



## The Rufford Small Grants Foundation

### Final Report

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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](mailto:jane@rufford.org).

Thank you for your help.

**Josh Cole, Grants Director**

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Grant Recipient Details	
<b>Your name</b>	Khine Khine Swe
<b>Project title</b>	Mitigating Human-Elephant Conflict near Shwe-U-Daung Wildlife Sanctuary, Myanmar
<b>RSG reference</b>	RSG 04.06.09
<b>Reporting period</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> November 2009 to 15 <sup>th</sup> November 2010
<b>Amount of grant</b>	£4893
<b>Your email address</b>	<a href="mailto:ssma1969@gmail.com">ssma1969@gmail.com</a>
<b>Date of this report</b>	15 <sup>th</sup> December 2010

**1. Please indicate the level of achievement of the project's original objectives and include any relevant comments on factors affecting this.**

Objectives	Not achieved	Partially achieved	Fully achieved	Comments
Sharing knowledge, experiences and methods among the 10 communities about mitigating activities			X	During meetings and workshops, all representatives shared their experiences, knowledge and discussed techniques.
Improved community relations			X	Township authorities recognised the improved capacity of local communities in preventing conflicts. Sanctuary staff became good community-rangers. Better relationship among Sanctuary, FD, and villagers were established.
More communities involved			X	This year, five new communities began to involve in activities. As planned, 10 communities are now involved.
Action plans arranged by communities			X	Each community discussed detailed activities and made action plans.
Accomplishing the activities mentioned in the action plans			X	All communities carried out the activities mentioned in the action plans.
Using the local resources, knowledge and capacity that already exist in the villages			X	All methods they used were traditional methods using materials what they had.
Promoting awareness on elephant conservation and managing conflicts		X		Increased awareness on environmental conservation such as water and soil pollution, forest resources degradation, wildlife management including elephant conflicts through education programme and signboards.
Women involvement in the process		X		As in the first year, women did not join the Elephant Protection Committee (EPC). Only involved in meetings, workshop and some activities such as visual clearing
A good solution to reduce human-			X	The method that was the visual clearing combined with other deterrent

elephant conflict				techniques succeeded in reducing conflict in 10 villages.
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**2. Please explain any unforeseen difficulties that arose during the project and how these were tackled (if relevant).**

Local government allowed private catchers to capture the elephants. This is not a good practice for conservation. The project members and sanctuary warden were not able to stop it because there was no systematic elephant census to change the decision and no chance to make explanation to higher authorities.

Women’s participation is still limited. Major problem was traditional belief that is “elephants are highly lucky animals (big spirit)” and so men do not want women to participate in driving elephants away. The results of this year are good in all project sites. Only one house in Aung-chan-tha village (not a target community) and one house in 4<sup>th</sup> mile village (project site) were destroyed by elephants on the same day. In addition, one small hut located near cropland in Sinmwe village (project site) was destroyed by elephants this year. However, very little crop damages happened in two villages (project sites: 4<sup>th</sup> mile and Kyaukkwe) out of 10 villages. Most crop damage occurred in private company agricultural land.

Officials from private agricultural company asked the project team about methods to prevent crop damage by elephants. Elephants entered their plantation site and ate the crops this year.

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

1) Building capacity

Local communities have come to understand what they have to do and concepts such as definition of civil society, important roles of civil society in national development, citizenship concept, lessons learnt from other civil societies, participatory processes, etc.

They wrote action plans to mitigate the destructive behavior of elephants. Activities that were most effective included visual clearing and other traditional methods.

Sanctuary staff improved greatly in community relations and environmental education. The staff also benefited from experiences such as the preparation of data forms, how to interview, how to facilitate a meeting, how to give a presentation, etc. Community leaders gained experience in community relations through the meetings and discussions. They also recognized that dialogue is the best solution after many arguments came out.

2) Good practices

Good practices came out: making meetings, getting good ideas, allocating the duties and making responsibilities clear, working together by community members for conflict alleviation and deterrence using traditional methods. Training on mapping, measuring, collecting, and record keeping for future



use are now being practiced. The villagers benefited from learning skills cooperatively that can help them in the future.

### 3) Promoting awareness

Our programme benefited from the strong participation of staff from the local Education Department and village authorities. The project used the field data collected by project members and sanctuary staff, and the local communities to learn about what was happening in their environment. It enhanced their knowledge and awareness on the use of natural resources. The education signboards will remind the local villagers about conservation issues for many years after the project.

The results from the attitude and evaluation surveys show that positive attitudes toward elephant conservation in and around sanctuary increased from 11% (2008) to 32% (2010).

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

Ten local communities were involved in the project this year through meetings, discussions, training workshops, exchanges of knowledge and experience, writing action plans, and accomplishing it together. There was no elephant damage at seven project sites: no crops raided, no houses destroyed, no human injuries, etc.

Local communities came to know how civil society is important for development such as the results of this programme about elephant damage compared with private company's crop land (non-project case). Sanctuary warden and staff also understood that working together with civil society is a better way to solve problems.

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

The warden and staff expressed their thanks to our programme and are willing to continue next year. Community leaders are worried about continuing activities without help from a coordinator/facilitator. I would like to continue this work to expand the process of communities sharing ideas, writing actions plans and using visual clearing combined with other methods to mitigate threats to other protected areas where there are conflicts with wildlife, such as Rakhine Yoma Elephant Sanctuary.

For Shwe-U-Daung Wildlife Sanctuary, I would like to conduct:

- 1) Elephant census using scientific survey combining indigenous knowledge and local experiences to get an accurate estimate of elephant population.
- 2) Monitoring the activities of 10 village communities and sustainability of 10 EPCs for one year in leading role.

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

Report of project first year was distributed to the Forest Department, sanctuary warden, community leaders and township authorities.



I will distribute final report and results of project 2<sup>nd</sup> year to township authorities, community leaders, sanctuaries where human-elephant conflicts occurred, and Forest Department officials.

I will consult Dr. Teri Allendorf, project supervisor to get ideas in writing an article for publication in a journal.

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

The RSG was used for 12.5 months from 1<sup>st</sup> November 2009 to 15<sup>th</sup> November 2010. Only 15 days were more than actual length of the project.

**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
<b>Personal</b>				
Khine Khine Swe	£960 (\$1536)	£975 (\$1560)	-£15 (\$24)	It was used for 13 months.
U Htay Hlaing	£525 (\$840)	£569 (\$910)	-£43 (\$70)	
U Win Lwin Oo	£435 (\$696)	£375 (\$600)	+£60 (\$96)	
<b>Travel</b>				
From YGN/MDY to SUD	£1200 (\$1920)	£853 (\$1364.8)	+£347 (\$555)	
Between villages	£667 (\$1067)	£1014 (\$1622.3)	-£347 (\$555)	
<b>Equipment</b>				
For six villages	£400 (\$640)	£400 (\$639.9)		
Vinyl, photos, DVD, touch-light, etc.	£133 (\$212)	£133 (\$212.7)		
<b>Meeting</b>				
Chairmen meeting	£73 (\$116.8)	£75.6 (\$121.1)	-£2.68 (\$4.3)	
New village meetings	£80 (\$128)	£79.9 (\$127.9)		
Public meeting	£240 (\$384)	£237.3 (\$379.8)	+£2.7 (\$4.2)	
<b>Supplies</b>				
Supply/photocopies	£80 (\$128)	£80 (\$127.96)		
Internet / computer expenses	£100 (\$160)	£100 (\$159.97)	0	
<b>TOTAL</b>	£4893 (\$7829)	£4891.8 (\$7826.8)	£1.4 (\$2.2)	Exchange rate: £1 = \$1.6



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

Like first year result, to mitigate the conflicts between human and elephant, I would like to use the combinations of visual cleaning and other methods such as light, sound, in other areas.

Elephant census based on combination of the scientific methods and knowledge of local hunters and their participation would be carried out. The results will help the authorities make a decision on off-take of wild elephant and for long term conservation of wild elephant in and around the sanctuary.

**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?**

I had used the RSG logo in meetings, training-workshop and education programme.