

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	Hendrik Freitag
Project title	“Rainforestation Farming”: Indigenous Forest Rehabilitation for Biodiversity Conservation and Promotion of Sustainable Income for the Rural Communities
RSG reference	15768-2
Reporting period	August 2014 – December 2015
Amount of grant	£5000
Your email address	hf Freitag@ateneo.edu
Date of this report	February 14, 2016

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
Organising education events on environmental and conservational problems			X	Two half-day programmes each where organised for the elementary and high school students focusing on forest and biodiversity conservation, including role plays, drawing sessions and group presentations. Five meetings were held with community representatives.
Funding of a local Rainforestation PO (Peoples Organisation) and election of resource persons from the involved communities			X	A PO was established during a meeting. A majority of the PO members proposed to perform their rainforestation activities in groups of their respective home villages. A PO general chair (Rodel S. Sescar) and two village sub-project leaders each with additional general duties were elected: Tauga-dii: Doming U. Antaw, Bayani B. Layhip; Tagaskan: Johnny M. Lisigan, Okmay B. Solmay; Quirao: Arnold L. Mantala, Marilyn Y. Aragon; San Vicente Proper: Rodel S. Sescar, Juvy F. Francisco
Establishing one or two nurseries			X	As a consequence of the village grouping within the PO, four village nurseries were established in total. All of them were equipped with basic supplies and equipment.
Mothertree survey		X		Parts of the barangay were repeatedly screened for potential mother trees (in remnants of original forest patches). One of these surveys was done together with DENR foresters of the CENRO Roxas. However, the Buhid representatives preferred to conduct mother tree surveys in their ancestral lands on their own. Joint surveys and subsequent seedling collections would actually have been a great advantage for all village nurseries.
Collection of suitable seeds and wildlings as source of indigenous tree seedlings		X		Additional collections in the Buhid ancestral lands would have potentially increased the variety of seedlings in the nurseries of Quiroa and San Vicente proper. See above. Nevertheless, about 11,000 tree seedlings of 18 species were nursed, although some of them only in very limited numbers.
Practical skill share in rearing and planting of indigenous hardwoods		X		The particular micro-conditions that are optimal for the rearing and planting of dipterocarp hardwoods have not always been paid enough

and fruit trees				attention. Nevertheless the rate of survival was still moderately high (c. 70%).
Excursion to Rainforestation farms and research sites			X	Two Barangay representatives of San Vicente, together with the project proponent and the project assistant visited several well established Rainforestation farms on Leyte Island (including private farms, community based farms and nurseries, a university demo farm) and talked to their operators. The participants were additionally entertained by VSU scientists and staff to explore their Rainforestation farming facilities and related scientific experiments. They reported to the PO on their observations.
One week Rainforestation workshop			X	Facilitators and attendees of the workshop were highly motivated. Especially the contribution of Mr. Jimmy Pogosa, an experienced Rainforestation expert from the Visayas State University was a great gain for the success of the event.
Rainforestation Trainer's Training			X	<i>(This is an additional activity to the originally proposed objectives)</i> The two junior project proponents, namely Mr. Rodel S. Sescar, PO Chair and Mr. Clister Pangantihon, Project Assistant, attended an official Rainforestation Trainer's Training from May 18th-22nd 2015 hosted by the VSU Institute of Tropical Ecology and Environmental Management (ITEEM) in cooperation with the Yale School of Forestry & Environmental Studies and the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute.
Establishing a demonstration site of Rainforestation farming		X		Five sites of varying pre-conditions (mountain slopes with secondary forest, a river flood plain, a creek valley previously used as water source, a fallow grass land) have been selected by the PO as planting grounds for a demonstration farm. About 2000 seedlings (both pioneering trees and hardwoods) from the nurseries have been planted there in joint efforts. It would require some more growing seasons to conclude finally how successful this activity was.
Socio-economic survey	X			We learned that academic surveys of such kind would require the approval of an accredited Research Ethics Commission in the Philippines. We also did not find a MSc thesis student for this activity. Therefore, the originally proposed proper survey on income and livelihood was substituted by informative talks with PO members and representatives of the Local

				Government Unit. It has led to the additional acquiring of seedlings of <i>Garcinia mangostana</i> (mangosteen) as proposed demand for income from high quality fruits.
Technical administrative assistance in registration of an Indigenous Community Conservation Area (ICCA) with the IUCN		X		Issues of environmental protection, biodiversity conservation and sustainable land management were discussed with the Buhid communities already prior to the RSG funding. Representatives of the Buhid communities participated the follow-up meetings at San Vicente where additional education sessions focussed on freshwater resources and indigenous tree diversity. Finally, an endorsement letter for an Indigenous Community Conservation Area (ICCA) with specific recommendations was prepared by the Ateneo team and send to the Sadik Habanan Buhid Inc and the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre (WCMC), London, respectively.

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

a) The major steps (Rainforestation workshop, establishment of nurseries and collection of seedlings / wildlings) were actually planned for the very beginning of the project in August / September 2014. Due to the following reasons they were postponed to the next following rainy season (2015). The regional DENR office has posed the question if a Gratuitous Permit was required for the activities. It could subsequently be clarified with the National DENR office that such is not required for Rainforestation activities.

The reestablishment of an active cooperation with experienced experts and institutions (e.g. VSU) which we strived for, needed longer than expected. Not enough dipterocarp seeds / wildlings were found accessible during the originally proposed time. Interviews with locals suggested a best timing between April and June, when then in fact *Shorea* spp. and other dipterocarp seeds were available.

b) Parts of the involved communities (and thus PO members) preferred to conduct important activities independently on village level. Collection of tree seeds and wildlings inside the Buhid Ancestral Domain was only allowed (by the “council” of Elders) for Buhid people.

We were able to rearrange the budget and allocate time to support and monitor four instead of the planned one or two nurseries and demonstration sites. However, the major works were carried out by the PO members / team of the respective villages.

c) Barangay San Vicente is also part of the National Greening Program, which however does not prioritised Rainforestation principles in reforestation (very few and almost entirely exotic species are used). Our project was thus somewhat competing with commercial reforestation contractors and nurseries, while our biodiversity-supportive approach needs more care, attention and effort.

Addressing the importance of heterogeneous and indigenous tree species (for biodiversity conservation, ecosystem functioning, multiple sources of income and disaster mitigation) during the meetings has probably convinced a large majority of the project participants about the advantages of the Rainforestation technology.

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

a) Students, adult community members and the barangay administration are aware of the problems arising from unsustainable land use practices and are willing to prevent further destruction of the natural resources on which the community commonly depends on.

b) Members of the community have learned to utilise seeds and wildlings from their own area through collection in the wild and to nurse indigenous trees efficiently and based on different tree classifications and their requirements.

c) The community has started self-organised, active and joined efforts of reforestation with indigenous, but commercially useful trees.

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

See 3.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

The organisers / proponent will continuously visit the area at least until 2018. Follow-up meetings with the PO and barangay administrators will help to monitor and encourage the continuation of the rainforestation activities in San Vicente. We are generally open to support further funded activities in the same communities. However, our support should be more organisational and less practical for the San Vicente communities.

We are also open to apply the same strategy in more and other communities of the Philippines.

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

We will continue to present the specific project and the rainforestation concept in general at national and international meetings and conferences (e.g. 25th Philippine Biodiversity Symposium, 2016). A workshop on rainforestation and sustainable land-use for academic stakeholder from the Philippines, Thailand and Cambodia is planned for 2016 in scope of a SEA-EU-NET initiative. We will also post further internet reports and invite other media to report.

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 LSG grant was intended for 1 year. However, we have noted early on the need to extend to 1.5 years (August 2014 to December 2015). An even longer period would have been preferred.

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.

Please take note that only RSG-funded expenditures are listed here. As outlined in the RSG application, further monetary and non-monetary support was allocated thru Brgy. San Vicente, Ateneo de Manila University, the Box student organisation and personal contributions. Additionally an opportunity arose to use a vehicle solely for the operational costs (petrol and maintenance/repair) without paying additional rental fees.

Item	Budgeted Amount	Actual Amount*	Difference	Comments
Travel/Transportation	2360	1994	-18%	
Vehicle usage fee /rental (60 days or monthly base)	1,073	0		A vehicle was used for which rental fees were already paid more economically on an annual basis through CHED-PHERnet funding.
Petrol, roro ferry, toll fee (10 round trips Manila-San Vicente, Mindoro) / airfare Philippine facilitators of Rainforestation Workshop)	912			
2 Domestic return tickets	94			
6 Domestic return tickets / airfare (field trip of community representatives to a Rainforestation Farming demo site)	282			More direct visits and thus flights were needed for the cooperation with the VSU and other (potential) partners.
Subsistence	925	821	-13%	
6x 20 (participants of one-day meetings) board	2414			Costs for meals and catering could be reduced by recruiting people and purchasing food from San Vicente. This supports also the local economy.
6 days meals/catering Rainforestation Workshop	523			
20 days × 2student collaborators	161			
Accommodation	217	150	-45%	
6 (nights)× 3 (facilitators) Rainforestation Workshop	97			The San Vicente administration provided free accommodation also for workshop facilitators. More paid overnight stays in Leyte were finally necessary however they were booked in shared rooms at lowest possible prices.
3 (nights)× 6 (community representatives, barangay officials) field trip to Rainforestation demonstration site	121			

Commodities & services	1497	2063	+38%	
General programme materials (pictures, photocopies, tools, handouts, seeds etc.)	63			As agreed with the San Vicente administration and Buhid elders, every field activity of the team was accompanied by at least one tanod (“barangay police officer”) and/or Buhid guide. They received a compensation for their efforts and time. Due to the division into 4 sub-projects, more resources were spent into materials for nurseries and to visit the four villages. Both reasons have caused higher costs here as originally budgeted.
6 (days) × 3 (facilitators) honorarium Rainforestation Workshop	386			
10 month × 1 local project assistant (part time)	1,047			
<i>Other sources</i>	<i>Approx. 1138</i>	<i>Approx. 1750</i>	<i>+54%</i>	<i>Vehicle rental and other monetary and non-monetary contributions.</i>
Total	4999	5028		

* The actual received amount of PHP 349,857.56 was set 100% or equivalent to £5000

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

The next visit of the barangay, nurseries and demo sites is scheduled for April 2016. Then, a non-academic questionnaire survey is planned in order to evaluate the project and to sound further activities out. By the beginning of the next rainy season, planting activities must resume with material from the nurseries and the nurseries should be restocked with a heterogeneous mix of indigenous trees, probably with extended focus on fruit trees.

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?

The Rufford Foundation logo was used in power point presentations, posters and tarpaulins. Web postings always mentioned the support by the grant.

<http://www.admu.edu.ph/ls/sose/biology/news/research/rainforestation-farming-indigenous-forest-rehabilitation-biodiversity>

<http://www.admu.edu.ph/ls/sose/biology/news/research/department-biology-celebrates-3-years-cooperation-brgy-san-vicente>