

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	Jaime Ernesto Rivera Hernandez
Project title	Towards an Environmental Education and Community Ecotourism Programme in San Juan Teponaxtla, Oaxaca. 2nd Phase
RSG reference	8925-2
Reporting period	November 2010- November 2011
Amount of grant	£ 5980
Your email address	rivalcan@gmail.com
Date of this report	December 6, 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
Ecotourism work plan (feasibility study)			✓	We accomplished this study along with the community people, through several participative workshops. We have been planning how the community will be organised in order to receive tourists in the village.
Training Programme			✓	We have organised several training courses 1. Regarding ecotourism and environmental education, 2. About administration and management of the ecotourism project, 3. In relation to attention of the visitors, 4. A workshop to plan and design ecotourism paths as well as to decide species with biocultural importance to talk about throughout the pathway route.
Environmental education programme in community			✓	We organised two events in school, one in primary school and one in secondary school. By using videos, Powerpoint presentations and speeches we had participation in the village assembly every time we went there. We did lots of reflections and discussions about the importance to preserve their biodiversity and culture. Additionally, we have made some plans for the storage /recycling /reducing of landfill (for instance the reduction of plastic bags) and we are looking for sewage disposal.
Handicraft projects. Embroidery for conservation.			✓	We have been working with a group of 24 women. We have had meetings and workshops in order to agree the better designs for embroidery and to share experiences about this objective. The main embroidery idea is to capture plants and animals with biocultural importance and their conservation. Now we have some embroiders made and the following step is to explore the best way to trade them.
Handicraft projects. Liana baskets.			✓	This part of the project is important as we are trying to rescue the sustainable use of liana for traditional crafts as baskets

				mainly. In this activity there is a group of males and females interested. With the use of lianas we are not just recovering traditional knowledge, but also these crafts might be a good productive alternative for local people. The same as the embroidery we are looking for its trade.
Cuicatec Language revitalization programme			✓	As this is an achievement not just for one year we have advanced in several ways. With the help of Maribel Alvarado a Linguist from the University of Mexico (UNAM) we have been developing a grammatical analysis of the Cuicatec. We have a group of 22 people acting as Cuicatec teachers all of them elders, the strategy has started mainly with the daily act of speaking in Cuicatec in any circumstance. Another activity is to hear every week a Cuicatec speaker with a tale or his/her biography to create good Cuicatec listeners among children and youths (one step before to create speakers and writers). Nowadays is not strange to hear a Cuicatec 'hello' on the streets.
Plants and herpetological inventories			✓	We achieved this objective successfully, nevertheless, more than one year is necessary to accomplish the inventories. Anyway, we got now a much better idea about these groups, and we consider around 75 % of the inventories done.

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

During this year we have experienced more rainy days than the normal expected in the research area causing landslides in the roads. As a consequence we sometimes had difficulties in the entrance and the exit to the village. Luckily when the road was close many men from the village came to help with the problem, sometimes it took 2-3 days to gets the road clear causing delays in the schedule.

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

The three most important outcomes of the project are as follows:

- All the activities developed during the RSG1 and the RSG2 have created awareness about the importance to preserve wildlife and the Cuicatec culture among the people. Although one goal of this project is the ecotourism, the organisation capacity and changes on the idea of

wildlife preservation have risen considerably since we arrived there, those are the most important outcomes achieved. Having done the feasibility study and all the workshops and communitarian activities the community is ready to run the ecotourism project.

- Another important outcome is the Cuicatec language revitalisation programme as Cuicatec has not been documented or studied before. Cuicatec as many other languages has been affected for social changes (modernisation, prohibitions on the use of language in the mid-20th century and religious change); for those reasons children and youths reject to speak or learn Cuicatec. However, with this program they have become interested in learning Cuicatec.
- The third most important outcome is the advanced check list of plants, amphibian and reptiles obtained; in fact we are waiting final responses for some reptile species which might be potential new records in the research area.

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

The involvement of the local community is entire each activity made as workshops, speeches, walks, courses, etc. have involved a group of children, women, men, youths; specially, we have made close ties with youths which were very difficult at the beginning of the project; currently youths have an active participation because the ecotourism project encourages to position themselves as main characters of this project.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes, there are several plans to carry on with this project. After the feasibility study we have a better approach to organise itineraries, transportation, lodging, meals, fees, quality guides, in country support during the tour, regulations issued for the guidance of the public, etc. But it needs more detail to build it up. Before welcoming tourists we need to get all ready to offer a fantastic experience of a lifetime for tourists.

Alternatively, the project needs infrastructure works such as ornithological observatories, ecotourism paths, information boards, cabins in places far from the village and stage. The paths would have proper material to avoid erosion of soil, with hand rails to concentrate people and information boards.

As part of the trip we would like to include an official map of the place and biodiversity checklists that need also impression and design.

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

We have planned to share results by three means: 1) In the academic via producing scientific papers and presenting results of the project into scientific congresses, 2) Using general diffusion means such as magazines, books, videos, local radio, social networks and web reports, and 3) Local people will give speeches and perform plays to express their experience on this project to other surrounding villages in different events.

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 for one year, between December 2010 and November 2011. The actual length of the project was the same as the original planned, no changes were in it.

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
Petrol (£ 60 per trip per 12 trips)	£600	£600		
Accommodation (£ 10 per night per 7 nights per 12 trips)	£700	£700		
Meals and feeding (£ 15 per day per 8 days per 12 trips)	£1,200	£1,200		
Truck's maintenance (£100 per month per 8 months)	£600	£600		
Salaries of researchers (£ 220 per person per month per four people per twelve months)	£1,200	£1,200		
Salaries of community people (£ 5 per person per day per two people per five days per trip per 12 trips)	£500	£500		
Stationery (sheets, pens, pencils, notebooks, big pieces of paper for workshops, ink for printer, etc)	£180	£180		
Digital Projector (to use in workshops and schools)	£450	£450		
Biodiversity material (cardboard to collect plants, rope, bags, blotting paper, light bulbs, plant dryer, etc).	£150	£150		
Handcraft material (paint, thread, fabric, etc)	£400	£400		
Total	£5,980	£5,980		

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

We have made progress changing thoughts with regard environmental and cultural conservation before receiving tourists that is extremely important for success and the self-management of their project in the future. The next steps are the creation of infrastructure works and keep working and reinforcing each objective enlisted in the point 1 of this report, before receiving tourists in the place.

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 have used the RSGF logo in the Ecotourism calendar 2011, produced early this year. We already sent an electronic copy of this calendar to RSGF.

11. Any other comments?

We are really grateful with the RSGF support since 2007; however as we had no other funding for this year we would be even more indebted if you can consider this project for a third stage RSG3 to achieve our following steps. We strongly believed that this project is going to have a strong impact within the village, we do not only expect a big change in people life's, but also a realistic project able to spread this out in surrounding Oaxaca villages in Mexico. There is no such a similar project based on bottom up forces currently running in Oaxaca, we definitely expect just success in the future.