

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. 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	Krishna Prasad Acharya
Project title	Community Based Fire Management Initiatives in the Hills of Nepal (CBFiM)
RSG reference	26.05.09
Reporting period	Final
Amount of grant	£5974
Your email address	kpacharya1@hotmail.com
Date of this report	16 April 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
Prepare fire management plans in the community forests			achieved	Initially the activity was proposed in 6 CFUGS, but was scaled up to 12 CFUGS
Implement fire management plans in the community forests			achieved	Initially the activity was proposed in 6 CFUGS but was scaled up to 12 CFUGS
Participate in forest fire prevention and suppression programs in the community forests			achieved	Initially the activity was proposed in 6 CFUGS but was scaled up to 12 CFUGS

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

N/A

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

- ❖ Community based fire management activities are influential and effective at CFUGs. It has clearly demonstrated scaling up effects in adopting various fire management activities in neighbouring CFUGs. It indicates that community learning in farmer's field school approach is effective.
- ❖ Fire management should be an inherent and important part of community forest operational plan. Fire management should not be regarded as a separate activity by the CFUGs.
- ❖ The fire lines constructed to separate boundaries between the CFUGs also contributed in reducing boundary disputes between the CFUGs. In addition, it also provided significant quantity of forest products for immediate needs of the local people.

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

The project was implemented with the collaboration of local people. The community benefits include awareness and empowerment on fire management, capacity development on various aspects of fire management and strengthening of local institutions. The "no fire" situation has increased forest product availability and reduced fire hazards.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

The community based fire management activities will be scaled up to other CFUGs in the districts during the revision of the operation plan. As such, I will be working on promoting community based fire management activities in Protected Areas of Nepal- national parks, reserves and conservation areas which are key to biodiversity conservation in Nepal.

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

The outcomes are shared in training programme organised by the DFO and FECOFUN. The report will be submitted to the Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation and outcomes will also be published in community forestry bulletin published by the Department of Forest, Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation. A paper will be published in *Banko Janakari*- a journal of forestry information for Nepal published by the Department of Forest research and Survey, Nepal. The media coverage during the implementation of project as created tremendous scaling up effect- from 6 to 12 CFUGs.

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

It was implemented as planned and no problems were observed.

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
1. Capital Expenditure	522	522		
2. Administrative Expenditure	1626	1626		
3. Programme Components Expenditure	6387	7887	+1500	The increase was mainly due to scaled up in two items - revision on more no of CFUGs Plan and construction of fire lines. This increase costs was covered by the support of LFP and voluntary contribution of the local people.
Total	8535.00	10035.00		

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

- Incorporation of community based fire management activities in CFUGs manuals and operation guidelines by the ministry.
- Promotion of community based fire management in protected areas in Nepal.
- Continuation of the monitoring activities
- Incorporation of fire management activities in revising of all CFUGs operation plan.
- Development and extension of fires management information in local languages- especially poster and FM radio program during fire season.

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?

RSGF received the publicity but logo was not used.

11. Any other comments?

Governments of Nepal or community forest user groups were able to take only limited initiatives for forest fire management in Nepal. The lessons learnt from this initiative can be highlighted as follows:

- ❖ The project may have contributed to produce “no forest fire” in these CFUGs during the implementation of the project.
- ❖ A CFUG is an appropriate unit for forest fire management combined with local level networking.
- ❖ Community based fire management activities are influential at CFUGs. It has clearly demonstrated scaling up effects in adopting various fire management activities in neighboring CFUGs.
- ❖ Local equipment and methods of fire suppression are insufficient for forest fire management/control. Therefore the users could be benefited from modified equipment and techniques combined with technical knowhow.
- ❖ Communication and cooperation is very important in fire management, particularly for fire suppression or control. It is therefore, important to prepare communication and cooperation strategy by each CFUG.
- ❖ Fire management should be an inherent and important part of community forest operational plan.
- ❖ A small support in terms of equipment and skills to the community could produce a very good result in forest fire management.
- ❖ The fire lines constructed to separate boundaries between the CFUGs also contributed in reducing boundary disputes between the CFUGs. In addition, provided significant quantity of forest products for immediate needs of the local people.
- ❖ The capability of community forest user groups and concerned agencies to cope with forest fire disaster has increased.

Finally, the project promoted effective multi-stakeholders approach on fire management at community level. This year, there was no fire incidence in these CFUGs. The present project may have contributed for his outcome. It is expected that, the project was able to inbuilt activities within the regular planning process of the CFUGs, the activities will be sustained by the CFUGs and approach will be taken up by the government and other agencies to further develop community based fire management.