

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	Sunita Ulak
Project title	Community Initiation for the Conservation and Rehabilitation of Threatened Orchids in Kaski District of Nepal
RSG reference	8484-1
Reporting period	October, 2010 to October, 2011
Amount of grant	£ 5500
Your email address	sunitaulak@yahoo.com
Date of this report	22 November 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
Forest Users Committee's Workshops				
Forest Users/Villagers Training				
Forest Guard/Technician and community forest watcherman training				
Orchid conservation educational excursion				
Identification and preservation of host trees				
Participatory rehabilitation /relocation of orchids				Only 800 fallen/detached orchid tufts were encountered during project periods.
Conservation school teaching and art, essay competition				
Publication of education material				

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

Many species of orchids are available in the forest, but villagers are not using for commercial purposes so local people are interested to conserve only those species which are commercially valuable. In addition, they demanded technical and financial support for the farming of commercially valuable orchid species but due to limited budget we were not able to address their demand.

While conducting the workshop and training in village level, it was very difficult to arrange time with their busy schedule of crop cultivation. Similarly, to conduct the forest guard and forest watcher training their dispersed duty location made difficulties to gather all in two workshops so, four workshops in different sites were conducted with difficulty in manipulation of budgets. Likewise, due to vacation and exam schedule of the students it was difficult to manage time with our plan so, project time was bit extended.

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

The discussion and conservation talk in workshops and trainings with local people, school students and forest watcher and making them aware of ecological and economical importance of the orchid have developed positive attitude of about 1000 villagers and 650 students towards the conservation of the orchids.

The orchid host trees in four community forests was inventoried and their Forest Management Plan has been amended with the help of district forest officials with firm provisions for the conservation of orchids at local level. There are altogether 463 community forestry users' groups in Kaski district and are managing about 17000 ha of forest. We succeed in amending the management plan of four community forest covering an area of about 400 ha. Our team have planned to continue amending the other forest management plans with support from district forest officials where orchids are abundant.

The local people have fallacy of orchid; that it impeded the growth and development of host trees which was the major challenge for our group to convince but our effort have made it possible to convince at least 1000 people, as a result forest user committee and other user group members participated in rehabilitation/relocation of about 800 fallen tufts of orchids during the project period which helped in *in situ* conservation of the orchid. It is interesting to mention here that at the beginning more fallen and detached orchid tufts were encountered in the forest floor and as the project activities went on encountering of fallen and detached orchids were significantly reduced. 1800 copies of brochure in Nepali languages were published and distributed to local people, forest guard, forest watcher, school children and some copies were given to school library, public library, village development committee, district forest office, area forest office so that many people can go through it and can obtain knowledge of orchids, its important, sustainable management and role of people to conserve orchids.

Most of the students didn't know about the orchid and it's important and they used to take out the orchid from the tree while going to the forest but after attending the class they were aware about it and gave words of commitments to conserve the orchid and share this knowledge with their parents and neighbours. This was also a great achievement because they are the future conservationist.

The immediate benefit to the community may not be envisaged through this project but there has been definite improvement in the awareness and knowledge amongst the local community, school children, forest watcher and forest guard towards the orchid conservation.

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

The project was community-based and most of activities were carried out with the involvement and support of local communities. Local people had fully participated in workshops, trainings, collection and rehabilitation of the fallen and detached orchid. They have committed to share the knowledge and skills that have gained through this project.

The member of the forest user group fully participated in the forest excursion programme. In excursion they were curious to learn about the orchids and their host trees. Forest user group carried out forest operation annually based on the community forest operational plan, each year they cut the old, dead, decayed trees now they are interested in leaving the branches and trunks of trees with orchids on it.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

We have conducted this conservation awareness programme in some villages, and we would like to continue this work and extend awareness programme in other villages and forests where orchids are

abundant. During our project work we have seen lots of improvement in awareness level among the local people and students. After knowing the potentiality of sustainable commercialisation of orchid, they have come forward and have shown interest in protection and sustainable management of these natural resources to uplift their livelihood. Considering the high biodiversity of orchids and other biodiversity, government has decided to declare project site as a *Panchase* conservation area. Our group is interested in preparing the orchid conservation plan of the district and continue the awareness programme so as to support government to achieve the objective of biodiversity conservation and rural livelihood improvement in this newly declared conservation area.

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

The result of the work has been shared with the NGOs, GOs and other line agencies working in this sector and will try to publish the study in national and international journal as an article. The 1st prize winner of essay competition has been published in local newspaper of Pokhara. The report will be presented in the seminar organized for Rufford grantees at Kathmandu in January.

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

The grant was received at the mid of the September 2010 so the proposed project activities were started from the beginning of October 2010 to October 2011.

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
Forest Users Committee's workshops	540	600	-60	Increased number of participations
Forest Users/Villagers training	1500	1645	-145	Increased in cost of snacks due to increase in number of participations.
Forest Guard/ Technician and community forest watcher man training	240	410	-170	Increased number of events due to dispersed location of the forest guard post in district.
Orchid conservation educational excursion	330	330	0	
Identification and preservation of host trees	600	495	+105	Conducted only in four community forest so number of allowance days decreased.
Participatory rehabilitation /relocation of orchids	1500	1200	+300	Availability of about 800 fallen and detached orchid tufts during the project period. Fallen tufts were encountered more at the beginning of the project period later the fallen tufts were encountered significantly less in four community forest where host trees were

				surveyed.
Conservation school teaching and art, essay competition	850	850	0	
Publication of education material	500	550	-50	Cost of publication increased
Subsistence allowances Team leader and Assistant	810	810	0	
TOTAL	6870	6890	-20	[contribution by two CFUGs during villagers' workshop, paid to local tea shop]

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

Government of Nepal has proposed to conserve the orchid biodiversity of the project site as a conservation area. Level of awareness among the local people is still low so there are lots of conservation awareness works to be accomplished to conserve the orchid biodiversity of the area. Preparation of the district orchid conservation plan is immediate need of the area and I have planned to document the orchid diversity of the area followed by preparation of the orchid conservation plan.

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?

Yes, Logo was extensively used in publication and banner of all the conservation awareness programmes. The RSGF was acknowledged orally in every event.

11. Any other comments?

Kaski district is highly rich in orchid diversity, but the people including forest watcher man have negative belief that orchids impede the growth and development of host trees; this misconception need to be alleviate from the root. I would like to thank RSGF to support this grass root level project which helped us to create conservation awareness to about 1000 people and about 650 students within the project site and thank you to all villagers, forest guards, forest watchers and students who showed active participation in conservation of orchid resources