

The Rufford 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. 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. 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	18478-D
Reporting period	October 2015 to October 2016
Amount of grant	£9865
Your email address	apowa1999@yahoo.co.in
Date of this report	8 th November 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
Community-Led Mangrove Restoration and Conservation				<p>Mangrove plantations carry out in degraded waste land of 13 ha in Jagannathpur village and 5.2 ha degraded land near Patsala River in Junusnagar village.</p> <p>The mangrove species planted were Bani (<i>Avicennia officinalis/ alba</i>), <i>Rhizophora apiculata</i>, <i>Candelia candel</i>, <i>Bruguiera sexangula</i>, <i>Excoecazia agallocha</i>).</p> <p>The village mangrove council members actively participated in plantation programme.</p> <p>The project was also replace casualties of around 12500 saplings in previous RSGF funded plantation sites at Badkot, Khirkot, Goja, Junusnagar, and Debendranaraynpur.</p>
Formation and Strengthening of Village Mangrove Councils (VMC)				<p>Five Village Mangrove Councils (VMC) have formed in Junusnagar, Purusotampur, Jaganathpur, Gupti, and Matha villages.</p> <p>In each village, the villagers selected the gender balanced management committee.</p> <p>75 members of five new VMCs were provided capacity building training on VMC and mangrove resources management.</p> <p>The project was also organised refresher training for 88 members from old VMCs on group management, mobilising government schemes and conservation of mangroves.</p>

Federation of Village Mangrove Councils				<p>The project was facilitated federation of 27 VMCs (formed under RSG) to form Odi-MAN (Odisha Mangrove Action Network). Odi-MAN is a unique partnership of VMCs and other stakeholders continues facilitating knowledge sharing and opportunities of mutual cooperation for conservation, restoration and management of mangroves.</p>
Organizing training on mangrove restoration techniques				<p>90 representatives from VMCs, Mangrove Forest Division, Rajnagar and NGOs participated in training on mangrove restoration techniques, Ecological Mangrove Restoration (EMR) process including designing of canals (Fish Bone Channel) for tidal flushing. They were also trained on how to select healthy mangrove propagules (plant materials) and how to plant them. They were trained on post care and management of plantations. This technical knowledge help them work effectively during the implementation of the project as well as in future restoration activities.</p>
Promotion of fuel efficient devices				<p>Total 102 smokeless chullah (stove) provided to mangrove forest dependent families in Junusnagar (50), Purusattampur (12), Matha (18), Gartaganda (22) villages. The said fuel efficiency stove helps to reduce at least 40% less fuel consumption.</p>
Promotion of Alternative Livelihoods				<p>152 members from 36 WSHGs (Women Self Help Groups) were participated in capacity building and skill development training and interact with delegates from Odisha Livelihood Mission, local bank, Sarpanch, Mangrove Forest Division (WL) etc. The delegates were given their valuable suggestions on sustainable alternative</p>

			<p>livelihood to women SHGs of these areas.</p> <p>20 frontline farmers participated in SRI (System of Rice Intensification) training for organic agriculture.</p> <p>368 community members were provided vegetable seeds kits for kitchen garden.</p> <p>We facilitated 1589 eligible forest dependant families in Gupti panchayat involve food security scheme under Government of India.</p> <p>1000 banana saplings were provided to 85 families in 2 villages in convergence with local horticulture department.</p> <p>14 households in Junusnagar village and four households in Gupti village were provided 180 coconut saplings with assistance from horticulture department.</p>
Community Awareness on Mangroves			<p>The project was organised a discussion on 'Why mangroves are important to our community'. 54 participants from different stakeholders were participated in the programme.</p> <p>50 students from 10 schools participated in the art competition programme.</p> <p>The knowledge of mangrove ecosystem is introduced in two schools to i.e., Garataganda and Gupti upper primary schools - 45 and 63 students participated in mangrove education programme. 75 students participated in World Wetland Day observation organised at Balipatana High school. 27 school students participated in a quiz competition on the occasion of World Forestry Day on 21st March, 2016.</p> <p>On the occasion of International Mangrove Action Day, the project has organised a panel discussion on "Role of Mangroves in Reducing Disaster Risks' on 26th July, 2016. 48 participants were represented from MFD</p>

				<p>(Mangrove Forest Division), NGOs, VMCs, media personnel etc. The participants discussed the importance of mangroves for Odisha on account of disaster risks to the area.</p> <p>42 schools students participated in a quiz competition on mangroves at Balijhari School, Rajnagar.</p> <p>136 people participated in 5 community awareness meeting in 5 villages.</p>
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2. Please explain any unforeseen difficulties that arose during the project and how these were tackled (if relevant).

Some portion of the plantation sites of both Junusnagar and Jaganathpur were destroyed by buffalos (during night time). For this reason, conflicted arise between villagers and buffalo owners.

The problem was solved through organise a meeting between community members, VMC members and buffalo owners. The buffalo owners were assured to proper guarding of their buffalo and will not further allow their animals to plantation sites.

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

1. The formation of Odi-MAN (Odisha Mangrove Action Network) is a unique partnership of VMCs and other stakeholders continues facilitating knowledge sharing and opportunities of mutual cooperation. The collective action of all identified stakeholders in a common platform and 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, restoration and conservation.
2. The project enhanced the knowledge and local community member's positive perception towards mangroves. It is because they have learned about the ecological value of the mangrove through this project. Community members were sensitised on the climate change induced issues such as sea level rise, increased frequency and increased incidences of cyclones and important role of the mangroves.
3. It was observed that by the engagement and utilisation of time of women members of mangrove forest dependant families with appropriate alternative

livelihood like kitchen garden, horticulture products, tailoring etc., helps them self-help and the pressure on the mangrove forest has been reduced.

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

- The mangroves are very important to the lives and livelihood of the local communities. So this project facilitates community members to actively participate in mangrove resources management and conservation.
- The growing mangrove forest has been helping in control of soil erosion as well as direct benefits for protecting community members from cyclones and floods. The fish catches are also increased due to creation of mangrove forests.
- The project has been supported coconut, banana and other horticulture saplings to people for additional income.
- After participating in skill development training on sustainable and alternative livelihood, the people are now follow the techniques and benefitted.
- The project has been suitably and successfully linkages the community members with various services provide agencies like Odisha Livelihood Mission, Horticulture Mission, Krushi Vigyan Kendra, Banks etc. For sustainable livelihood development programmes.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes, we are plan to continue this work. We appreciate and acknowledge the RSGF's support for this innovative, unique and community led mangrove conservation model. Since all the previous grants and present project has been successful. Continued and final support is essential to scale up and a suitable exit plan should establish and maintain the effective sustainable community managed mangrove resources conservation, restoration process in Odisha coast.

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

There are two ways to share the result of our work with others: internal and external. Internal sharing means exchanging the experience within the existing VMCs and Odi-MAN members in project villages. In this context, we are planning to organise a series of inter-group discussions to learn and share the successive stories, issues of the mangrove conservation and its' benefits (e.g. social, environmental and economic) that make them more enthusiastic to conserve the mangroves. The external sharing, on the other hand, means sharing the outcome of our project among the wider communities those

have been interested in mangrove conservation, e.g. policy makers, non-governmental organisations, professionals, academics and practitioners etc. In this context, we are initially planning to publish a project report that will be widely circulated among the intellectual communities. In addition, we are planning for a power point presentation in the few forthcoming conferences and workshops.

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

The project activities were conducted from October 2015 to October 2016. 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 99.21

Item	Budgeted Amount	Actual Expenditure	Difference	Comments
Community-Led Mangrove Restoration and Conservation	£2085	£2325	£240	3.2 ha. Extra plantation area increased, so the cost of planting activities increased.
Formation and Training of 5 new Village Mangrove Councils (VMC) on Sustainable Management of Mangrove Resources	£ 350	£350	-	Community members spare their time & provide venue to organise meeting & training etc.
Refresher Training of previous 22 no's Village Mangrove Councils (VMC-formed under RSG project) on Sustainable Management of Mangrove Resources	£525	£540	£15	Increased the number of participants in training programme.
Federation of Village Mangrove Councils in the name of "Odisha Mangrove Action Network (Odi-MAN)",	£705	£715	£10	Increased the number of participants in inauguration programme of Odi-MAN.

process of registration and organize orientation training to the members of Odi-MAN.				
Organizing field level training on mangrove restoration techniques	£840	£855	£15	Logistic price increased in training programme.
Promotion of fuel efficient devices to reduce pressure on mangrove forest	£ 80	£990	£10	Excess expenditure in transportation of devices to beneficiaries by boat.
Promote Income Generation Activities through SHGs those depending on mangrove forest	£1360	£1380	£20	Extra families added to this component and supported vegetable seeds kit for kitchen gardening.
Community Awareness Campaign on Mangroves new as well as previous villages	£910	£910	-	Budget wise managed
School Students Education on Mangroves in 5 Schools.	£300	£300	-	Budget wise managed
Monthly Coordination Meeting with Stakeholder Committee, Village Mangrove Councils (VMCs) and members of Odi-MAN.	£480	£480	-	Budget wise managed
Monthly Allowance for Volunteers/ Project Support Team Members	£1080	£1080	-	Budget wise managed
Contingency ,Travel Cost etc.	£250	£285	£35	Transportation, frequency travel to field,contingency increase leads to over budget.
TOTAL	£9865	£10,210	£345	

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

- The next step will strengthen and empower to the "Odi-MAN (Odisha Mangrove Action Network)" and enhance the capacity of the members for sustainable management and conservation of mangrove resources. The project will further linkages and collaboration with other government and non-governmental organisations for sustainable programme on mangroves. A suitable project exit plan will establish through preparation of a proper and comprehensive action plan on mission mangroves.
- Create new mangrove forests and strengthen protection measures of the previous plantation sites.
- Expanding and promoting best alternative livelihood support to mangrove dependent communities, so as to make them less dependent on mangrove forest and thereby reducing pressure on mangrove forests. A suitable and long term linkages of community members will establish with various line departments for sustainable livelihood development programmes.
- The continuing work on mangrove conservation education, which is vital for the spreading of the initiatives on mangrove conservation.
- The project will influence government on strong policy on management of mangroves and recognise the importance of mangroves by considering the vulnerability of the region to natural disasters.
- Planning to apply next phase Rufford small grant for the continuance of the project.

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?

RSGF logo was used in all the educational resource materials such banners, posters, reports etc. RSGF logo was also used in the training programmes, awareness meetings in project villages, educational programmes in schools. This project work has also published in local daily newspaper.

11. Any other comments?

We look forward further cooperation with the RSGF Programme; so that local communities can be effectively empowered to sustainable manage the mangroves in Odisha and will create more new mangrove forests and strengthen existing sites. There is a great deal of enthusiasm among the local people towards conservation and restoration of mangroves. So, we want to keep this momentum and continue to be strengthened.