

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	Dr. Nilesh Kamalkishor Heda
Project title	Conservation of Riverine Resources through People's Participation: North-Eastern Godavari Basin Maharashtra, India.
RSG reference	07.06.08
Reporting period	January 2010 - January 2011
Amount of grant	£6000
Your email address	nilheda@gmail.com
Date of this report	10 January 2011.

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
To strengthen all the activities started during first RSG.			Fully achieved	The activities started during first RSG phase has been strengthened and as experience gained new activities has been included.
Setting up "River Conservation Societies (RCS)" in 3 new villages.			Fully achieved	In fact, 25 villages have been selected for the programme. The process of the establishment of the River Conservation Societies (RCS) is going on in all the 25 villages.
Further quantitative estimation of fish fauna of Adan.			Fully achieved	Three expeditions of the quantitative estimation have been done. One paper has been published in the <i>International Journal of Threatened Taxa</i> .
Further estimation of habitat characteristics.			Fully achieved	Habitat characteristics of three rivers viz. Adan, Bembla and Uma rivers have been started.
Setting up two new FWPA along Adan River through RCS.	Partially achieved			It was thought with the consensus in the study group meeting that, the newly enacted law of Government of India (<i>The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006</i>) should be used for this purpose. The use of act has been started recently.
Sensitising local people and government department to initiate watershed conservation work through MNREGA.			Fully achieved	This has been effectively done. As an example, victory in our MNREGA struggle is achieved when district authority has been made necessary technical arrangements so that now labourers are getting timely wages within 7 days. Initially the wages of local labourers have been delayed, sometimes for 2.5 months. I put an idea of how technically this can be done before the district monitoring and vigilance meeting. Local authorities worked on the issue and problem solved. Literally thousands of labourers have benefited.

Completion of database of lentic water bodies initiated during first RSG.			Fully achieved	
Awareness generation campaign. (workshops, River march, popular lectures etc)			Fully achieved	Various programmes have been described in the detailed project report.
Completion of Status report of Adan River Basin started during first RSG.		Partially achieved		Compilation of data is going on.
Generation of popular material.			Fully achieved	Details about various capacity building material is mentioned in detailed report.

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

Budget constraints:

Whatever budget provided to RSG designed considering the currency exchange rate 80 Rupees for one pound. However, as the rates of pound has been decreased substantially, the amount in rupees deposited was substantially lower. This funding constraint however corrected raising local funds and cutting stipend amount.

Poor Monsoon:

Initial 6 months period of the project has experienced low rainfall which created hindrances in the overall progress of the project. However, in the next 6-month period the rainfall was extremely good and this difficulty overcome.

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

3.1 Generation of livelihood and eco-restoration of riverine resources:

3.1.1.1 Generation of livelihood and eco-restoration through MNREGA

Due to the impact of the project thousands of labourers got sustainable livelihood through the wise implementation of Mahatma Gandhi Rural Employment Guaranty Act 2005. Through the capacity built by the project activities and capacity building workshops the people became self-sufficient to ask for work. The impact quantification of our work is not possible as it is spread on the larger landscape area. However, two examples are shown here. 1) Dhamani Khadi is village of fishermen, situated along the river Adan. We sensitised local people and government departments for eco-restoration work. As a result, eco-restoration works of about 8 Lakh rupees (£11,401) has been carried out. The eco-restoration work in the Adan river basin include plantation, watershed

development work etc. 2) Kajaleshwar is a village situated along the river Uma. Here also due to our intervention, about 300 labourers did eco-restoration work of about 17 Lakh rupees (£24,230).

3.1.1.2 Successful community managed fish culture of local fish species:

Another success of the project is fish culture of the locally available fishes by local fishing community. The fish culture is immersing as big bio-resource based industry. However, the use of invasive species in the fish culture creating harm to local fish fauna. In this context, at three places (Dhamani, Antarkhed and Rudrala), community fish culture has been successfully done. As local people got sustainable

Number of groups chosen for the fish culture programme.	3
Approximate number of people in each group.	20
Total people got livelihood.	60
Estimated total number of families benefitting.	60
Total number of people benefitting (considering 6 people in a family).	360
Average approximate area of pond (ha).	5
Number of ponds people own.	3
Total area of pond (ha)	15
Approximate production of fish per hectare (kg)	1500
Estimated production of fish per pond (kg)	7500
Estimated total production of fish (kg)	22500
Fish prize per Kg (Rupees)	40
Total amount own by all groups through project (Rupees)	900000
Total amount earned by each group (Rupees)	300000
Expenditure for each ha	10000
Expenditure for 15 ha	150000
Net profit	750000
Total amount earned by local people thorough fish culture of local fishes Amount in GBP (1 GBP = 59 Indian Rupees)	£12,630

3.1.3 Policy level intervention

Policy level intervention has been made on three fronts.

1) Policy level amendments regarding MNREGA: District authority has been made necessary technical arrangements so that now labourers are getting timely wages within 7 days. Initially the wages of local labourers had been delayed, sometimes for 2.5 months. I put an idea of how technically this can be done before the district monitoring and vigilance meeting. Local authorities worked on the issue and problem solved. Literally thousands of labourers have benefited.

2) Government of Rajasthan, Rajasthan University and Tarun Bharat Sangh arranged a 3-day workshop to evolve methodology of the water auditing for India. As a resource person they have invited me to deliver a presentation on village level water auditing and role of MNREGA in the

conservation of riverine resources. MNREGA based conservation of wetland resources has been included in the water budgeting.

3) New Delhi. Second Ganga Action plan is about to begin. Ministry of Forest and Environment (*MoEF*) arranged 3 days consultation on the various issues of the river Ganga and other rivers of the India. I have presented an ecosystem approach to save the river Ganga and other rivers of the India. Environment minister Mr. Jairam Ramesh appreciated the concept presented by me and accepted many points suggested by me.

3.2 Scaling up the concept

At the end of project period 25 villages of the Bembla river basin have been chosen for the scaling up of the project. Prior consent has been taken from the villagers. In next phase eco-restoration work will be started in chosen 25 villages.

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

At every step the local communities have been involved. In the project area, women are important actors in family's livelihood. Project has promoted greater equality among women and men. It has ensured greater participation of women in all aspects of intervention such as planning, decision-making and cooperative development. It has enabled women and men to collaborate and work together on strategies improving the overall household livelihood situation. The project had focused on building women's leadership through women's cooperatives, study groups and SHGs.

Labourers and marginalised farmers of the project area are dependent on natural resources and labour work for subsistence. Main source of employment in the area is agriculture work. However, due to lack of irrigation facilities agriculture is largely depend on rain. Thus, there is lack of employment around the year. Generation of sustainable employment through eco-restoration activities for marginalized groups using NREGA was basic aim of project. This has been achieved by building capacities of these groups.

Emphasis of project was to build capacity of people and institutions and to help local leadership to immerge. Knowledge about acts and policies has empowered people. Local systems have been strengthened so that beyond project period, local people will take care of output and system is becoming self-sustaining.

The local people benefited by two important interventions. One was generation of the livelihood through the implementation of NREGA and other through community aquaculture.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes - now the scaling up is needed to spread the work.

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

6.1 Study Groups

There are many mechanisms created over the period for information dissemination. Our area has grand traditions of study groups (*Abhyas Gat*). The study groups are the informal structures comprising interested individuals working in various NGOs. There are regular study group meetings carried out in various part of the country. I am regular participant of these meetings and sharing information in the same.

6.2 Articles in Newspapers

I am writing creative articles in local language in newspapers. One such series has been started by popular newspaper of this area. Through these articles the results will be spread among broader audience. The articles can be found at <http://nheda.blogspot.com/>.

6.3 Website

We have set up website where we post all the project related information time to time. The URL of the website is www.samvardhan.page.tl.

6.4 Newsletter

Since June 2008 we are publishing monthly newsletter named **JAL SAMVARDHAN** (Water Conservation) in local *Marathi* language. The newsletter is in both forms viz. printed copies and as an E-publication. Through this media the results of the RSG project has been distributed and will be continued in the future. Every month, project news has been published in the newsletter which is used to write final project report and provide direction to other people too. Editorial section of the newsletter was written by me provide firsthand analysis of the gathered information. The collection of the editorials will be published in the future in the form of a book. All monthly issues of the news letters can be downloaded from this link: <http://sites.google.com/site/jalsamvad/>

6.5 National Service Scheme

Indian universities have national Service Scheme (NSS). It is popular system of students to work among rural India. Every year each college set up a camp of 10 days in selected village. I already used the potential of this scheme to disburse the information.

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

RSG grant has been utilised in the period of January 2010 to December 2010. However, the second RSG grant was continuation to first thus since September 2008 the work is going on.

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.

Budget Head	Budgeted Amount	Actual Amount Spent	Difference	Note
STIPEND: Principal investigator.	1350	1350	0	
STIPEND: Project Assistant	450	450	0	
RENT: Office rent	225	225	0	
TRAVEL. Field work to various places along river	960	1300	+ 340	As we found out 25 new villages for the scaling up of the project. The travel budget increased substantially.
WORKSHOPS: Capacity building Workshops	1125	1400	+ 225	One more workshop has been arranged against previous plan.
CONSUMABLES: Stationery and consumable. Internet, Phone, postage etc.	450	450	00	
Equipment	62.5	62.5	0	
Honorarium	375	375	375	
Travel to university, zoological survey of India office, Central fishery institute, library etc.	300	300	300	
PRINTING: Printing of capacity building material, posters, Banners, small booklets.	392.5	396	+3.5	
Hiring fisherman for fish sampling	60	60	0	
Financial help to RIVER CONSERVATION SOCIETY.	250	250	0	
Total	£ 6000	£ 6618.5	+618.5	The excess amount has been contributed by me and raised locally.

Local exchange Rate on 3 September 2009: 1 £ = 82 INR.

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

In coming future, following 10 step programme will be implemented in the whole north-eastern Godavari basin and other associated river basins of the Area.

4. Livelihood generation while doing effective conservation: Sensitising local administration and local people for more river conservation work through NREGA.
5. Livelihood generation and conservation of local fish fauna: Culture of the indigenous species of fishes through local fish culture groups. Capacity building of the people regarding scientific fish culture.
6. Status report: Compilation of the collected data in the first and second RSG and completion of the status report in local as well as English language. Distribution of the same to local people as well as policy makers of the area.
7. FWPA: Strengthening previously established FWPA and creation of the more in Adan, Bembla and other river basins.
8. Strengthening community structures: Strengthening previously established community structures and creation of the more in Adan, Bembla and other river basins.
9. Student's power: Deploying student's power for data collection and awareness generation. Creation of the student's groups in schools and colleges.
10. Popular material: Creation of the popular material on the relevant government resolutions, acts, rules for the help of local people. Creation of the material on the wetland conservation issues for common man and creation of the material on the scientific fish culture.
11. Fish and habitat inventorying: More fish fauna inventorying events to assess fish fauna of Adan river basin.
12. Plantation in Adan, Bembla and Uma River Basin: 50,000 plants of locally available species will be planted along river Adan in next RSG phase.
13. Promotion of Sustainable agriculture: The high input agriculture of this area is affecting on riverine habitats. In this regard organic pesticides and manure will be distributed in the area.

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. At all capacity building programs on main banner RSG logo has been printed. Also on the front page of the already mentioned popular news letter logo has been printed. On every popular material RSG logo printed. Following links are some of the examples of material produced where RSG logo has been mentioned.

3. A small booklet on the importance of MNREGA in conservation of natural resources: *Importance of NREGA*
4. A small book let on the practical aquaculture: *Aquaculture*
5. A folder for labour: *How to ask for work*
6. Research paper published in *International Journal of Threatened Taxa* where RSG logo has been displayed by the journal: *Research Paper Zoo Outreach*

11. Any other comments?

When we apply ecosystem approach to the conservation work it needs consistency in the work. Such consistency maintained by the continuous supply of the resources for some time until and unless system becomes self sustaining. Thus, to maintain the tempo of our work financial resources are expected in coming future as soon as possible.