

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	Md. Danesh Miah
Project title	Traditional Ecological Knowledge in the REDD+ Strategies in Bangladesh
RSG reference	9912-1
Reporting period	July 2011 to July 2012
Amount of grant	£6000
Your email address	danesh@cu.ac.bd dansforestry@yahoo.com
Date of this report	31 July 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
Shorting out TEK of the forest dependent peoples regarding biodiversity conservation			Fully achieved	The cultural dependence of the Chakma community shows an obligation to conserve the biodiversity in the forests. However, findings of the TEK is not well structured here
Identification of TEK for vulnerability reduction in their livelihood		Partially achieved		The study concludes it indirectly
Shorting out the alternative livelihood practices which can be used while implementing REDD+			Fully achieved	Alternative livelihood practices have been clearly determined
Identification of tradeoffs between forest biodiversity use and expected carbon benefits of the peoples			Fully achieved	Trade-offs between the forest use and REDD+ is clearly identified.

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

While going to the field with my data crews, we had a serious road accident. Fortunately, we were saved with some minor injuries. However, I had to spend some significant amount of money to treat the injuries. While collecting data, the Chakma indigenous community were found a little bit sceptical to respond to our questionnaires. However, as our data crews were from the Chakma community, the problems were resolved anyway.

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

1. The traditional use of the neighbouring natural forests shows some factors at some points where the forest dependent peoples thematically obliges to conserve the forests.

2. It was found that most of the products harvested from the neighbouring natural forests were used for their subsistence livelihoods. However, due to the continuous degradation of the forests, the sustainability of the forest products harvesting has been lowering gradually with the non-timber forest products drastically.

3. The study finds that at the strategy point of the REDD+ implementation in the CHT of Bangladesh, the alternative livelihoods of the forest dependent peoples may be raising plantation, agricultural intensification, extending small business, etc.

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

The headman of the villages, religious persons, school teachers were involved in the key person's discussions. In the awareness campaigns, many family members from the Chakma community both male and female were present spontaneously. The attendees were finally agreed to the forest conservation concept for the sake of their forest services. About the REDD+ mechanism, they were little bit confused how it can be implemented without providing them the alternative livelihoods and securing their cooking fuels issues.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes, I have a plan to continue this work. The perceptions on the forest use and forest conservation are different among the different forest dependent peoples. I have a plan to continue this research for another forest dependent indigenous community in Rangamati District of the Chittagong Hill Tracts of Bangladesh, if I receive second grant from the Rufford Small Grants Foundation.

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

Just after the confirmation of the final report by the RSG Foundation, I will prepare the paper as a scientific article to publish it in the international refereed journals. In this process, the results will be disseminated to many scientific communities. In addition to this, I expect to attend some local and international seminars/conferences/workshops to present my research findings, if I receive travel grants for my participation.

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 the period from July 2011 to July 2012. However, in comparison to the anticipated time scale, I had to spend some more days, but not more than one month.

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 (£ sterling)	Actual Amount (£ sterling)	Difference (£ sterling)	Comments
Pre-project work	200	190	10	Due to the inflation of Bangladeshi currency (taka)
Contacts and travelling	500	550	50	There were some unexpected travelling to the study site
Travelling within the study site	150	200	50	The cost was unexpectedly higher
Accommodation and foods	1000	1100	100	The cost was unexpectedly higher
Graduate field assistant	2500	2400	100	I arranged lowering the cost as the graduate students were from our department
Field equipments	615	600	15	The difference was not significant

Health and safety aid	25	200	175	Due to the road accident while travelling to the field
Post survey works	500	450	50	I arranged lowering the cost as the extension crews were from my department
Contingency	275	290	15	The difference was not significant
Miscellaneous	150	135	15	The difference was not significant
Total	5915	6115	<i>1 £ sterling = tk 126</i>	

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

For fixing up the REDD+ mechanism in Bangladesh, more similar studies are needed in the different forest dependent households in Bangladesh. I feel that another major tribe in the Chittagong Hill tracts should be studied about their perceptions on the forest conservation and tradeoffs between forest use and conservation.

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?

A large scale banner was produced and used in the awareness campaigns. In the banner, the RSGF logo was used broadly. In this way, the RSGF logo got significant publicity.

11. Any other comments?

If the RSG foundation supports a few participations in some international seminar/conferences, the activities of RSGF will be highly publicised to the international scientific and management communities.