

The Rufford Foundation Final Report

Congratulations on the completion of your project that was supported by The Rufford Foundation.

We ask all grant recipients to complete a Final Report Form that helps us to gauge the success of our grant giving. The Final Report must be sent in **word format** and not PDF format or any other format. 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. Please note that the information may be edited for clarity. 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	Praseed Thapa
Project title	Matribhumi-improved cooking stove promotion for habitat protection of endangered species in Madikalyanpur buffer zone community of Chitwan National Park
RSG reference	17580-01
Reporting period	July, 2015 till July, 2016
Amount of grant	£4,860
Your email address	Praseed.Thapa@gmail.com
Date of this report	15/08/2016

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
Create awareness among local people and school children				Awareness creation on impacts of deforestation on habitat of flora and fauna and benefits of using ICS was initially targeted for at least 1,000 people. But during the course of project implementation, the project team estimates that it was covered to at least 5,000 denizens of Madi.
Promotion and installation of 20 ICS for demonstration purpose				With the resource from project, the team was willing to install only 20 ICS for demonstration purpose which was fully achieved. However, at the outcome level of the project, initially it was assumed that 220 ICS will be installed in total i.e. 200 additional will be installed by community people by their own but this figure was not achieved in project duration and only 107 has been installed. This figure will surely go beyond as there is an enormous impact of the project.
Protection of habitat through reduction in the level of deforestation				If we see only with the households which have installed ICS, their movement into the park's forest has been reduced to half already. But if we see with total figure of 220, the project assumes that this have been achieved partially only.
Women empowerment through increase income by installing ICS				This was not met as project assumed before during project duration. However, there is a good sign that this may be achieved fully in future as there is a huge potential and scope of ICS in this community as well as in the abutting community too.

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

The project team encountered difficulty in making most of the community people convince about the positive aspects of improved cooking stove (ICS) initially due to

deeply rooted belief of using their traditional stoves. They were not in a mood to replace their stoves with the improved ones. However, due to regular and convincing information dissemination through FM and pamphlets, they later were ready to try new stoves but having their traditional stoves still in use until they can see the change through own eyes. The project team agreed this and invited them to capacity building training in making ICS. Later, when they saw that ICS looks quite good and attractive compared to their traditional ones, they were positive in this and began to use the latter made stoves as well. Surprisingly, they saw that the ICS was emitting much less smoke and consumed much less firewood. This was a turning moment which convinced remaining other community people who were noticing this. Then slowly this message spread from one people to other and on top of that, the message from FM and pamphlets plus other community awareness through orientation changed the perception of people in using ICS completely. Apart from this, it was very difficult to manage the time of trainee for capacity building training as all of them are farmer and were also at a peak period of cultivation. So, project team after rigorous talk with them had to postpone this training for 2 weeks than scheduled time and also arranged this training in two different slots as agreed by the participants.

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

A) Awareness Creation: This is one major and most important outcome of the project. People of the project location heard trivial information on ICS before but were unknown about the impacts of the traditional stoves that they were using in habitat depletion of flora and fauna and biodiversity as a whole. Apart from this, they were also unknown to the fact that they were contributing to climate change through the use of traditional stoves. The project team in consultation with Madi FM together with awareness creation programme in school, community through workshop and use of pamphlets changed the perception drastically. The project assumes that awareness creation changed the perception of over 5,000 denizens of Madi.

B) Promotion of ICS: The project team was successful in promoting ICS in Madi to the satisfactory level. Though project directly supported only 20 ICS, now this number has been already increased to 107 seeing the positive aspects of this ICS. The project further assumes that this will increase in days to come as other community people are also seen highly interested in having this one in their home.

C) Habitat Conservation: To those who already installed this stove in their house, they have reduced their time spent in collection of firewood from park by half compared to before. This has limited their movement into the park and thus is contributing in protection of habitat of floras and faunas including endangered species too.

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

- 20 community poor and vulnerable females were directly involved in ICS making training. This already has enhanced their capacity and confidence in

making ICS which could be a regular income source for them to the other community people who want to have it. Good thing is that this has already been an income source (NRs. 400/day) for few of them though not on a regular basis. However it has the potential in being regular income source for unemployed housewife.

- Significant participation of community people in VDC level workshop and dissemination of the knowledge to the others community members. This has opened their eyes that they should now be alert in conserving biodiversity and they can do it just by replacing their traditional stoves by ICS.
- School children were benefited from the school awareness programme plus inter-school essay competition organised towards the end of the project duration. This has also made school children already think about the biodiversity which was not the case before.
- Information dissemination through local Radio FM was most effective way to make people aware on the environment and biodiversity conservation.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

As we see from the project outcome that there was a huge and positive response from community people for installing ICS, the project team definitely wants to continue this work but in other parts of the rural area where they use only firewood as energy source, live in the vicinity of national park/jungle/forest and are also completely unaware about ICS and its benefits.

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

For sharing the results of my work with others, I got one best platform i.e. I am selected in summer school for Asian Alumni of Masters program in German Universities which is being organised in Kathmandu and Chitwan National Park by Technical University Dortmund, Germany from 19th September till 30th September, 2016. The topic of this summer school is '*Reconciling biodiversity conservation and livelihood needs in protected area management in Nepal*'. Altogether 20 alumni have been selected from Asia. I am scheduled to have 10 minutes presentation in the same project title for which The Rufford Foundation have funded. Apart from the 20 Asian alumni, there will be participation from Professors from Technical University Dortmund, Germany and representatives from Tribhuvan University, Nepal and Nepal Tourism Board. Additionally, I am also preparing to make an article for publication in national newspaper to share the results of my work as well.

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

The grant of this project was used for 13 months in total. With comparison to the anticipated or actual length of the project, I feel that was ok.

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
ICS group formation	30	50	-20	Due to more participation of people than anticipated.
Awareness program (pamphlets, school awareness, FM broadcasting, community awareness)	1,550	1,450	+100	The budget kept for community awareness was not fully utilised but for others, it was utilised to the fullest.
Capacity Building Training	360	300	+60	Due to package of 20 people for training period, there was a reduction in amount from the hotel side thus leaving excess money of 60 pounds.
Equipments and materials buying for ICS	400	470	-70	Due to the increase in price of iron required for preparing fire gate, the cost was slightly higher. Rest of the materials was almost as anticipated.
Logistic (Accommodation, Food, Transportation for three team members)	2,400	2,600	-200	Due to economic embargo in Nepal during the project duration, the price for the logistics increased sharply which was never anticipated.
Reporting	120	100	+20	
Total	4,860	4,970	-110	The excess amount was managed by the team leader.

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

Having been involved in the project duration for 13 months, I feel that these sorts of activities need to be implemented in other rural areas as well. But before, I felt that awareness creation is a must step and should be given prime considerations and later only the installation of ICS should be promoted. Otherwise it would be very much difficult to implement the project and change their deeply-rooted belief/habits.

10. Did you use The Rufford Foundation logo in any materials produced in relation to this project? Did the RSGF receive any publicity during the course of your work?

Yes the logo of The Rufford Foundation was used in all of the materials produced in relation to this project. For instance, the logo was used exclusively in

- a) Certificate given to the students who took participation in inter school essay competition.
- b) Flex/banner prepared for all the activities.
- c) Pamphlets prepared for the awareness creation.

Regarding RSGF publicity during the course of this project, the team always started to describe what RSGF is; what is it working for and funding for. The team always thanked and acknowledged RSGF in each and every course of work during the entire period.

11. Any other comments?

I am absolutely ineffable in putting words for RSGF because this project would not materialise if it was not funded by RSGF. There was always a kind of feeling and spirit in me to work for biodiversity conservation and protect the habitat of diverse floras and faunas for which I was very much worried for its depleting trend. I am indebted to RSGF family and would like to thank RSGF from inner core of my heart for coming up with the idea in funding the projects worldwide that directly addresses the nature conservation. I expect that the work from RSGF would continue till eternity.