

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	Khine Khine Swe
Project title	Mitigating Human–Elephant Conflict near Shwe-U-Daung Wildlife Sanctuary, Myanmar
RSG reference	RSG 07.04.07
Reporting period	October 2007 to January 2009
Amount of grant	£4406
Your email address	tdksicas@myanmar.com.mm
Date of this report	10 th February 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
Sharing knowledge & methods with each other among the communities about mitigating activities			X	During training-workshop, all representatives shared their experiences and discussed on techniques.
Action plans arranged by communities			X	Each community discussed detail activities and made action plan in November; and modified it in
Woman involvement in the process		X		Women had involved in first meeting, but no lady was included in EPC members. But they had participated in action plan writing sometimes. They also involved some necessary preparation such as visual clearing, light reflecting, etc.
Accomplishing the activities mentioned in the action plans			X	All communities followed and conducted the activities mentioned in the action plans.
5 communities involved		X		I expected that about 8 communities will involve it.
Using the local resources, knowledge and capacity that already exist in the villages			x	All methods they used were traditional methods using materials what they had.
A good solution to reduce the HEC		x		A good result was occurred at 4 th mile village, one of 5 project site. The method was the visual clearing combined with other deterrence techniques. Visual clearing means cutting the tall-grasses, shrubs, herbs, small trees, etc. around the settlement and farmlands within 200-300 m.

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

Women's participation was not as high as I had planned. This was due to traditional belief that is "elephants are highly lucky animals (big spirit) therefore men do not want women to participate in driving elephant away, and ladies should be behind the screen".

Only five communities could be involved, rather than the eight that I had planned, because 3 village-chairmen were not strong in leadership in those 3 communities and they did not get the trusts by the villagers.

While in one village, we were very successful (4th mile) at coming up with mitigation techniques, in the other villages results were not as dramatic because they did not use the visual clearing near the croplands and settlement.

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

1. Communities wrote action plans for mitigating destructive behaviour of elephants. This was a highly participatory process that involved to be reduced the human-elephant conflicts. Activities that were most effective included visual clearing and other traditional methods. Additional ideas came out that would require some outside funding and expertise, such as systematic data measuring, collecting, systematic experiments like control plots, trial plots, etc.
2. Good practice came out - working together by community members for conflict alleviation and deterrence using traditional methods. The action plans required no outside funding or expertise and the villages were highly motivated to do what they could with their own ideas and resources. In one village this was highly successful because good leadership, participatory approach to prevent the elephant attempts, using multiple methods were occurred. We hope to expand this success to the other villages, but it will take time.
3. Train on mapping, measuring, collecting, and record keeping for future use. The villages benefited from learning skills cooperatively that can help them in the future.

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

Five local communities were involved in this project, in terms of meeting, discussion, exchange knowledge & experiences, writing action plans, accomplishing it together. It was found no conflict at one project site such as no crop raiding, no house destroy, no human injuries, etc.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

I would like to continue this work to in additional communities around the sanctuary to mitigate elephant conflicts. I also see potential for expanding the process of communities sharing ideas and writing actions plans to mitigate threats to additional protected areas where there are conflicts with wildlife, such as Rakhine Yoma Elephant Sanctuary, Mahamyaing Wildlife sanctuary, etc.

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

The project report will be distributed by township authorities to the village chairmen where conflicts were occurred. I also plan to prepare a publication for a peer-reviewed journal such as Biological Conservation to contribute this study of people-elephant conflict to the knowledge concerning elephant-people conflict.

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 16 months from October 2007 to January 2009 instead of 12 months.

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
Personnel				
Khine Khine Swe	928	1155	-227	It was used for 15 months.
Aung Zaw Myint	928	1155	-227	
Travel				
From Yangon/Mandalay to SUD	619	585	+34	For 16 round-trips
Between villages	1031	821	+210	
Equipment				
Digital camera	174	147	+27	
GPS	103	90	+13	
Meetings				
Chairmen meeting*	33	43	-10	*It was attended by 17 people.
Training-Workshop	66	53	+13	
Community meetings	308	196	+112	
Supplies				
Supply/Photocopies	113	122	-9	
Internet/computer expenses	103	39	+64	I provided some materials and equipment.
TOTAL	4406	4406	0	Exchange rate: £1=\$1.94 \$1=1250 kyats

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

I would like to use the combinations of visual cleaning and other methods such as light, sound, in other areas.

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?

I had used the RSGF logo in the meetings and workshop.