

The Rufford Foundation

Final Report

Congratulations on the completion of your project that was supported by The Rufford 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	Bijaya Kumar Kabi
Project title	Community Stewardship in Conservation and Sustainable Management of Mangroves in Odisha Coast, India
RSG reference	13974-B
Reporting period	November, 2013 to October ,2014
Amount of grant	£11,604
Your email address	apowa1999@yahoo.co.in
Date of this report	10 th December, 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
Community-Led Mangrove Plantation and Restoration				The major part of the project was planting mangrove species in the identified degraded areas. Around 30,000 mangrove saplings were planted in 12 ha degraded waste land in Tarapada, Itakandia, Debendranarayanpur, Charighreia villages. And more than 80 ha of degraded mangrove forest protected by the community in 10 villages. The plantation work was conducted in association with respective Village Mangrove Council (VMCs) and community members. This well-considered innovative model directly participated of local community and has proven successful of mangrove restoration.
Formation and Strengthening of Village Mangrove Councils (VMC)				The Village Mangrove Councils (VMC) has been formed in Tarapada, Itakandia, Balagandi, Debendranaryanpur, Gartagandia, Goja, Bagapatia, Charigheria, Sanarahama, Badarahama. In each village, the villagers selected the president, secretary and treasurer in democratic process for each VMC in their respective villages with requisite gender balance. The committee members have been given training for management and strengthen of the committee.
Community Awareness on Mangroves				The awareness campaign was initiated in the entire 10 project villages and mobilised and enrolled their support and commitment towards the sustainable mangrove resources management, conservation and restoration. 5620 people participated in mangrove awareness programme. Mass mangrove awareness campaign was also conducted through street theatre. The project was also reached 3006 school students through mangrove education programme in schools.

<p>Promotion of Alternative Sustainable Livelihood</p>			<p>The project was promoted organic agriculture and support 310 mangrove dependant families with horticulture product, 545 families supported kitchen gardening practices and 290 families supported for mushroom cultivation. Apart from that a tailoring centre was also established with capacity of 15 women in one batch and totally 90 women were fully trained and practising themselves. An important element in this project was to build linkage of the mangrove dependant families and VMCs with the government's various department and ongoing schemes like Integrated Coastal Zone Management Project(ICZMP), Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MNREGS), Horticulture and Agriculture Dept., Krushi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Odisha University of Agriculture & Technology, Fishery department, soil conservation department, TRIPTI for sustainable alternative livelihood development of the community in all the project villages.</p>
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2. Please explain any unforeseen difficulties that arose during the project and how these were tackled (if relevant).

The general election of Parliament, Government of India held during April 2014 created some problems for motivating community members and hampered in implementation of project activities in the field for 45 days. The activities were continued with respect to government imposed code of conduct. The project team motivated and generate group spirit and collective action by Village Mangrove Council (VMC) members.

The project team found that, there are some provisions of government to assist SHGs for financial and technical support, but it was in vein; under this project we contacted various line departments and mobilised for funding. The project team started facilitation of formation of new women SHGs where mangrove dependant family is a member and affiliate them with 'Mission Shakti' of TRIPTI, Government of Odisha and also linkages the existing Women SHGs with societies and banks etc. The project facilitated community members through Village Mangrove Councils (VMC) to access various government welfare schemes. Project team also visited various line depts. Link with the project villages. In this connection 210 women from 14 SHGs are getting benefit from the government scheme.

The collection of mangrove seeds from crocodile prone creeks and rivers has been a difficult task. The project team contacted and collected mangrove seeds from local Mangrove Forest Division (WL), Rajnagar.

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

The project was motivated and success community stewardship on sustainable management, conservation and restoration of mangroves and aware them how it affects their livelihoods, buffers to cyclones, storm surges, controlling soil erosion has been the most critical and important outcome from this intervention. Further, building institutional set up in village level like village mangrove councils in the community itself to own the responsibility made the work easier, faster, transparency and sustainable. This model has been set example for other people in nearest mangrove villages what they have been doing positive efforts for mangroves. We learn one most important point from this project is that mangrove needs protection rather than plantation. It is an auto generation process. In this context we are able to protect more than 80 ha degraded mangrove forest by the VMCs in nearby villages. The increased level of community participation was a real mark of success and very encouraging project team on mission mangroves.

The closer cooperation, participation and association with a variety of stakeholders including local forest department, women groups, youth clubs, NGOs, fishermen community and local panchayat provides many benefits and played a significant role for smoothly implementation of project activities. The collective action of all identified stakeholders building a solidarity effort and strengthens a sense of stewardship which is important for the sustainability of the community initiative for the mangrove resource management and conservation.

The best alternative livelihood promoted and facilitated for mangrove forest dependant families with the RSG fund were undertaken. The main activities are organic agriculture, horticulture based livelihood, kitchen gardening/vegetable production practices, mushroom cultivation and tailoring centre for women members. The project has been focused on empowering mangrove dependent communities with the skill development on alternative and sustainable livelihood without destroying environment. The project has been suitably linkages with the various livelihood promotion and flagship programmes of the government like ICZMP, Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MNREGS), Horticulture mission, TRIPTI, KVK for sustainable livelihood development of mangrove dependant community.

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

Most of the activities were community led and they played a significant role in this project. Through community-led mangrove plantation and sustainable management of mangroves have been owned by the community members and their active participation was the real strength of this project. The mangrove plantations and sustainable management of

mangrove resources are helping in increasing fish and crab population and other biodiversity which has been creating and maintaining sustainable livelihood opportunities for local communities. Through the skill development training and promotion of alternative sustainable livelihood opportunities and benefits reached directly to community members. The project was provided best alternative livelihood support in the target project villages by promoted allied farming activities, so as made them less dependent on mangrove forest and thereby reducing pressure on mangrove forest. Apart from that mangroves have a high potential to reduce climate change-induced threats, particularly the impacts of cyclones and storm surges; which has been safeguarding and protecting local communities from these natural disasters. As mangroves are very important to the lives and livelihood of the coastal communities. So this project has been relevant and benefited many ways for local communities.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes, the project team has planned to continue this work. We appreciated the RSGF's support for this innovative and community led mangrove conservation model. Since last three grants, our project has been successful. Continued support is essential to scale up and maintain the effective community managed mangrove conservation, restoration process in Odisha.

The mangrove forests are declining with each passing day. The restoration and conservation of mangroves has become vital in the era of changing climate. Because, the communities of this areas are facing the risk and impacts of climate change-induced disasters, which are mounting today. The effects of sea level rise, changes in weather condition, increased frequency and intensity of cyclones, storms and sea erosion pose a serious threat. Mangroves are high potential to reduce these threats. The strong and continue community conservation measures are needed and restored mangroves to healthy levels so they can fulfil the full extent of their ecological roles in coastal ecosystems.

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

We are planning to share this successful project results with others in several conferences, workshops and want to share the experience and results of our project activities with the Govt's line department, other NGOs, and the other RSG Grantees on same issue. We are also interested to share the project results, recommendations, future action plans, and project strength and weakness etc. with project team members, volunteers, VMCs and other project stakeholders. Apart from that project results and reports shall displayed and installed in our organisation website i.e. www.apowa.org.in.

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

The project activities were conducted from November 2013 to October 2014. The project was completed in time as per the action plan and proposal submitted to RSGF.

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 £ = INR 99.01

Item	Budgeted Amount £	Actual Amount £	Difference £	Comments
Raising Mangrove nursery (30,000 seedlings)	1071	1090	19	A little difference with the budget. Purchase of nursery equipment like spade, basket, measurement tape, net etc crossed the budget
Survey demarcation and site preparation for mangrove plantation	425	425	-	-
Digging of fish bone channel and feeder channel for mangrove plantation for 12 ha. land	1562	1600	38	Manual work and increase of labour wages makes difference with budget.
Cost of planting etc.	780	800	20	Manual work and increase of labour wages makes difference with budget.
Live fencing and post protection of plantation	230	280	50	Fencing equipment and maintenance cost due to cyclone HudHud led over budget.
Formation and training of 10 Village Mangrove Councils (VMCs)	310	360	50	Numbers of trainee increased in training programme.
Publication of resource materials (poster, leaflet, banner etc) for awareness generation among community members	302	302		As it is.
Organise community meeting, film show on importance of mangroves in 10 project villages	614	614		As it is

Mass mangrove awareness campaign through organise of street theatre.	812	850	38	Excess transportation and refreshment cost leads to over the budget
Organize of various competitions like art, essay, debate etc among school students on “why mangroves are important to my community” in 10 schools.	195	210	15	Frequent visit to school shows travel cost increased
Class room teaching and display on mangrove ecosystem in 10 schools	160	160		As it is
Mangrove Forest ecology study tour and nature camp for eco club students, teacher to nearest mangrove forest for 10 schools	315	350	35	Distance way students and teacher demand travel cost
Mangrove ecology wall painting	238	238		As it is
Training of team members, mangrove ambassadors and community volunteers on sustainable management of mangrove resources.	115	115		As it is
Monthly coordination meeting with stakeholder committee and VMC(12 no’s of meeting organised)	142	142		As it is
Skill development training and handholding support to 300 mangrove dependant families on mushroom production as alternative livelihood.	755	775	20	Mushroom spawn in first phase distributed free of cost.
Skill development training and handholding support to 550 mangrove dependant families on kitchen gardening/vegetable promotion as alternative livelihood.	994	1050	56	Increase of mother seed cost leads to over budget.
One tailoring centre for 90 women members of forest dependant families	490	490		As it is
Providing hybrid horticulture saplings i.e., coconut, mango,	684	684		As it is.

banana, papaya to 300 families.				
Monthly allowance, contingency, travel cost etc for Volunteers/project support team members.	1410	1500	90	Transportation, frequency travel to field, contingent increase leads to over budget.
TOTAL	11604	12035	431	

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

- a) We are looking forward to scale up the project activities and involving more people with aiming more plantation and conservation of mangroves, as more degraded forest lying vacant and the frequency of natural disasters are on rising, mangroves not only reducing the intensity of storms, and shoreline and riverbank erosion but also creating livelihood opportunity.
- b) We are planning to register all the existing and new Village Mangrove Councils (VMC) with government's society's registration process and ensure sustainability of the VMCs in each village.
- c) To converging of our existing and new VMCs with Integrated Coastal Zone Management Project (ICZMP) to get support directly for mangrove plantation in their respective villages.
- d) To prepare Village Mangrove Management Plan for each mangrove villages.
- e) To facilitate community members through Village Mangrove Councils (VMC) to access various government welfare schemes.
- f) Promoting best alternative sustainable livelihood to mangrove depended communities in new villages, so as to make them less dependent on mangrove forest and thereby reducing pressure on mangrove forest.
- g) To lobby with state and national government to introduce mangroves as subject in coastal school syllabus, which is vital for spreading the message on mangrove conservation among student community.
- h) To organise teachers training programme on mangroves.
- i) Planning to establish 'mangrove resource cum interpretation centre' which will be a crucial long-term step towards the sustainable conservation of the mangroves. It, in particular, attracts a large number of inter-disciplinary researchers, students, teachers, scientists, and conservationists to carry out more conservation, restoration, education and research activities on the 'mangrove'.
- j) Planning to apply next phase Rufford small grant for the continuance of the project.

10. Did you use The Rufford Foundation logo in any materials produced in relation to this project? Did the RSGF receive any publicity during the course of your work?

RSGF logo was used in all the educational resource materials such banners, posters, brochures, reports etc. RSGF logo was also used in the training programmes, awareness

meetings in project villages, educational programmes in schools. This project work has published in local daily newspaper during the project period.

11. Any other comments?

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to Rufford Small Grant Foundation for funding support to this project. The project became successful with the support of local forest division, communities, school teachers and students etc. We look for further cooperation ties with the RSGF so that local communities can be effectively empowered and more strengthened to sustainable manage the mangrove resources and create more new mangrove forests. There is a great deal of enthusiasm among the community members towards conservation and restoration of mangroves. So, we want to keep this momentum and continue to be strengthened.

These project activities have reached 30 coastal villages through last three RSGs. This is because of the empowerment of local community members and use of RSG funds and inclusion of WSHGs, engagement of various stakeholders. The demands for the project are increasing day by day and this is the right time to include more areas, villages and more community members to scale up the concept.