

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	BASUDEV TRIPATHY
Project title	Enhancing livelihoods through promoting community based sea turtle conservation at Rushikulya Rookery, South Orissa
RSG reference	01.10.07
Reporting period	February 2008 – February 2009
Amount of grant	£5000
Your email address	tripathyb@yahoo.co.uk
Date of this report	21.02.2009

1. Please indicate the level of achievement of the project's original objectives and include any relevant comments on factors affecting this.

Objectives	Not achieved	Partially achieved	Fully achieved	Comments
i. Preparation of educational material such as posters, films, slides, exhibits for community awareness.				As per the project proposal, all necessary educational and awareness materials have been prepared.
ii. Creation of voluntary groups and interested persons for educational and awareness programmes in schools and colleges in and around Rushikulya rookery in Orissa.				Initially voluntary groups were not coming forward. Also there was a kind of insecurity among the community for their involvement in such conservation programmes.
iii. Series of sensitization workshops on sea turtle conservation and involvement of community at Rushikulya rookery in Orissa.				A series of sensitization workshops (formal as well as non formal) were conducted in five coastal villages in and around the Rushikulya sea turtle rookery.

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

As such there were no unforeseen difficulties during the project except for organising sensitization workshops in the coastal villages as people were not much aware about the importance of sea turtle to the livelihood of the community and possible benefits by involving sea turtles for alternate livelihood options at the Rushikulya. However, after a series of workshops, villagers came forward learning about the sea turtle conservation and involvement of local community at the rookery.

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

Being a short duration project, the outcomes may not meet the anticipated level but there was definite advancement in the situation of the sea turtle conservation and community involvement at the Rushikulya rookery of Orissa coast.

The following three are the outcomes recognized through this project:

- i. The Orissa Marine Fisheries Regulation Acts (OMFRA) prohibits any kind of mechanized fishing within 20 km radius from the seashore. This territory is reserved for traditional fishing as traditional fishing as such is not known to be harmful for sea turtles. Through awareness generation in this project, traditional fishing community were aware

about their rights and also encouraged to report any kind of illegal fishing within this reserved territory, to the local fishery and wildlife authority instantly for quick actions.

ii. Through the involvement of traditional fishermen and local community, the sea turtle nest predation problem could be reduced to a greater extent as community land a helping hand to the Forest & Wildlife Authority working at the rookery. Being on the beach most of the time, they could vigil the beach continuously, efficiently and in a more cost effective way.

iii. The awareness programmes conducted in coastal villages adjacent to the Rushikulya rookery and creation of voluntary groups had a substantial impact on the community towards their capacity building on sea turtle conservation and alternate livelihood options. The activities of a local Non-Government Organisation, the Rushikulya Sea Turtle Protection Committee (RSTPC) were strengthened, as they were deeply involved in awareness creation in coastal villages.

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

The instant benefit to the community may not be visualized through this project, but there has been definite improvement in the awareness and knowledge amongst the coastal community towards sea turtle protection and possible livelihood options that involve the sea turtle as a resource for future. The following are the possible benefits visualized through this project:

i. *Retain the traditional rights on the sea and beach:* By declaring the Rushikulya sea turtle rookery as a Community Reserve or Community Conservation Area, the artisanal fishermen and coastal community living in the area will have their traditional rights on the beach and in the offshore waters.

ii. *Promotion of eco-tourism and thereby income generation by coastal community:* There is tourist influx into the Rushikulya rookery every year. These traditional fishing communities can serve as guide and is a good source of financial benefit to the local community. Through this project, the RSTPC has already started a small scale ecotourism programmes in the area for turtle watching during their breeding in the offshore waters and *arribada*.

iii. *Funding support for community development:* The surplus funds of the government and non-government scheme towards sea turtle conservation and protection through community participation can be utilized for various village developmental activities such as boat repairing unit in the village, handicraft training for women, road and water facilities, village community hall development etc. A preliminary proposal to this effect has been discussed with the local Administration and may come up soon for the area.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes, I would like to continue the work involving the local community in the area and broadening the scope of work in future for creation of better livelihood options for the coastal community dependent on Rushikulya rookery. Improvement in the community outreach activities and implementation of alternate livelihood programmes on an experimental basis will be planned for the area in future.

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

The results of the present work will be shared with like-minded NGOs working on similar aspects by sending them a copy of the report (prepared separately, a copy attached) for their comments and suggestions for future improvement. A copy of the report will be sent to the state and federal wildlife and forests authority with a request for consideration of Rushikulya as the Community Reserve as per the new Amendment in the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act. Also, information on the present work will be disseminated through print media and by publishing articles on Prospect of Community Based Sea Turtle Conservation at Rushikulya in various popular journals and magazines of India and abroad. During the project duration, the Project Investigator has already communicated two articles that have been accepted for publishing in the forthcoming issue of the periodicals.

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

Sl. No.	Major activities	Months											
		Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan
1.	Reconnaissance visit to the Rushikulya sea turtle rookery site and discussion with various stakeholders												
2.	Documentation of sea turtle and community initiatives at Rushikulya												
3.	Creation of voluntary groups and orientation program in coastal villages												
4.	Workshops and awareness programs in coastal villages												
5.	Report writing												

The project was implemented for a period of one year beginning in February 2008, which is also coincidentally the breeding season of olive ridley turtles in Orissa turtle congregation time at Rushikulya rookery. The fieldwork had begun and completed as per the proposed activity budget in the proposal. There was a little delay in the activity No. 3 (creation of voluntary groups and orientation programmes in coastal villages) due to monsoon and off-season for turtles in the area from July to September. However, this activity was completed by November 2008 with and expected target could be achieved.

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
1. Preparation of educational awareness materials (Wall Painting, Poster, Handout, Stickers, T-shirt, Overhead Slides etc.)	1000	980	20	Education and awareness material cost was slightly less
2. Workshops and Honorarium or volunteer groups	1800	2070	-270	The workshop expenditure was more than expected.
3. Per diem for the Project Leader (180 days x £ 2)	360	360	0	
4. Base camp expenditure- House Renting & maintenance	200	200	0	
5. Wages for one Field Assistant	730	730	0	
6. Travel (Travel by Train, Road Transport, Hired Vehicles)	660	445	215	Travel expenditure was curtailed
7. Report writing and Dissemination of information to various NGOs and like minded organisation including federal and state agencies.	250	150	100	Report writing expenditure was less as that of expected.
TOTAL	5000	4980	65	

***Local Exchange Rate – 1 £ Sterling = 70.33 INR Rupee**

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

The future work at the Rushikulya sea turtle rookery should focus pressing the state and federal agency to declare this site as a Community Reserve and this needs pressure from legal front. Also the awareness among the community on the rights over the resource needs to be strengthened substantially. This needs more capacity building workshops as well as formal and informal stakeholders meeting with the coastal villages. And finally, as a confidence building measure, the local NGOs are required to be trained and such programmes in the villages should be thoroughly encouraged.

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. RSGF logo was used for handouts, stickers and t-shirts produced for awareness creation among villagers and general public and also wall paintings were done depicting message on olive ridley turtle conservation involving community at Rushikulya sea turtle rookery of Orissa. (Photographs of the above activities are attached separately)

11. Any other comments?

Future long term support on community involvement towards sea turtle protection and creation of better livelihood options involving sea turtle as a resource at the Rushikulya rookery will definitely reduce pressure on federal and state agencies for pertaining protection to the olive ridley turtles at the rookery. Better livelihood options for local community through such support will reduce the sea turtle-fisheries interface, which is a predicament for the area at the moment.