

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	Sunil Raghuvanshi
Project title	Conservation Education and Awareness in the Kuno Landscape, Madhya Pradesh, India
RSG reference	63.01.08
Reporting period	January 2008 to January 2009
Amount of grant	£6,000
Your email address	mpfo@samrakshan.org
Date of this report	2 November 2010

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
Regular conservation awareness activities at the Adharshila School	-	-	Fully achieved	Film shows have become a weekly event at the Adharshila School. Screening of environment related films has continued even after the project. Conservation Education (EE) games and activities (like painting contests) were regularly organised during the project and continue even after the project ended.
Special event-based activities	-	-	Fully achieved	World Environment Day, Earth Day and Wildlife Week were celebrated at Adharshila during the project period (2008-09). A <i>Bal Mela</i> (children's festival) was organized on October 2, 2008, to reinforce conservation values. This was a plastic-free event. Paintings, quiz and other conservation education activities were organised for children from other schools as well. A day long visit of Adharshila students to the Kuno wildlife sanctuary was organised.
Teacher's meetings	-	-	Fully achieved	A workshop was held with Adharshila teachers to kick-start conservation education activities and create a common vision for the education work. Teachers' meetings were held every fortnight during the project period to fine tune the conservation education methodology.
Exposure visits of the grant recipient	-	-	Fully achieved	A visit was made to the Sariska wildlife sanctuary in Rajasthan to study conservation initiatives and also to study the situation of people resettled outside the park.
External evaluation of the project	-	-	Fully achieved	Samrakshan's Trustees as well as other conservation experts visited the field in October 2008 and July 2009 to attend the Children's festival and critically evaluate the work done by the Adharshila School
Project-end workshop	-	-	Fully achieved	A project end workshop was organised in May 2009 and was attended by the entire Samrakshan team and Adharshila teachers. The objective of the workshop was to assess the ongoing project, learn from its experiences, and plan for future direction of the conservation education work.

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

The biggest problem we faced was rapid turnover of programme staff. Our field office is located in a very remote area with limited facilities, and staff turnover created delays in our planned activities. However, we now have learned to take care that new staff is trained to carry on the activities.

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

- a. Capacity enhancement of the staff: The entire staff was trained just before the commencement of the project by our in-house conservation education expert. This has made a lasting impact on them in terms of conservation values and ability to incorporate environmental issues in their day-to-day work and school teaching.
- b. Acceptance of conservation values: Conservation values are now deeply embedded in the functioning of the Adharshila School, and in other activities carried out by Samrakshan.
- c. Community perception: The community recognises Adharshila as pro-conservation entity. It approves of their children's participation in conservation awareness activities organized by the school.

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

Local community leaders were invited for all project related events and participated enthusiastically in these. The parents of students who attend the Adharshila School give their whole-hearted support to conservation activities. Tree plantation by children and their parents in and around their home and farmland is now a regular and ongoing activity of Samrakshan.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes. Though the project has been completed, the Adharshila School continues to work with children with growing reach and effectiveness. There are now around 300 children coming to school every day from six different villages. Environment education and values of conservation have become a part of the Adharshila pedagogy. These teachings now have to be spread to over 2400 children attending government schools in the area.

A nursery was established in 2009 in partnership with a women's self-help group promoted by Samrakshan to support our tree plantation drive. Over 20,000 saplings were raised, and these were distributed among the community for plantation around their house and farmland. This is again an activity that we wish to continue in the future.

Celebration of Earth Day, World Environment Day and Wildlife Week have become a part of Adharshila School's annual calendar.

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

The new version of the conservation education curriculum will be uploaded on Samrakshan's website. Samrakshan is open to providing exposure and training to other organisations that are seeking to incorporate environment education in their regular activities, especially with rural

children. Samrakshan also plans to work with children in government schools to spread the lessons learnt from this project among a wider audience of young students.

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

RSG was used for one year period from January 2008 to January 2009, which was the proposed length of the project. All proposed activities were completed successfully during this period. The project end workshop, which was envisaged as a post project activity, was held during 4-6 May 2009.

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
Staff time (Staff time for grant recipient @ Rs.10,000 per month for 12 months) (10,000 X 12)	1,600	1,600	-	
Teaching material for regular conservation education activities (Stationery, equipment like binoculars and camera, books, games and other resource material, fuel for generator for screening wildlife films @ Rs.10,000 per month for 12 months) (10,000 X 12)	1,600	1,600	-	
Special conservation education events (Events like wildlife week, environment day and earth day – activities organised during these events, snacks arranged for the participants, items like banners etc @ 20,000/- per event for 3 events.) (20,000 X 3)	800	800	-	
Exposure visits for grant recipient (Cost of travel, boarding – lodging during visit and costs associated with the visit for 2 visits to two different places/organisations) (10,000 X 2)	267	267	-	
External evaluation (Cost of travel, boarding and lodging, honorarium for external consultant @ 20,000/- per visit for 1 visit) (20,000 X 1)	267	267	-	Samrakshan's trustees and 2 external experts visited the field area in October 2008 and July 2009 to attend the Children's festival and critically

				evaluate the work done with the Adharshila School
Project-end Workshop (Including stationery, refreshments for participants, banners, posters, travel expenses @ 15,000 per workshop for 1 workshop) (15,000 X 1)	200	200	-	
Overhead expenses (Recurring overhead costs like communications, printing, postage, computer time @ 5,000 per month for 12 months) (5,000 X 12)	800	800	-	
Contingencies (Unplanned expenditure in course of the project) (15,000 X 1)	200	200	-	The balance funds available under this head were used to continue EE activities for 2 months after the end of the project period.
Total	6,000	6,000	-	

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

Our conservation education work needs to evolve further, and the new activities and teachings from the past year need to be included in the revised programme. We need to expand the coverage of the conservation education work to include more children, especially those enrolled in government schools of the area. Moreover, we need to incorporate other vital environmental issues, especially climate change, adaptation and mitigation strategies into our education syllabus. The staff needs to be trained in these issues and then take its teaching to the students and eventually to the local community.

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?

No productions were planned in the project. However, the logo is displayed on the revised conservation education curriculum of Adharshila.

11. Any other comments?

We would like to acknowledge all the individuals who helped in the conservation project, including

- ZOO (Zoo Outreach Organisation) for providing bat colouring book.
- The Madhya Pradesh Forest Department for facilitating Adharshila students' visit to the Kuno sanctuary.
- Mr. Nimesh Ved from Samrakshan Meghalaya and Mr. Anirban Datta Roy from Samrakshan Mizoram for capacity building and guidance.