

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	Nazeli Vardanyan
Project title	Environmental education and awareness raising on sustainable use of natural resources for school children and youth, including media participation, media and tree planting activities to be implemented in regions of Armenia.
RSG reference	27.01.10
Reporting period	June 15, 2010 – June 15, 2011
Amount of grant	£5961
Your email address	kate_bsc@yahoo.com
Date of this report	November 10, 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
Form "environmental action groups" from children and youth in three project sites			x	The "environmental action groups" from children and youth in three project sites were formed during the first three months of the project (June-August) followed with identification of vital environmental problems most specific for the selected project implementation sites.
Reveal environmental vital problems and structure according to their priorities. Preparation of land plots and needed recourses for tree planting in school yards.			x	Within the help of action group members, composed from children and youth, environmental problems vital for the project sites were revealed and structured according to their priorities starting from the third month of the project (August - December). Some of revealed problems solved by the support of local authorities. Preparation works for planting activities were conducted during September followed by tree planting on months of October-November. Media sources contacted for media coverage of the planned activities (tree planting).
Two rounds of training sessions in each of selected three project sites combined with showing environmental awareness raising films with an objective of stressing the most dangerous events currently in action and within the need of immediate attention and stopping actions.			x	Three months were planned for each of training sessions organised in the project sites. The training sessions were targeted to youth and children. Training subjects were related to nature protection and related actions. Environmental awareness raising films were shown to pupils and youth followed by discussions. Training were organised and films shown during September-November 2010 and March-May 2011.
Contact publishing houses for making publishing of project materials and puzzles with pictures of animals and plants registered in red book to be distributed in schools.			x	Within the scope of implemented project it was envisaged to publish materials and puzzles with pictures of animals and plants registered in red book and distribute those in schools. The objective was fully implemented, covering period of September – November 2010 followed with distribution of published materials to project target groups starting from December 2010 till April 2011.
Updating on continuous basis the list of identified environmental vital problems of the project implementation sites, trying to solve those			x	The revealed problems were continuously reviewed and updated. Presented to the attention of local authorities. Some received support and solved.

through approaching relevant local authorities and governmental bodies.				
Organizing contest among the project beneficiaries on the best environmental article and paint.			x	The “Best Article” and the “Best paint” contests were organised in schools during March – May 2011. This was one of the most challenging activities done within the scope of the implemented project with lots of expectations and emotions by youth and children involved.

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

No major difficulties arose during the project implementation period. All planned activities were scheduled in before, preparation for activities done on time. Project relevant parties were contacted and informed about any changed in time schedule or contextual change if any.

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

Among the three most important outcomes of the project are:

- Environmentally educated youth and children.
- Awareness raising among youth sector and activating them in civic participation for sustainable use of natural resources, biodiversity conservation, and nature preservation,
- Making people to think about future.

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

Local NGOs, especially those working in selected regions, were contacted and involved during the project implementation. Joint efforts were considered as basis for the successful implementation of this project. In particular, three local coordinating NGOs where involved in coordination activities and local coordinators assigned to be responsible for coordinating the project activities in sites. Seminars and group discussions were held in a way to ensure that public representatives have the necessary knowledge and skills to exercise them later on their own. The continuation of work by participants with assistance from their regional organizations on a local level is considered to be a guarantee of the implemented project’s sustainability.

Our approach was to connect this project to other sustainable development activities and use it as a base for further involvement in the community. It was accomplished through coordinating efforts with other NGOs, businesses, international organizations and donors by promoting community awareness and by involving people in the safeguarding of the environment.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

It is planned to continue the project. In case of successful review of the submitted Final Report by the Rufford Small Grant (for nature conversation) committee, GOY NGO would like to approach with another project proposal as a second phase of the one just accomplished.

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

A round table discussion was organised in each of project sites during which the main outcomes of the implemented project were addressed. Materials distributed and ideas on joint work for continuing the started activities discussed with local and international NGOs, some private sector representatives, local authorities. Project outcomes were shared and posted on web pages of partner organizations, as well as shared through the network of local environmental NGOs network.

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 planned to be used for one year project. It started on June 2010 and ended on May 2011. The actual and anticipated length of the project was match through constant planning and monitoring of the planned and implemented activities. No major deviations registered.

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
Salaries: Coordinator Trainer/ Expert 1 Trainer/ Expert 2 Driver	1,808	1,808		Two trainers/ experts were involved in project implementation activities coordinated by assigned coordinator. Site visits were organised by the help of hired driver.
Travel: Fuel Per diem, lodging	922	922		Total of 64 trips were done during the whole duration of the project. Per trip fuel cost was £ 8, making in total $64 \times 8 = \text{£}512$. Per diem and lodging costs were calculated based on £8 per day per diem and lodging rate, making in total $64 \times 8 = \text{£}512$, from which 20% was covered by GOY NGO and 80% requested from RSGF - equalling to £410.
Equipment/ materials: Course Materials & photocopy Car rental Facility rental Copy machine toners	1,933	1,933		Course materials & photocopy included training materials distributed to participants. The number of training participants of the project equalled to 640 persons in total. ($640 \text{ participants} \times \text{£}1 \text{ per participant} = \text{£}640$). Car rental cost was envisaged for renting car for project sites travelling purposes. A car for the whole duration of the project per £95 monthly rate was rented making the cost equal to 12 months $\times \text{£}95 = \text{£}1,140$.

				<p>Conference rooms for conducting seminars were rented in project sites, based on £8 per day payment. 32 (days) x £ 8 (per day rent) = £256. The cost was co-shared by GOY NGO and only 50% requested from RSGF.</p> <p>The cost of copy machine toner was £50. The cost was co-shared by GOY NGO and only 50% requested from RSGF.</p>
<p>Communication/outreach: Publishing materials Printing puzzles Tree planting activities</p>	1,178	1,178		<p>Publishing materials included printing awareness raising booklets and leaflets for a total of 1,000 copies per £0.91 for each, from which 20% was covered by GOY NGO and 80% requested from RSGF.</p> <p>600 copies of puzzles with the pictures of animals and plants registered in a red book and to be distributed in schools was done per £1 for each, making £600 in total. The cost was co-shared by GOY NGO and only 50% requested from RSGF.</p> <p>Broadcasting of films by TV included £110 per broadcasting payment for 6 films. (6 x £110 = £660). 20% covered by GOY NGO and 80% requested from RSGF.</p> <p>Planting activities included organisation of 12 planting actions in project sites for £25 each, making £300 in total. The cost was co-shared by GOY NGO and only 50% requested from RSGF.</p>
<p>Other: Running and administrative costs</p>	120	120		<p>Running and Administrative Costs included 20% of GOY NGO's office rent, equipment maintenance, electricity costs, communication and internet expenses, etc. for the project's period, which is 12 months x £50 per month = £600. 80% of cost covered by GOY NGO and 20% requested from RSGF equalling to £120.</p>
Total	5,961	5,961		<p>The Total Project Cost was £8,233 from which GOY NGO's shared and in-kind cost was £2,272.</p>

				<p>The amount requested and received from RSGF was £5,961. The granted amount of £5961 was received in USD. Total of USD 8,568 was received for the implementation of the project. Exchange rate used as of June 2010 was: £1 = USD 1,437</p>
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9. Looking ahead, what do you feel are the important next steps?

There is still much to be done. Feeling the seriousness of the threat to global environment as a result of human activities does not allow to stay indifferent. Natural resources are not inexhaustible. Reducing consumption of the resources that are running out, and finding other ways of maintaining and improving living standards through new policies, technologies and innovations is a unique prerogative.

Thus, by recognising this fact GOY NGO would like to continue the project and go ahead regarding the project scope, targets and activities.

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?

The RSGF logo was not used, however the published materials have the following caption: "Produced within the scope of Rufford Small Grant Foundation funded project". During the course of work no publicity were sent to RSGF.

11. Any other comments?

This project was focused on youth and children and considered as one of its strengths and peculiarities. Why to be focused on youth participation and youth education? This is one of questions we tried to answer throughout the whole duration of the implemented project. The answer is - often people's values and characters are formed at that period of life which is called childhood. After that period they can become the catalysts for solving critical problems having learned effective means of addressing community issues. Moreover, the knowledge and habits of civic activism and public participation are best instilled early in a person's life so they can better avoid the traps of the previous generations. This was the main idea followed during the project implementation cycle.