

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. 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	Babu Ram Bhattarai
Project title	Community outreach programmes to lessen human-tiger conflict in Bardia National Park.
RSG reference	8630-2
Reporting period	December 2010 to January 2012
Amount of grant	£ 5940
Your email address	Babu_sharma2000@yahoo.com baburam77@gmail.com babu.bhattarai@conted.ox.ac.uk
Date of this report	06 Feb 2012

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
Conducting three workshops				Altogether, 74 local people participated in the workshop. The workshop was conducted in three villages in Khata corridor to provide knowledge on predator ecology, techniques of being safe from those predators and predation proof corrals
Construction of predation proof corrals				20 corrals were constructed in participation of corral owners. Local people contributed labour costs and some locally available materials such as thatch grass, bamboos, poles and labours etc.
Veterinary services to local communities				The project targeted to provide veterinary services to 300 households but the estimated budget is not sufficient. It could provide services to only 100+ households. During the service the veterinary compounder provided some very basic knowledge about livestock husbandry (nutrition, sanitation and health). It provided vaccination against some diseases and distributed medicines.

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.

a) The current project was conceptualized after a study on human-tiger conflict in the project site. The human-tiger conflict study revealed that the major causes of heavy livestock depredation were due to predation prone cattle sheds/corrals and grazing in habitat of predators (tiger and leopard). Therefore to lessen the livestock depredation, this project was designed. Twenty improvised corrals were constructed in three villages which lie in the Khata Corridor (connecting Bardia National Park, Nepal and Katarniaghat Wildlife Sanctuary, India).

b) Support of local people is essential while conserving large carnivores like tigers and leopards. To get support of local people in conservation some community outreach programmes might help. Therefore, the project aimed at providing veterinary services. It provided basic services like medicines for prevention of foot and mouth rot diseases and control of ecto- and endoparasites of the livestock. Nearly a hundred households were benefitted from this service.

c) Conservation education is a crucial part of nature protection. It plays significant role in making mass awareness in conservation. The project conducted three workshops each day to disseminate the carnivore ecology especially of tiger and leopard focussing on prevention/mitigation of conflicts. Altogether 74 people participated and they expressed commitment for conservation.

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

Conflict with large carnivores including tiger and leopard is remarkable in the project site. This project was designed as per the demand of local communities. Therefore, local people were actively involved in the project from designing phase to its implementation. One of the prominent activities of the project is to make predation proof cattle shed/night time corral (improvised). The project supported 20 cattle sheds by providing proof net, cement, door handles and nails and farmers contributed local materials and labour cost. Buffer zone community forest supplied woods free of charge. While selecting farmers the Buffer Zone User Committee, Bardia Conservation Programme and Bardia National Park collectively decided.

The next activity was awareness programme by conservation education. While conducting this workshop/training, local communities (Buffer Zone User Group, Forest User Committee and Local Government) participated actively. In all three training workshops, the involvement of local people was enthusiastic. Participants were trained in ecology of carnivores like tigers and leopards, conservation significance of them, their status and threats, preliminary knowledge on veterinary, animal husbandry, know how on predation proof corral making etc

In addition, two of the project team were from the local community. Those local members chiefly executed the project activities in assistance of local people and other stakeholders like Bardia National Park, Bardia Conservation Programme and buffer zone user groups including forest user committee members.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

The project has gained popularity among the locals. Farmers are demanding the project again and especially they want veterinary services in extensive scale. In surrounding the Bardia National Park, 21 local governments at village level are working. Most of these villages are remotely located from the village centre therefore, the services of governments are lacking. So, local governments are also praising the work. The government has also appreciated the project as Bardia National Park has no sufficient resources to minimize the conflict through outreach programmes. Government of Nepal has begun "special tiger programme" and formulated some projects in minimizing the conflict. As a government employ, I will involve in the project and planned to formulate bigger project on cat conservation and jointly work with government, university and national and international conservation agencies.

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

The project work was presented in Kathmandu Forestry College among students, lecturers and other concerned conservationists. The project work was briefly presented in seminar of Nepalese RUFFORD GRANTEES (Research in protected areas: Interface between researchers and managers) held in Kathmandu in January. The project activities were briefed to officials of Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation. In near future, it will be published in local

media/newspaper. The activities of the project will be informed to conservationists and others by putting it into website of DNPWC.

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 the period of one year and more (from December 2011 to January 2012). Actually, I planned to complete the project in 12 months but it prolonged one and half month more. My previous project supported by Rufford Small Grant was conducted from February to December 2009.

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
Travel cost air fare	272	290	-18	
Local travel cost	90	98	-8	
Medical cost for the team	600	535	+65	
Foods for team	420	447	-27	
Shed construction material purchase	1600	1785	-185	Material cost increased than previous
Material transportation	258	305	-47	
Workshop cost/food & snacks	900	680	+220	The workshop was done in a cheap hotel in a village
Workshop cost/stationeries	300	200	+100	Some stationery support was received from park office
Livestock/veterinary service cost	1500	1600	-100	Medicine were found expensive than estimation.
Total	5940	5940	0	

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

Conservation goals are long term and cannot be achieved in short period of time. It should be continuously working and working without being tired. Wherever there are carnivores, conflict with locals is inevitable. Conservation of such large carnivores depends up on the support of local communities. To get support of local people, they should feel the programmes as their own and their level of tolerance should be increased. Such a conflict mitigation projects based on outreach programmes targeting the locals might have positive effect. As people are poor in the project site (the average daily income is less than \$2 a day), even a small loss by predation might create a negative impact on economy of local community resulting increase in revenge killing of the involved predators. On the other hand, tiger population is rapidly declining throughout its range and the St. Petersburg summit has declared a commitment to double the tiger numbers by 2022. To materialize this visionary and ambitious statement from the leaders strong actions based on sound science are necessary. Therefore, to conserve the large carnivores like tigers, more action based projects are crucial and development of committed cadres in big cat conservation might be a future step. Further ahead collaborative efforts of governmental and non governmental agencies along with local communities are important strategies to conserve the big cats.

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 project did not produce any materials. In the workshop with local farmers, the banner with logo of Rufford Small Grant was used.

11. Any other comments?

When people are poor and predators are endangered or legally protected with strict laws, the conservation efforts of conservation agencies become controversial. In such situation one of the best practice is to launch community outreach programmes by supporting the community needs such as road, telephone, drinking water, scholarship or job to victims family, alternative household energy etc. Such projects help to win the people by increasing the tolerance level of them as well. In the project site, some works on this aspect has been done and found positive response from local community. It was reflected in a study carried out by myself in support of Rufford Small Grant. This study showed positive attitude of locals toward tiger conservation although they are losing from tigers and their predators.