

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	Harisha Ranganahalli
Project title	Conservation of rare, endangered and threatened wild plants species through community participation
RSG reference	12159-1
Reporting period	18 months(report for the period of 3 months from June to August 2014 -no-cost extension)
Amount of grant	£5910.
Your email address	hari@atree.org
Date of this report	25/11/2014

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
In-situ conservation of target species (<i>Buchanania lanzan</i> , <i>Acacia caesia</i> , <i>Solanum surattense</i> and <i>Decalepis hamiltonii</i>)			√	<p>Apart from several rounds of individual interviews and informal meetings, I have conducted 32 village level meetings for harvesters and other stakeholders. Outcomes of the meetings were:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Developed resource map for target species. 2. Shortlisted conservation priority areas. 3. Discussed the traditional harvesting methods and management practices. 4. Developed action plan for in-situ conservation of target species. 5. More than 5000 saplings of target species were planted in the conservation priority areas, such as Mylbetta, Ranagaswmay hoddu, Ponnachi, Palor and Sankamman boli in MM Hills reserve forest. 6. Established a village level monitoring committee which includes representatives from harvesters, farmers, contractors, forest department staff and Grama Panchayath members.
Domestication/ ex-situ conservation of target species			√	<p>I have distributed more than 3000 seedlings of target species to 230 farmers to plant in their agriculture land, 1500 seedlings to 15 schools which are located around the MM Hills reserve forest and planted 2000 seedlings in 12 waste land and common land areas which are located in and around eight villages. <i>Acacia caesia</i>, and <i>Solanum surattense</i> seedlings were distributed to 40 women Self-Help Groups (SHGs) in 23 villages around reserve forest to plant in their backyards.</p>
Capacity building and training workshops for harvesters and other stakeholders.			√	<p>10 Capacity building workshops were conducted in MM Hills:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -for harvesters, on do's and don'ts which should be followed during harvesting. -for volunteers, organisation of meetings, data collection and nursery

				<p>techniques.</p> <p>-for committee members, monitoring techniques, data collection, analysis and problem solving skills.</p>
Establishing a nursery to raise saplings.			√	<p>More than 12,000 seedlings were raised, out of which 6000 seedlings were planted in conservation priority areas in the reserve forest and 6000 seedlings were distributed among famers, schools, SHGs and NGOs in and around MM Hills reserve forest.</p>
Developing outreach materials			√	<p>I have developed posters and charts on importance of the species, status and habitat preference, outcomes of meetings, propagation methods and techniques. Distributed 20 copies of posters and 3000 copies of fliers to the local institutions, in community meetings, villages and individuals.</p>
Establishing network among Grama Sabha, community groups and other local institutions.			√	<p>After several rounds of meetings and workshops, we succesfully established network between SHGs, Grama Panachayath and NGOs in local areas and in district level. There are 24 SHGs representatives, 12 Gram Panchayath members and two NGO representatives,who are meeting once every 2 months to evaluate and monitior the 12 conservation priority areas where seedling were planted as part of in-situ conservation initiative. This committee also has taken responsibility to produce seedlings at model nursery and monitor the demand and supply of seedlings as part of ex-situ conservation. We have conducted 4 institutional network meetings at different Grama Panchayath and developed multi-institutional forum to meet periodically and discuss and monitor conservation priority areas. Please find the attached photos of the meetings, interaction with forest dept. representatives of local institutions and resources map along this report</p>
Monitoring and evaluation of success, impacts on			√	<p>A 12 member committee along with our field assistant have just begun to collect data and analyse the reasons for success</p>

population of target species.				and failure of seedlings performance in conservation priority areas. They are clarifying and suggesting solutions to the problems which arise in the field.
Getting for rights over resources			√	I am involved in creating awareness among local communities on Tribal Forest Rights Act 2006 and assisting Grama Sabha at village level to get community rights over forest resource use and conserve. We also helped local people to claim community rights over forest produce collection and presently 28 villages submitted their applications to District Level Committee (DLC).

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

Very recently Government of India declared MM Hills as Wildlife Sanctuary, impact of this most of the conservation priority areas for my target species comes under core area of the MM Hills Wildlife Sanctuary. Therefore, Forest Department officials are not allowing local people to harvest any minor forest produce. Now we are assisting local community people to submit community rights over minor forest produce collection under Forest Rights Act 2006. This process will take few more months to settle.

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

- a) We are successfully achieving in situ conservation of target species in 12 conservation priority areas which is about 12% area of MM Hills reserve forest.
- b) We successfully established plantations of target species in school gardens, common lands and in 230 household's backyards in eight villages.
- c) We were successful in engaging and networking people from local Gram Panchayath, SHGs, Forest department and two NGOs (Soliga Abivrudi Snagha (SAS) and MYRADA) to popularise the programme through outreach materials, engage them in planting seedlings in agriculture bunds, backyards, school gardens, and degraded forest lands.

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

Village level capacity building workshops and harvesters meetings made them aware about the actual market value of the product which have been harvesting and selling to middlemen (contractors), that led them to raise and bargain for more price for the product harvested in the forest. They also learned value addition and marketing skills for the product harvested from the target species.

Since the source of target species is declining in the forest, they themselves came forward to raise target species seedling in their agriculture land and produce marketable products by their own at household level. This initiative has been increasing 20% of their income.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes, conservation of rare endangered and threatened plant species is a long term effort and needs continuous efforts and awareness generation. An important and urgent issue is that, Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) on traditional knowledge has been evolved over generation in tribal communities. It is a serious issue in Indian context and I am planning to create awareness among tribal communities at grassroots level on IPR and bring up to the policy level to safeguard and recognise their valuable knowledge.

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

I shared my work at Rufford India Conference, Bangalore, 15th-16th November 2013. I am also planning to present my work in Indian Science Congress at Jammu, India 2014. A seminar would be organised by inviting scientists, forest officials, NGOs, local panchayat members, harvesters, contractors and farmers working in this region who are interested to take up cultivation.

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

Being tree species this needs more than 1 year for establishing saplings which are suitable to transplantation. Hence, only less number of saplings was distributed and major focus was made on generating awareness, seed and coppice collections for raising nursery. In June 2014 large number of saplings would be distributed. The actual time scale of 18 months is not sufficient for completion of the project to the exact level. Scaling up and continuation of the project is needed for another one to one and half years.

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
Nursery construction: shade house, nursery material, raising seedling and other maintenance costs.	1150	1150		Nursery is actively producing seedlings of target species.
Field instruments purchase: Voice recorder	150	150		Instruments were purchased and used for the project work.
Community meetings	700	700		Community meeting conducted successfully
Conducting capacity building and training workshop	350	350		Capacity building workshop conducted successfully
Establish network and popularise the programme at grassroots level	350	350		Two regional seminars were conducted
Manpower Field Assistant	1260	1260		Field assistant salary and honorarium paid to volunteers

Two Volunteers	210	210		who worked in conduction seminar, workshop and training programmes.
Travel Local travel	560 263	560 263		Used to travel for field work, conducting meetings, workshop, seminars at local and regional level
Preparation of handbook, flyers and posters	508	508		Developed and distributed 20 copies of posters and 3000 copies of fliers to the local institutions, in community meetings, villages and individuals.
Preparation of report and publications	409	409		Used to prepare report and publication.
TOTAL	5910	5910		Note: 1£= 86.6 ₹

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

Our experience is that people are very much concerned and they are ready to take up conservation of target species in natural habitat and cultivate in non-forest areas for income generation. The bottleneck availability of year round sapling stocks is there in the nursery. Therefore we are planning to establish more nurseries at local areas to produce enough seedlings to farmers, NGOs, SHGs and Grama Panchayths. Establishing network among stakeholders needs consistent engagement and common platform for farming communities, forest officials, scientists NGOs working in similar areas. In this common platform a policy recommendation is needed to be made on sustainable harvesting protocols, sharing resources and Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) of traditional knowledge which has been evolved over generation in tribal communities.

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?

Yes. Recently I shared information about the RSGF with my colleague who is working on tribal knowledge on rare and endangered wild tubers in Orissa, a state in India. I mentioned about RSGF in a Young Ecologist Talk and Interact (YETI) group and NGOs who have requested me to give the details of the grant and reference for the same.

11. Any other comments?

I look forward for your support for my new project on issues and options for traditional knowledge protection under intellectual property rights in India.