

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 | Son Ho |
| Project title | Vulnerability of human-forest systems to climate change in northern Vietnam |
| RSG reference | 62.01.09 |
| Reporting period | Final report |
| Amount of grant | £6000 |
| Your email address | son.ho@anu.edu.au |
| Date of this report | 30 th August 2010 |

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 |
|---|--------------|--------------------|----------------|--|
| Understanding the vulnerability of the coupled human-forest systems to climate variability and change | | | x | The study revealed that vulnerability of forest dependent communities is shaped by both climatic and non-climatic factors and processes. Climatic factors include changing in rainfall pattern, warmer climate causing more frequent flooding, uneven rainfall causing severe seasonal drought, and extreme events such as cold spell in 2008. Non-climatic factors include but not limited to limited access to development opportunities such as education, health care, employment, or price shock. |
| Understanding the importance of forest income in coping with shocks among households and communities | | | x | Study found that forest extraction can act as an economic resource for households experiencing misfortune. The findings point to an important development issue, that is, those people with fewest alternative options rely most heavily on forest extraction in times of crisis. Those with the highest education and wealth rely least on forest products. |

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

I have much experience in working in the project area. Therefore, all activities were well planned and carried out.

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

Vulnerability of forest communities is shaped by both climatic and non-climatic risks. This highlights the importance of both climatic and non-climatic risks when designing and implementing climate change adaptation policy.

Those people with fewest alternative options rely most heavily on forest extraction in times of crisis. Therefore, vulnerability of forest communities affects forest protection and conservation. Also, the vulnerability of forests is likely to affect the vulnerable groups who rely on forest extraction as a safety net. This has significant implications for forest management, biodiversity conservation and poverty reduction policies.

Some of the communities' responses to climatic and other stressors have depleted and degraded natural resources such as forest, soil and water resources which will undermine their adaptive capacity in the future.

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

Local communities were actively involved in the research process, through participation in survey, interview, and group discussion. Their involvement in the research project will help them better understand the likely increased risks from natural disasters. This might change their understanding of the causes of natural disasters from hazard-led to vulnerability perspective. This change of awareness could help them to address the root causes of natural disasters and thus to increase their adaptive capacity. Instead of thinking "no thing we can do" now they might think "we can mitigate the impacts of natural disasters".

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

I plan to develop a bigger project proposal to continue this work in the future after I complete my PhD degree (2012).

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

I will manage to write a paper or more to share the results of my work.

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

The field work activities were carried out as planned from June 2009 to February 2010. This timeline was also approved by my university. After the fieldwork, I have been doing data analysis and writing thesis. In general, I strictly follow the proposed plan.

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 |
|--|---------------------|-------------------|------------|----------|
| Stationery | 300 | 300 | 0 | |
| Books and journals (1x£50 and 20x£15) | 350 | 350 | 0 | |
| Photocopying | 200 | 200 | 0 | |
| Organising group discussion (20 groups x £50) | 1000 | 1000 | 0 | |
| Organising final workshop (2 workshops x £325) | 650 | 650 | 0 | |
| Local transport (20 days x £50) | 1000 | 1000 | 0 | |
| Accommodation (65 days x £20) | 1300 | 1300 | 0 | |
| Meals (240 days x £5) | 1200 | 1200 | 0 | |
| TOTAL | 600 | 6000 | 0 | |

Exchange rate: £1 = VND27, 000.00 (June 2009)

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

This project is part of my PhD fieldwork. Thus, I will focus on writing the thesis, publishing paper and developing project proposal for further work.

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?

I have not yet used the RSGF logo in any materials produced in relation to this project. No publicity has been made during the course of my work up to now.

11. Any other comments?

I am obliged to The Rufford Small Grants Foundation which funded this project to enable me to carry out my PhD fieldwork.