

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.

Thank you for your help.

Josh Cole, Grants Director

Grant Recipient Details	
Your name	Rajesh Rajchal
Project title	Seabuckthorn (<i>Hippophae salicifolia</i>) Management for the Upliftment of Local Livelihood in Mustang District
RSG reference	04.05.06
Reporting period	Oct 2007-Sept 2008
Amount of grant	£1770
Your email address	rrajchal@yahoo.com
Date of this report	9/14/2008

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
To estimate the standing biomass of wood, fruits and foliages of seabuckthorn (<i>Hippophae salicifolia</i>)				Standing biomass of wood, fruits and foliages of seabuckthorn have been estimated.
To identify the contributions of seabuckthorn to the livelihood of the local people in Mustang district, Nepal				Ecological and socio-economical contributions of seabuckthorn have been identified.
To assess the current management systems regarding their techniques of propagation, harvesting, extraction and utilization of seabuckthorn to recommend the appropriate management systems				Various indigenous and scientific management systems regarding their techniques of propagation, harvesting, extraction and utilization of seabuckthorn have been documented and the best possible options have been recommended.
To form a seabuckthorn management committee, prepare five years' operation plan, train the local people to the sustainable seabuckthorn management and disseminate the findings				Seabuckthorn management committee has been formulated, five years' operation plan has been prepared and the local people have been trained for the sustainable management of seabuckthorn forest. A brochure has been published

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

Not Applicable

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

i. Gain in the Capacity of the Local People to Manage Seabuckthorn Forest: From the field-based training, the local people are able to manage seabuckthorn forest in sustainable manner and are able to maintain the forest through the recommended options for propagation, harvesting, extraction and utilization of seabuckthorn. The local people are also seemed to be confident for managing seabuckthorn forest without further degrading the forest and biodiversity.

ii. Income Generating Initiatives: Previously, local peoples were used to collect seabuckthorn fruits only for their domestic use. It was neglected and remained unused in its natural condition because of lack of awareness. Now, people are able to refine and preserve the seabuckthorn in the form of juice, jam, wine, juice powder, pickle and squash and these products are highly preferred by tourists.

The poor, women and dalits will get more benefits than as present if commercial level of juice production could be established in the local level by which community obtain optimum benefits from the seabuckthorn to the livelihoods of its disadvantaged groups that ultimately foster the conservation of seabuckthorn in sustainable way as people will realise the conservation is necessary for the development.

iii. Scientific Document and Dissemination: The final document is a very concrete one for managing the seabuckthorn forest. This can be a very prominent document for the local people, the students and the scientific community. The report contains management techniques, which the local people can understand and practice in their forest areas. It can be important to students because of detailed compilation of information and to the scientific community because of scientific research with detailed analysis. The report is a manual for the local people for commercial produces and managing seabuckthorn forest. Students from different universities of the world are getting benefits from this report and are requesting personal suggestions for the field-based activities. Because of the inspiration from this research and request of the neighbouring local people, the Annapurna Conservation Area Project has funded a student from Institute of Forestry for similar research in the neighbouring district. This report thus has worked as a corner stone for managing seabuckthorn forest in Nepal.

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

People's participation was the first priority in this project. All the objectives were fulfilled strictly focused for the people's participation. The local community were involved throughout the project period i.e. collecting socio-economic and bio-physical data for the research, assess management systems, drawing out the best management options, formulation of seabuckthorn management committee, preparation of operation plan, training and income generating activities.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Because of the success of this project and encouragement from the local people and biodiversity experts, I am enthusiastic to continue this project in the project area by assisting the local people to follow the activities according to plan, manage the seabuckthorn resource for better income generation and conduct further action researches in propagation and utilization. Because the seabuckthorn produces have high demand in the locality by the tourists and local customers, the seabuckthorn users will be highly benefited if a micro-enterprise programme could be established. Besides, because of the huge production of seed and pulp, if the produces could be linked with some international seabuckthorn industries, the local people will be enormously benefited.

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

The brochure has been distributed to the local people, local organizations and national organizations. The final report has been submitted in libraries of some universities and some government and non-government organizations. I have also got opportunities to conduct both paper and post presentations in a national level seminar. An abstract has been published in my personal webpage through which communications have been done with various universities of the world. After the publication of detailed report in Rufford website, it will also be published in my personal webpage.

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

SN	Activities	Proposed	Actual
1.	Literature review	Oct 2006 -Nov 2007	On time
2.	Reconnaissance survey	Oct 2006	On time
3.	Data collection	Oct 2006-Jan 2007	On time
4.	Data compilation and analysis	Feb 2007-Apr 2007	On time
5.	SMC formation and participatory OP preparation	May 2007-Jun 2007	On time
6.	Training	Jun 2007-Jul 2007	On time
7.	Brochure publish	Aug 2007-Sept 2007	On time
8.	Report preparation and submission	Oct-2007-Nov 2007	Sept 2008*

* The time was late because the researcher was collecting information for final report.

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
Subsistence payments during field visit for the two resource persons @ £ 7 per person per day for 150 days	420	420	0	
Lunch during SMC formation and participatory OP preparation for ten days @ £ 2 per day for 30 local people	600	650	-50	Adjusted from lunch for trainees from the next item
Lunch for trainees for ten days @ £ 2 per day for 30 local people	600	550	+50	
Brochure Publish @ £ 0.3 per brochure (500 sheets)	150	155	-5	
TOTAL	1770	1775	-5	

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

Establishment of enterprise is more challenging in the project area because it lies in remote mountain regions. So, extra support is indispensable especially for hygienic juice production and sustainability of project for long time with the inclusion of livelihoods options of poor people. For the marketing of its products, certification (forest and food) of products is very important that requires further technical support as villagers are unaware about these phenomena. As generating income from seabuckthorn has now become a burning issue, dissemination is necessary throughout the seabuckthorn range of Nepal about the importance of the micro-enterprise development through seabuckthorn. Besides, as this committee is new, they may face several inter-committee and external management problems like human resource management, nursery propagation, enterprise, marketing and auditing.

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?

RSGF logo has been used in every material produced and, in every training,, seminar and presentations I have attained. The RSGF received the progress report and brochure. I also sent the final report.

11. Any other comments?

Thanks to Rufford Maurice Laing Foundation, UK for providing me an opportunity to look into a very important species seabuckthorn in Nepal.