

Final Evaluation Report

Your Details	
Full Name	Shahidullah Amn
Project Title	Inventory of Frog Diversity and Monitoring for Habitat Conservation in Nangarhar Province
Application ID	27326-1
Grant Amount	£5,000
Email Address	amnshahid@gmail.com
Date of this Report	May 09, 2020

1. 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
To educate farmers and student on importance of frog through awareness education				
To study frog diversity in Nangarhar province				
To maintain frog habitat				People lack willingness to maintain frog habitat without paying incentives.

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

There was no difficulty in conducting research on frog diversity as I have good team members as well as I my students took keen interest in collecting data. The difficulties where face initially to convince farmer about the importance of frogs. However, with help of Mr. Najibullah haqyar (imam (religious scholar)) help to convince people.

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

The project was big success as all activities were conducted on the timeline prepared. The usually known causes for the extinction of frogs, toads, salamanders and other amphibian species are the loss of their habitat through human activities, pollution, spreading of invasive species and hunting them for food. The most important factor in Afghanistan is that people's negligence and poor understanding of their ecological value. These threats are solved through awareness programme. Afghanistan has 10 frog species recorded till now and in current study listed nine species of frog.

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

Local community was engaged throughout the project starting from data collection to the awareness programme. Most of the frog diversity was recorded from field and irrigation canals. The farmers from different communities are paid for their contribution in data collection. Moreover, local leaders were actively involved in conduction awareness programme. Farmers are well aware of importance of frog diversity in their fields as it helps to control pest.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes, we have a plan to continue this work with a data-based research to conserve the frog diversity. The research data of the project will use as a baseline for the conservation and protection of the frog diversity. After this, we are looking forward to continuation of the study and we are planning to apply for second stage of Rufford Small Grant.

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

The research finding will be published in the peer reviewed journal which will help to reach more audience. The pictorial guide shall be published in Nangarhar and Kunar Universities. The finding results from the study will be shared with the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigations and Livestock (MAIL) and with Directorate Agriculture, Irrigations and Livestock's of Nangarhar and Kunar provinces.

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

The project was implemented from April 2019 to April 2020; the grant was used for 12 months as set timeline. The project commenced on 11th April 2019 and project ended on 12th April 2020.

8. Budget: 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. It is important that you retain the management accounts and all paid invoices relating to the project for at least 2 years as these may be required for inspection at our discretion.

Item	Budgeted Amount	Actual Amount	Difference	Comments
SONYICD-PX312 digital recorder	450	450		
Communication	90		-90	
Stationeries	155	160	+5	
Wages for research assistants and local resources person	1340	1490	+150	Involve more research assistants and local people
Research paper Publishing	25		-25	Yet to published
Awareness program, posters, signposts	1695	1600	-95	
Food and travel cost	550	650	+100	Higher food cost due to a greater number of people involved

Safety gadgets	205	195	-10	
Etrex GPS	120	120		
Cannon Camera	370	300	-70	
TOTAL	5000	4965	-35	

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

The main objectives of this project were to educate farmers and students about the importance of frog through awareness education, to study frog diversity in Nangarhar province and to maintain frog habitats.

The first two objectives were fully achieved while the last one was partially achieved. The attitude of the people living close to the study area towards frogs is changing in a positive way as a result of the awareness programmes. Nangarhar is one of the very few I provinces of Afghanistan with wetlands and conditions that support and favour the amphibian life.

However, the frog habitats are still prone to human disturbances. To conserve the frog diversity, it is important to formally designate parts of those habitats as protected areas.

Moreover, the abundance of water in most of the water bodies and rivers of Afghanistan are dependent on the amount of rain and snowfall in winter. In the past, there have been droughts occurring alternatively that lead to a decrease in the volume of water in the resulting rivers that form swamps and wetlands on their banks. This can adversely affect the frog habitat and their population. Efforts should be undertaken to mitigate the effects that arise from any possible drought on frog population.

In addition, the use in the cultivable parts of the frog habitat is also affecting their population negatively. Educating farmers and the use of integrated pest management methods with the cooperation of DAIL might be effective in reducing those negative effects.

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

The Rufford Foundation logo was used in:

- In the reports and awareness presentations and awareness materials presented in Kunar and Nangarhar Universities.
- As a result of the awareness programmes where many people got to know about the Rufford Foundation and the efforts they are putting to biodiversity conservation. I am sure that a lot of people are inspired and are interested in conducting similar studies/projects.
- The logo was also printed on the banners that were used for awareness during the presentations.

- In addition, the Rufford Foundation logo was also used on the stationary distributed to farmers and people from the local community.

11. Please provide a full list of all the members of your team and briefly what was their role in the project.

Shahidullah Amn: Project lead/Facilitator, Responsible for proposal development, writing scientific paper and addressing the finding to the officials.

Assist. Professor Aminullah Yousafzai: Adviser and awareness trainer for Nangarhar University.

Lecturer Wasimullah Zaland: Adviser and awareness trainer in Kunar University.

Mr. Khalid Zarang: data collection and field assistant

Mr. Nizamullah Ziyar: data collection and field worker.

Mr. Mohammad Jumma: Awareness trainer for farmers

Mr. Najibullah Haqyar: Awareness trainer for local people

Mr. Hamidullah Nazar: field survey/Facilitator and field researcher

Mr. Qais Ahmad: awareness trainer for Darunta Kanal, Jalalabad, and behsood villages.

12. Any other comments?

I would long to express my special thanks to The Rufford Foundation and team for giving me the opportunity to conduct this project and for their financial and technical support. My sincere appreciation goes to the professors of Kunar and Nangarhar Universities for their guidance and valuable cooperation.

My sincere gratitude is extended to Wasimullah Zaland whose valuable suggestions and constant encouragement helped me to conduct this survey in a more effective way.

Special thanks to the Directorate of Agriculture, Irrigation & Livestock (DAIL), Kunar and Nangarhar provinces, National Environmental Protection Agency (NEPA) and all the farmers whose continuous support contributed to the successful completion of this project. Thank you all.