

## 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. 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. 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](mailto:jane@rufford.org).

Thank you for your help.

**Josh Cole, Grants Director**

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#### Grant Recipient Details

<b>Your name</b>	Kiran Vasant Purandare
<b>Project title</b>	Water for wildlife-reviving waterholes in the Nagzira Wildlife Sanctuary, India
<b>RSG reference</b>	02.02.09
<b>Reporting period</b>	August 2009 to Dec. 2010
<b>Amount of grant</b>	£5926
<b>Your email address</b>	<a href="mailto:aerf@hathway.com">aerf@hathway.com</a>
<b>Date of this report</b>	3 <sup>rd</sup> February 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
Stakeholders discussion and generating awareness				<p>These sessions were extremely useful to ensure local stakeholders engagement in the project implementation and awareness generation.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Consultations in 23 villages have been organised.</li> <li>2. Three consultations with FDCM organised.</li> <li>3. Three consultations with local youth and tourists organised.</li> </ol>
Mapping and research				<p>The water holes inside the WLS could not be surveyed due to delay in permission of the Forest Department. Detailed survey of 23 waterholes carried out and 5 maps using Google Earth) were prepared.</p>
Training a youth group				<p>These camps for urban youth were nature camps organised where the youngsters attending paid for the camp.</p> <p>Six urban youth camps have been organised. During these camps the local youth were engaged and training through interaction has been fulfilled.</p>
Waterhole restoration				<p>This has showed a simple approach for having water in the waterholes for longer time through activities like cleaning and maintaining. Innovative structural changes addressed the issue of birds drowning in the waterholes and smaller animals using the water effectively. <b>Two more waterholes are being restored. It is a long process to engage the community rather than just building the structures.</b></p> <p>Two waterholes were restored and two new water harvesting structures were built with community participation. Cleaning of five waterholes has been done and is continued after the project period.</p>

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

Since I have been working in the project area for long time I had confidence of working in the fringe areas independent of Forest Department. Still, I have been trying to get their permission and support to implement the project activities smoothly. It took more than 6 months to get the permission of Forest Development Corporation (FDCM) which is a subsidiary of Maharashtra State Forest Department. This has hampered the process and we had to work with communities time and again to revive their enthusiasm to participate in the project.

I personally visited the headquarters of Forest Department at Nagpur, had several meetings with FDCM and park director. Finally, I received a letter in March 2010. The AERF team also made efforts to talk to Principle Chief Conservator of Forest Maharashtra and park Director to resolve the issue of permission.

Secondly, there were a couple of shocking incidents of waterhole poisoning and poaching in the project area. This too was not anticipated. Therefore, I was under pressure from the front-line staff and the officials of the FDCM. A wildfire had occurred causing humus destruction. We continuously were in touch with local people and therefore could successful in overcoming these difficulties and achieving set targets.

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

- The restoration of two waterholes, cleaning and rejuvenation of few other waterholes the FDCM and wildlife wing of Forest Department understood and appreciated the need of such work.
- The team has surveyed and mapped 23 waterholes from the FDCM area that is crucial for the wildlife as well as people and their cattle. The maps prepared for these waterholes came handy to generate awareness and to select the most crucial waterholes for restoration under this project.
- As a part of project work many meetings and sessions were organised with local people. These sessions were helped to look at the possibility of developing other NTFP based livelihoods in the fringe area villages. Such activities suggested by people include collection of Mahua seeds, plantations of native species like Pongamia for production of SVO. Such enterprise in future will be helpful in reducing the pressure on forests of WLS for livelihood. The major livelihood in the area is cutting wood from FDCM area and selling it daily in the nearby urban market.

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

The local communities have been engaged in the project implementation throughout. With the rejuvenation of the water holes, water has been available to the wildlife as well as the cattle of the people. Simple innovative solutions like building small steps for birds, avoided the drowning of birds while drinking water.

Water has always been a major concern for the wildlife. Due to limited water resources inside the forest, the animals often venture in the villages, thus resulting in a human-wildlife conflict. In an attempt to overcome the conflict a bore well had been constructed in the vicinity of the Pitezari

village. But as it was not maintained properly neither the villagers nor the animals were benefitted by it. But through the project activities, understanding the importance of repairing and maintenance of bore well. The participation of the villagers was notable in this event as well.

The youth from the village have formed a group and voluntarily worked for the project. The most surprising part was the active participation of the tribal women to a great extent. In addition to the rejuvenation of the six natural waterholes, an artificial waterhole (JALAKUND) was also constructed outside the protected area. This waterhole is also made available to the villagers for domestic purposes. The involvement of the villagers was such that they offered to supervise the water hole on a daily basis without charging for it.

#### **5. Are there any plans to continue this work?**

There is a need to continue the project work. Local people of villages have suggested couple of other important water holes that need urgent attention. It has also been realised during the [project that people need more detailed information about the waterholes in the area and need to their monitoring. Therefore, we are in a process of preparing a guide of natural artificial waterholes in and around the Nagzira WLS. We need support for the same and looking forward to the extension or next phase of support from RSG.

We have also planned to increase the involvement of farmers as they are the ones who are mostly prone to the human-wildlife conflict resulting in hunting and poaching, e.g. organising a tour of farmers to an area where an eco-development project has been successfully implemented.

There is need to continue the work and it is most important for conservation, as this WLS is now a part of new tiger project from eastern Maharashtra.

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

People from a village named Khairi, near the forest have also visited the rejuvenated waterholes and Jalakund (the artificial waterhole constructed under this project). Their approach towards the work undertaken was positive. There is need to share the results and processes of the project with other villagers and communities as well as to other stakeholders. A session with Forest department officials and new batches of nature tourists in April and May 2011 are organised to discuss the success of the project and learning's to improve the future course of action.

A project brief is prepared in local language and distributed to the villages and local stakeholders like shopkeepers, guides and transporters taking the tourists in the park.

A detailed article on need of the water restoration with local participation has been prepared and published in Marathi Annual issue of Anubhav (Marathi) and is being distributed to various NGOs and nature clubs in Maharashtra.

A more detailed descriptive report with photographs will be prepared and posted on AERF's website for larger publicity of this RSG supported intervention.

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

The project activities have been carried out during the period August 2009 to December 2010.

Due to delay in permission from FDCM to work in the area, the time required for the project was more than expected. In any case it is actually difficult when we plan conservation activities with community engagement. The process to involve communities for larger impacts needs time and has to be repeated again. Only research based activities may be completed in a year's time depending upon the magnitude of research problem.

**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
Equipment & Research	1085	813	-272	
Awareness generation & meetings	640	694	+54	
Restoration works of six waterholes	1051	1270	+219	
Travel & logistics	2100	1520	-580	
Administrative support	1050	1157	+107	
<b>TOTAL</b>	5926	<b>5,454</b>	-451	Will be used for visits and remaining supervision work till March 2011. 21 GBP bank Charges. Total available <b>5905.00</b>

1 GBP = 77.89 INR

AERF has received GBP 5905 in our bank after deduction of bank charges etc.

Total budget available : GBP 5905.00

The total spent on the project work: 5454.35 GBP

Unspent balance: GBP 450.63

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

As mentioned earlier, the already rejuvenated waterholes will require continuous monitoring. The water will need to be periodically tested as an incidence of waterhole poisoning has already occurred. The meticulous efforts for restoration of other waterholes, vigilance and community partnership for maintenance will help to address the issue of water for wildlife.

Indigenous people's water wisdom could be used to strengthen the water rejuvenation work in and around Nagzira WLS, as all these communities are Gonds an indigenous community of central India. We also plan to investigate in depth, the causes of water poisoning and poaching, and try, to the best of our abilities to stop such incidents in future.

We also plan to build more artificial waterholes inside as well as outside the project area, trying to overcome the disadvantages of the already present artificial waterholes. We also plan to carry out some projects on private lands in the vicinity of the protected area.

**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 RSG logo has been used on the boards displayed near the restored waterholes. The logo has also been used on caps as well as on the handouts distributed. It was helpful to publicise the support of the RSGF. In all out meetings and presentations we proudly mentioned RSGF.

**11. Any other comments?**

A detailed report is being prepared with photographs and will be uploaded on AERF website by March 2011.