

FINAL REPORT

Project Title: “Conservation of Banyan Trees with community participation”

Funding Agency: The Rufford Small Grants Foundation

Implementing Organisation: Wildlife Society of Orissa

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Reporting date: 7th February, 2008

CONSERVATION OF BANYAN TREES WITH COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

Introduction: The banyan tree is a common species which is found all over India. The tree is of immense significance for wildlife since it is used as a shelter by birds and other creatures for nesting. The tree's fruits are food for birds, squirrels, bats and even for cattle. It is revered as a holy tree by Hindus since ancient times and there is a taboo on cutting the tree.

This project was started in the target area during 2004 with the help of a grant provided by the Rufford Small Grants Foundation. We continued the project for the second year with a continuation award. The project is now in its third year and was funded by the Rufford Small Grants Foundation as a Booster Grant.

The project aimed at protecting the banyan tree from cutting and damage by goats that prefer to eat the tender hanging roots. Without strong hanging roots, the tree would not be able to withstand powerful cyclones. Protective fences encircled the tree base to save the roots and we also supplemented this by a local education and awareness campaign for villagers and school students which enabled us to gather local support for the protection of the tree. The project also aimed at increasing the population of banyan trees by carrying out plantation of new seedlings.

Progress in attaining Objectives:

Since the last two years, we have protected 80 adult trees in Hindol block of Dhenkanal district of Orissa. During the current project period, we expanded the project by adopting another 100 trees besides protecting the 30 trees adopted during the second year. In view of successful root formation of the 50 trees adopted in the first year, there was no requirement of protection for these 50 trees. Therefore, a total of 130 trees spread over 25 villages were adopted. The list of adopted trees and their locations is given as per **Annexure "A."**

Infrastructure and equipment used for the project:

The applicant NGO provided necessary equipment and infrastructure to implement this project including Jeep, camera and camp equipment. The program supervisor used a motorcycle for field tours. Accounting and reporting services were provided by staff at the Head Office of the applicant.

Personnel:

Ten educated local youth worked as local volunteers. They were:

Arabinda Majhi, Akhila Samal, Manoj Samal, Baina Patttnaik, Ambuja Kumar Sahoo, Shatrughna Sahoo, Surat Behera, Paikray Sahoo, Hemant Kumar Samal and Khageswar Behera

Each volunteer devoted about 5 hours every day for carrying out the assigned duties

Training:

Single day training was held for them at our camp at Rasol where they were addressed by Dr. Damodar Lenka and Mr. Biswajit Mohanty, the Project Officer who explained the project objectives and what duties they were expected to perform. The project methodology was also explained to them.

The allotted duties of the volunteers included.....

- Putting up the protective fence.
- Monitoring the fence condition.
- Mobilize the local community to support our efforts for tree conservation.
- Preventing damage to the hanging roots of the adopted trees by goats and cattle.
- Distribute information brochures, playing cards and stickers.
- Arrange local and school meetings for banyan tree awareness
- Putting up posters, banners and banners for visual publicity
- Encouraging villagers to plant new banyan saplings and take care of them.
- Carrying out periodical observations of birds and other fauna which visited the adopted banyan trees for food and used them as shelters.

Though Mr. Pradeep Routray was initially appointed as the Project Supervisor, he left for another employment in March. We had to replace him with Mr. Sudam Pani, an experienced staff member of ours who has been working with us for the last 10 years.

He was assisted by Mr. Ratnakar Dalei, field assistant. The Supervisor regularly visited the field and ensured that the animators were carrying out the assigned tasks.

Mr. Biswajit Mohanty, Project Officer planned the project and set up the deadlines for the various activities. He monitored the timely execution of the objectives as proposed.

Mr. Mohanty carried out the following duties:

- Planning and scheduling of activities.
- Supervising and instructing the animators and the supervisor
- Preparation of the duty chart of the supervisor and the animators
- Undertaking field visits at least once a month to oversee the work.
- Payment of field expenses.
- Maintenance of accounts and fortnightly work reports.
- Photography of project activities and events.
- Preparation of interim and final work report.

Field work:

- Field Camp: We set up camp at Rasol which is centrally located in the project area. This place is well connected by bus and also has telephone facilities.
- Tree protection: We identified and fenced 100 Banyan Trees adopted this year and also repaired fences of the 30 trees taken up last year. We also put up 50 signboards at prominent places near the roadside for public education.

- Green Fence: We put up green fence around the 100 adopted trees so that a semi permanent protection measure is provided. These fences last for two – three years and provide long term protection to the hanging roots.
- Maintenance of fences: The fences were maintained regularly since the brush wood and bamboo pieces were broken by cattle. Strong summer winds also blew down some fences which had to be re erected. Termite attacks were also a problem in some areas.
- Wall paintings: We put up 15 wall paintings at prominent locations like school walls, weekly markets and cross roads. Wall paintings were done at Khaliborei, Alusing, Kalipoi, Bampa, Ganjara, Satmile, Dudurkote, Rasol, Nabakishorepur Dandiri, Panchmile, Khajuriakata, Gandanali, Hathura, Gobindpur villages.
- New plantations: A total of 300 saplings were planted by school children and locals at various locations. We selected places where they could be easily watered during the dry season since many saplings planted in previous years had failed to survive due to water shortage. Mostly embankments of ponds and roadsides were chose. All saplings were given protection with tree guards. However, due to termite attack, there was heavy casualty. A list of seedlings planted and surviving along with locations is given as per **Annexure “E”**.
- Awareness meetings and school quizzes: We prepared 1,000 paper posters, 2,000 leaflets and 1,000 stickers for distribution. Posters have been put up at prominent public places like schools, shops and government offices. Stickers were handed out to drivers of vehicles, buses and jeeps. Banners with banyan tree conservation messages were used at local meetings and school quizzes. Playing cards were also given to villagers to play cards under banyan trees during the afternoon hours. These cards carried conservation messages and were very popular.
- School Quiz: We conducted quizzes on banyan tree conservation at 30 local schools. School bags, clipboards and geometry box sets were handed out as prizes to the winners. Information leaflets were handed out to the children who had illustrated pictures of the banyan tree and carried conservation message about the need to save the hanging roots. A detailed list of such programs is given as per **Annexure “C”**.
- Root soil work: Small earth mounds of about 12” – 18” height were done jus below the hanging roots in order to encourage quicker growth. We also encircled these mounds with small boulders which prevented soil run off. We also buried small bamboo sticks underneath these roots and tied the roots to them. A list of trees and locations and the number of hanging roots which could manage to strike the ground of each tree is given as per **Annexure “B”**.
- Local meetings and public education: A few local meetings were organized for the local community to teach them about the usefulness of banyan trees and the need to protect the hanging roots. Information leaflets were handed out during such meetings. We held 9 local meetings in the target area a list of which is attached as per **Annexure “D”**. Door to door campaign was also carried out by the volunteers who handed out the information leaflets to the villagers.

- Wildlife observation: As per instruction, our volunteers observed the various wildlife species which visited or used the banyan trees for nesting and also ate its fruits. We found a total of 35 species including 23 species of birds (4 species of mynah, jungle crow, common crow, cuckoo, oriole, tree pie, barbet, spotted owl, green pigeon, red vented bulbul, red whiskered bulbul, rose ringed parakeet common drongo, little egret, median egret, cattle egret, magpie robin, common babbler, etc.), 6 species of reptiles (monitor lizard, cobra, rat snake, 3 types of lizards), 4 species of mammals (fruit bat, rhesus monkey, giant squirrel and palm striped squirrel).

Particular challenges faced and solutions adopted:

We had some problem in identifying the right banyan tree since it had to have hanging roots which had not sufficiently developed or were damaged. However, with extensive surveys of new field areas in Bampa and Bimbari, we could find such trees.

Termites damaged the fences and we had to use organic termite control methods to chase them away.

We also had to ensure that the area close to the fence did not have any dry fallen leaves. Dry leaves shed by the banyan tree during March and April are a fire hazard. Our volunteers swept the ground adjacent to the fence to clear these dry leaves.

Survival of the planted seedlings was not as expected and we faced a heavy loss of such seedlings. Thus out of 300 seedlings planted we found that only 163 seedlings survived in January, 2008. However, we shall ensure the survival of the balance remaining now with extensive watering proposed to be done in the summer months with local support.

Changes to your project arising during the year:

There were no changes in our project plans during the year.

Supervision and Monitoring:

a) Work diaries: A daily work diary was maintained by the animators which recorded the work done by them every day including the hours devoted to each specific activity. These diaries were inspected at least once a week by the Project Supervisor who made observations on the work and also issued orders for future work.

The Project Officer inspected these diaries whenever he visited the field. The Project Officer has visited 12 times to supervise and evaluate the various activities in the field.

B) Project Supervisor's Work Register: The Project Supervisor maintained a work register wherein details of visits and work done every day were entered. This Register contained details of meetings and programs he carried out as to achieve the project objectives. This Register was regularly checked by the Project Officer and appropriate instructions were issued for future action.

c) Fortnight Work Report: A fortnightly work report which contained various information required to assess the pace of project activity as well as to evaluate the work of the animators was prepared and faxed by the Project Supervisor every fortnight.

This report contained details of

- a) *Work performance of animators;*
- b) *The hours of work done by each animator;*
- c) *The status of the fence and hanging roots;*
- d) *A log of the supervisor's field tours for every day.*

This report was useful to monitor the progress of the project and activities of the field staff and keep a close tab on their performance and achievements.

The Fortnight Work Report form is attached as per **Annexure "F"**

Future plans and forecast:

The activities for the previous two years had clearly demonstrated that given adequate protection, the hanging roots of the banyan trees can easily strike the ground and provide permanent support and strength to the tree. We were also amazed to find that this could be successfully achieved within one monsoon season. All the 50 trees of the first year and the 30 trees of the second year are now well established. With the current project, we have added another 100 trees which shall now grow up properly with strong hanging roots. These shall provide a long term nesting site for wildlife besides providing them a source of food. We are hopeful that the local community will now take care of the trees for another year even when we withdraw from the project area to ensure that their hanging roots strike the ground. We aim to apply for further grants this year to expand our area of activity

We are also hopeful that the 163 seedlings which have survived so far will be able to grow up into mature trees by next year since we have mobilized the support of the local community to water them.

Budget and Expenditure:

The project expenses could be met fully with the grant money and some interest received from our bank.

The statement of Budget and Expenditure is furnished as **Annexure – "G"**.

Signature & Date _____ Biswajit Mohanty, dated 14th February, 2008

Enclosed: Seven Annexure with this report.

Annexure “A” – LIST OF VILLAGES AND TREES ADOPTED

| <i>Sl. No.</i> | <i>Village</i> | <i>Trees adopted in second year (old project)</i> | <i>Trees adopted in third year (Current project)</i> | <i>Total</i> |
|----------------|----------------|---|--|--------------|
| 1 | Khalliborei | 1 | 10 | 11 |
| 2 | Bimbari | 5 | 2 | 7 |
| 3 | Bhujabal | 3 | 5 | 8 |
| 4 | Kathakumpa | 3 | | 3 |
| 5 | Dandiri | 1 | 3 | 4 |
| 6 | Lahada | | 8 | 8 |
| 7 | Panchmile | 1 | | 1 |
| 8 | Nuabaga | 2 | | 2 |
| 9 | Dudurkote | | 7 | 7 |
| 10 | Sana Hindol | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| 11 | Satmile | | 1 | 1 |
| 12 | Kumursingha | 1 | 3 | 4 |
| 13 | Ranjagol | 1 | 4 | 5 |
| 14 | Alusingh | | 8 | 8 |
| 15 | Chitalpur | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| 16 | Govindpur | 8 | 3 | 11 |
| 17 | Thokar | 1 | | 1 |
| 18. | Kharchuli | | 3 | 3 |
| 19. | Bhimakhanda | | 6 | 6 |
| 20. | Patabiltota | | 4 | 4 |
| 21. | Mundugara | | 3 | 3 |
| 22. | Bampa | | 9 | 9 |
| 23. | Ganjara | | 4 | 4 |
| 24. | Patua sahi | | 10 | 10 |
| 25. | Dalki | | 5 | 5 |
| | Total : | 30 | 100 | 130 |

**Annexure “B”- LIST OF BANYAN TREES AND HANGING ROOTS
ESTABLISHED DURING THE PROJECT PERIOD**

| | ↓ Place | BT1 | BT2 | BT3 | BT4 | BT5 | BT6 | BT7 | BT8 | BT9 | BT10 |
|----|-------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------|
| 1 | Khalliborei | 38 | 5 | 6 | 9 | 4 | 18 | 6 | 18 | 7 | 1 |
| 2 | Alusingh | 26 | 4 | 4 | 22 | 4 | 2 | 5 | x | | |
| 3 | Kharchuli | 8 | 12 | 9 | | | | | | | |
| 4 | Govindpur | 14 | 9 | 5 | | | | | | | |
| 5 | Lahada | 6 | 9 | 5 | 13 | 5 | 28 | 9 | x | | |
| 6 | Dandiri | 14 | 11 | 7 | | | | | | | |
| 7 | Bhujabal | 2 | 3 | 5 | 7 | X | | | | | |
| 8 | Ranjagol | 5 | 7 | 4 | 11 | | | | | | |
| 9 | Bhimakhanda | 18 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 4 | | | | |
| 10 | Dudurkote | 18 | 35 | 8 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 6 | | | |
| 11 | Kumursingha | 5 | 11 | 15 | | | | | | | |
| 12 | Satmile | 36 | | | | | | | | | |
| 13 | Sana hindol | 8 | | | | | | | | | |
| 14 | Chitalpur | 23 | | | | | | | | | |
| 15 | Bimbari | 18 | 6 | | | | | | | | |
| 16 | Patabilatota | 2 | 3 | 4 | x | | | | | | |
| 17 | Mundugara | 7 | 9 | 16 | | | | | | | |
| 18 | Bampa | 4 | 2 | 2 | 5 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 2 | x | |
| 19 | Ganjara | 3 | 10 | 2 | 3 | | | | | | |
| 20 | Patua sahi | 5 | 2 | 4 | 11 | 10 | 19 | 13 | 3 | x | x |
| 21 | Dalki | 6 | 2 | 4 | 3 | 3 | | | | | |

Annexure “C” – LIST OF SCHOOL QUIZ HELD

| <i>Date.</i> | <i>Name of School</i> | <i>Participants</i> |
|--------------|-------------------------------|---------------------|
| 20.4.2007 | Dandiri UP & M.E School | 45 |
| 12.9.2007 | Rasol High School | 103 |
| 12.9.2007 | Rasol M.E. School | 63 |
| 14.9.2007 | Naukiari UP & ME School | 68 |
| 13.11.2007 | Dudurkote Govt. UP School | 74 |
| 13.11.2007 | Dudurkote ME School | 109 |
| 15.11.2007 | Ranjagol UP School | 80 |
| 14.11.2007 | Khajuriakata High School | 219 |
| 15.11.2007 | Khajuriakata ME School | 118 |
| 19.11.2007 | Bampa ME School | 60 |
| 30.12.2007 | G.B. High School, Ganjara | 109 |
| 30.12.2007 | G.B. ME School, Ganjara | 48 |
| 26.12.2007 | Ganjara UP School | 54 |
| 18.12.2007 | Rajmohanpur UP School | 88 |
| 18.12.2007 | Rajmohanpur ME School | 72 |
| 29.12.2007 | Kathakumpa High School | 59 |
| 31.12.2007 | Gandanali High School | 84 |
| 19.4.2007 | Khaliborei UP & M.E. School | 63 |
| 19.4.2007 | Khaliborei High School | 48 |
| 29.8.2007 | Saraswati Sishu Mandir, Rasol | 58 |
| 9.4.2007 | Alusingh Primary School | 40 |
| 10.4.2007 | Bankia Primary School | 35 |
| 11.4.2007 | Bampa Sevashram School | 43 |
| 12.4.2007 | Brahmaniapal UP School | 38 |
| 13.4.2007 | Parshurampur UP School | 30 |
| 8.9.2007 | Parshurampur ME School | 78 |
| 19.4.2007 | Govindpur Primary School | 54 |
| 20.4.2007 | Lahada UP & ME School | 62 |
| 6.9.2007 | Bimori Primary School | 38 |
| 6.9.2007 | Shyamsundarpur UP School | 59 |

Annexure “D” – LIST OF PUBLIC MEETINGS

| <i>Date</i> | <i>Name of village</i> | <i>Program</i> | <i>Participants</i> |
|-------------|------------------------|----------------|---------------------|
| 1.3.2007 | Khajuriakata | Public meeting | 35 |
| 4.4.2007 | Dandiri | Public meeting | 37 |
| 26.12.2007 | Bampa - Dehuri sahi | Public meeting | 45 |
| 4.6.2007 | Khalliborei | Public meeting | 33 |
| 11.10.2007 | Bimbari | Public meeting | 26 |
| 30.12.2007 | Alusingh | Public meeting | 27 |
| 14.11.2007 | Kathakumpa | Public meeting | 35 |
| 26.6.2007 | Lahada | Public meeting | 58 |
| 14.11.2007 | Sana bahangia | Public meeting | 38 |

Annexure “E” – LIST OF SEEDLINGS – PLANTED AND SURVIVING

| <i>Name of village</i> | <i>Planted</i> | <i>Survived</i> |
|---------------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| Bampa ME School | 10 | 2 |
| Bampa Andhari Temple Road | 50 | 34 |
| Pakata padia | 29 | 8 |
| Bampa Khola | 10 | 2 |
| Dalki | 17 | 13 |
| Alasua | 10 | 4 |
| Brahmaniapal | 10 | 6 |
| Dandiri | 25 | 18 |
| Lahada | 20 | 16 |
| Parshurampur | 24 | 10 |
| Kathakumpa | 25 | 7 |
| Sanabahangia | 10 | 8 |
| Alusingh | 15 | 7 |
| Kallipoi | 10 | 6 |
| Panchmile | 20 | 12 |
| Dudurkote | 15 | 10 |
| Total: | 300 | 163 |

Annexure “F”: FORMAT OF FORTNIGHTLY WORK REPORT

WILDLIFE SOCIETY OF ORISSA

BANYAN TREE CONSERVATION PROGRAM

PROGRAM SUPERVISOR'S WORK REPORT

1. Assessment of performance of animator for fortnight (give period):

| | Name | Work hours | Performance |
|-----|-------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| 1. | | | |
| 2. | | | |
| 3. | | | |
| 4. | | | |
| 5. | | | |
| 6. | | | |
| 7. | | | |
| 8. | | | |
| 9. | | | |
| 10. | | | |

2. Total work progress for the field:

A. Door to door campaign (hours):

B. Village public meetings (nos.)

C. School meetings (no's):

D. Brochures / posters/ stickers issued:

3. Information about Banyan tree protection level:

| ANIMATOR | TOTAL TREES | ROOTS BURIED | CONDITION OF FENCE Good =? Need Repairs =? |
|-----------------|--------------------|---------------------|---|
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |

4. Day wise log of visits to field area:

| DATE | PLACES | OMR | CMR | KMS |
|-------------|---------------|------------|------------|------------|
| | | | | |
| | | | | |

Place:

Date:

Signature of Program Supervisor

Annexure “G” STATEMENT OF BUDGET AND EXPENDITURE

| BUDGET ITEM | Budget | Expenditure |
|---|----------------|-----------------|
| 1. Bamboo thorn brushwood fence for 100 trees @ £18 each x 100 trees | 1,800 | 1,914 |
| 2. Green fence and maintenance for 100 trees @ £ 10 each x 100 trees | 1,000 | 1,032 |
| 3. Fence repair of 30 trees of previous year: @ £ 6 each x 30 | 180 | 177 |
| 4. Tree guards for 300 new banyan saplings:@ £ 1.50 each x 300 numbers | 450 | 551 |
| 5. Posters, leaflets, stickers, banners for education and awareness | 400 | 407 |
| 6. Prizes and meeting costs for school quiz:@ £10 per school x 30 schools | 300 | 330 |
| 7. Playing cards with banyan tree conservation message: £ 1 x 200 packs | 200 | 175 |
| 8. Signage costs for 50 signboards @ £ 12.50 each x 50 numbers | 625 | 611 |
| 9. Wall paintings: 15 numbers @ £ 25 each x 15 numbers | 375 | 372 |
| 10. <u>Salary & allowance of Supervisor and Assistant:</u> One Supervisor: @ £ 75 x 12 months: 900 One Assistant : @ £ 35 x 12 months: 420 | 1,320 | 1,327 |
| 11. Salary of 10 part time volunteers for tree protection @ £ 15 x 10 persons x 12 months | 1,800 | 1,676 |
| 12. Motorcycle fuel and maintenance for Supervisor: £ 30 per month x 12 months: | 360 | 350 |
| 13. Camp hire and maintenance: @ £15 per month x 12 months = £ 120 | 180 | 208 |
| 14. <u>Jeep fuel and maintenance:</u> 1 field tour in a month: 400 kms 40 litres diesel @ £ 0.50 = £ 20 per month Lubricant & maintenance = £ 15 per month : £ 35 x 12 months | 420 | 490 |
| 15. <u>Overheads:</u> courier, photocopy, stationery, telephone: @ £ 20 per month x 12 months | 240 | 270 |
| 16. Documentation and reporting | 100 | 93 |
| 17. Contingencies and unforeseen expenses | 200 | 190 |
| Total : | £ 9,950 | £ 10,173 |

Statement of Project funds receipt and expenditure:

| | |
|--|---|
| Grant received from Rufford Small Grants Foundation: <i>(net of transfer costs)</i> | Rs. 854,991 (9,950 GBP) |
| Add: Interest from bank: | Rs. 19,075 (222 GBP) |
| Add: Balance of first year brought forward: | <u>Rs. 4,798 (62 GBP)</u> |
| Total receipts | Rs. 878,864 (10,234 GBP) |
| Less: Expenditure as per above statement | <u>Rs. 874, 065 (10,173 GBP)</u> |
| Closing balance <i>(as on 30.6.2006)</i> : | Rs. 4, 799 (61 GBP) |

Currency Exchange Rate: Rs. 85.92 = £ 1