

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	Dol Raj Thanet
Project title	Biodiversity conservation for the people by the people: awareness raising and capacity building project in the buffer zone of Chitwan National Park, Nepal.
RSG reference	54.06.08
Reporting period	Yearly
Amount of grant	£5000
Your email address	dolrajthanet@gmail.com
Date of this report	25 December 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
1. Group formation for escalating motivation: Youth awareness campaign, Eco-clubs, BZCFUGs, Motivators				Proposed: only the mentioned activities, Actual done: the mentioned activities plus formation of an NGO with having government registered legal status, named: Tribal Society for Biodiversity Conservation (TSBC Nepal)
2. Awareness program:				Proposed: 10 schools Actual done: 15 schools
2.1. Inter-secondary school level school teaching				
2.2. Inter secondary school level school essay competition				Proposed: 10 schools Actual done: 15 schools
2.3. Inter secondary school level school quiz competition				Proposed: 10 schools Actual done: 15 schools
2.4. FM Radio program				Proposed: monthly program for 1 year Actual done: weekly program for 1 year
2.5. Pamphlets/brochures publication				Proposed: 1500 copies Actual done: 1500 copies brochure, plus 500 conservation copy (stationery)
3.Conservation actions and capacity building training:				Proposed: 10 boys and 10 girls Actual done: 20 boys and 25 girls
3.1. Educational support to poor students				
3.2. Habitat management and conservation (Buffer zone community forests and grassland)				There were 17 legally registered buffer zone community forest user group (BZCFUGs) but training, plantation and other necessary support provided to 15 BZCFUGs
3.3. Training & workshop to user groups/eco-clubs (biodiversity conservation, registration, and management)				Expected: 40 participants, representatives from 10 BZCFUGs and 5 eco-clubs Actual done: 60 participants, representatives from 17 BZCFUGs, and 10 eco-clubs
3.4. Street drama				School children performed on the consequences of poaching and impressed more than 1000 people.
3.5. Installation of hoarding boards containing conservation messages				Proposed: 15 small sign boards Actual done: 15 large size hoarding boards

4. Coordination				Expected only with Community Based Organizations (CBOs); Actual 4 RSG project, NGOs, CBOs, Schools, Community Forest User Groups (CFUGs), BZCFUGs), eco-clubs, women's groups etc.
5. Monitoring and progress reporting				Proposed: Half-yearly Actual done: Quarterly

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

During the project implementation, there were several unforeseen issues that came unexpectedly which we needed to address, like increase in participant numbers, activities, publication materials (banners, certificates, etc) and days. Though it was quite hard to conduct extra activities in our project within the proposed time and budget, I tried to settle this emerging issue as much as possible by transferring some of the budget from other activities - I had requested a resource person (especially RSG grantee) to help as volunteer in some cases, I had also requested the owner to waive the hall charge, I had also reduced personal expenses and I had requested other grantees/individual having similar interest to cover some part of this project also. Several volunteers, club members and local teachers were mobilized and encouraged indigenous peoples group (Tharu, Bote, etc), local community based organization for taking responsibility of programme.

It is well known that only organizing some conservation related activities in a small area is not enough to address the whole conservation issue. There is an utmost need to change the attitude of local poor people by providing them some alternative IGAs opportunity for the promotion of their livelihood because livelihood of the most of buffer zone resident people of the Western sector of Chitwan National Park is dependent on parks resources. Beside these, scaling out the conservation issues and set network between local groups, CBOs, conservation clubs, should be required for effective conservation actions.

Thus, I am planning to conduct small scale biodiversity conservation based livelihood promotion activities as an alternative ways, as well as networking between conservation oriented organizations for achieving the effectiveness of biodiversity conservation goals through discouraging poachers for the next steps.

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

Even though I could not address all the emerging conservation issues during the project implementation period, I was personally satisfied with this small scale project and I am very much proud of with feedback of referees, participants, co-workers, local people and individual involved in the project. The main achievement of this project is gathering of all age people with different ethnic tribes, different organizations involved in conservation sector, and transferring the conservation knowledge in different levels for conservation. I evaluated three most important outcomes by:

“Conservation Campaign” Radio programme was instrumental to create public awareness on the conservation issues linked with livelihoods and sustainability to the wider audience at a time.

Strong peoples' participation and coordination in all project activities was higher than expected. This project was able to congregate support of youth, students, teachers, schools, local clubs, women groups, BZCFUGs in the assigned project activities.

Capacity building and extension programme was the leading programme of this project. While visiting schools during school teaching programmes and meeting with school teachers, we found many students were unable to afford their educational materials and uniforms. We realized that critical situation and saved money from other activities for them. We produced 90 dozen conservation copies and 50 dozen pencils for these students. Conservation slogan and RSGF logo were printed in the back side of copies for sharing the conservation theme and introducing the supporting organizations. We viewed that it was the perfect idea to aware students in conservation, encourage them for their study and to introduce supporting organizations through single attempt.

Beside these, we had also focused on community and organization level for spreading over the biodiversity conservation messages and providing them knowledge about biodiversity registration and its importance in conservation. For this, we produced 10 dozen Biodiversity Register Books and 100 dozen brochures entitled "Biodiversity and Protected Areas in Nepal".

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

This project was basically a community based project and all the concerned activities were carried out through the direct involvement of local people and organized in the joint venture of local Clubs, CBOs, Women's groups, Farmer's groups, Indigenous peoples' group, BZCFUGs, CFUGs, and schools.

We always felt that locally created and promoted activities will be effective which also focus target people. We therefore carried out most of field based activities in the leading of local organizations and people. Local communities were involved in the activities as participants in training, contestant in competition, organizer and co-worker in the conduction of every field based activities.

Poor children got schooling opportunities, farmer got the ideas of organic farming and promotion of alternative energy and students got knowledge and ideas for creating sound environment and wildlife conservation knowledge, and BZCFUGs got sound knowledge about forest and grassland management and understood about the win-win situation both for people and wildlife. Beside these, to promote the community based program, we conducted radio program through community based FM station in order to increase public involvement in conservation.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Only conducting some activities or launching some conservation concepts that cannot address the whole conservation issue. Continuity and long term impact with extension of proper programme is essential after the project completion.

There is no doubt that there is utmost necessity to strengthen biodiversity conservation and awareness project in the buffer zone of Chitwan National Park if we want to keep existence of valuable biological resources forever. By realizing the necessity of continuity, we have legally registered an NGO Tribal Society for Biodiversity Conservation (TSBC Nepal) which is responsible for its continuity on coming days. Some essential previous activities will be continued through this NGO such as Women Environment Education, Radio Programme, Poor Student Support Programme,

school teaching programme, Monitoring and Evaluation, etc., will be continued in the buffer zone of Chitwan National Park.

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

The programme was quite interactive since its beginning. An inception meeting was held before the launch of the programme among the stakeholders and regular formal and informal meetings were held to revise the content of the programme.

I am planning to produce a report (a booklet) with all the content of each episode and distribute it among the institutions, public libraries, schools and eco clubs. I am planning to create a website very shortly and dispatch all the project outcomes, activities and report through this at local to global level. I hope this way of information dispatching will help to generate more conservation awareness.

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

This project was designed for 1 year and RSGF was the major funding partner and Sustainable Development and Research Centre (SDRC) has also supported as co-funding partner. As per the assigned project we used RSG in following status:

Time	Activity	Support
November 2008 - November 2009	Group formation, school teaching programme, education material production and distribution, essay and quiz competition, educational support to poor student, women environment education, hoarding board installation with containing conservation messages, buffer zone forest management, grassland management, plantation, biodiversity conservation and registration, brochure production and dispatch, workshop, interaction/coordination programme, conservation tour, documentary show, radio programme, rewarding school for environment conservation and reporting.	Rufford Small Grant Foundation (Major Funding) & SDRC (Co-funding)
Still contd... after November 2009	Empowerment of tribal communities (indigenous people: Tharu, Bote, Musahar, etc.) in conservation, radio programme, poor student support programme, school teaching programme and monitoring and evaluation.	Tribal Society for Biodiversity Conservation (TSBC Nepal) Formed by RSGF project

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
Banking Charge	No	50	-50	Fixed charge; it was covered from other topic.

Publication & FM Radio Charge	680	700	-20	By addressing people's advice, we produced more brochures and educational materials and increased FM time than proposed.
Communication: Phone/email/internet	180	170	+10	Coordination with others was more effective than expected.
Wages for motivators	600	498	+102	We requested training resource person for their voluntary support in most of the activities
Training and workshops	480	500	-20	Proposed for 5 clubs and 10 BZCFUGs, but actually 10 eco-clubs and 15 BZCFUGs
Stationery	450	466	-16	Due to the increased in number of participants, budget was not enough and pulled from other topic.
Celebration of important days	250	250	00	Developed basket fund and limited on it.
Educational support to poor student	300	450	-150	Our programme was to support only 20 students but found that many students deprived from education which raise the expenditure and settled by minimizing other expenses
Quiz and essay competition	350	360	-10	We had also requested local community for participation which raised expenditure.
Team member's accommodation	1400	1230	+170	We made compromise to minimize the expenses as much as possible to conduct all activity as far as possible.
Transportation	150	275	-125	Our team used student facilities which made it possible to reduce this budget.
Camera and teaching materials	200	250	-50	Camera is OK, teaching material was increased as increased in school number.
Installation of hoarding boards	450	500	-50	Boards were installed as per demand and project sites
Reporting	400	325	+75	I minimize reporting expenses as much as possible without reducing quality.
TOTAL	5890	5756	-134	Remaining budget was requested with SDRC and TSBC Nepal for payment

*Rufford Small Grant for Nature Conservation Contribution: 5000.00 GBP
Exchange rate= 1 GBP::126 Nepalese Rupees (Local currency).*

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

Determination, concentration, effectiveness, and continuity are the fundamental basics of the long-term project that is why I am always looking forward to keep our (RSGF, TSBC Nepal and myself) presence in conservation sector on regular basis.

My feeling still needs to continue some activities: radio programme, school teaching, poor student supporting programme, women environment education and documentary show because these are the backbone of awareness programme. I am looking ahead for additional activity i.e. conservation based income generation activities, livelihood approaches through sustainable biological resource management and for requesting to RSGF and other allied organizations for making these programmes successful in coming days.

I therefore still want to continue radio programme, school teaching, website updating and poor student support programme and which are still running after 1-year project.

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 used in most of the activities and publications which were produced in relation to this project. I also encouraged to our local partners to write RSGF contribution when we carried out activities in the joint venture.

Logo was used in activities such as banner, certificate (competition, participation), brochure, education material, prize, conservation hoarding board installed in the different places of the project area. But in few cases, we wrote name and address of RSGF, where banner preparation and painting service were unavailable. After the project completion, we could see RSGF logo in some activities run by TSBC Nepal-partner organization of RSGF.

11. Any other comments?

I would like to express cordial thanks to Rufford Small Grants Foundation because its contribution has played a vital role not only in biodiversity conservation, capacity building and human resource development area but also enhance my career in conservation sector. Similarly, many young people has got chance to learn about the conservation and poor have got opportunities of schooling and enhanced their capacity in biodiversity conservation field.

I am always thankful to all stakeholders in this project; Sustainable Development and Research Centre (SDRC), Buffer Zone User Committee, BZCFUGs, co-workers (RSG-Grantees), NGOs, CBOs, schools, clubs, women's groups, indigenous peoples' groups, students, local youth for their valuable contribution to make successful of this project.

Last but not least, I am indebted to my referees (Dr. Narendra Man Babu Pradhan, Dr. Mahendra Shrestha, and Dr. Sarala Khaling) for their valuable support during the project and suggestion for the next steps. I am looking forward to get same kind of support from all the concerned authorities in coming days and hopeful for this. I would also like to request everyone and concerned organizations to be a partner of conservation sector what is possible from your side.