


Environmental Education Training for Sundarban Communities

FINAL REPORT

April 2005



Organised by:  Centre for Coastal Environmental Conservation (CCEC),
Khulna, Bangladesh

Sponsored by:  Rufford Small Grants, UK.

FINAL REPORT

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Contact: Mr. Mowdudur Rahman, Director
Project Title: *Environmental Education Training for Sundarban
Communities*
Location: Sundarban Coastal belt (Khulna, Bagerhat and
Shatkhira District)
Starting date: November 2004
Project duration: Six Months
Actual completion date: April 2005
Budget and finance: £ 5082
Amount of award: £ 4962

Executive Summary

1. Introduction

The Centre for Coastal Environmental Conservation (CCEC), a local level environmental NGO based at Khulna has implemented the “*Environmental Education Training for Sundarban Communities*” project in cooperation with the Rufford Small Grants, UK. The objective of the project is to conserve the Sundarban by creating and enhancing environmental awareness of the local communities especially the teachers and people representatives of Sundarban region thus prepare Sundarban conscious future generation in Bangladesh.

As part of the Environmental Education materials development by the NGOs in the Non Formal Education sector in Bangladesh the CCEC has successfully prepared and published a booklet and a poster with various environmental conservation issues on Sundarban, the UNESCO declared World Heritage site.

The Sundarban Environmental Education exercise includes University teachers, Officials from the Department of Primary Education, Teachers, NGOs in addition to 200 teachers (180 school teachers and 20 peoples representatives) from Sundarban region by covering formal and non-formal education systems of Bangladesh. The booklet titled " Sundarban Environment Education" narrated conservation issues of Sundarban with facts and figures with illustration and can be used as a reference book for clear understanding of the Sundarban by the teacher, researcher, activist, forest officers, environmental conservationist beyond the project objectives.

A successful training course was organized for the 200 trainees of Sundarban region at CSS training center based at Khulna from 16 -28 April 2005 by using the booklet and poster with the participation of resource persons from Khulna University and Primary Training Institute. Lessons and messages from the training courses will lead students and guardians/communities for undertaking actions towards Sundarban conservation.

2. Summary of the project

2.1 Objectives

The objective of the programme is to conserve the Sundarban ecosystems (map attached) by involving the local school teachers including local government/ peoples representatives in order to develop environmental conservation ethics, skills, attitudes and commitments thus communicating the conservation messages among the students by the teachers and public by the peoples representatives and undertake actions

towards Sundarban protection in the school (teacher-student) community through awareness and training , a useful vehicle of communicating messages.

2.2 Scope

Through the project, six coastal Thanas of three Districts such as Mongla Thana of Bagerhat District, Dacope, Batiaghata & Koira Thana of Khulna District and Shyamnagar & Kaliganj Thana of Satkhira District were brought under geographical scope. The project created an scope among 180 teachers of formal and non-formal education systems; 20 UP chairman; honorary members of the advisory committee, one project manager, two organizers, two trainers from Khulna University; one trainer from Khulna Primary Training Institute (PTI) under Primary Education interacted and provide valuable inputs for booklet/ poster preparation and conducting training courses.

2.3 Project components

- ❖ Selection of 200 school teachers/ peoples representatives (UP Chairman)
- ❖ Prepare and publish a poster and a booklet
- ❖ Involvement of an Advisory Committee to review the Environmental
- ❖ Education (EE) materials and the overall development of the project
- ❖ Implementation of the project by organizing training for the teachers/peoples representatives
- ❖ Video film/documentary making of the training courses

2.4 Project inputs

Professional project manager, skilled designer, efficient field organizers were associated as staff input. Financial investment from the Rufford Small Grant for conservation (RSG) for running cost and logistic support, Technical Assistance from the advisory committee members who are from the University of Khulna, academics from the Department of Education and representatives from the NGOs.

2.5 Target outputs

Development of the conservation materials and organizing trainings for teachers/peoples representatives were the two major targeted outputs. The conservation material includes a booklet titled " Sundarban Environmental Education" and a poster with interdependences with flora and fauna of Sundarban ecosystems.

Enhanced coordination among the Educational Institutions such as Department of Primary Education, Primary Training Institute, Education based NGOs for example

BRAC (Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee, the largest NGO in Bangladesh), Nokshikatha, Gono Sahajjo Sagstha (GSS) and Forest Department.

2.6 Organization and staffing

In order to complete the project, one-project manager for six months, two-field organizer for six months and one trainer for two months was employed.

The organogram was followed for implementing the project is given below;



2.7 Supervision and coordination

As soon as the project starts, frequent visits to the educational offices of divisional, district and thana levels were made by the project manager and organizers. Discussion with Thana Education officers (TEO) was very helpful to select the schools/teachers in organizing trainings. Procurement of an official letter from the Divisional Primary Education with reference from the Director General, Primary Education, Dhaka office ensured the participation of teachers and initiated the coordination process among CCEC project team, Education officials and teachers of the project concerned. Organizers played a vital role to communicate messages among project manager, Advisory Committee members, teachers & people representatives (UP chairman) for the rationale of the project and trainings. Smooth coordination between RSG and CCEC was always maintained through email/fax communication.

2.8 Evaluation and monitoring

Evaluation of the project is judged by comparing few administered questionnaires both in the pre and post situation although much activities can be done by analyzing all the questionnaires and recommendation made by the teachers and project concerned people and monitor the schools and teachers in cooperation with Primary Education Department.

Basic environmental & Sundarban related questions were set for the evaluating the level of knowledge of the trainees both in the pre and post training

3. Implementation

3.1 Methodology/Modalities

Selection of schools (formal and non formal, education based NGOs) chairmans was completed in cooperation with Thana Education Officers/NGO Officials and Thana Nirbahi Officer (TNO). A booklet with detail information on Sundarban including threats and remedies or actions needed was prepared. Letter from the Deputy Director, Primary Education was procured for greater cooperation from all district and Thana level education officials and teachers. Selection of teachers was made on the basis of Environmental Science teaching profession. Several group discussions among the project manager and project people were made to review the existing curriculum taught in the different formal and non formal education systems in Bangladesh with a view to find the gaps of environmental issues and an option to be integrated into the education system. An advisory committee was involved from the Khulna University, personnel from the department of Education, NGOs. The booklet, poster and questionnaires were made with the participation of the advisory committee members. The redraft copy was thoroughly read out and corrected. Again it was compiled and corrected by the project manager with careful review. Project manager's suggestions were very useful to discard and incorporate some subjects and also in maintaining the chronology of the subjects in chapters that really improved the quality of the booklet. Administering the questionnaires in pre and post-training situation compared enhancements of environmental knowledge of trainees. 12 days training was conducted for 200 trainees dividing into six batches. Two days training course for each batch was designed with inauguration speech, lectures on environment and biodiversity conservation issues, Sundarban Information Center visit, video film show and video making of the programme, which was very useful for understanding and communicating the concepts of Sundarban conservation.

3.2 Execution of the project components are shown below

Activity	Period					
	Nov 2004 -April 2005					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ List of 200 teachers/people representative from Khulna/Bagerhat/Satkhira ➤ Meetings with Education Department and NGOs (BRAC, GSS) 						
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Print/reprint the booklet and poster ➤ Collect documentary films and billboard on Sundarban for Video show ➤ Purchase overhead projector for training 						
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Communication with Primary Education/Khulna University/PTI 						

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|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 6 training (2 days for each batch) for 200 trainees ➤ VDO film making for the first batch training (2 days) ➤ Report submission/Recommendation | | | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|

4. Problems

4.1 Problems encountered during project implementation

The project did not face any major problem but the summer temperature was a bit problem for the participants.

4.2 Organization's own shortcomings/lapses

Visiting remote schools of Sundarban region specially Koira, Dacope, Shyamnagar Thana by the project manager/supervisors and sickness of an employee hampered a little.

4.3 Any other bottlenecks

Number of trainings reduced to six from 10 in order to escape from high temperature days and the availability of the resource persons.

5. Future plan/Follow-ups

The Centre for Coastal Environmental Conservation (CCEC) has created enthusiasm among the teachers of Sundarban belt; environment concerned agencies and individuals by conducting the EE training and likes to conduct such training by involving more schools and teachers of the Sundarban region including the follow-up of the previous trainings. The CCEC also plans to make dialogue with the National Curriculum Textbook Board (NCTB) for the integration of key environment/conservation messages from the booklet and poster to be integrated into the existing curricula. The Primary Education Department has also recommended for conducting such EE training and monitoring the programme.

6. Financial statement

Financial statement will be sent off by surface mail after the audit made by the authorized firm soon.

7. Conclusion/overall observation

Based on the above mentioned we can conclude that the project as formulated and executed was successful and did have significant contributions towards an enhanced awareness among the teachers/people representatives and the conservation ethics developed by the participants will certainly be communicated to students, guardians and communities who will come forward to undertake actions for Sundarban conservation.

Preparation of this kind of Environmental Education materials by NGOs in the non-formal sector is pioneer and have already got responses from national NGO for example Gono Sahajjo Sangstha (Anando Nikaton) who is interested to incorporate this conservation text as curriculum in its fundamental schools and will ask students to write on Sundarban with 100 marks.

Since the responses from a great number of schools (formal & non-formal) not only the targeted but also other schools of Khulna region it can be assumed that the developed materials and methodology has its value in other areas of Bangladesh. Also important is to mention the establishment and/or reinforcement of linkages between different levels of society and organizations involved in environmental issues in the country.

Overall we can state that this project did make valuable contributions towards the mentioned goals and was successful in its implementation.

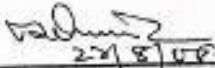
8. ANNEXES

1. Letter from the Director General /Deputy Director, Primary Education, Khulna Division
2. Copy of the Certificate
3. Newspaper Clippings on the programme

To Whom It May Concern

This is to certify that the Centre for Coastal Environmental Conservation (CCEC), a local level environmental NGO based at Khulna has conducted Training on *Environmental Education Training for Sundarban Communities* in April 2005 for Teachers/People Representatives. The objective of the Programme is to communicate the environmental degradation and Sundarban threat messages such as disruption of natural regeneration of mangrove, silt deposits in the rivers, fresh water reduction from the north, tidal surge, temperature rise, sea level rise, global warming, biodiversity depletion of Sundarban to the coastal teachers there by students/guardians. Students are the future generation of a nation. The Training was conducted in three batches by involving 200 schools and 20 UP Chairmans of Sundarban adjacent areas including Khulna, Bagerhat and Satkhira District. The Programme organizes various lectures such as "Environment and Sundarban" "The importance of Sundarban biodiversity and its conservation needs"- "Role of the teachers/Representatives in conserving Sundarban biodiversity" in association with Environmental Science Discipline, Khulna University, Forestry and wood Technology Discipline, Khulna University, Primary Training Institute (PTI), Khulna and Forest Department run Sundarban Information and Education Centre visit by the participants. The programme was well designed and significant for creating environment awareness for the school community. *Sundarban Paribesh Shikha* booklet and poster messages were very useful because of its enormous information about Sundarban. The Office the Divisional Primary Education was always in touch with CCEC for ensuring teachers participation and still feels that there is a great need for conducting such training. We appreciate financial supports from **Rufford Small Grants (RSG)** for conservation for continuing such Environmental Education programme in the future involving more schools of Sundarban coastal region of Bangladesh. We wish CCEC all the success for Sundarban sustainability.

Date: 21 April 2005
Khulna


22/5/05
Dr. Taj Uddin
Deputy Director, Primary Education
Khulna Division, Khulna

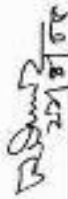
CENTRE FOR COASTAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION



CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that

Shafiqur Chandra Sardar, Assistant Teacher of 13 No Kallinagar Register Primary School, Shyamnagar upazila under Satkhira district of Bangladesh attended a two days training programme titled **ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION TRAINING FOR SUNDBARBAN COMMUNITIES** on 16 & 17 April 2005 organised by Centre for Coastal Environmental Conservation (CCEC), Khulna, Bangladesh. The trained teacher has successfully completed the course and is now better able to teach how to participate in Sundarban conservation.


25/04/2005

Dr. Md. Taj Uddin
Deputy Director
Primary Education, Khulna Division, Khulna


25/04/2005

Mowdudur Rahman
Director
CCEC, Khulna, Bangladesh

Sponsored by  **Rufford Small Grants, UK.**



