



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. 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	U Myint Aung
Project title	Community-Based Conservation of Asian Elephant in Southern Rakhine Yoma, Myanmar
RSG reference	RSG 04.06.09
Reporting period	1 st November 2008 to 31 st December 2009
Amount of grant	£ 5780
Your email address	myintaungwildlife@gmail.com
Date of this report	14 th March 2016

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
Landless chin families got official permission to live there for 30 years through land tenure certificates by FD			X	
Establishment of changing livelihood practices for chin community was continued through agro-forestry and rice contribution			X	As stated in the incentive agreements, the supply of rice declines every year. We provided rice for 7 months in 2010 and for 6 months in 2011. In 2012, we provided 5 months of rice to ensure food security. In 2013, we terminated rice supports.
Reduce the impact on Rakhine Yoma's natural resources by illegal shifting cultivation and stop-hunting		X		
The concept for clean environment was reached to 10 schools and two villages			X	
Plastic-cleaning activities were accomplished in 10 schools.			X	
Seed and seedlings support to come out valuable forests in place of poor bamboo forests. (Pyin-ka-doe plantation)		X		All action steps of forest plantation such as clearing, burning, boundary demarcation, signboards, designating for plots, planting, weeding, etc., were conducted in time. We used the direct-planting method. The germinating rate was successful. Survival count conducted in August resulted as 97% success.
Better relationship between sanctuary staff,		X		The RYES staff and FD staff were willing to support our project. Education staff were also

forest department staff, educational staff and chin people				helping to fulfill the children education. The program made changing of behaviour and attitudes of chin people.
In Gwa township environmental history, the first events in terms of environmental talks, cleaning activities, awareness signboards, etc. were held by the program.			X	Increasing the awareness of local people on their environment through education programme was one of the outputs.
The program built up the capacity of Chin Conservation Committee (CCC)			X	We trained the CCC members about the documentation, leadership skills, community forest management, etc. We also gave the lectures such as the rules and regulations of CF, the role of the committee, keeping the records and managing the committee funds, 12 skills for community relations, the meaning and role of leadership, etc.
Establishment of better education system for chin children		X		
Training for Turtle Survey			X	
Training for Elephant Survey			X	
Reconstruction of Community Hall			X	

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

We faced three challenges in this program. First was the best design for law enforcement and for elephant survey. The second was sustainability of chin's livelihood style and capacity of CCC; and the third was to find out the best way for children education.

We arranged training workshops with elephant experts to formulate the best survey design. For law enforcement, we tried to get awareness of local/divisional authorities and officials from Ministry of Forestry together with moderate incentive for sanctuary staff through meetings.

We also arranged to conduct the income generating activities such cash crop plantation, livestock banking system, micro-finance, etc. through meetings, trainings, and workshops in future together with reduce the amount of incentives. Those taught them many aspects such as plantation systems and designs, to live by themselves without rely on donors, the development of civil society, etc. We tried to



create more participation of local/regional authorities including government officials such as Forest Department, Education Department, and looked for the best ways for better children education.

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

1. Resetting and building up the capacity of Chin Conservation Committee

At the request of Chin leaders, we held a mass meeting to select the new members for Chin Conservation Committee (CCC). Out of five committee members for CCC, another two new members were selected, making a total of seven. We also arranged the responsibilities and duties for CCC. We trained the CCC members about the documentation, leadership skills, community forest management, etc. We also gave the lectures such as the rules and regulations of CF, the role of the committee, keeping the records and managing the committee funds, 12 skills for community relations, the meaning and role of leadership, etc.

2. Rice supplements and stopped hunting

Rice contribution is major component of this project. It began from October 2008. Except for 3 months (December 2008-February 2009), we provided rice supplements on a monthly basis. It was bought at Yangon and transported to project site in Gwa Township. This action was very helpful to stop hunting activities of chin people in RYES.

3. Establishment of better education system for chin children

Once our mobile school had no power in everything such as examination, certificates, etc., although we hired two people as teachers. CCC and two teachers had to submit every case to another state school-headmaster for official decision.

In August 2009, Basic Education Department, Ministry of Education had decided to promote mobile school as State Primary School. On 6th September 2009, the opening ceremony for State Primary School was held at project site. Representative of Township Authorities, Officers from FD and RYES, retired Assistant Education Director, Township Education officer, and school headmasters attended. It was one of the significant events in Gwa township in 2009.

Two teachers were appointed at our school, and decisions were made within school. Other facilities will be allocated to this school and our school will deal with Assistant Education Officer directly in future.

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

A big meeting was made with Township Authorities on 31st July 2009. We gave a slide presentation to them about our project activities including objectives and goals. Chairman clearly said that he is ready from his side to help us and he wanted us more education activities in Gwa Township if we had fund.

We tried to adopt the best practices such as making committee meetings and community mass meetings, etc. Therefore, community meetings were held every month. This practice is good for Chin



community in terms of meeting procedure, thinking for future, decision making process, allocating the responsibility, citizenship, etc. and the community know very clearly what they will have to do and how to accomplish the project activities. FD officer and RYES warden also gave the lectures to them about forest plantation.

We had regular meetings with FD officer and RYES warden every month. They are very positive and very keenly to support our project. FD officer also arranged the job opportunities for chin community such as labors for forest plantation.

Although they sold their hunting dogs and stopped hunting, they had involved in wildlife survey and patrolling. Therefore, they received income as jungle experts.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes, we have planned to continue this project. The project is still ongoing well focusing on the sustainability of chin community through funding by USFWS and FFF/FAO Myanmar program.

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

Final report of the project was distributed to the township authorities, community leaders, sanctuaries and Forest Department officials.

I requested Dr. Teri Allendorf, project supervisor to write an article about the project for publication in a journal.

In April 2012, Charles Schmidt, a writer from Science magazine visited the project site and observed all activities including environmental education in Bawdi village.

In May 2012, a monitoring team from British Embassy led by Joe Fisher, First Secretary, visited the project.

In 2013, BBC team consisted of many scientists selected TPRF/RYES, visited our project site for film making on wild elephant, and they used our chin people as jungle experts.

The activities, outputs and outcomes of this project were presented by one FOW staff at "The 3rd Asia Regional Conference of the Society for Conservation Biology" held in Malaysia, on 20 August 2014. After the conference, we were encouraged by "Journal of Conservation Biology" to write this project as an article for publication.

We also presented the activities and outputs of this project at "Conference of Rufford's grantees conference in Myanmar" which was held in April 2014.

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 14 months from 1st November 2008 to 31st December 2009.

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

Item	Budgeted Amount	Actual Amount	Difference	Comments
Personnel	1740	2944.23	-1204.23	
Equipment	560	298.36	261.64	
Transport	360	365.68	-5.68	
Educational support	360	564.47	-204.47	
Rice supplement	2160	1007.74	1152.26	In Rufford budget, rice supply was for only 6 months. We had a cost sharing from IEF/AEF for rice supplement for 10 months
Share office cost	600	599.66	0.34	
Total	5780	5780.14	-0.14	Exchange rate: £1 = \$1.6

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

We felt that this project is an important pilot project for the participation of grassroots community relations to natural resource use sustainably. This project design will be a model for poor communities who depend on forest resources. Therefore, we have been focusing on:

1. Building up the capacity of community members to change their attitudes and behaviour to use the natural resource use in sustainable way. This CCC was now officially registered as "Chin Farm-product Cooperative Association at Township Cooperative Department and getting some supports from it.
2. Supporting the children's education. At present, two girls received their graduation from distance University, and one boy is learning at University of Technology. These are the historic events in chin families.
3. Supporting the income generating through cash-crop, livestock farming and agro-forestry practices.

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, education programme, and training workshops. We had planned to write an article about this project. However, we need supervision.

11. Any other comments?

We have attached some photos of the project activities. We also interviewed the chin people and conducted wealth ranking to evaluate the project activities. The results were mentioned in appendices.

Table (1): Chin Community evaluation survey in 2009.

Question	Answers (n=36) (%)
Are you like this program?	100% yes;
Did you participate in the activities?	100% yes;
Purposes or goal of this program?	92% correct answer. 8% not correct answer;
The name and purposes of committee set up in your village?	78% correct answer. 22% not correct answer;
How do you think on committee members' ability, leadership and accomplishment?	72% we like 28% they need to try more
Can you tell me the advantages of this project	74% correct answer. 26% something correct answer;
What is your opinion on this program, success or not?	88% Can be success 12% it is difficult to be success; it is depended on good leadership.

Table (2): Results of wealth ranking exercise in 2009.

	No debts, save some fund, save some properties like hens, cattle, rice, etc.	No debts, no saved money and properties	Debts, still problems in earning
Number of families	5	13	7

CF Certificate Handover Ceremony



Rice supply to Chin hunter Families



Mobile school in 2008



Teacher house and mobile school in 2009



Recognized by Education Dept. as Basic Primary School Today's school-building



Chin hunters' participation in patrolling and turtle surveys



Educational events



Capacity building events (Training, Meeting, etc.)



Awareness signboards



Nursery



Ginger plantation

Agro-Forestry Plantation



Allocation of Yum seeds

