

The Rufford Small Grants 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. 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:	Kazi Zaved Khalid Pasha
Project title:	An Initiative to strengthen capacity and increasing awareness of the forest depended community and conducting policy advocacy for ensuing community based participatory management of forest resources Sundarban of Bangladesh
RSG reference:	30.07.09
Reporting period:	January- December 2010 and extended January 2011
Amount of grant:	£ 5823
Your email address:	
Date of this report:	27 January 2011

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
To ensure community based participatory management of forest resources of Sundarban of Bangladesh		Partially achieved		All the executing stakeholders giving priority for the participation of the community from planning to implementation regarding Sundarban management. This enhanced demand of the participatory management. With the support of USAID, government has been implementing Integrated Protected Area Co-management (IPAC). The project gradually realised that participatory management is not possible without community participation. It is important to monitor the project for ensuring proper community participation. Through the project supported by RSG we have compiled the traditional practices of forest people of the conservation of forest. Incorporating these practices in the forest management can strengthen the community based participatory forest management.
To create awareness and skill development of the forest dependent community		Partially achieved		We have been fully achieved to create awareness and developed skill among the forest people's who were directly participates the programme. But we have partially achieved within the whole community because they live in vast area of Sundarban. As a result their skill increased for demanding their rights. The training, cultural programmes and awareness creation meetings helped them take the initiative among themselves for organisation and now they are demanding for developing forest people's federation.
To sensitize the policy makers, Local Elected Bodies (LEBs), Civil		Partially achieved		The interaction between community and policy makers, LEBs, civil society organisations (CSOs) and concerned

Society Organizations (CSOs), Concerned Authority.				authority increased. The authorities also extending their supporting hand to support (In case of Boat License Certificate and Permit). LEBs and CSOs have been playing active role for identifying the gaps and proving suggestion for the well being of the forest community and playing a vital role as a pressure group.
To strengthen community (Forest People's) voice in local national and international level.		Partially achieved		The information was shared in easy language like reviewed different laws, information and limitation of forest management which enriched their knowledge and confidence. The awarded community organised themselves and shared their demand in different forums at the local level and participated in the regional level Go-NGO meetings. Their demand also published in the local and national level newspapers.
To develop community friendly laws and policies		Partially achieved		The existing laws and policies were reviewed with the participation of forest peoples, LEBs and CSOs and shared with the policy makers for incorporating the documents as a tool for pursuing the authority to take immediate initiative. The Member of Parliament committed to raise the recommendations in Parliament.

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

In the primary stage we faced the problem for identifying the forest people, because they have no recognised criteria to identify them. Money lenders and local influentials try to take position against common forest people. They felt afraid to share their opinion in front of this kind of people. Then we shared the problem with community and discussed with them and we selected some criteria for identifying the forest people. Through this identification process we can able to solve the problem.

As we are working in the rural areas when we organised different programmes the participants felt interest for getting support because many organisations have been giving direct financial support like honorarium. But our strategy was different and we able to motivate them about the goal, objective and necessity of the programme. At last they took part in the programmes enthusiastically.

In some cases we have to reschedule the date of the programmes for ensuring the participation of

potential guests.

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

A platform was developed to raise voice for forest people rights and ensuring participatory forest management.

An awarded, skilled and organised community felt the necessities of their unity and able to demand their rights.

All the executing stakeholders are sensitised for the participation of the community from planning to implementation also in policy. Initiatives have been taken to change and modernizing the forest laws and policies.

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

With the active participation of the local community we developed this project and we implement this project in participatory way. In the grassroots meeting, regional workshop and Forest People's Convention they shared their problems and discrimination. They shared their information in their community and encourage others to participate in the meetings. They were inspired by the training programme and take part enthusiastically. The database was developed with the active participation of the forest community through door to door visits. In the different programmes they participated actively and shared the limitation and problems are facing by the out dated forest law. Their indigenous and practical knowledge on forest management helped reviewing the law and policies. They also performed in cultural programmes.

The community was well informed and their skill and capacity were developed for demanding their rights. They are able to find out the limitation and gap in the forest management and forest law. They can feel the need of their own organisation. As a good relation with CSOs, LEBs were established. They can share their problems with them and get suggestions and solutions. Their capacity has increased to communicate with the Forest Department. Their potentiality has been increasing to the policy makers and relevant department. The database which has been going on helped them to identify them as forest people. Their traditional practice of forest management were compiled which were appreciated and can be effectively use for the purpose of participatory forest management.

5) Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes.

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

The results has been shared with the local and national level journalists and published in respective newspapers, TV channel broadcasting, Facebook, hosting in webpage and also sending to RSG website. The result has been shared with other like minded organisations, individuals and institutions through disseminating publications and update reports

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

One year (January 2010- January 2011).

8) **Budget:** Please provide a breakdown of budgeted versus actual expenditure and the reasons for any differences. All figures should be in L sterling, indicating the local exchange rate used.

Item	Budgeted Amount		Actual Amount		Difference	Comments	
	BDT	£	BDT	£	£		
Expanding Network							
Formation of network	4500	40	4500	40		Due to bank transfer charge and variation of currency rate	
Coordination meeting (4 no)	16000	144	16000	144			
Database of Sundarban dependent community in Bagerhat district (Sundarban East Division)							
	50000	452	50000	452			
Capacity Building Training							
Training for Mawaii	15000	135	15000	135			
Training for Bawali,	15000	135	15000	135			
Training for Fishermen,	15000	135	15000	135			
Promotional/campaign Material development							
Tool kit	15000	135	15000	135			
Poster	20000	181	20000	181			
Leaflet	12000	108	12000	108			
Awareness creation							
Grass roots meeting (10 no)	40000	362	40000	362			
Media Campaign	30000	271	30000	271			
Cultural performances							
Cultural show, Khulna	12000	108	12000	108			
Cultural show, Satkhira	12000	108	12000	108			
Cultural show, Bagerhat	12000	108	12000	108			
Workshop							
(2 no)	60000	543	60000	543			
Consultation Meeting for the Roadmap to CBD 10(c) Implementation)							
	30000	271	30000	271			
Convention of forest people							
	50000	452	44900	406	46		
Publications							
Community best practice for forest management	40000	362	40000	362			

Compilation and recommendation for the existing forest law	40000	362	40000	362		
Salary						
Team Leader	108000	977	108000	977		
Assistant Team Leader	48000	434	48000	434		
Grand Total	644500	5823	639400	5777	46	

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

- To form Forest Peoples Organisation.
- To increase the involvement of Local Elected Bodies (LEBs) for conservation of forest peoples rights and proper implementation of law.
- To increase active involvement of Civil Societies (CSs) and Journalists as a watchdog for monitoring and pressurization.
- To ensure proper information management and dissemination.
- Advocacy with the policy makers for participatory forest management and incorporating best practice of the forest people in management process.
- Advocacy for the recognition of the forest people in the Sundarbans.
- Advocacy for modern and forest people friendly laws and policies.

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?

Yes. The RSGF logo used in every material like poster, leaflet, booklet, invitation letter, training module and banner. The Executive Committee Members of the IRV are well informed about RSGF activities. At the first coordination meeting the members of the CMCCE was informed about the RSG. They distributed all the published materials of the project among the communities in their working areas. The distributed poster and leaflet were also displayed in different office. In the monthly GOs-NGOs coordination meeting of District Commissioner office in Khulna the published materials have been distributed. Forest people displayed and conserved the poster and leaflet in their houses. The materials were also distributed among the concern authority like District and sub district level forest offices. The materials also displayed and distributed in different public places like bus and train stations, market places. By post and courier the materials distributed in national level organizations, NGOs, government offices and embassies. The materials also distributed in the press clubs and different academic institutions. The publicity was also organized by sharing reports among the like minded international organisations, networks and forums through email. IRV also developed a webpage on RSGF supported project.

11) Any other comments?

The Sundarban is the largest single block of mangrove ecosystem that exists in the world today. The world heritage site Sundarban is not only the forest but also source of livelihood of 1 million peoples. So for the conservation and management of the forest the engagement of the community is very much essential. The RSGF supported activities design is well accepted by the forest people and CSOs. For raising voice and participatory management it is necessary to continue activities. Besides this it is necessary to support them for income generation.