

## The Rufford Foundation

### Final Report

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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](mailto:jane@rufford.org).

Thank you for your help.

Josh Cole, Grants Director

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Grant Recipient Details	
Your name	Shankar Datt
Project title	Biodiversity conservation: A case for indigenous community-centric buffer zone management
RSG reference	16545-1
Reporting period	February 2016
Amount of grant	£5,000
Your email address	dattshankat@gmail.com
Date of this report	22/03/2016

**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
3 days training programme for 22 volunteers on (PLA) exercise		√		We supposed to train 25 volunteers, five from each village, however, we could motivate only 22 people in the area to do volunteer in the programme.
One street play in each selected village			√	We facilitated villagers to write a script and play a street show in their village on a conservation issue.
Wall painting and slogan writing			√	We facilitated villagers to write slogans in vernacular language. Villagers and the trained volunteers did the slogan writing in all the proposed villages
Reading material prepared in vernacular language			√	We develop a handbook in vernacular language on biodiversity conservation and distributed 1000 copies among local communities.
15 to 20 days (participatory learning and action) PLA exercise in each village			√	The PLA process went very efficiently, we achieved our all proposed activities.
Establishment of community based institutions in each proposed village		√		Although we have established community-based institutions in the villages, these are in very primary stage. Now it is a challenge to strengthen and nurture them for the future course of action.
Plans review workshop			√	The workshop was productive. Sixty-five people participated in the event. Six conservationist, five academicians, 11 students, five elected village council's members, 12 office bearers from the community-based institution, four executives from local and national newspaper and 22 villagers participated in the workshop and gave their feedbacks on prepared plans.

Convergence and fund mobilised for proposed plan		√		We are in a process to converge the annual action plans with government and nongovernment organisation. We have already got support from one international organisation (UNEP-EPLC), one state University (KU Nainital) one government department (fishery Uttarakhand) and one local NGO (SPECS) so far to execute the proposed activities.
Publication		√		We have presented a paper in state science congress Uttarakhand 2016. In addition, We are in a process to send a paper in a national journal. Furthermore, a national newspaper will publish our entire programme story on International Day for Biological Diversity (22 May 2016).
Consolidation of Micro plans			√	We have consolidated five micro-plans in a single document and shared it with more than 50 governments and nongovernment organisations.

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

Developmental and conservation work has been going on in the area for many years. In most of the project activities, people are used only for data collection, active people's participation is not done. People are associated with programme activities till project life only for monetary interest. Therefore, it was very difficult for us to motivate people to do volunteer work. We go to the people and built a relationship with them. The environment building process played a key role to motivate people to participate in the programme.

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

**Education and awareness:** Increased awareness and education on biodiversity conservation issues among local people. About 450 people including women, students, farmers and local NGO representatives participated in the programme. In addition, 22 youths trained in participatory learning and action exercise

**Community-based institutions:** Five creative women forums, five creative children forums one farmers and youth club were formed and strengthen to sustain program activities beyond project age. In addition, three forest councils were revived.

**Village biodiversity conservation plan and convergence:** villages have their own village biodiversity conservation plans with detailed budget and annual planning. People have selected four species (*Berberis aristata*, *Tor putitora*, *Elephas maximus*, *Alectoris chukar*) which need immediate attention and started proposed activities to protect them. Moreover, villagers, have their community-based institutional framework to sustain the project activities after project age.

Furthermore, we have got financial support from fishery department Uttarakhand and SPECS, NGO Dehradun to implement the project activities. We also got financial and technical support from UNEP-Eco-peace leadership center, South Korea to scale-up the program in another two villages.

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

Active community participation was an integral part of the programme. The entire programme was done in three phases. In first phase (environment building) people participated in all the activities including slogans writing, street show, wall painting etc. in addition 22 volunteer were trained in participatory and learning exercise. People's experience about environment building phase:

*"Although Government and civil societies work in our village for many causes but most of the time, we do not know what is their purpose and programme. They involve only a few local people from the village. The present biodiversity conservation programme, we all villagers knew about the programme and activities. I appealed to my family members and villagers to participate in the programme"*

**Suresh Chandra Village: Bandran**

Villagers developed their village biodiversity conservation plans themselves we just facilitated entire process. This planning process gave a notion of biodiversity conservation to the villagers. For example

*"I didn't know that we can do planning for our village's biodiversity conservation before the planning process. I used to think that planning for biodiversity conservation is either government job or civil societies work"*

**Asha Rawat Village Jamriya**

*"I knew that biodiversity is very important for our village, however, I did not know that how can I contribute to saving it. I found the entire programme is very good. I did volunteer for the programme and will keep working for my village's biodiversity conservation".*

**Vinod Kumar Village Baluli**

We invited civil societies, government agencies and academia in the experience sharing a workshop. In the workshop, villagers present their village plan and mobilize fund to implement proposed plans. It was a new experience for villagers; villagers expressed their views with confidence. Villager's expression

*We surprised when we got financial support from government agencies to implement biodiversity conservation activities which we proposed during planning. This is a unique feeling; I can't express it in a word! We will make every year our*

*village plan not only for biodiversity conservation but also for other developmental issues.*

**Deepa Devi Village Matwas**

Although the programme's activities did not deliver any direct benefit to the local communities, but the programme process not only educates and empowers people on biodiversity conservation but also averted local youth from illegal activities to village developmental work!

**5. Are there any plans to continue this work?**

There are 90 villages exist in the buffer zone of Corbett National Park and its adjoining area. We visualise to reach in all 90 villages and developing a culture for biodiversity conservation in the valley. In the year 2016-17, we are planning to reach in another 10 new villages to scale-up the programme.

**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 grant was utilised from January 2015 to March 2016. The actual length of the programme was 12 months.

**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 in (£)	Actual Amount in (£)	Difference in (£)	Comments
Stationery for awareness campaign	50	40	10	We tried to expense the funds as it was proposed however there were some variations. Shramyog and SPECS the local NGOs helped us to meet the added project budget  Dr Ajay Kumar (Director Shramyog) <a href="mailto:info@shramyog.org">info@shramyog.org</a>  Dr. B M Shrama (secretary SPECS) Brij Sharma <a href="mailto:specs.ecocampaign@gmail.com">specs.ecocampaign@gmail.com</a>
3 days training program for 25 volunteers on (PLA) exercise	200	280	-80	
Handouts on PLA	50	50	0	
Honorarium to the resource persons for 3 days training programme	100	150	-50	
Projector on rent	50	20	30	
Local conveyance, food and accommodation cost during awareness phase	150	200	-50	
One street plays in each selected village organized on biodiversity	100	300	-200	

conservation/human-animal conflict issues				
Wall painting and slogan writing	100	150	-50	
Reading material prepared in vernacular language for distribution among youth and school children	150	80	70	
Five community canvases prepared for wall painting targeting school children	50	0	50	
15 to 20 days PLA exercise in each selected village	300	500	-200	
Community resource centre for project field staff, common meeting point for all five villagers for 12 months	250	300	-50	
Stationery for PLA exercise included chart papers, pencils,erasers, colors, ropes,carry bags etc.	50	50	0	
Fooding, lodging and local travel for PLA team	100	150	-50	
Establishment of community-based institution	100	200	-100	
Plans review workshop: Sitting arrangement, venue, Printed reports, and projector for presentation. Transport, fooding and lodging for guests	200	220	-20	
Honorarium for one full-time project leader and two part-time project associates	1000	1200	-200	

Honorarium for consultant (if require)	300	100	200	
Stay-fund for 25 Volunteers	1200	1500	-300	
Follow-up of convergence reporting and publication	500	300	200	
Total	5000	5790	-790	

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

1. To scale-up the programme in other villages in the valley to develop a culture of biodiversity conservation.
2. To strengthen the community-based organizations which were formed and revived during the programme so they can sustain programme activities after programme age.
3. To develop local resource-based livelihood activities for volunteers so they can work for conservation programme without interruption

**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?**

Yes, we used Rufford foundation logo:

1. In our programme banner (we used the banner throughout the programme).
2. Our New Year card (2016) (we used Rufford foundation logo in our new year card. we circulated 600 hard and 3000 electronic copy of the card among our friend circle).
3. Powerpoint presentation (we used Rufford foundation logo in our power point presentation including during paper presentation in state science congress 2016 and EPLC- Asia pacific environment forum South Korea 2015).
4. On handbook on biodiversity conservation.

**11. Any other comments?**

Though, I have been working in sustainable development sector for last 12 years, it was my first working experience independently. I faced few challenges to programme execution. I would like to share those experiences. My observations and reflections on biodiversity conservation programs are:

**Insignificant people's participation**

In most of the projects-based activities, people are used only for data collection; active people's participation is not being done.

**Decreasing self-motivation and volunteerism**

Majority of people are associated with program activities till project life only for monetary interest.

**No ownership no responsibility reactions**

Governments have taken people's rights on natural resources without knowing local people's concerns which leading conflict between state and people.

**Unrealistic awareness tools and strategy**

In the majority of the programs, awareness is a part of workshop and seminars without any follow-up strategy.

**Institutions without vision**

Project based institutions are formed for project excruciation. The institutions don't sustain after project age (average nine village level institutions have been formed and closed for last 10 years in different projects in our project area).

**No convergence**

Similar work is being done by many agencies in the same geographical area but no association.

**Time bound activities**

Project-based activities do not give adequate time to mature a work. Therefore end result reflects on paper, not in a field.