

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	Ye Tun Min
Project title	Conservation of two Ficus species with local community participation in Pindaya region, Southern Shan State, Myanmar
RSG reference	46.09.07
Reporting period	10 th February 2008 to 10 th February 2009
Amount of grant	£4850
Your email address	nyogreat@gmail.com
Date of this report	19 th February 2009

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
a. Survey of tree populations status in Pindaya region			***	The objective is fully achieved due to the interest and voluntary participation of villages' leaders and local volunteers
b. Conservation of existing trees and hanging roots		**		This activity has been done in town area (twelve wards) and a few nearby villages (not all villages under Pindaya region). Fences were difficult to make in place like down-town area to protect the hanging roots.
c. sharing of nature conservation knowledge to local people and community			***	Local people and community (especially school teachers and children) accept our extension talks as well as the great importance of the trees for the local environment. They warmly invite our activities to continue more and more in the future.
d. local community involvement and their interests in the activities			***	In making community awareness, well trained local volunteers are important because they know the culture of the local community, and time and circumstance. So, this is valuable for achieving meaningful outcomes.
e. replantation of saplings		**		Only about 300 saplings were collected until the end of 2008 monsoon although we expect more, about 500. Only 100 young plants were transplanted to suitable site during project period. The remaining saplings are still being kept in the nursery to attain proper growth and age for transplanting.

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

Few unforeseen difficulties have encountered. In the early days of the project period, some local peoples doubt our plan and activity. However, after seeing our definite objectives and activities with local community, they later adopt and wish for participation, too. Moreover, there are some tribes (Danu, Paoh and Palaung; they use different languages) under Shan national race in some villages of this region. My volunteer members include such tribes, so they are very helpful in activity conducted in the above villages. The remaining 200 young plants are still keeping in nursery for proper growth and vigour. These are managed by the local volunteers and leaders to transplant with the

involvement of schools and local communities at the end of monsoon or Arbour Day, 2009. The speeches of local elders like educated villages' leaders, schoolteachers and monks are greatly helpful in community activity.

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

Firstly, the development of tree population status in the region is valuable and it is an essential tool for future conservation task because no previous survey or conservation activity has been conducted.

Secondly, the awareness of nature conservation knowledge within the local community is also a precious one. Without active participation of local community, no one can efficiently undertake to achieve the proposed objectives. We discussed and shared nursery raising method (also how to care for saplings in their habitat as well as possible way to protect hanging roots) and management after transplanting with local communities. This knowledge is greatly important, and will be beneficial especially for school children, our younger generation to continue this work.

Thirdly, better local environment; rehabilitation of the species for local ecosystem can be expected as a result of our project.

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

The involvement of local communities in our project is a great significance. I suppose knowledge of conservation and better understanding of their environment is their benefit. Pindaya is one of the wonderlands in Southern Shan State, and attracts many visitors because of the ancient cave Pagoda, the Pontalope Lake and the big Ficus trees. So, as the project aims to conserve the existing trees and to replant saplings for local environment, this will be beneficial to local communities for the present and for the future.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes, we want to continue this work to extend for the whole region if further financial support is available. We could carry out conservation of existing trees, extension education and replantation activities in some parts of the region (town area, a few nearby villages, and nine basic education schools) although field survey was conducted with local leaders and villagers in the whole region (Pindaya Township).

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

I would like to share the results and experiences of my works with other nature conservation organisation and interested people. I shared my work experiences with nature conservation committee, Pindaya and interested groups. Now, I am a member of Biodiversity and Nature Conservation Association (BANCA), Myanmar. I want to share the results in the annual meeting of the association and will participate as a volunteer in the activities of BANCA in related field.

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 over twelve months, the proposed project duration.

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
Salary of 4 part-time local volunteers (£ 30*4*10 months)	1200	1000	+200	Used (£ 25*4*10 months)
Public extension (Posters, reminders and vinyl for local meeting + meeting expenses)	1000	1200	-200	Include local meeting and talk, school meeting, meeting with villages' leaders, volunteers
Subsistence allowance (£ 2.5*4 pers*100 days)	1000	800	+200	Used (£ 2*4pers *100 days)
Nursery and replantation (cost for saplings, bamboo baskets, nursery management, truck, motorcycles and cart hires, cow dung and humus)	700	900	-200	More costly for saplings and management after transplanting than expected.
Travel fees	400	350	+50	
Fences and maintenance of plants after transplantation	350	400	-50	Used both cacti and bamboo fences
Publishing and reports (include internet access, fax and phone call)	200	200	0	
TOTAL	£4850	£4850	0	

Exchange rate; **1 £ = 2400 Kyats (local currency)**, 31.1.08

* Nature conservation committee, Pindaya supported 200 pots for nursery. *

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

More conservation activities are needed to cover the whole region. In recent years, the branches of the aged trees are cut for fuelwood to utilize in baking limestone in a few villages. So, replantation will be also carried out throughout the Pindaya region. About one hundred villages and one hundred basic educational schools are needed our conservation talk, education and activity with them. The knowledge of local community on nature conservation and their active participation will be highly important for a substantial and long-lasting contribution to nature conservation. Therefore, additional fund and community participation are highly important to complete our objectives and goal.

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?

We used the RSGF logo in such materials as posters, reminders and vinyl, etc during the project period. The RSGF received publicity, conservation talk and photo exhibition to public during the course of the work.

11. Any other comments?

The project should extend in the remaining villages and schools. Management and care after transplantation is very important while the plants are young. The project should take next two to three years to fulfil our overall aims. The nature conservation knowledge is urgently needed within the local communities for substantial local environment.