

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	Bibhuti Prasad Lahkar
Project title	Strengthening the conservation regime of Manas World Heritage Site through community participation. India
RSG reference	30.07.07
Reporting period	April 2009
Amount of grant	£5000
Your email address	bibhuti@aaranyak.org
Date of this report	

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
Creating diversified livelihood of fringe village communities to improve the economic condition and reduce dependency on forest resources of MWHS		70% achieved.		The project helpful to trained more than 150 households on diversified livelihood options. For the first time local community had an exposure to different diversified options, hence some local people's interest and attitude towards new livelihood options were sceptical. However, our motivation effort was helpful to initiate diversification of people dependency on forest resources. This project was helpful to setup few examples of livelihoods and that will be helpful to motivate other people.
Strengthening community understanding about the importance of MWHS through awareness and networking at community level			95% achieved	
Improving the health of the anti-poaching forest staff and conservation volunteers through medical aids.		60% achieved.		When this objective was set up, there was a great need of support toward health section. However, recently Government of India had lunched a project known as "National Rural Health Mission" and in Assam the mission was very actively working from mid of 2007. Hence under local community are getting free health treatments. This project has indirectly benefited health of volunteers; we have provided blankets in protections camps along with first aid medicine.

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

Difficulty: The project site had severe problems with extremists and recently most of them surrendered to the local government. Local government is trying to rehabilitate those surrendered militant step by step. However, some of surrendered extremists demand money from businessmen, employees, contractors and farm houses from time to time for carrying out their activities. If some one fails to fulfil the demand, he/she might be harassed physically or mentally and kidnapped. The current situation is much better compared to two years back which was beginning of the project.

How it was tackled: While implementing this project, the project team maintained the profile very low and never mentioned that we have got funds from a foreign country to support local community. Moreover, we didn't use the logo and name of Rufford Small Grants Foundation in any

programme banner. We have involved local NGOs and village level institutions in all project activities wherever possible. In addition to that, we work very closely with district administration.

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

- a. Training programmes on formation and management of SHGs, which was attended by 150 people and after the training 7 SHGs formed which are actively working.
- b. Awareness programme in schools, with more than 800 students attended in awareness activities such as environmental games, audio-visual programmes.
- c. Training on diversified livelihood options such as mushroom growing and beekeeping where more than 150 households benefited.

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

The activities of this project was totally community based, hence local communities were involved from beginning of the project. Local communities were benefited from all the project activities taken by the project. The knowledge of local community on environment and conservation of nature enhanced. The project activities have help building capacities of local community on diversified livelihood options. In addition to that this project is also helping local community in improvement economic condition.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes, there is a plan to continue this work.

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

The result will be shared with local NGOs, Institutions working in Manas landscape in the form of report. The report will also be shared with development agencies like district administration, department of rural development. In addition to that report will be shared with recently formed Manas Conservation Alliance, an informal consortium of NGOs (like WWF, Wildlife Trust of India, Aaranyak, Ecosystems India, Dolphin Foundation etc.) which is raising voices for conservation of Manas landscape.

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

The RSG was used from October 2007 to May 2009.

This project was a part of larger conservation initiative of Aaranyak in the Manas World Heritage Site, which is going to be finished by December 2009. The RSG fund was used specially for community development programme in the Manas World Heritage Site.

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
Honorarium for a Community Coordinator @ £ 50 x 12 months	600	600	0	1£ sterling =80.89 INR
Training of SHG formation and management @ £ 90 x 2 trainings	180	225	45	
Piggeries, Fishery and Mushroom @ £ 200 x 3 trainings	600	550	50	
Handloom @ £ 200 x 2 trainings	400	380	20	
Small Consolidation Grant to promising Trainees/Group @ £ 100 x 7 Nos.	700	700	0	
Travel to field sites	500	580	80	
Malaria detection preliminary training to local youth and health check up of forest staff and conservation volunteers	650	600	50	
Awareness in fringe Villages @ £ 50 x 6 times	300	400	100	Number of programme conducted was more than budgeted.
Environmental Resource Centre Development in schools @ £ 50 x 6 schools	300	200	100	
Subsistence at field sites	500	500	0	
Telecommunication	100	100	0	
Photography and report making	80	75	5	
Contingency (Unforeseen expanses)	90	90	0	
TOTAL	5000	5000	450	

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

- Continuation of environmental awareness programme.
- Training and capacity building of local community on more diversified livelihood options.
- Exposure trips of selected local community representative to profit making entrepreneurship.
- Develop education materials in local language.
- Initiate community conservation network for Manas World Heritage Site.

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 logo was used in few project activities.