

# FINAL REPORT

Project Title: “Conservation of Banyan Trees with Community Participation”

Funding Agency: Rufford Foundation, UK

Implementing Organisation: Wildlife Society of Orissa

Street Address: “Shantikunj”, Link Road,  
Cuttack-753012, India

Name of Project Officer: Biswajit Mohanty, Secretary,  
Wildlife Society of Orissa

E-mail: biswajit\_m@vsnl.com  
/ kachhapa@gmail.com

Telephone /Fax numbers: 91-671-2311513; Fax: 91-671-2329 410

Reporting Period: 1<sup>st</sup> July, 2005 to 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2006

Grant amount: 4,987 GB pounds

Reporting date: 31<sup>st</sup> July, 2006

## CONSERVATION OF BANYAN TREES WITH COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

**Introduction:** The banyan tree is commonly distributed all over India including the state of Orissa where this project was implemented. It is a tree with significant values for wildlife populations since a wide variety of avi fauna and other creatures use it for nesting. Besides, its' fruits are preferred as food by bats, squirrels and birds. Due to its unique characteristics the Hindus of India worship this tree and rarely cut it for timber or firewood.

The project was earlier implemented in the same target area during the previous year in 2004. With the help of a continuation grant provided by the Rufford Foundation, we continued the project for the second year. Apart from protecting the older adopted trees we took up more trees for protection this year.

The project aims to protect the hanging roots of the banyan trees from cutting by humans and damage by goats that nibble them. Fences were built each tree to save the hanging roots from damage or cutting. An education and awareness campaign was also launched in the local villages and schools to make them aware of the importance of the tree and the need for protection.

### **Progress in attaining Objectives:**

During the first year, we had taken up 50 banyan trees for protection with community effort in Hindol block of Dhenkanal district. During the current project period, we adopted another 30 trees besides protecting the existing 50 trees. Therefore, a total of 80 trees spread over 19 villages were adopted. GPS locations of all trees were also obtained. The list of villages and adopted trees is given as per **Annexure "A."**

### **Infrastructure and equipment used for the project:**

The Wildlife Society of Orissa provided all required equipment and infrastructure to implement this project. The Society's Jeep and camera was used by the Project Officer for field tours and documentation. The supervisor used a motorcycle for field tours. The Head Office staff provided accounting and reporting services

### **Personnel:**

Eight educated local youth were appointed as local volunteers. They were:

*Shyamaghana Samal, Paikray Sahu, Tapash Kumar Majhi, Suresh Kumar Mohanty, Mangaraj Samal(Thokar), Pradeep Dehury, Sukru Nath and Mangaraj Samal (Gobindpur).*

Each volunteer devoted about 4 hours on an average every day for carrying out the assigned duties including protection of fence, community awareness, school quizzes, etc.

### **Training:**

Single day training was held for them where they were addressed by Dr. Damodar Lenka, Project Consultant who explained the project objectives and the ecological role of the banyan tree. The Project Officer, Mr. Biswajit Mohanty trained them about the methodology to be used to implement the project. They were trained how to mobilize the local community through an audio visual public campaign for protection of banyan trees.

**Their allotted duties included.....**

- Ensuring the erection of the protective fence.
- Monitoring the condition of the fence to ensure that it was not damaged.
- Mobilizing the target community through door to door campaigns to be active partners to support our efforts for tree conservation.
- Preventing goat and cattle grazing on the hanging roots of the adopted trees.
- Distributing information brochures and stickers among the villages.
- Arranging local and school meetings and rallies for education and awareness
- Putting up posters, banners and banners with banyan tree conservation messages.
- Encouraging villagers and school children to plant new banyan saplings.
- Carrying out periodical observations of the birds and other fauna visiting the adopted banyan trees.

Mr. Nursingha Dash was appointed as the Project Supervisor. He was assisted by Harihar Behera, field assistant and camp was set up at Rasol. The Supervisor regularly visited the field and ensured that the animators were carrying out the assigned tasks. He also conducted the public meetings and the banyan tree quizzes held in the local schools. However, due to malaria attack, Mr. Dash became critically ill and had to leave the project in October, 2005. Mr. Janmejaya Sethi, an M.Sc in wildlife studies was appointed in his place.

Mr. Biswajit Mohanty, Project Officer drew the project strategy. He also closely monitored the effective implementation of the project objectives.

**His duties included:**

- Planning and scheduling of various work activities.
- Training and instructing the animators and the supervisor
- Drawing up the duty chart of animators and the supervisor.
- Inspecting field activities at regular intervals of at least once a month.
- Maintenance of accounts and project records.
- Documentation of project activities.
- Preparation and filing of reports including interim reports.

Dr. Damodar Lenka, Project Consultant provided valuable advice on the method of fencing and the use of species for the green fencing. He also provided technical information on the banyan tree ecology which was used in the information leaflets.

**Works carried out in the field:**

- Setting up of camp: As was done in the previous year, Rasol was chosen as the camp location. It is centrally located and has telephone and fax facilities.
- Tree Protection: Fencing was done for all the 30 newly adopted trees in July with split bamboo and thorn. We also put up 20 metal signboards with conservation messages on roadside trees so that they were easily visible. Fence repair was carried out for the 50 adopted trees of the previous year. Green fencing was carried out only for the 30 new trees with “Amari” plant.
- Root soil work: Small earth mounds of about 12” – 18” height were prepared below the hanging roots. To prevent the soil from being washed away by the monsoon rains, we arranged small stones and boulders as embankment. These mounds enabled the roots to strike the ground and grow quicker.
- Maintenance of fences: The fences had to be maintained since the brush wood were broken by goats and cattle which tried to enter the fenced off area. Termite attacks also had to be tackled.
- Local meetings: Through local meeting, the villagers were taught about the usefulness of banyan trees and the need to protect the hanging roots so that the tree could become strong. Information leaflets were handed out for education. A total of 15 local meetings were held in the area. The list of meetings is attached as per **Annexure “B”**. Door to door campaign was also carried out by the animators.
- Wall paintings: At prominent locations like school walls, weekly markets and cross roads 5 wall paintings were put up. They were done at the villages of Khaliborei, Hathura, Dandiri, Gobindpur and Khajuriakata villages.
- Distribution of posters, leaflets, stickers, banners, etc.: We prepared 500 paper posters, 1,000 leaflets and 500 stickers for distribution. Posters have been put up on school walls, shop walls and government offices. Stickers were used on vehicles, buses and jeeps. Banners were used at local meetings and school quizzes.
- School Quizzes: We conducted quizzes on the role and importance of the banyan tree at 11 local schools and colleges where prizes were awarded to the winners. A detailed list of such programs is given as per **Annexure “B”**.
- New plantations: A total of 110 saplings were planted by school children and locals at the target villages on the embankments of ponds and open spaces. All the saplings have been provided with protection fences.
- Wildlife Observation: The Animators observed the various wildlife species which visit the banyan trees for food or used them for nesting.

A total of 31 species were found including 21 species of birds ( 4 species of mynah, jungle crow, common crow, cuckoo, oriole, tree pie, barbet, spotted owl, green pigeon, red vented bubul, common drongo, little egret, median egret, cattle egret, magpie robin, common babbler, etc.), 6 species of reptiles (monitor lizard, cobra, rat snake, 3 types of lizards), 4 species of mammals (fruit bat, rhesus monkey, giant squirrel and palm striped squirrel).The Giant squirrel which is quite rare was found using the tree for nesting at Gobindpur village.

### **Particular challenges faced and solutions adopted:**

Finding the right banyan tree was a challenge. The tree had to have hanging roots which were not mature or were cut a few feet above the ground. However, with the help of our animators we could locate such trees for adoption.

Brick kiln labourers tried to cut the hanging roots which were suitable for use in the long ovens. We could control this practice from the last year itself once the protection signboards came up on the adopted trees. Besides, the local community also stopped this.

Cowherds resting under banyan trees used the hanging roots as swings, breaking them in the process! This practice was discontinued after we did a couple of local meetings in the locality and explained how it was extremely harmful to the hanging roots.

### **Changes to your project arising during the year:**

There were no changes in our project plans during the year. Apart from completing all proposed work items, we encouraged planting of saplings for new banyan trees.

### **Supervision and Monitoring:**

a) Work diaries: The animators wrote daily work diaries about the work done every day with hours devoted to monitoring of fence, door to door campaign, local meetings and school quizzes. These diaries were inspected at least once a week by the Project Supervisor who made observations on the work and also issued orders for future work.

The Project Officer also inspected these diaries and gave instructions to the animators during his field visits. The Project Officer has visited 11 times to supervise and monitor the implementation of various activities in the field.

b) Project Supervisor's Work Register: The Project Supervisor maintained a work register wherein details of visits paid to each target village where the adopted trees were located were to be entered. This Register contained details of all meetings and programs he conducted to spread education and awareness about the banyan tree conservation project. This Register was inspected by the Project Officer and instructions were issued accordingly for future action.

c) Fortnight Work Report: For the first time, we introduced a work report which was to be prepared and faxed by the Project Supervisor every fortnight.

This report contained details of .....

- a) *Work performance of each animator as assessed by the Supervisor;*
- b) *The hours of work done him;*
- c) *The condition of the fence and status of the hanging roots;*
- d) *A log of the supervisor's field tours of each day.*

This report was extremely useful to the Project Officer since he was able to effectively monitor the progress of the project and activities of the field staff.

A format of the Fortnight Work Report is attached as per ***Annexure "C"***.

### **Future plans and forecast:**

The work done in the first year had demonstrated that given protection, the hanging roots of the banyan trees could strike ground within one monsoon season. All the 50 trees which were adopted in the first year had developed their hanging roots completely. The second year protection enabled strong growth of such roots and henceforth they shall not need any more protection. The hanging roots grew more than 1 metre in one season and have already struck the ground.

However, we need to provide another year's protection to the 30 new banyan trees adopted during the current year of the project to enable them to become strong. We hope to widen and repeat our tree protection efforts in adjacent areas in the following year by adopting another 100 trees. The green fences are also undamaged due to the unstinted cooperation of the local community. We aim to apply for a booster grant from Rufford Foundation this year to carry out the project on a much larger scale in future.

### **Budget and Expenditure:**

The project expenses could be adequately met with the grant money. Moreover, some interest received from the bank and a small balance left over from the previous year was used for the project.

The statement of Budget and Expenditure is furnished as **Annexure – "D"**.

Signature & Date \_\_\_\_\_ Biswajit Mohanty, dated 31<sup>st</sup> July, 2006

**Enclosed: Four Annexure with this report.**

**Note: 7 pictures of project work sent by separate attachment file due to large size.**

**Annexure “A” - List of villages and trees adopted for protection**

<i>Sl.</i>	<i>Village</i>	<i>Trees adopted in first year</i>	<i>Trees adopted in second year</i>	<i>Total</i>
1	Khalliborei	8	1	9
2	Bimbari		5	5
3	Bhujabal	3	3	6
4	Kathakumpa	3	3	6
5	Dandiri	5	1	6
6	Lahada	4		4
7	Panchmile	9	1	10
8	Nuabaga		2	2
9	Hathura	6		6
10	Khajuriakata	4		4
11	Sana Hindol		1	1
12	Karanda	3		3
13	Asarada	3		3
14	Kumursingha		1	1
15	Ranjagol		1	1
16	Barsingha	2		2
17	Chitalpur		2	2
18	Gobindpur		8	8
19	Thokar		1	1
	<b>Total :</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>80</b>

**Annexure “B” – List of School and College programs held**

<i>Date.</i>	<i>Name of School</i>	<i>Program</i>	<i>Participants</i>
27.1.2006	Dandiri M.E School	School quiz	30
20.10.2005	Rasol Saraswati Sishu Mandir School	School quiz	55
28.1.2006	Khajuriakata M.E. School	School quiz	40
28.1.2006	Khajuriakata High School	School quiz	75
30.1.2006	Thokar M.E. School	School quiz	48
30.1.2006	Thokar High School	School quiz	38
27.1.2006	Kathakumpa High School	School quiz	30
27.1.2006	Kathakumpa M.E. School	School quiz	45
12.2.2006	Khaliborei M.E. School	School quiz	40
12.2.2006	Khaliborei High School	School quiz	65
16.2.2006	Rasol Women’s’ College	College quiz	60

**Annexure “B” – List of public meetings held**

<i>Date.</i>	<i>Name of village</i>	<i>Program</i>	<i>Participants</i>
6.2.2006	Khajuriakata	Public meeting	35
7.2.2006	Dandiri	Public meeting	27
8.2.2006	Panchmile	Public meeting	43
27.3.2006	Gobindpur	Public meeting	32
25.11.2005	Gobindpur	Public meeting	26
22.11.2005	Khaliborei	Public meeting	33
15.11.2005	Karanda	Public meeting	26
4.11.2005	Chitalpur	Public meeting	22
9.11.2005	Asarada	Public meeting	27
5.12.2005	Barsingha	Public meeting	32
8.12.2005	Bhujabal	Public meeting	25
11.12.2005	Kathakumpa	Public meeting	30
15.12.2005	Hathura	Public meeting	28
22.12.2005	Lahada	Public meeting	42
27.12.2005	Nuabaga	Public meeting	20



## Annexure “C”: Format of Fortnightly Work Report

### WILDLIFE SOCIETY OF ORISSA

#### BANYAN TREE CONSERVATION PROGRAM

*(Supported by the Rufford Foundation)*

#### ***PROGRAM SUPERVISOR’S WORK REPORT***

---

1. Assessment of performance of animator for fortnight (give period):

	<b>Name</b>	<b>Work hours</b>	<b>Performance</b>
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			
6.			
7.			
8.			

2. Total work progress for the field:

**A. Door to door campaign (hours):**

**B. Village public meetings (nos.)**

**C. School meetings (no’s):**

**D. Brochures / posters/ stickers issued:**

3. Information about Banyan tree protection level:

<b>ANIMATOR</b>	<b>TOTAL TREES</b>	<b>ROOTS BURIED</b>	<b>CONDITION OF FENCE Good =? Need Repairs =?</b>

4. Day wise log of visits to field area:

<b>DATE</b>	<b>PLACES</b>	<b>OMR</b>	<b>CMR</b>	<b>KMS</b>

**Place:**

**Signature of Program Supervisor**

**Date:**

- *The Supervisor has to submit this report after the end of each fortnight either by fax or hand.*
- *Period should be from 1<sup>st</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> and then from 16<sup>th</sup> to 30/31<sup>st</sup> of every month.*
- *OMR- Opening meter reading and CMR – Closing meter reading on a daily basis*
- *Animators have to be rated on a scale of 1-10 based on their performance.*

## Annexure “D” – Statement of Budget and expenditure

Details of budget items	<i>Budget Rs.</i>	<i>Expenditure Rs.</i>
Cost of materials and labour for putting up protective fences Rs.1,500 per tree : Rs.1,500 x 30 trees	45,000	45,000
Green fence and maintenance for one year:Rs.700 x 30 trees	21,000	13,360
Fence maintenance for old adopted trees: Rs.400 x 50 trees	20,000	20,500
Posters, leaflets, stickers, banners for local meetings	20,000	21,500
Meeting expenses for school rallies and meetings	15,000	12,975
Salary of 8 part- time local volunteers : Rs.1,200 p.m. x 8 persons x 12 months	115,200	115,200
Signage costs : @ Rs.1,000 x 20	20,000	21,400
Wall paintings: 5 wall paintings @ Rs.2,000	10,000	11,500
<u>Supervision Expenses :</u>		
Salary of Supervisor: Rs.4,000 p.m. x 12 mos	48,000	48,000
Salary of Assistant: Rs.1,400 p.m. x 12 mos	16,800	16,800
Motorcycle fuel and maintenance: Rs.1,500 p.m. x 12 mos	18,000	17,306
Food allowance for travel: @ Rs.1,000 p.m.x 12 mos	12,000	12,000
Jeep fuel and maintenance: Rs.1, 200 x 12 months.	14,400	16,193
<u>Overheads:</u>		
Telephone, courier, photocopy: Rs.800 p.m.x 12 mos	9,600	9,145
Documentation and reporting	4,000	4,410
Contingencies and unforeseen expenses:	10,000	14,329
<b>Total : Rs.</b>	<b>399,000</b>	<b>399,618</b>
	<b>4,987 GBP</b>	<b>5,121 GBP</b>

### Statement of Project funds receipt and expenditure:

Grant received from Rufford Foundation:	
(Net of transfer costs)	Rs. 3, 89,143 (4,987 GBP)
Add: Interest from bank:	Rs.9, 710 (124 GBP)
Add: Balance of first year brought forward:	<u>Rs.5, 563 (72 GBP)</u>
Total receipts	Rs. 4, 04,416 (5,183 GBP)
Less: Expenditure as per above statement	<u>Rs. 3, 99,618 (5,121 GBP)</u>
Closing balance (as on 30.6.2006):	Rs. 4,798 (62 GBP)