



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	Teodoro Lugo LICARTE
Project title	Engaging communities to rehabilitate mine sites using the potential natural vegetation technique in Camarines Norte, Philippines
RSG reference	12331-1
Reporting period	Final Report
Amount of grant	£6,000
Your email address	tlicarte@yahoo.com
Date of this report	April 14, 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
1. Environmental awareness among local people			/	Meetings, workshops and action planning were regularly conducted.
2. Determination of potential natural vegetation			/	The combination of species to be planted had been determined by the taxonomist and planted in the field.
3. Plantation establishment		/		Upland component was not fully implemented.
4. Project monitoring and evaluation			/	Project monitoring and evaluation were religiously done with the help of the partner community-based organisation.

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

The proponent did not raise any seedlings in one of the project sites due to unstable condition of the proposed planting area. Since it is within the existing mineral production sharing agreement of a large-scale mining company in the province, local village officials were hesitant to put up similar project due to negative experiences, when in fact they planted several trees and were only damaged due to mining operation.

For this particular problem, the proponent decided to focus on the mangrove plantation. People's organisation expanded the area, planted additional mangrove propagules and replaced the mortality to offset the activity intended for upland rehabilitation.

Another unforeseen difficulty in the project implementation was the damaged to the mangrove plantation caused by dried seaweeds that had been brought by the waves at the plantation site leading to mortality of some of the planted mangrove seedlings. Even the net used for protection was heavily damaged. The partner community-based organisation replanted at least 2,000 seedlings of *Ceriops tagal* to replace mortality and added another 1500 propagules to expand the plantation. They let other community people see that their project could be the future answer to the long-time failures in mangrove rehabilitation in the locality.

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

a. Community awareness on environmental issues

Since the project is situated in mining municipalities, local people are mostly inclined with the economic benefits of the natural resources. Majority of the members of the community organisations were fishermen and miners, when in fact, concern for the environment is of least priority. Through workshops and lectures on environmental protection using the technology of participation, local people are now aware of the importance of the protective environment in the sustainability of the source of their livelihood.

b. Introduction of new method of rehabilitation of degraded lands to community people.

One more important thing about the project is that local people become familiar with the new strategy of developing protection forest using the proponent's personally devised A-forestation technique derived from Miyawaki method of planting. The project inculcated in the minds of the local people, the difference between planting trees and developing a protection forest, which is very timely in the case of the Philippines that was recently devastated by Typhoon Haiyan.

c. Strengthen linkages between local people and other government and non-government organisations.

Partner community-based organisations are now accredited to local government units concerned, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Department of Labour and Employment among other environment concerned groups. These linkages provided the people's organisation with funding for new reforestation projects including the National Greening Program of the National Government. Another important outcome of these linkages is that, the people's organisation become member of the mining monitoring team, meaning local people have the chance to participate in the planning for the rehabilitation of mined out areas, which is one of the key targets of the project.

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

Local people served as the main actors in the project. Aside from learning new rehabilitation strategy and technical knowledge from lectures and workshops, other environment concerned groups often hire the services of the community-based organisation considering that they are actively involved in similar activities.

Another benefit that the local communities got from the project was the inclusion of the areas used for planting in the priority sites for conservation of local government. At first, the community-based organisation drafted a resolution requesting the Municipal Local Government Unit to pass an ordinance prohibiting economic activities in the vicinity of the project site. The Local Government immediately responded and discussed the said resolution in the session of "Sangguniang Bayan," the legislative branch of the Local Government Unit.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

With the positive response from the local people, the proponent wishes to expand the project pending the fund to be sourced out from any funding agencies. This time, the proponent would like to try the inter-agency synergism and propose local policies.

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

The project had been published twice in an online newsletter named "Mambolaoans Worldwide Buzz," and can be seen/read in the following links:

<http://mambolaoansworldwidebuzz.blogspot.com/2013/02/laraps-mangrove-areas-ex-mining-camp.html>

<http://mambolaoansworldwidebuzz.blogspot.com/2013/03/editorial-tree-planting-in-larap.html>

With the continuous monitoring and evaluation on the growth of planted seedlings, the proponent is planning to write a scientific paper and present it to academic conferences in the future.

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

The project was actually undertaken 5 months more than the target duration. Supposedly, the project has to be completed in October 2013. This means, the grant was used for a period of 17 months. But the proponent continue to assist the community-based organisation, especially in fund sourcing and provision of technical advises in terms of reforestation project and other related activities. With the help of the proponent, partner community-based organisation solicited funds for their new reforestation project and establishment of citronella plantation, which provide alternative income to local people. At present, the proponent serves as Technical Adviser of the Jose Panganiban Environmental Protectors Association, especially in the implementation of their new reforestation projects with funding support from the different government agencies.

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
Community Organizing / Community Development				
Payment for Community Organiser	150	195	45	Three additional workshops were undertaken
Payment for Resource Speaker	150	195	45	Three additional workshops were undertaken
Snacks for the conduct of workshops	250	250	0	Three additional workshops were undertaken
Snacks for the conduct of meetings	250	500	250	Ten more meetings were conducted
Cost of supplies and materials for workshops	100	150	50	Three additional workshops were undertaken
Expenses for Accreditation of community organisation	100	150	50	Includes the fare of the local people
Determination of Potential Natural Vegetation				
Payment for Taxonomist	300	300	0	
Payment for Forester	300	300	0	
Payment for 3 Labourers	240	240	0	
Data Processing including payment for data encoder	160	160	0	
Plantation Establishment				
Cost of Seedlings				
Mangroves	1000	1750	750	Added 3,000 seedlings as replacement to mortality and expansion of the plantation
Forest trees	1250	0	(1,250)	
Site Preparation	150	300	150	
Planting	240	240	0	
Cost of Mulch (Rice Straws/Citronella) including	600	200	(400)	Mulch was not used since only mangrove plantation was

hauling				implemented. Instead, a net and bamboo poles were used to protect the plantation
Supervision Cost	260	260		
Project Monitoring and Evaluation				
Ecological Monitoring	300	400	100	Rental of vehicle and continuous increase in the price of gasoline
Data Analysis including payment for data encoder	200	200		
Other Expenses				
Meeting Shed	0	200	200	
Tarpaulin Print Ad	0	30	30	
Used Net and Bamboo Poles	0	50	50	
TOTAL	6000	6,070	70	*Exchange Rate when the project was released: 1GBP = PhP67.00

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

The few next steps to popularise this method of rehabilitation include the continuity of monitoring and evaluation of the results in a scientific manner and let the local people speak for its success. For this purpose, at least quarterly monitoring shall be done. It will be very easy to monitor the growth increment of the out-planted seedlings considering that the local people were taught with the basic floral inventory.

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 proponent designed an information campaign material in the form of tarpaulin print advertisement with the accomplishment photos and RSGF logo.

The project outcome was presented to the researchers of the Japanese Centre for the International Studies in Ecology of the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES-JISE) when the proponent was invited to a video conferencing as Resource Speaker.

As a member of different Technical Working Group in the province, the proponent always shares the project's success stories and wishes to replicate the project to other parts of the province for particular and the country in general.

All proponent's colleagues were induced to apply for the RSG to implement their brilliant ideas in the field of biodiversity conservation.

With these activities, RSG has been publicised by the proponent both locally and globally. Likewise, RSGF logo had been used in all presentation materials given by the proponent.

11. Any other comments?

Thank you very much RSG Foundation for this opportunity to let the local people know that preserving the life support system is not just planting trees, but, establishing protection forest. I am still hoping that the result of this project may influence our local leaders to adopt this rehabilitation



technique as better option to rehabilitate degraded lands in the province, for particular and the country in general.