed \$10 as revolving fund. Anyway, £113.1 (about \$179.83) left from the project implementation will be kept as revolving to support other people.

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

Outcome1:

Not only project beneficiaries, but other local villagers have learned and received practical techniques on integrated system of fish culture with vegetable production through the training course organized by the project.

Outcome2:

Additional household income has been generated through the sales of locally grown vegetables and cultured fish supported by the project and significant reduction in purchasing of them from the markets. For example, income from sales of fish: 45-50 kg x 6,000 Riel (\$1.5) = \$65-75 excluding some fish caught for household consumption (about 15-20 kg).

Outcome3:

Local social capital such as trust, cooperation reciprocity and solidarity among local people has been enhanced. The project has gained strong support from Stung Treng Provincial Fisheries Administration Cantonment and local authorities because it not only contributes to enhancing local people's additional household income, but also to reduction in dependence by local people on the collection of the natural fish.

Outcome4:

The intrinsic nature of the project is such that it could easily be replicated at different points in time. Local community in Thmey village becomes direct agents of their own development through building capacity as well as sharing their knowledge and techniques to other people who want to apply this practice.

Outcome5:

Their vulnerability to climate and non-climate factors have been identified for the next project intervention to build their adaptation, in particular poor households negatively affected due to decline in wild stock, hydrological changes, poor water quality and limited or no access for poor fishers to alternative income sources and fishery resource management.

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

There were 20 project beneficiaries directly engaged in fish-vegetable integrated farming system. They received knowledge through the training course and know-how and techniques to implement system in an effective manner. Furthermore, of 20 beneficiaries, 12 have contributed \$10 (\$10 different from the proposal planning) as revolving fund to support the poor or marginalised groups to apply this system when the Rufford stops its financial supports.

They were happy with the system as part of income generation and reduction in their dependence on fishing.

In addition, Fisheries Administration Cantonment works closely with the beneficiaries in every step of the project components such as education programme, training on fish culture, follow-up. Beneficiaries have increased their knowledge, commitment and confidence to participate in natural resource management.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

As indicated in the five-stage roadmap of the projects to be expected to be financially supported by the Rufford, the local community would like to put forward one more project proposal for further financial support for the third step to reduce their vulnerability and increase local adaptation. The project proposal is under discussion and development.

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

The report on the result of the project can be posted on the Rufford small grant website where the public can be accessible. Furthermore, the report will also be shared to other stakeholders such as Stung Treng provincial fisheries administration office and other development partners. Comments from all readers are welcome and highly appreciated.

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 run over the period of 12 months as planned and proposed. But some activities have been added and needed which originally did not state in the work plan.

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 (1£ = 1.56 USD 2013).

Item	Budgeted Amount	Actual Amount	Difference	Comments
Project staff				
- Mr. Lou Vanny	840£ (840£	0	Monthly salary and his technical assistance.
- Mr. Sem Ven	360£ (£30/mo x 12mo)	Total=360£	0	Monthly salary was paid to all community fisheries committee members in local (Riel) banknote. Therefore, the actual amount of money was slightly different from month to another based on local exchange rate to Riel.
- Mr. Sorn Kakada	360£ (£30/mo x 12mo)	Total=360£	0	
- Ms. Ma Bo	360£ (£30/mo x 12mo)	Total=360£	0	
- Mr. Khem Bunthoeum	360£ (£30/mo x 12mo)	Total=360£	0	
- Mr. Suong Chantha	360£ (£30/mo x 12mo)	Total=360£	0	
Organised a local meeting (materials and equipment, transportation, food	180£ (280.8USD)	230£ (358.8USD)	-50£ (-78USD)	
Conducted a training course	230£ (358.8USD)	214£ (333.84USD)	+16 (24.96USD)	This amount of money was not proposed in the budget plan. The purpose of this visit was to have selected villagers understand and see the achievement of the fish farm to mainstream their knowledge and know-how.
DSA, transportation, travel and accommodation (Required, but not proposed in budget	(Budget line of 1,210£) (1887.6USD)	85.50£ (133.38USD)	0	Support from Fisheries administration cantonment of Stung Treng to teach all project beneficiaries about the

plan: actual spending)				techniques on Fish and vegetable production
Fish seeds (Required, but not proposed in budget plan: actual spending)	(Budget line of 1,210£)	554.5£ (865.02USD)	0	Fish seeds have been bought and distributed to all selected project beneficiaries.
Vegetable crop seeds (Required, but now proposed in budget plan: actual spending)	(Budget line of 1,210£)	160£ (249.6USD)	0	Vegetable crop seeds have been bought and distributed to all selected project beneficiaries.
Plastic bags (Required, but not proposed in budget plan: actual spending)	(Budget line of 1,210£)	377.35£ (588.67USD)	0	Plastic bags before can be used. Buy more plastic bags for new project beneficiaries. Plastic bags have been bought and distributed to all selected project beneficiaries.
Putting signboards on the site. (Required, but not proposed in budget plan: actual spending)	(Budget line of 1,210£)	157.05£ (255USD)	0	4 project signboards have been produced and erected along the road where it is easy to see.
Referee's visit to the project site	300£ (468USD)	385.5£ (601.38USD)	-85.5£ (-133.38USD)	Air ticket, local travel, accommodation, food
Conducted VCA	170£ (265.2 USD)	158.70£ (247.57USD)	+11.30£ (+17.62USD)	Local travel, Snacks, incentive
Conducted PLI	170£ (265.2USD)	181.30£ (282.83USD)	-11.30£ (-17.62USD)	Local travel, Snacks, incentive
Public campaigns	450£ (702USD)	410£ (639.6USD)	+40£ (62.4USD)	Public awareness campaigns have been launched by Thmey community fisheries committee to educate local people about the importance of natural resources to their livelihoods and ask for their participation in the protection and management of those resources.
Producing a documentary video	200£ (312USD)	0£		Short video was produced by the project manager.
Field monitoring, evaluation and reporting	300£ (468USD)	273£ (425.88USD)	+27£ (42.12USD)	Field monitoring and evaluation have been conducted to assess the results of the project. And

				project report writing.
Total	5,940€ (9,266.4USD)	5826.9€ (9,089.97USD)	+113.1€ (176.44USD)	Local community would like to request to the director of RSGF that the balance of +113.1€ (176.44USD) be allowed to be kept as a revolving fund to support other interested poor people. stakeholders.

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

As indicated in the roadmap to the implementation of the Rufford-funded five-step projects, the important next step is to implement the most prioritised and urgent problem and diversify source of income and livelihoods (rural livelihood improvement and food security) to enhance food security and reduce loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services as well as improving adaptive capacity.

In order to address this challenge, local communities, local authority and technical line agency (provincial fisheries office) would be most grateful if the grant is provided to further strengthen community-based adaptation strategy that combines traditional knowledge with innovative strategies to build resilience towards the dynamic challenges of climate change. A number of initiatives have been set in place to help local communities build their capacities to respond to the changing climate.

Local hatchery should be considered a good initiative recommended by Mr William Murray to enable local people to generate more income and reduce the purchase from outside hatchery and in addition increase their financial capital to build their resilience to climate change.

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, RSGF logo was used during the stakeholder consultation meetings, the public campaigns to three villages and also was printed on signboards erected on ground on the project site which is visible to the public.
- No, the RSGF did not receive any publicity during the course of work,

11. Any other comments?

On behalf of Thmey community fisheries committee and all the project beneficiaries, we would like to express our deep thanks to the RSG for its second stage of funding to support fish-vegetable integrated system. I am also grateful to Mr William Murray for spending his valuable time travelling to long-distance project site in Stung Treng province and Dr Wenresti G. Gallardo for his advice and guidance during the second project proposal development and implementation.

Moreover, we would like to show our deep appreciation and thanks to the commune chief, chief of fisheries division at Stung Treng Provincial Cantonment of Fisheries Administration Mr Srey

Somvichet and Mr Iv Vichet for their close collaboration and technical support to all the project beneficiaries to ensure the success of the project.

Annex

List of Project Beneficiaries Thmey Village, Samaki Commune

No	Name	Sex	Occupation	Organisation
1.	Sorn Oudorn	M	Local villager	Thmey village
2.	Vin Van	M	Local villager	Thmey village
3.	Poma Bo	M	Local villager	Thmey village
4.	Say Sokhoeun	M	Local villager	Thmey village
5.	Thorn Sokha	F	Local villager	Thmey village
6.	Bun Thorng Dam	F	Local villager	Thmey village
7.	Seng Tea	M	Local villager	Thmey village
8.	Phat Neay	M	Local villager	Thmey village
9.	Sun Siet	M	Local villager	Thmey village
10.	Tat Lon	M	Local villager	Thmey village
11.	Pha Hom	F	Local villager	Thmey village
12.	Man Sokha	M	Local villager	Thmey village
13.	Phorn Sokea	F	Local villager	Thmey village
14.	Tat Not	M	Local villager	Thmey village
15.	Bab Ny	M	Local villager	Thmey village
16.	Lay Srey Tors	F	Local villager	Thmey village
17.	Phoan Sokhieb	F	Local villager	Thmey village
18.	Samrith Nat	F	Local villager	Thmey village
19.	Khuon Sereybuntha	F	Local villager	Thmey village
20.	Dy Yoeun	F	Local villager	Thmey village