

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	Kedar Baral
Project title	Awareness generation to mitigate human leopard conflict in Baitadi district of Nepal
RSG reference	19414-1
Reporting period	April 2017
Amount of grant	£4848
Your email address	baralk6@gmail.com
Date of this report	22th April 2017

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
<p>To generate the awareness about the movement time, food habit and habitat requirement / management of leopard</p>				<p>School teaching were conducted in six schools, two schools in each highly affected VDCs i.e. Bishalpur, Pancheshor and Amchaura. Similarly, three awareness workshops were organised, one each in above mentioned VDCs.</p> <p>Power point presentation, showing informative videos, distribution of handouts, posters, pamphlets and other materials, discussion, experience sharing were the methods of the workshop and school teaching.</p>
<p>To circulate message about the preventing measures that should be taken against leopard attack.</p>				<p>We disseminated information about preventing measures that should be taken against leopard in both school teachings and awareness workshops.</p> <p>Similarly, we printed posters and pamphlets and aired messages from local FM radio containing information about the habitat management of leopard within community forests and precautionary measures to be safe from leopard attack.</p>
<p>To inform the villagers about the provisions of compensation to wildlife victimized families by Government of Nepal, Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation.</p>				<p>Government of Nepal, Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation has recently made a directive to compensate the victimised people by wildlife. People can get up to NRs 10,000 (US \$ 100) for minor injury, NRs 100000 (US\$1000) for serious injury and NRs 500000 (US\$5000) in case of the human death. Likewise, they can get NRs 10000 (US\$100) for crop and livestock damage. Many people</p>

				did not know about these provisions. So, we disseminated information about these provisions and procedure to be followed to claim the compensation.
To motivate local people and school children in biodiversity conservation.				<p>We discussed with them about the ecosystem, importance of its each component and motivated them for actively taking part in conservation activities. We still found antagonistic feeling against leopard of some people whose family members were killed by leopard.</p> <p>We distributed geometry box, copy and pen for motivating students. Handouts and related publications were also distributed for further knowledge dissemination.</p> <p>We formed the eco clubs in each school and handover educational materials to them. In comparison to village people students were found highly motivated to participate in conservation activities in future and to share this knowledge with their friends and parents.</p>

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

There was no electricity facility in these VDCs. In Bishalpur, solar power facility was available so it became easier to use multimedia for Power point presentations and showing videos. In Pancheswor VDC, we hired diesel generator to run the laptop and multimedia but it was too expensive and it disturbed the whole sessions due to its loud noise. So, in Amchaura, sessions were conducted by using posters, pamphlets and other materials. Brown paper and black board were also used to deliver the information and videos were shown through laptop only.

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

School teaching

- They got knowledge about the role of leopard in the ecosystem and necessity of its conservation for the sake of our secured future.

- They knew the essential precautionary measures to be safe from leopard attack.
- They were fully committed to actively participate in conservation activities and they wanted to carry out awareness activities through the eco clubs in future.

Awareness workshop

- They identified illicit felling of trees, habitat fragmentation of leopard and illegal poaching of prey species as major causes for compelling leopard to enter in human settlement. So they committed for the restoration of habitat of leopard and its prey species within their community forests.
- They got knowledge about precautionary measures to minimise encounter with leopard.
- Participants became aware about the forest and related policies and several regulations. They got information about the provisions of compensation to wildlife victimised families by Government of Nepal, Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation.

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

School teachings were conducted in six schools, two schools in each highly affected VDCs i.e. Bishalpur, Pancheshor and Amchaura. In each school teaching, there were 50 students from grade 7 to 10, hence, 300 students were directly benefited by getting knowledge about the components of ecosystem and their role for the survival of each other, importance of conservation of biodiversity for the sake of human kind. Similarly, they become aware about the precautionary measures to be safe from wildlife attack.

Likewise, three awareness workshops were organized, one each in above mentioned VDCs. There were altogether 90 participants containing 30 in each workshop. Local leaders, teachers, women, members of community forest user groups etc. were the participants in these workshops. From the discussion on workshop they concluded habitat destruction and fragmentation of leopard by local people (mostly poaching of prey species and illicit felling of trees) as major causes compelling leopard to attack livestock and people. So they became committed for habitat improvement of leopard within forest area for long lasting solution of their problem.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes I am planning to continue the work.

Discussions and experience sharing carried out in the workshops concluded that illegal felling of trees, poaching of deer, rabbits, wild boar and other prey species of leopard have been causing habitat deterioration of this carnivore species within forest area. Due to these reasons, leopards have been facing scarcity of prey species within forest area. Similarly, people frequently go to the forest to collect

timber, fuel wood, fodder, fruits, medicinal herbs etc. So, they are often disturbing this solitary natured creature. On the other hand, people in these villages have unregistered and illegal guns. They have been poaching the prey species of leopard for their consumption and selling in market as well. National Park and Wildlife Conservation Act and its regulations have banned such poaching and have provision of imprisonment of 2 to 15 years and penalty of NRs 10000 to 100000 (US\$ 100 to 1000) depending on the species. Due to these situations, I am planning to continue the works of habitat restoration of leopard and its prey species within community forest area and awareness generation to control poaching and illicit felling of forest.

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

I made many oral presentations at district, regional, national and international level workshops about the activities I carried out in the support of RSGF. Further, I am preparing an article and going to publish on a peer review journal based on this information.

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

Six school teaching programme and three village level workshops were carried out from June to August 2016. Preparation and distribution of awareness materials was done from June to November 2016. Airing of awareness messages from local FM radio was done from June 2016 to April 2017. Entire activities have been conducted according to the proposed plan.

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
A) Conduction of awareness workshop (estimation for 3 events)	1365	1404.41	+39.41	Hiring of diesel generator at villages was too expensive.
B) Conduction of school teaching (estimation for 6 events)	2508	2444.44	-63.56	
C) Preparation and distribution of awareness material	650	518.52	-131.48	
D) Airing the message through FM radio	325	481.48	+156.48	Project site is the coverage area of FM radios of Dadeldhura district as well.

				So, we aired the programme through FM radios of both Baitadi and Dadelhdhura districts.
Total	4848	4848.85	+0.85	

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

Considering the above-mentioned situations in (5), I feel following works / steps are crucial to conduct, so I am planning to apply for second Rufford grant to carry out these activities.

- Habitat restoration of herbivores prey species of leopard (removal of unpalatable species, promotion of palatable species, control burning, seed sowing of nutritious grass species).
- Waterhole construction and maintenance within forest area.
- Awareness generation activities through the workshops and FM radio programmes against poaching. Informing local people about the provisions of law regarding penalty and imprisonment in case of wildlife crime.
- Formation of Community Based Anti-Poaching Units (CBAPUs) at village level, their capacity enhancement and mobilization.
- Conduction of study tour to Bardiya National Park to show about successful and effective CBAPU activities.

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?

Of course, I used The Rufford Foundation logo in awareness generation poster I developed / printed. Similarly, I used it in the banners of school teaching programme and awareness generation workshops. Likewise, I aired awareness messages and broadcasted programs through local FM radios. In such programmes, I acknowledged the RSGF.

11. Any other comments?

Poor and helpless people in the remote villages of Baitadi Nepal have been suffering from the leopard attack resulting human and livestock death. On the other hand, many leopards have been killed by local people on the retaliation. The project funded by The Rufford Foundation has become instrumental to cope with this problem to some extent. They become committed to habitat restoration of leopard within forest area. Similarly, project educated and motivated secondary and lower secondary level students about ecosystem and biodiversity conservation. Hence, project became successful to achieve its anticipated objectives. So, I would like to express my cordial thanks to The Rufford Foundation from my side and on the behalf of people of project area providing grant for this project. I also wish for co working in future through the further funding.