

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	Ameen Charles
Project title	Strengthening of Community Conservation Initiatives in Buffer Zone of KANHA Tiger Reserve
RSG reference	13150-B
Reporting period	April 2014
Amount of grant	£12000
Your email address	cdbcgt@gmail.com
Date of this report	30/04/2014

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
To strengthen and aware rural people for community conservation initiatives	-	✓	-	This is an ongoing activity with community of the project area, During the small training sessions and meetings community members discussed lots of local issues of conservation, and community is now more aware, active and becoming organised.
To strengthen Eco Development Committee[EDC] in project area	-	-	✓	This year we worked with 10 EDCs, more than 60 members trained on making of plan for village development, submits application for future work on the local needs. Three hand pumps installed by the park administration after demand of EDC in three different villages. It's a great achievement of EDC.
Exposure visit to JFM area [Village Mendalekha] to understand and learn about collective conservation of forest.	-	-	✓	45 EDC members from 10 EDC visited Mendalekha to learn and understand the collective community intervention for forest conservation. It was fruitful exposure for the EDC and project. These 40 people now actively organising, discussing and motivating to the other community members. Members spent 2 full days in that village and now they are very much active.
Promotion of improved wood stove to reduce pressure on forest	-	-	✓	Through the project, we trained 300 household on making of wood stove and bio- briquettes. 80 households prepared the improved wood stove on their house with the support of project. Bio-briquette is prepared by around 40 households.
To support for compost pits	-	-	✓	30 households have been supported by project for construction of compost pits, they started making of organic manure by this pit.
Interaction with youths and school going children on conservation education	-	-	✓	Through the project, different activities and classroom sessions conducted by the project staff for school students of 20 government and five private schools of the project area. Issue based competitions i.e. drawing, painting, essay writing have been organised. More than 10 environment education sessions taken in all schools by the project staff.

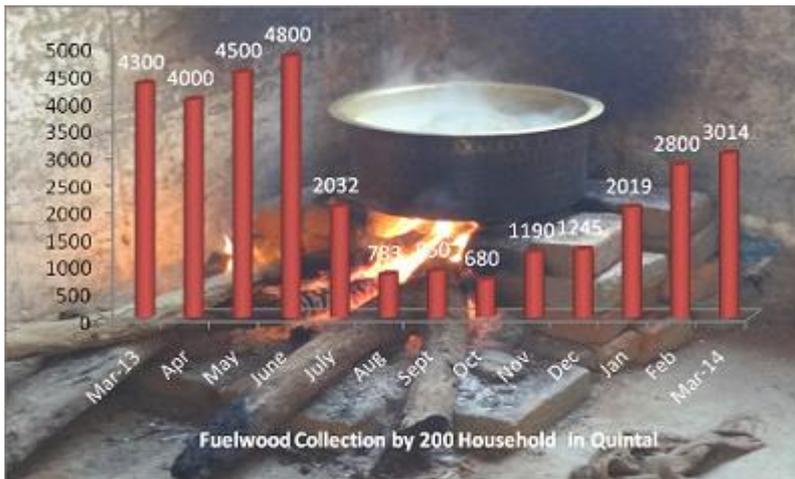
Livelihood enhancement; vegetable cultivation and plantation.	-	✓	-	Vegetable seeds distributed among 400 families and 2200 fruit plants distributed to the households. Through the vegetable cultivation these families were able to get immediate income.
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2. Please explain any unforeseen difficulties that arose during the project and how these were tackled (if relevant).

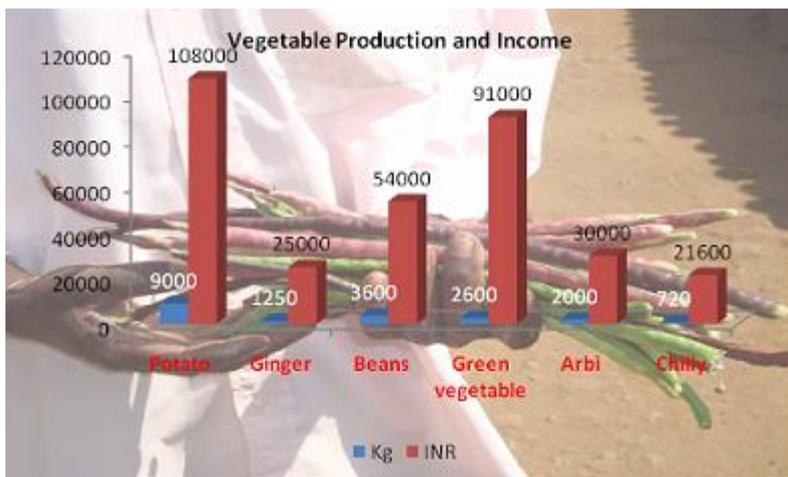
- There was no major problems faced during the project implementation, only heavy rainfall created problems for vegetable cultivation; seeds were distributed twice and production came late.
- We have supported only 50 households with solar lamps; more people were asking for solar lamps - this was a big problem. Finally, community members make some criteria for solar lamp support and they finalise the beneficiaries themselves.

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

- **Strengthening of EDC:** After exposure of EDC members, the Eco Development Committee has been activated. During the last 3 years, we have focused on strengthening of EDC. This year EDC starts some demands for development programme. This year, two hand pumps for drinking water has been demanded and fulfilled. It's a great achievement of the EDC. The members of EDC has been demanding more programmes; it's a good sign of better coordination among community and park administration.
- **Adoption of Compost Pit:** The compost manure pit is one of the major intervention for Integration of livelihood and conservation. Through the use of good organic manure, the farmer will be able to increase crop production, good vegetable cultivation or selling of manure. The farmers now adopted the technique of composting by use of cow dung and bio waste.
- **Improved Wood Stove:** Use of improved and smokeless wood stove [CHULAH] is one of the most important outcomes because the families who have received support from the project using the wood stove for cook food. Their requirement of fire wood has been reduced, which means pressure on forest has been reducing. A total of 80 households continue using the wood stove.
- **Solar Lamp:** The families who lived out of grid, now they are able to use solar lamp in place of wood for, poorest family has been supported by the solar lamp.
- We tried to collect data of firewood collection by 200 families, after using of improved wood stove [Chulah], it shows the consumption of fire wood is reduced.



- Vegetable cultivation is very effective project support to enhance household income, this year we track the household income through vegetable cultivation, it gives clear picture of family earning, which is very much effectively.



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

The project is based on community participation. The involvement of local communities in the project is increasing. The project has initiated voluntary work to solve small community problems. This year people have voluntarily worked and solved different community problems. People worked collectively for making clean drinking water sources, cleaning of roads, repairing of roads, collective paddy transplantation and cutting etc. All these works promoted community for collective approach. There is active participation of the community in project.

- **Planning:** The project staff and volunteers worked together for planning and implementation of project activities. As an example, honey is collectively collected by the community, collectively marketing and now they are getting fair prices.
- **Livelihood:** The project gives good support for seeds. Improved vegetable seeds provided by the project, which gives good livelihood option for people. This year around 400 families were able to increase family income around \$50 additional by selling of vegetables. As per feedback of the community they have used the vegetables at home which was very good

support. In this area malnutrition is high among children and anaemia among women, through the cultivation of vegetables in long-term good vegetables will be available for children and women.

- **Improved wood stove:** This year we have provided support to another 80 families for improved wood stoves. Twelve demonstrations were conducted at the community level. People are learning making of improved wood stove. They are happy because through the use of this technique, the firewood collection has been reducing.
- **Plantation:** This year, 2200 fruit plants have been planted by the people. We have provided mango, guava, custard apple and lime plants for plantation. This will help in as livelihood option in future.
- **Awareness and information:** This year we have conducted community meetings at the village level and training at our conservation centre, these meetings and training give information and awareness to people on various subject related with conservation and their basic rights also. We are now including another issue of development with conservation issues i.e. safe drinking water, sanitation, personal hygiene, etc.
- **Health services:** The organisation has developed the Community Conservation Centre as health information centre also. We have kept information on various common diseases in poster form, people getting knowledge on malaria, TB, etc., through posters when they visiting the centre.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

- We are very much interested to continue this work, because in last 3 years we have initiated lots of things with the community participation. Now the community is making demands for more work. The project gives direct support to local community and people mobilising for protection of forest and wildlife. One major intervention is to reduce pressure on forest. This problem needs more work. We have planned to introduce different non-timber and fodder species for plantation in their own land. There is need to increase area of project and more convergence with other government department and programme.
- As per our experience, there is need to conduct some small studies on some local productions. We have plan for study on value chain study for three-four agriculture and forest products. As through the project intervention the crop production is increasing and better market and linkages required. Some forest products, i.e. blackberry, are available in huge quantities, the local people collecting these fruit and selling locally at the low prices, if a proper channel or market has been linked the people will be able to get more benefit, or



- need to find if any possibility for primary processing.
- Now we are so much involved in KANHA towards conservation of forest and wildlife that we have to continue this work and above all, we want to continue our efforts. We will be preparing a larger proposal for the Rufford Grant along with a work plan so that we can maintain the initiatives to conserve the entire ecosystem in a harmonious environment with the local communities in KANHA.

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

- We have already sharing our work with different organisations, NGOs, government departments and park administration. Our project staffs have participated in four meetings with forest and park administration and share about the project activities done with the support of RSGF. The link of our report and website of RSGF has been given in our website www.cdcmp.org.in. In our progress report the details of the project have been given. We have shared our work through email with other organisations. The local NGO called CDVD [Centre for Development of Village Discovery] situated at Mandla district, has visited three times to learn bio-briquette process, they are also working on promotion of bio-briquettes in another part of the park.
- This project has been shared with many resource organisations to mobilise more resources to scale up of the project. We received technical and informative information from EPCO, IIFM, and CCD, etc. The Paul Hamlyn Foundation [PHF] has agreed to support this intervention, the project Sustainable Livelihood around Protected Area has been approved by the PHF, which will be good support to strengthen and continuation of the project. We are able to manage human resource cost and some other costs which is required for this project.



Vegetable cultivation and exposure visit of EDC members



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

The project duration as per plan was May. 2013 to April. 2014, we have made an implementation plan which is given below. The project staff work with the project as fulltime, there was full involvement of project as per work plan.

Villages to be cover in project		Bhalapuri, Mana, Garhi, Samariya, Saraitola, Ramhepur, Balgaon, Khajra, Lapti, Kugaon, Dhaniyajor				
ACTIVITIES		May to July	Aug. to Oct.	Nov. to Jan.	Feb. to April	Indicators / Out comes
Community or SHG Meeting	Community conservation Meetings	30	30	30	30	
	Livelihood discussion	?	?	?	?	Identify alternate source of livelihood
	Scientific harvesting	?	?	?	?	Knowledge and practice
	Firewood collection and use	?	?	?	?	Change in practice
	Bio-globules	?	?	?	?	At least 10 families per village adopted one enterprise
	Vegetable cultivation [Support & Plan]	?	?	?	?	Matching support for purchase of seed
	NTFP collection & Trading	?	?	?	?	Collection, processing and trading mechanism developed for honey.
	Protection of forest and wildlife	?	?	?	?	Level of knowledge and practice
	Nursery	?	?	?	?	2000 plants distributed among 400 families.
EDC	Role of EDC	?	?	?	?	Coordination and action with forest department
	Exposure to EDC members	?	?	?	?	Knowledge & Awareness
	EDC initiatives	?	?	?	?	community work
SAMPADA Community conservation centre KHAJRA						
SAMPADA centre	Volunteer training at centre	?	?	?	?	At least 200 volunteer trained on different issues
NTFP processing	?	?	?	?	Marketing plan and strategy for each products	
	Demonstration	?	?	?	?	Visibility of different technology for energy

						conservation
	Trainings	?	?	?	?	400 household on improved technique of vegetable cultivation
Models & Demo and Support	Use of bio-globules	?	?	?	?	Manual on Hindi language prepared
	Use of smokeless chulah	?	?	?	?	80 families constructed improved chulah
	Wormi composting	?	?	?	?	30 pits construction and production
	Vegetable cultivation	?	?	?	?	Income increase by Rs. 1000 to 3000 of all beneficiaries
	Fruit plantation	?	?	?	?	2200 fruit plants support to the villagers.
	Voluntary work at centre	?	?	?	?	Road cleaning, community work
School education	Orientation to school going children	?	?	?	?	Children's aware about environment
	Classes	?	?	?	?	Monthly two to three class on environment
	Competition Drawing theme based	?	?	?	?	Coordination with local school



Community Meeting



Seed Distribution



EDC Training



Volunteer Training at Village

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
Training on forest and wildlife conservation to village volunteers and role of volunteers.	800	780	20	The training conducted as per plan the resources utilize which was available. No major difference
Supply of vegetable seeds	1000	1118	-18	Extra expenses born by organization for cost of external trainer
Support for construction of compost pit	2500	2592	92	Some material cost increased during construction.
Nursery for NTFP species	500	424	76	Expenses made as per plan.
Solar lamp support for 50 families	1500	1557	57	Some transportation cost increased
Exposure to EDC members	400	382	18	Expenses as per need and plan
Supply of fruit and timber plants	1400	1400	0	No variance
Support for making of Wood Stove	600	600	0	As per plan
Human Resource Cost	2500	2500	0	No variances
Admin Cost	300	302	2	Some communication expenses increased
Local Travel	500	453	47	As required and as per plan
Total	12000	12108	(+)- 294	

£ 1 GBP = 80 INR

Bank Interest Received: £ 108

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

- a. We need to carry out additional management activities in the villages i.e. construction of more compost pits, smokeless chulah, support for vegetable seeds and fruit plants which will strengthen the resource generating capacity of the community. A participatory management and resource use plan is being prepared for this.
- b. We now need to work with other small and homogenous user groups that we will identify in our target villages and evolve similar pasture restoration plans with them. These plans will then need to be implemented at scale to begin making a visible impact on the larger landscape.
- c. To maximise the efforts and repeat similar site based exercises in other areas of KANHA towards forest and wildlife conservation.

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 in the publication material, reporting formats and on the banner we used RSGF logo. We put one sticker on solar lamp with RSGF logo, we have used logo every where as possible.

11. Any other comments?

- We are extremely grateful to Rufford Small Grant for the support of this project. With all support we were able to achieve two phase and booster grant and to set the goals towards integration of conservation and livelihood around Kanha Tiger Reserve. Since we are continuing the efforts in KANHA, the hope of restoration of wildlife and co-existence with local communities and wildlife has become our priority. Therefore, we look forward to Rufford Small Grant for continue support of our project. There is need to work with more families and we are looking positively with RSGF for future support.

