

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	Eufracio P. Maratas Jr.
Project title	Sustaining Watershed Rehabilitation and Management through Rainforestation in Pilar, Cebu
RSG reference	9664-1
Reporting period	07-28-2011 – 12-15-2012
Amount of grant	£6000
Your email address	fresh_maratas@yahoo.com
Date of this report	December 28, 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
Promote community-based biodiversity conservation through Rainforestation in small island watersheds.			x	The RSG supported CaRFA Rainforestation Tree Nursery and Apiary was awarded 4 th Prize in the First Leonardo Co Award for Best Native Tree Nursery of the Philippines during the First International Symposium of the Philippine Native Plant Conservation Society Inc. (PNPCSI) held on November 19-20, 2011 at the National Museum in Manila, Philippines.
Organise and capacitate two Rainforestation farmer-cooperator groups of not less than 15 members in the San Juan/Tuburan and Gabigabihan sub-watersheds.			x	Stakeholders of the Tuburan sub-watershed were not included due to the far distance of their households from the Bandera Peak project site, which is used as meeting area of BaRCO members. They will have to be organised as another Rainforestation farmers group.
Enhance at least five ha of existing agricultural farms within the watershed with fruit trees and perennial crops using a planting density of 100 fruit trees and 1,000 abaca/banana per ha.			x	Abaca and banana were not used due to prevalent disease in abaca and impracticality of using banana in high elevation and windswept areas where bananas are vulnerable to strong typhoon winds. Instead, fruit trees were planted by the Rainforestation farmers.
Establish Rainforestation farms in at least five ha of bare or brush lands within the watershed planted with native species forest trees, including the endangered Cebu cinnamon tree, and appropriate fruit trees using 1,100 trees/ha planting density.			x	Seedling of the Cebu cinnamon tree is very rare and there is no available study to support that it is native to Ponson Island. So it was not used in the project.
Introduce native beekeeping to the two newly-formed Rainforestation farmer-		x		

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

A major difficulty that arose during the project implementation was the absence of almost half of the 28 target participants during the conduct of the Rainforestation Training on October 25th-28th 2011 at the Visayas State University-Institute of Tropical Ecology (VSU-ITE) with site visits to Rainforestation projects in different parts of Leyte Island. Although their participation had been ground-worked days in advance and they personally signified their participation, a common reason given by the farmers for their absence was the 4-day length of the training; which they felt was too long for them to be away from their farm animals and absent from their income-generating activities. To tackle this problem; another Rainforestation training had to be conducted locally on February 8th-9th 2012 at the CaRFA Rainforestation Tree Nursery and Apiary. The length of the training was shortened to 2 days with only one site visit at the Can-ugkay Rainforestation Demonstration Farm and the participants were able to go home at 4.00 in the afternoon to attend to their farm animals.

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

The three most important outcomes of the project are as follows:

- a) **Organisation of the Bandera Rainforestation Co-operators Organization (BaRCO) and the Gabi-gabihan United Rainforestation Co-operators Association (GURCA).** BaRCO is composed of 32 initial members from the villages of San Juan, Esperanza and Dapdap and two affiliate organisations, the Nagkahiusang Katawhan sa Esperanza (NAKASE) and the Dapdap Elementary School Science Club. It is envisioned to effectively manage the San Juan and Sak-sak sub-watersheds. On the other hand, the GURCA is composed of 25 initial members from the village of Imelda and Biasong. It is envisioned to effectively manage the Gabi-gabihan sub-watershed. Capacity building activities such as Rainforestation Training, Para-legal Training on Forestry Laws, and cross-visits have been conducted to strengthen these groups.
- b) **Establishment of 11.3 ha of Rainforestation farms that include the 2.5 ha Dapdap Elementary School Demonstration Farm on Rainforest Biome and Biodiversity Restoration.** The farm in the village of Dapdap is an innovative arrangement between a local school and the lot owner, wherein both parties agreed to develop a lot near the Dapdap-Esperanza Marine Sanctuary and Mangrove Reserve (DEMSAMAR) to showcase and serve as learning site for plant biodiversity conservation. RSG fund was used to purchase seedlings, construct the signage, and various maintenance activities. The other Rainforestation expansion sites are located in the watershed, particularly in Can-ugkay (1.3 ha); San Juan (4 ha); Gabi-gabihan (2 ha) and in the village of Cawit (1.5 ha). The newly reforested lots are planted with different native tree species such as magtalisay (*Terminalia foetidissima*); narra (*Pterocarpus indicus*); antipolo (*Artocarpus blancoi*); molave (*Vitex parviflora*); dao (*Dracontomelon dao*); and dipterocarp species that are native to the same biological region as Ponson Island. These dipterocarp species are white lauan (*Shorea contorta*); red lauan (*Shorea negrosensis*); apitong (*Dipterocarpus grandiflorus*); palosapis (*Anisoptera thurifera*); and calumpit (*Sterculia foetida*). Fruit trees such as *Psidium guajava*; *Anona squamosa*; *Artocarpus camansi*; and *Canarium ovatum* were also planted in between the forest trees.

- c) **Approval of the “Establishing Native Bee Culture in the Pilar Municipal Watershed Project” by the Philippines’ Department of Agriculture-Bureau of Agricultural Research (DA-BAR) to be implemented in partnership with the University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB) Bee Program.** Through the fund provided by RSG, the project was able to link with the UPLB Bee Program headed by Cleofas Cervancia PhD., and with their help, leveraged the approval of the said 2-year project worth £19,500 that will be implemented in 2013 to 2015 with funding from DA-BAR. The amount provided by RSG for beekeeping training and purchase of materials as part of the SWARM-Rainfo Project worth £1,295 was used to purchase one bee colony (*Apis mellifera*) to expand the existing apiary managed by CaRFA and fund the participation of three Rainforestation farmers namely; Maria Fe Relyn Salazar, Noel Cababat and Virgil Estor, in the Intensive Beekeeping Course conducted on May 21-26, 2012 at the Institute of Biological Sciences in UPLB with site visits in Cavite and Batangas provinces. Their participation in the course was required by the UPLB Bee Program for all future project partners. After the course, the participants shared the lessons they learned and narrated their experiences during a BaRCO meeting on June 2nd 2012. The expected project outputs in the 2-year span are: conduct of bee species distribution mapping in the Pilar Municipal Watershed and production of relevant maps; conduct of native-species beekeeping training and promotion of native beekeeping technologies among the Rainforestation farmer group members.

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

Since Rainforestation is a community-based approach to forest restoration, involvement of the Local Government Unit and members of the Rainforestation farmer groups organised were vital. They participated in trainings and cross-visits; some facilitated during workshops; while local technical people were important contributors from project planning to monitoring and evaluation. The farmers also received £1 per day food allowances and free lunch and snacks during tree planting activities and for maintaining the tree nursery and the Rainforestation farms. Even their young children participated in these activities but were not given food allowances.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes. I plan to continue expanding the area of the Rainforestation farms and further increase native tree species diversity in these areas. I also plan to conduct more training for the officers and members of the Rainforestation organisations to make them resilient to future organisational changes and increase their income generating capacity.

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

I plan to share the results of my work by presenting these among my colleagues in the Local Government Unit and in relevant conferences including the annual conference of the Philippine Watershed Management Coalition (PWMC), the Philippine Native Plant Conservation Society Inc. (PNPCSI) or the International Conference on Island Development 2013 of the International Geographical Union Commission on Islands on October 1st-5th 2013 in Penghu, Taiwan; by submitting an article to ELTI and the print media and uploading the same in my blog; and by inviting personalities who are interested to observe the SWARM-Rainfo Project outcomes.

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 from July 28, 2011 to December 15, 2012. The period is about 5 months longer than anticipated due to unpredictable weather conditions vital in scheduling tree planting activities and unavailability of resource persons for the Para-legal Training on Forestry Laws.

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
Allowance of project staff	600	600	0	Part of this amount (£400) was used as food allowance for volunteers to maintain the CaRFA Rainforestation Tree Nursery and Apiary
Signage	80	80	0	
Snacks during project launching program	12	12	0	
Meals and snacks during Rainforestation training at VSU	700	396	304	Savings due to discounts and absence of 12 target participants
Accommodation of participants during the Rainforestation training	378	83	295	Savings due to discounts and absence of 12 target participants
Boat rental to transport Rainforestation Training participants from Pilar to VSU Campus and back	216	55	161	Savings due to absence of 12 target participants
Honoraria for three resource persons during the Rainforestation Training	60	15	45	Savings due to two resource persons not accepting honorarium and the other receiving £5 less than anticipated
Rainforestation Training workshop materials	75	36	39	Savings due to some materials given free by VSU-ITE
Rainforestation Training venue and audio/video equipment rental	100	8	92	Savings due to offer of VSU-ITE as their activity contribution
Vehicle rental for Rainforestation site visits during the Rainforestation Training	50	411	(361)	Overspent due to the unavailability of the VSU-ITE service vehicle and so two private vans were hired
Community fee for site visits during the Rainforestation Training	30	16	14	Savings because only one community asked for community fee

Purchase of seedlings, polyethylene bags and bamboo stakes	1037	1280	(243)	Overspent due to purchase of more seedlings than anticipated
Meals and snacks during tree planting and maintenance activities	400	442	(42)	Overspent due to conduct of another Rainforestation Training at the CaRFA Rainforestation Tree Nursery and Apiary
Beekeeping training and purchase of equipments	1295	1615	(320)	Overspent due to participation in the Intensive Beekeeping Course at UPLB
Snacks during the drafting of Constitution and By-laws for San Juan/Tuburan and Gabi-gabihan farmer-co-operator groups	45	45	0	
Expenses during meetings of farmer-co-operator groups	25	25	0	
Expenses for para-legal training	310	310	0	
Attendance to watershed management workshop/conference	500	494	6	Savings due to contribution from ELTI
Monitoring and evaluation	87	87	0	Results presented to local Rainforestation farmer groups
Total	6000	6010		1£=P65

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

An important next step will be the registration of all Rainforestation cooperating groups organised through this project with the Local Government Unit and the Department of Labour and Employment (DOLE), so that these groups will be recognised as legitimate community-based people's organisations. Another important next step will be the construction of a watch tower at the Bandera Peak project site and a meeting hut and signage at the Gabi-gabihan project site. Third important next step will be an orientation on native-species beekeeping so that skills learned by the participants in the Intensive Beekeeping Course will not be forgotten while waiting for the implementation of the "Establishing Native Bees Culture in the Pilar Municipal Watershed Project" next year.

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 RSG logo can be seen in the billboards constructed at the CaRFA Rainforestation Tree Nursery and Apiary; at the Dapdap Elementary School Demonstration Farm; and at the project site in Bandera Peak. The RSG was also mentioned during the project activities and in an article in the latest ELTI Newsletter that featured the recipient as a Rainforestation trainer and environmental leader (<http://eltinews.blogspot.com/2012/05/elti-leader-dodong-maratas.html>). The ELTI Newsletter is



circulated among the students and staff of the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute, and other members of the ELTI Leadership Program in different parts of Asia and Latin America.

11. Any other comments?

I convey my heartfelt gratitude to the people behind Rufford Small Grants for the opportunity given to me and to all Rainforestation farmers of Pilar for the trust and cooperation they have extended to the SWARM-Rainfo Project. I hope this project will be the start of some very fruitful partnerships in the future for the people and biodiversity in small islands.