

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	Percival Cho
Project title	Piloting forest-based assessment and monitoring in indigenous communities to stimulate community understanding and participation in forest conservation via REDD.
RSG reference	9568-1
Reporting period	April 2011 to April 2012
Amount of grant	£5941
Your email address	percival.cho@googlemail.com
Date of this report	April 30, 2012

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
Training of nine members of three indigenous villages in how to conduct forest monitoring using permanent sample plots.			X	
A manual of plot establishment and re-measurement for implementation by community members.			X	
A tree species list typical to local forests with indigenous names and wood density values.			X	
Training of a local indigenous expert in forest monitoring.		X		
Development of understanding and appreciation for forest conservation via REDD.			X	
Workshop to highlight the potential economic value of forests in terms of mitigating global climate change.			X	

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

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

The first most important outcome is the successful training of nine members of three indigenous villages in how to conduct forest monitoring using permanent sample plots (Photo 1 and 2). All nine members took well to the training and each specialised in a different aspect of long-term plot monitoring methodology. In addition to the nine community members, other participants also picked up valuable training and will help to build a critical mass of skilled community members.

The second outcome is the production of a manual of plot establishment and re-measurement protocol suitable for understanding and implementation by community members. This manual has been shared with several other organisations in Belize who work with community groups as a means of ensuring its implementation in the future.

The third outcome is the successful training of a local indigenous expert in forest monitoring. One community member was chosen to understudy the lead researcher. This proved successful as the local expert gave talks to university student about long-term plot monitoring. However, shortly after completing the training, the local expert left the community organisation with which he was working.

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

Local communities were integral to the success of this project. In the end this project worked with three indigenous communities of southern Belize. The benefits of the project reached beyond the designated number of members of indigenous communities. Additional help was required for the provision of food, manual labour, and local bush knowledge without which the project objectives could not be achieved. The greatest share of the project monies went into salaries for local community members. But above the financial benefits, local community members who were involved in the project from the cook to the local REDD expert, all obtained valuable knowledge about their forest from a scientific angle. They all appreciated the importance of forest conservation through REDD.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Several communities in southern Belize, other than the three involved in this project, have embarked on timber management operations in their communal forests. The building of expertise in carbon stock assessment and REDD will complement sustainable timber management. Although the project leader has not immediate plans to approach communities involved in timber management, the potential exists for a continuation of the project beyond the three original communities.

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

Already the report produced under this project has been circulated to the Belize Forest Department and other relevant stakeholders. Community REDD projects are being seen as an important component of the overall national REDD agenda.

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 over the period April 2011 to April 2012. The anticipated length of the project was March 2011 to March 2012. The funds were originally received at the end of March 2011, hence the April 2011 start. This report was prepared at the end of April 2012.

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
Food	£ 1500	£ 1545	+45	Food prices went up during the project.
Fuel	£ 945	£ 945	0	
Subsistence	£ 3226	£ 3226	0	
Workshop	£ 270	£ 225	-45	
Total	£ 5941	£ 5941	0	

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

The important next steps are to continue to re-measure or establish permanent plots in community forests. If the learned skills are not regularly used, they are quickly lost. To this end, the local academic research institute was involved in the project shortly after it commenced. Now plans are afoot to assign the Environmental Research Institute of the University of Belize as the national body responsible for long-term forest monitoring. ERI will work closely with trained community members in an upcoming project to continue the re-measurement of long-term plots in Belize.

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?

The logo was used on PowerPoint presentations. RSGF will also receive credit in upcoming journal papers to be published on forest carbon stocks in Belize.