

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.

Thank you for your help.

Josh Cole, Grants Director

Grant Recipient Details

Your name	Janak Giri
Project title	Local Community Development for Shrinking Habitat Destruction and Human Elephant Conflict in Sunsari , Nepal
RSG reference	
Reporting period	May 2009 - June 2010
Amount of grant	£5980
Your email address	prdcnepal@gmail.com
Date of this report	June 30, 2010

1. Please indicate the level of achievement of the project's original objectives and include any relevant comments on factors affecting this.

People are still in competition for living space with elephants in Sunsari around the Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve in eastern Nepal. The elephant's habitat had been destroyed for peoples' space. Likewise, the habitat was being exploited for fruits, fodder, fuel, etc, and the forests cleared for cultivation, plantations, settlements, etc. Similarly, developmental activities such as hydroelectric projects, roads, college and hospital construction and furniture collection for infrastructure development also influenced the elephants' habitat. While launching the project, such kinds of activities are being progressed and changed positively. Likewise, the rate of killing of elephants for ivory extraction, major problem in cultivations against elephant habitats, elephants' raiding, the problems of elephant habitat destruction and human-elephant conflict (HEC) etc are being reduced. Likewise Capacity Development and Habitat Restoration, awareness and alternative livelihood programme, animal husbandry, chilli production, sustainable elephant habitat management and conflict mitigation and dissemination activities were conducted and achieved positive results.

Objective	Not achieved	Partially achieved	Fully achieved	Comments
Review of existing indigenous habitat conservation practices. Orientation workshop.				All the activities were held, involving all stakeholders; i.e. community/local leaders, farmers, opinion leaders and key informants.
Resource mapping by using PRA method.				
Preparing action plan in close participation with local community.				
Formation new and revision old Community Forestry Group.				
Habitat watching group formation.				
Community interaction and awareness workshop on elephant habitat conservation for ecosystem.				The activities were held with the local stakeholders. This awareness creation helped at changing community's attitude in order to motivate them to efficiently manage elephant habitat. Because of the short span of time the flood management training was not satisfied.
Forest management, environmental enrichment, natural resource conservation training.				
Flood management training.				
Sustainable development training.				
Biodiversity conservation and livelihood training.				
Private forest, community forest, leasehold forest and nursery development training.				

Implement land-use planning policies within CF Users' Group				The project encouraged the stakeholders to protect key areas for elephant and creating buffer zones and investing in alternative land for farmers. These land use policies promoted awareness but not implement yet.
Ecological restoration of elephant corridors with natural habitat.				Efforts were taken to protect corridors which played a crucial role in maintaining elephant habitats and their interconnections wherever land were used for expanding existing corridors with minimum compensation. Local residents involved in corridor conservation by providing them incentives for maintaining their lands as corridors
Elephant friendly products.				Several kinds of elephant friendly products were planted around the elephant habitat like bamboo, sal, sisau, etc.
Compensation/insurance to HEC victim.				The local stakeholders were trained for community-based compensation and insurance systems which might exist for damage done to livestock but they have not applied yet.
Reward for habitat conservation services.				The best elephant conservation group was rewarded Nrs. 10,000 for their best conservation effort which encouraged to all stakeholders.
Encouragement to construct a protective stone wall around agriculture land.				Local people have been constructing protective stone wall partially.
Developing awareness on chilli cultivation and chilli dung brick production.				Most of the local stakeholders have started chilli cultivation as fence of

				agriculture land. It is also alternative income generation resource.
Establishment of village managed information centre.				The information centre is not established but local stakeholders collect information themselves.
Establish the networking with other institutions.				They have been establishing a network with Forest Department, NGOs, CBOs, and academic institutions with the stakeholders to protect the habitat and reduce the HEC.
Capacity Development and Habitat Restoration				<p>Under this category, various activities were carried out such as:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Conducted training for building the capacity of community forestry (CF) user's groups, non-timber forest product (NTFP) enterprises development, sustainable forestry and agriculture development 2. Promoted alternative income generating activities like Sent batii production, pickle training, soap production, candle making, animal husbandry and livestock development, micro saving and credit, bamboo production, herbal production and alternative skill development training like bio-briquette, solar heater, improved cooking stove, and oil extraction 3. Conducted different kinds of training and awareness workshops, skills development training, seed money distribution and revolving fund were used to complete all the activities which are mentioned above by mobilising local

				community and local resources.
Information Dissemination				Preparing documentary display of success story and film show to show and booklet.

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

Several unforeseen difficulties arose during the project period as:

- The youth cadres of political parties (e.g. Youth communist League, YCL) tried to disturb the project. Because of their disturbance, the project was not completed on time.
- The Saptakoshi flood broken down the bridge that's why the vehicles were not operating for 3 months (during Aug-Oct 2009). In this period we could not implement the project activities.
- It was difficult to make participation of farmers in the farming season. Likewise women were participated less in the project.

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

- Developing awareness on chilli cultivation and chilli dung-brick production.
- Efforts were taken to protect corridors which played a crucial role in maintaining elephant habitats and their interconnections wherever land were used for expanding existing corridors with minimum compensation. Local residents involved in corridor conservation by providing them incentives for maintaining their lands as corridors.
- Promoted alternative income generating activities like Sent batii production, pickle training, soap production, candle making, animal husbandry and livestock development, micro saving and credit, bamboo production, herbal production and alternative skill development training like bio-briquette, solar heater, improved cooking stove, and oil extraction.

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

The local communities were involved intensively and we appreciated their active participation. At the same time, it was less satisfactory participation of farmers in the farming season and less participation of women by the patriarchal society. On the other hand the involvement of political parties was not better.

The local institutions, teachers, students, government's agencies involved and co-operated with the project implementation directly and indirectly that's why we succeed to get about 90% achievement as our previous planning.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

The local community are requesting to continue the project. They request for the elephant corridor management and habitat promotion project. If the project would be continued, the human-elephant

conflict will also reduce. Thus, our team plans to continue the project by searching the different grants from different possible institutions.

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

By e-mail, updating website, publishing booklet, sharing result by seminars, workshops etc.

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

The previous plan of the project was to implement from May 2009 to May 2010. But because of unforeseen difficulties, we were unable to implement the project as our timeline. Thus, the project was used the period from May 2009 to July 2010.

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
Participatory Action Planning Meeting and Social Mobilization	630	600	30	
Community Awareness and Sensitisation on ecosystem	600	590	10	
Capacity Development and Habitat Restoration	1970	2100	(130)	
Sustainable Elephant Habitat Management and Conflict Mitigation	1250	1490	(240)	
Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting and Information Dissemination	930	860	70	
Program Assistant, Administration and Misc.	600	645	(45)	
TOTAL	5980	6285	(305)	The exchange rate: 1 £ sterling @ 119 NPR

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

The project must be specific and limited to certain short term and long term objects. Thus, I feel the next project should be very specific and action oriented.

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?

Yes, I used the RSGF logo in banner, training materials and other related places. I used the RSGF logo PRDC publication and website. I also used on the hoarding board hanging on the liaison office/ project office during the project period.