

## 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](mailto:jane@rufford.org).

Thank you for your help.

Josh Cole, Grants Director

Grant Recipient Details	
<b>Your name</b>	Sunil Lal Rajbhandari
<b>Project title</b>	Study of the habitat and population of endangered <i>Gavialis gangeticus</i> of Chitwan National Park
<b>RSG reference</b>	11177-1
<b>Reporting period</b>	31 March 2012
<b>Amount of grant</b>	£ 6000
<b>Your email address</b>	<a href="mailto:sunilrajbhandari@hotmail.com">sunilrajbhandari@hotmail.com</a>
<b>Date of this report</b>	29 March 2013

**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
Assess the population status of <i>Gavialis gangeticus</i> in Narayani River.		√		The census of gharials was conducted throughout the study area of Narayani River, Chitwan National Park. The study found the congregation of gharials mainly in 2 areas, namely Khoria Muhan near the Rapti and Narayani confluence and Bhelaugi in the downstream section of the river. The study concludes that these areas provide prime habitats with minimum human disturbances.
Assess the habitat utilization by Gharials.		√		The gharials select sand bars of main and braided channels with moderate to deep water depth.
Prepare GIS maps of distribution and habitat.			√	The GIS layers of abundance of gharials, habitat utilisation, basking in relation to water depth and human disturbances were prepared on the basis of field activities. Interpretation by Google Image 2010 was done to analyse the changes in habitat quality. The GIS maps were prepared by Arc GIS 12.0 version.
Raise the level of awareness on gharial conservation among the local communities			√	A brochure on the importance of gharial was prepared in Nepali language and distributed widely to enhance the level of awareness. The study suggests the need of regular conservation education programmes to the communities and students around the protected areas.

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

None

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

1. The information on distribution, population status and habitats was collected that is beneficial to the Gharial Breeding Center (GBC), Kasara, Chitwan National Park for designing effective conservation measures and monitoring of wild and reintroduced gharials.
2. GIS maps of distribution and habitat use by gharials in Narayani River was prepared. The GIS layers are effective in designing conservation strategies and conservation measures so as to protect the gharial populations in the river basins of Nepal.
3. Public awareness and conservation education on gharials is achieved. The awareness programmes were conducted through discussion with key stakeholders and target groups of the area such as park rangers and game scouts, buffer zone users, fishermen, and army

personnel on the importance and values of gharials. The motivation of the people has been raised by strong feeling of ownership in conserving this threatened and endangered species.

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

The park staff and local communities of the surrounding area of Narayani River were actively involved in the survey and monitoring of gharials. They actively participated in focal group meetings and discussions. During the study, training in the use of GPS and survey techniques was given to the Game scours and buffer zone communities. The net effect of these activities have enabled them to handle the survey equipment and also in the identification of size classes of gharials and updating the field data sheet. The enhancement of awareness among the local communities has shown strong desire and willingness to get involved actively in conservation activities. This study also was able to make a strong collaboration with the Gharial Breeding Centre (GBC), especially in planning field activities and surveying gharials in the Narayani River.

**5. Are there any plans to continue this work?**

Based on the outcome of this study, the detail investigation of habitat quality, population status, nesting behavior and the effect of succession and its dynamics to riverine fauna in Narayani River are immediately needed in order to design an effective conservation measures to ensure its long term survival.

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

The information derived from this study would be widely shared to the local park and buffer zone communities through public forums, interaction programmes and publication of findings.

**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 a period of 1 year starting from April 2012 to March 2013.

**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
Professional Services	750	750		
Field Expenses	1860	1860		
Field gear and equipment	625	625		
Focal group meeting	600	600		
Maps/GIS software	725	725		
Awareness/publicity materials	550	550		
School educational classes	500	500		
Stationary (Photocopy, Printing, Web Maintenance)	225	225		
(Tel./Fax/Mail/E-mail/Internet)	250	250		
Report Preparation and Publication	290	290		
Miscellaneous	200	200		

Institutional contribution	1150	1150		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>7725</b>	<b>7725</b>		

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

I look forward to receiving second RSG funding to continue this research.

**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?**

The RSGF logo was used in all the materials of the project including the brochure and banners during all forms of interaction meetings. In this context, I believe that RSGF received wide publicity.