

The Rufford Foundation

Final Report

Congratulations on the completion of your project that was supported by The Rufford 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	Md. Danesh Miah
Project title	Trade-offs between forest conservation and livelihoods of the forest dependent people in the Chittagong Hill Tracts: REDD+ strategy development in Bangladesh
RSG reference	13284-2
Reporting period	May 2013 to May 2014
Amount of grant	£6000
Your email address	danesh@cu.ac.bd dansforestry@yahoo.com
Date of this report	9 June 2014

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
Visualisation of trade-offs between forest conservation and livelihoods			Fully achieved	The cultural dependence of the three ethnic communities shows an obligation to conserve the biodiversity in the forests. However, findings of the TEK (Traditional Ecological Knowledge) are not well structured here.
Identification of the alternative livelihoods			Fully achieved	Alternative livelihood practices have been clearly determined
Identification of tradeoffs between forest biodiversity use and expected carbon benefits of the peoples			Fully achieved	Trade-offs between the forest use and REDD+ is clearly identified.
Ethnic communities for conserving forests			Fully achieved	
Creating awareness on REDD+			Fully achieved	

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

While collecting data, the ethnic respondents were found a little bit sceptical to respond to our questionnaires. However, as our data crews were mostly from the ethnic community, the problems were resolved anyway. We had to face some insurgencies in working in the remote places arising from the miscreants' activities to abduct people for money.

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

The visualisation of trade-offs between forest conservation and livelihoods of the forest dependent peoples considering forest biodiversity use and livelihoods vulnerability have contributed understanding the range of involvement of the peoples for forest conservation. Identification of trade-offs between forest biodiversity use and carbon benefits will contribute to sharing the carbon benefits with the forest peoples. Identifying alternative livelihoods will be important for diverting forest dependent peoples from overusing the natural forests. All of these will contribute adopting REDD+ program in the selected forest areas of Bangladesh along with the conservation of forest biodiversity and livelihood development of the forest dependent peoples.

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

The headman of the villages, religious persons, school teachers were involved in the key persons' discussions. In the awareness campaigns, many family members from the three ethnic communities, both male and female were present spontaneously. The attendees were finally agreed to the forest conservation concept for the sake of their forest services. About the REDD+ mechanism, they were little bit confused how it can be implemented without providing them the alternative livelihoods and securing their cooking fuels issues.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes, I have a plan to continue this work in a format of awareness and extension in Chittagong Hill Tracts of Bangladesh, if Rufford Small Grants Foundation kindly awards me the further grants. Awareness programs on forest biodiversity conservation, awareness on REDD+, training on expected alternative livelihoods, will be my objectives of the project.

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

Just after the confirmation of the final report by the RSG Foundation, I will prepare the paper as a scientific article to publish it in the international refereed journals. In this process, the results will be disseminated to many scientific communities and forest conservation practitioners. In addition to this, I expect to attend some local and international seminars/conferences/workshops to present my research findings, if I receive travel grants for my participation.

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

The RSG was used for the period from May 2013 to May 2014. However, in comparison to the anticipated time scale, I had to spend some more weeks. A huge data compilation, input and analysis took huge time. At the end, I was a little sick for which I had to wait to give the finishing touch on the final report.

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 (£ sterling)	Actual Amount (£ sterling)	Difference (£ sterling)	Comments
	1 £ sterling= 130 BDT			
Pre-project work	250	310	60	Increase in transportation costs
Contacts and travelling	700	750	50	There were some unexpected travelling to the study site
Travelling within the study site	200	300	100	The cost was unexpectedly higher
Accommodation and foods	2000	2150	150	The cost was unexpectedly higher

Graduate field assistant	2000	1900	100	I arranged lowering the cost as the graduate students were from our department
Field equipment	50	120	70	I had to procure some more consumables for the field
Health and safety aid	100	60	40	We did not need so much materials for health maintenance
Post survey works	200	210	10	The difference was not significant
Contingency	275	240	35	The difference was not significant
Miscellaneous	220	25		
Total	5995	6065	70	

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

To implement the REDD+ programs in the Chittagong Hill Tracts of Bangladesh, now it needs massive awareness programmes of forest biodiversity conservation, REDD+ and training programmes on expected alternative livelihoods.

10. Did you use The Rufford Foundation logo in any materials produced in relation to this project? Did the RSGF receive any publicity during the course of your work?

A large scale banner was produced and used in the awareness campaigns (photographs have been attached). In the banner, the RSGF logo was used broadly. In this way, the RSGF logo got significant publicity.

11. Any other comments?

If the RSG Foundation supports a few participations in some international seminar/conferences, the activities of RSGF will be highly publicised to the international scientific and management communities.