

## The Rufford Small Grants Foundation

### Final Report

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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>	Sharmila Deo
<b>Project title</b>	Environment Education Programme in the Bhimashankar Wild Life Sanctuary
<b>RSG reference</b>	05.04.08
<b>Reporting period</b>	Apr 2008 – Mar 2009
<b>Amount of grant</b>	£4000
<b>Your email address</b>	sharmiladeo@gmail.com
<b>Date of this report</b>	10 <sup>th</sup> Apr 2009

**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
Instill in the village school children the knowledge and appreciation of their rich natural biodiversity.			✓	The objective has been achieved as the children have understood the values of their surroundings and its ecological importance, and though gaining knowledge is an ongoing process, at least there is an initiative to engage with nature, consciously.
Encourage children to understand the importance of harmonious co-existence between humans and wildlife.		✓		Through the various games and activities, the children are aware of the links and interdependence within the animal life, and there is desired to maximise harmonious co-existence between humans and wildlife.
Spread awareness on the issues of wildlife and the sanctuary and discuss possible solutions.		✓		Though there has been a beginning on discussing issues and solutions, we feel more time will be needed to actually go deeper into the details and look for long term solutions
Plan steps for concrete action towards conservation with community participation		✓		Same as above

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

The most challenging part of this project was to get local educators on board who fit into our criteria. We require educators who are willing to commit for at least two years, are literate, have at least some passion for the environment and have some aptitude of working with children.

We had an educator leave suddenly with no clear indication of the reason, and a lot of time has gone into replacing her. The new person's training has just begun (at the time of writing this report) and we hope to have more fruitful experience this year.

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

1. The target audience – mainly children, who though living in biodiversity-rich surroundings had not really paid much heed to or appreciated the diversity around them have now started to observe and learn about the fauna and flora around them.

2. Some hand-on activities like seed collection, propagation etc have been allocated as project work, but the success of the activity can be assessed only after the new term begins.
3. Through the project the children got an opportunity to interact with an outside community (pilgrims at the temple in the sanctuary) other than their peer, teachers, and families. They shared some of their environmental beliefs and gained the feeling of doing something useful for their area. This has given a boost to their confidence and has motivated them further.

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

Our project is supporting two local persons, who have joined as educators on the programme. This has not only helped them financially, but also in terms of capacity building and exposure.

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

Yes, the project will continue for one more year, and at the end of the year, if there is still a need felt for our continuation, we would extend it for the required timeframe.

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

There would be a documentation of all the topics that have been covered in the program, along with instructions of all the games and activities, and anyone wanting to start an environment education program in a similar area could use it as a reference. A set of all material produced would be left at each of the two schools, for the future classes to use.

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

The grant we have received is for a year, and we had planned our work for 2 years. We have a balance from this year (explained below) and we hope that Ruffords will support us if there is any deficit for the second year. Our proposal for yr 2 has gone to Concern India which has supported for Yr 1.

**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
Field expenses	128.06	89.96	38.10	
Lodging and Boarding	128.06	12.56	115.51	
Conveyance	17.08	7.35	9.72	
Honorarium	2919.86	890.83	2029.03	
Communication	21.34	11.78	9.57	
Hire of equipment	14.23	0.00	14.23	
Stationery	17.04	15.31	1.73	
Photocopy	25.59	1.40	24.19	
Postage and courier	8.55	0.00	8.55	
Material Development	249.01	15.21	233.80	

Miscellaneous	71.15	35.87	35.27	
Overheads	400.00	400	0	
<b>TOTAL</b>	3999.98	1480.26	2519.71	

*There is a substantial difference in the budget sanctioned and used, as between the time of application for the funds, and sanctioning, we received some support from another funding agency, Concern India, to whom we had approached before approaching Rufford's SG. Hence, with your permission, we used that money first and are using the balance in our 2<sup>nd</sup> phase.*

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

The program is still on-going, and hence the next steps would be further planning and its implementation to our best capacity. The most important step would be to ensure that after the full-fledged program is ready, its continuity is maintained in the 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?**

No large-scale outputs have been produced so far, and hence the logo has not been used yet, but if there are any such outputs made in the second phase, RSGF would certainly be given due credits.