

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	Ameen Charles
Project title	Establishing centre for rural community of Buffer Zone area: integrating conservation and livelihood around Kanha Tiger Reserve, Madhya Pradesh in India
RSG reference	8622-1
Reporting period	September
Amount of grant	£6000
Your email address	cdbcgt@gmail.com
Date of this report	12 th September 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 educate the local community on community conservation.	-	✓	-	The project has initiated process of community awareness on community conservation. Literacy is less in this area so community meeting was main activity to raise awareness.
To initiate livelihood intervention to promote community conservation	-	✓	-	Livelihood intervention has been initiated in the project with 200 families. Vegetable seeds have been provided to these selected families. They are getting some extra income by selling of vegetables.
Identify and train 120 community volunteers on conservation	-	-	✓	200 volunteers identified and trained on conservation issues. The project was started with training of volunteers. There are 80% female volunteers. Three rounds of training have been conducted for volunteers.
Introduce compost manure among villagers	-	-	✓	This technique has been introduced with 10 families. Ten families were selected by the community to construct compost pit.
To promote vegetable cultivation for livelihood option	-	-	✓	Project has supported 200 families to grow vegetables. Seeds have been provided to beneficiaries as per demand. Ladyfinger, onion, chilly, beans, cucumber, tomato, pumpkin, turmeric and coriander seeds provided to the beneficiaries.
Documentation and reporting	-	✓	-	Documentation has been done of every activity but not published in website, it's on final stage. Reporting to RSGF is in time but could not give updates during implementation of the project.

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

- The project implementation was started in discussion with local community leaders and local government officials; after that project staff has started home visits and community contact. There was problem to gather community in a common place, after 1 month exercise and individual contacts, common community meetings were conducted in all villages.

- Identification of volunteers was a big problem, because people were unable to understand why we are working on this issue. After community meeting and project orientation activity lot of people comes to join us as volunteer.

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

- After one year intervention we could say our most important outcomes
- - **Adoption of Wood Stove/ Smoke less CHULAH:** Wood stove has been promoted among the community, which is nicely adopted among the community. We have provided wood stove to 25 families. They are nicely using this for making of food. It's very good to reduce consumption of fire wood up to 50%.
 - **Income by selling of vegetable:** The seed support has been provided to 200 families in the winter season. Around 75 families earned Rs. 1000 to 1500 [\$30 to 34] extra income by selling of vegetables.
 - Community meetings regularised in the villages. The process of strengthening of Eco Development Committee has been started. Bimonthly community meetings conducted by the project staffs. Different aspects of conservation have been continuing discussed with the community.
 - **Feasibility Study on NTFP and Vegetable Cultivation:** The study gives us direction on how to implement project. In this study we came to learn some important livelihood and conservation issues, i.e. NTFP collection practice becoming less due to strong restrictions from forest department. Local peoples required skills on processing of NTFP. After primary processing they can earn more money. People can ensure livelihood through vegetable cultivation. Generally, community interested to save the forest and wildlife.

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

- The project is purely community-based. There is a high level of community involvement in the project. After completion of first quarter of the project, community were involved in the project through community meetings. The community have been benefited in different areas, which as follows;
 - **Livelihoods:** Through the project major benefit to the community is on their livelihood, which is most important. As described earlier that 75 household increased their income by \$30 to 35 within 3 months. Each of the target families got livelihood support by vegetable cultivation.
 - **Skills Building:** Skills has been improved on scientific honey harvesting, 29 people have been trained on honey harvesting. 115 women have been trained on primary processing of Non Timber Forest Products. These women's have learnt to prepare TRIFALA [An Ayurvedic Medicine], which will help them to increase livelihoods and sustainable harvesting of the forest.
 - **Organic Manure:** 10 compost pits have been constructed in the 10 villages. Community has learnt how to prepare compost / organic manure by using of waste cow dung and other biomass. There are another 20 families associated in this activity.

- **Fruit Plants:** All 200 families have planted around 25 plants this July. Mango, drumsticks, custard apple and guava plants has been provided to the families. Some semi timber plants also provided to the beneficiaries.
- **Wood stoves:** 25 families have been benefited from wood stoves. More than 1000 community members have seen the demonstration of wood stove. The project has been introduced another technique of preparing of bio globules by using of biomass.
- Community is involved in developing of next year planning of the project, they understand about conservation.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Definitely, we wish to continue this work, because this is only initiation of conservation work. Good rapport developed with community, participation of the community increasing for community conservation. We need to do more focus in all targeted 12 villages. Plan to work on reducing consumption of firewood, new and simple technology need to introduce and replicate, increase plantation activities, livelihood intervention through vegetable cultivation, promotion of organic farming and developing market linkages. In continuation of the project we will add another 200 families with the project. Most important work is to strengthen village level ECO committee for promotion of community conservation.

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

We are working on this matter with planned way. News has been published in local newspaper, detailed report uploaded in organisations website and project activities published in annual report of organisation. In future we are in process to start blogging on project. The work and best practices has been shared with Administration of Tiger Reserve and another local NGO's in networking meeting.

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

- As per plan the project has run through out of the year October 2010 to September 2011.
- The two staff has worked fulltime for the project. The detail action plan is given in below
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SN	Activity	Responsible person	Time [Quarter wise]			
			I	II	III	IV
1	Project orientation for project staffs [Three days]	Director	✓			
2	Project orientation for community [Village wise, one day]	Director, PC, CO	✓			
3	Pre data collection, household survey	PC, CO	✓			
4	Networking with Forest Department, Local Authority,	PC, CO	✓	✓	✓	✓
5	Feasibility study on NTFP, vegetable cultivation	Director, PC, CO	✓	✓		
6	Distribution of vegetable seeds	PC, CO		✓		✓
7	NTFP harvesting, processing training	PC,CO		✓	✓	
8	Training to volunteer on forest and wildlife conservation	Director, PC,CO		✓	✓	✓
9	Smokeless CHULHA Demo and availability	PC, CO		✓	✓	
10	Construction of compost pit	PC,CO			✓	✓

11	Community Nursery, plantation	Director, PC, CO			✓	✓
12	Community Level Meeting [Monthly at village level]	PC,PO		✓	✓	✓
13	Monitoring visits	Director	✓	✓	✓	✓

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
<i>Training on forest and wild life conservation to village volunteers, role of volunteers, need of the project.</i>	758	767	9	• No. of volunteers increased, 220 volunteers trained
<i>Training on Primary Processing of NTFP, Marketing and linkages also</i>	500	502	2	• More expenses on purchase of raw material
<i>Supply of vegetable seeds</i>	667	650	17	• Due to heavy rain fall less seeds provided in 2 nd round
<i>Raising of community nursery</i>	425	462	37	• Demand increased for fruit plants
<i>Construction of vermi compost pit for demonstration purpose</i>	583	629	46	• Cost increased of construction material i.e. bricks, cement, sand
<i>Feasibility study with community</i>	367	364	3	• As per budget amount no high variance
<i>Demonstration of improved CHULAH</i>	300	493	193	• Readymade wood stove provided to 25 families in place of 10
<i>Honorarium</i>	1200	1200	0	No variance
<i>Local travel</i>	600	579	21	• Budget used in other head
<i>Admin cost, Stationary, Phone, Internet Printing</i>	600	459	141	• More budget used on improved wood stove
Total	6000	6104		Exchange rate £1 = Rs.70

- Grant Received £ 6000 [Rs. 419600]
- Interest earned £ 104 [Rs.7702]
- Total : £ 6104 [Rs.427302]
- Total expenses £ 6104 [427302]

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

- Effectiveness and continuity are the fundamental elements of Project. Only organising some activities cannot address conservation issue totally. Continuity and long term impact with proper extension programme is essential after the project completion. So I have planned to continue some effective activities to strengthen project outputs and scaling up.
- Strengthening of village level eco development committee [EDC]: Park administration have been formed EDC at village level, but due to lack of knowledge, information and communication skill and proper leadership, these EDC unable to functioning well. There is no knowledge about their own role and responsibility and role of forest department. If the EDC becomes strong they can play effective role on conservation, because they are local person and nicely aware about situations, problems and solutions. These EDC needs good training and linkages for sustainability of the project and conservation interventions.
- Promotion of use of non conventional energy sources, mainly solar energy. This could be a good initiative. Because rural energy means firewood, people will cut the trees to meet their needs. Solar cooker, solar lamp need to promote in this area.
- Livelihood of the local community is basic and important issue for conservation; people are engaged in land based livelihood. This should to be profitable, vegetable cultivation, horticulture and organic farming are few areas where we could work.
- Alternate livelihood sources need to identify, which can be easy and possible. In long term community tourism could be start. Another possibility is to train local youths as guide, hospitality etc. which could be placed in local resorts, hotel etc.

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?

We are very much sincere on providing credits to contributors because it is ethical issue. Logo of Rufford Small Grant Foundation (RSGF) was used in most of the activities and publication that were produced in relation to this project. Logo was used in banner, handouts, learning material, stationeries etc. Somewhere Rufford Small Grant Foundation was also written as supporting organisation when there was not chance of printing and painting. RSGF stickers were also produced and sticks on wood stove. In all activities, we have shared about RSGF; what it is? What does it do? How can people/institution win grant from this foundation? What are the criteria? What is the official website of RSGF?

We are thankful to RSGF, to give us opportunity and permission to use the logo, we feel proud to be partner of RSGF.

11. Any other comments?

I would like to express special gratitude to Rufford Small Grant Foundation, its members and Josh Cole to give us an opportunity to strengthen our work on conservation. It was good learning opportunity for me also in the field of conservation.

I appreciate my referees Mr. Paul Moss, Mr. Satyaprakash Arya and Mr. Shashikant Yadav for their incredible support for this project, we are very much thankful to all.

One year programme will not be enough for integration of conservation and livelihood, its first but strong steps towards conservation, I wish we will be able to work and learn more together in future also.