

# Research in Protected Areas, Nepal: Interface between Researchers and Managers



## Nepalese Conference for Rufford Grantees January 13 & 14, 2012 Katmandu Nepal



## **1. Introduction**

Research is an ongoing and regular, but a never ending process. It always has synergy effects to advance the society. In the research belongs to nature conservation, researchers always cultivate their knowledge aiming betterment of the society and nature at large. Even though a very few people know the importance of research, it has extra-ordinary contribution to scale-up the knowledge, understanding the people and make advance and civilize society as a whole.

The government of Nepal has very poor priority to research. The government rarely allocates the money for research, while many Nepalese young researchers have been getting huge amount of research fund from various international research foundations across the globe. Among the various research foundations; Rufford Small Grant Foundation (RSGF) is the prominent one. The latest information shows that more than 63 Nepali nationals have been getting more than 86 small grants and implementing their research projects at various parts of the country. The foundation is supporting to carry out the research and their capacity building to various research topics. The data shows that most of the researches supported by Rufford are related wildlife conservation particularly protected area system of Nepal. However, it was widely observed that even though some of the researchers are doing very good research, their research results have poor linkages to the government system of protected area management. Our analysis was even though the researchers have been carried out their research independently, but they are doing their research in isolation and has poor relation to policy and planning process. According to the government system particularly by law, each researcher should take the permission from the concern authority. Similarly, the researchers should implement their research in close coordination with government officials and submit their research report to the authority. Always, the research aims to support government authorities that the authorities could utilize the research results in planning and policy formulation process. If the researchers do their research in isolation and government authorities are unknown to the research, then it is difficult to tell precisely whether the researches contributed to conservation or not even the researches are very good in report.

Therefore, it is highly crucial to bring the entire researchers at a forum and share their research results and derived knowledge together. This proposal expected that presentation of all RSGF grantees research results in front of other researchers and government officials will verify their results, provide an opportunity to share and know each other and finally provide a ground to policy-makers and planners in policy designing and planning. It was also expected to help each other particularly policy-makers and researchers alike to understand the government system while carrying out the research particularly research permission and reporting mechanism. It was also supposed to make easier to the young researchers and government policy-makers to develop practical collaborative research in the days to come.

## **2. Objectives**

The overall objective of the Nepalese conference was to bring all Rufford funded researchers to a common forum and provide an opportunity to present their research results and learn each other.

Specific objectives were:

- ❖ to provide a forum to young researchers to explore their research results
- ❖ to provide a forum to natural resource managers to learn from research
- ❖ to translate the research results into policy formulation and planning

## **3. Methods**

Giving six month time frame, all Rufford Grantees were informed and requested to make a presentation either oral or poster presentation. They were also requested to write and submit two page short articles following the introduction, objectives, methods and results of their research. Two days conference was organized in Kathmandu Nepal (January 13 and 14, 2012) and all Rufford grantees were made their presentation at four different sessions. The name list of all Rufford grantees, participant of abstract submission and workshop will divide into three different session namely oral presentation, poster presentation and panel discussion. The oral presentation will again divide into two

parallel session namely ecological research session and socio-economic research session. Poster presentation will lead by the young researcher comprises both ecological and socio-economic researches. The researchers from both Nepal and abroad may have their presentation at both oral and poster session. The panel discussion will follow by four panelists who will make their presentation on research in protected areas and nature conservation. The audience may have their very independent and open views, queries, questions, comments and suggestions over the views of panelists. They can give their suggestions in such a way that the government officials can improve their research permission process; translate the research results into policy formulation and planning as well. On the other hand, the researchers will understand how to coordinate the government officials and make collaborative research with young and energetic researchers and maintain their minimum ethics while doing scientific research in the protected areas and other research sites as well. There is no registration fee and all Rufford Grantees freely participate and put their views.

#### **4. Rufford Grant and Nepal Position**

Based on the information provide by the RSGF, Nepal is one of the major countries to benefit from the Rufford Fund. The latest data shows that 63 young researchers have been got 86 small projects (Figure 1). Three researchers succeeded to get three projects each and 18 researchers were succeeded to get two projects each while 41 researchers succeeded to one project each. The amount of fund ranges from £1000 to £12000. The data further revealed that the total amount of £443000 which is equivalent to around 57 million of Nepali Rupees.

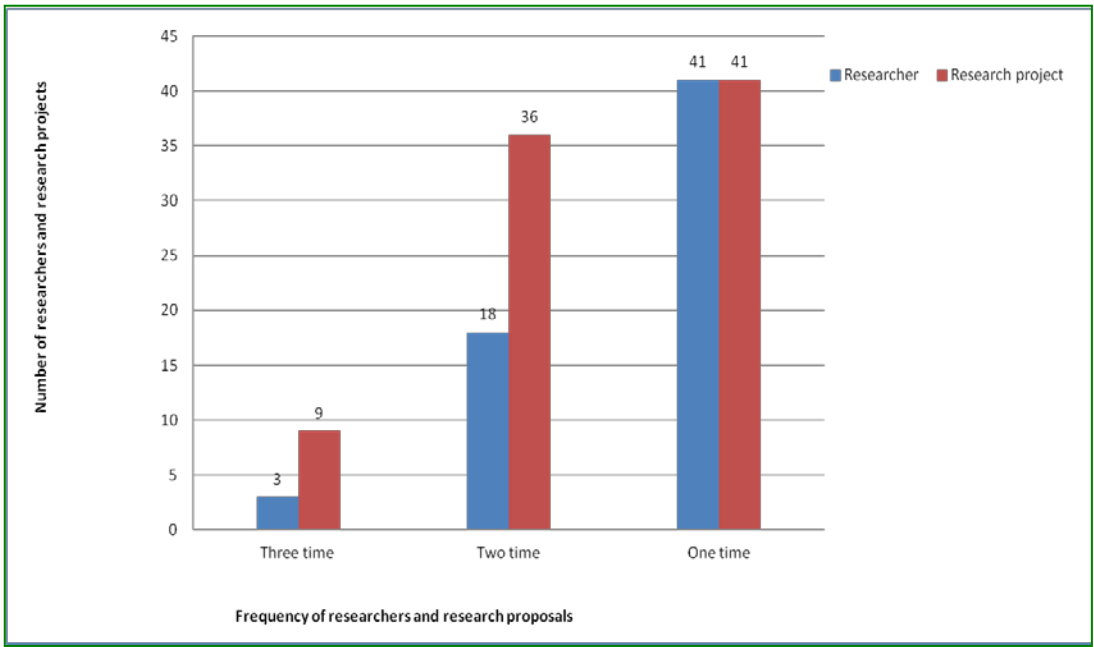


Figure 1. Rufford supported researchers and research projects

The Rufford researches were distributed across the country. However, majority of the researches were carried out inside the protected area system and their buffer zones (Figure 2).

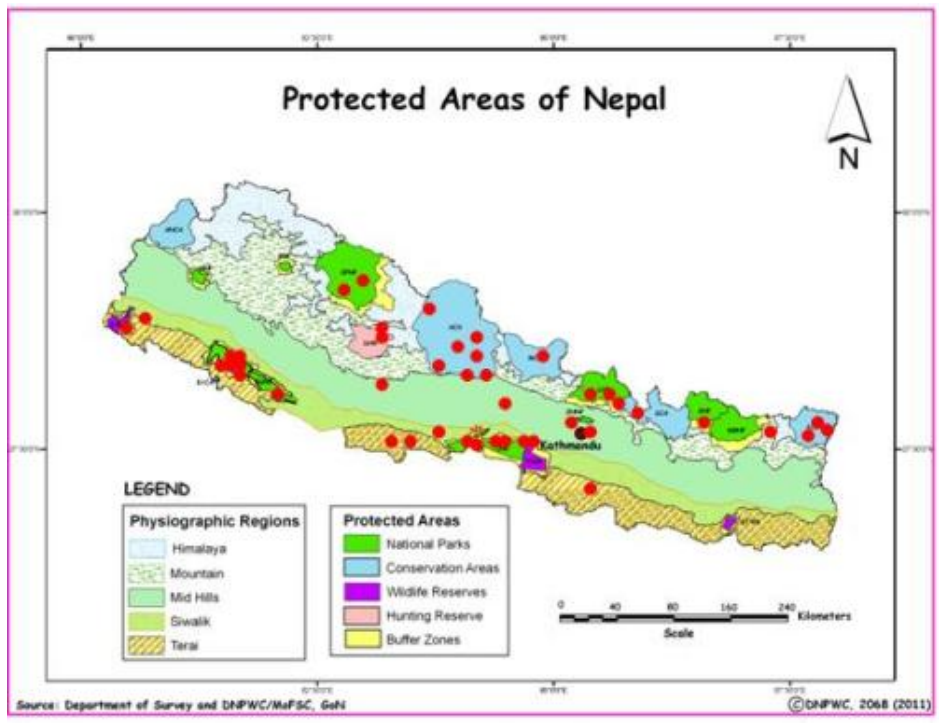


Figure 2. Distribution of Rufford research in Nepal

## 5. Abstract submission and proceeding

By e-mail and phone call, all Rufford grantees were requested to submit the two to three pages abstract for Nepalese conference. Although the request was made to all 63 grantees, only 46 grantees submitted their abstract (Figure 3). Seventeen grantees did not make any contact in the given time, but a few researchers were made contact and apologize not being in touch in time and also not being able to submit the abstract. Even though some of the grantees did not submit their paper, paper submitted researchers actively participate in the conference. In the beginning, the 31<sup>st</sup> of November, 2011 was given deadline to submit the papers. Following the request of some researchers, the deadline was extended till December and finally 46 papers were received. All the papers were edited and published in the proceeding form.

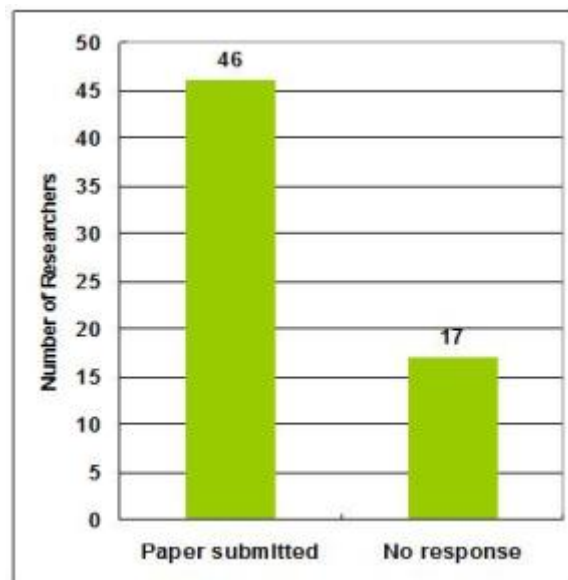


Figure 3. Number of abstract that submitted to the Nepalese conference

As mentioned earlier, all abstract were edited by an expert and published in the proceeding form. Around two hundred pages proceeding was published and distributed to all participants in the conference. In the history of protected area research, the proceeding is the only one document that serves 46 articles in a single book.

## **6. Paper Presentation and organization of conference**

All paper submitters were expected to make their presentation by themselves. They are also timely informed by e-mail and phone call. However, some of the researchers being outside the country and some others due to unavoidable circumstances could not attend and make their presentation by themselves. The schedule of the conference is given in the annex-II and name list of conference participants is given Annex-II.

Some of the photos of conference are separately submitted in the power point file.

The Nepalese conference was organized in the Shangri-La Hotel, which is located in the central of capital, Katmandu of Nepal. It was well organized and everything was managed in the standard manner. The chairperson of the sessions was invited from very reputed personalities of reputed organizations. The twelve minutes presentation time was given to all presenters and three minutes for discussion. The foods and accommodations costs of all presentations were borne from the fund provided by the Rufford. Even all transportation costs were also borne by the fund and none of the presenters' paid single penny to attend the conference.

The interaction session was focused into three main topics. The topics are:

- How to write good proposal, conduct the research, and publish the results (**Quality of research**)?
- How to conduct and coordinate the research (**code of ethics of researchers**)?
- How to translate the research results into government policy and planning process (**Responsible governance**)?

## **7. Impacts of the conference on policy designing and planning**

This Nepalese conference is expected four outcomes. First, the researchers will get a chance to explore their innovative research results to wide range of audiences particularly policy-makers, planners and protected area managers. As expected, the researchers presented their papers by themselves. In many instances, it was observed that some of the

researchers has built their confidence to their work and looks very happy. Second, the policy-makers, planners and protected area managers were benefited from various kinds of new and innovative research results and found gap between experience and new knowledge derived from those innovative researches. Normally, the bureaucratic policy-makers, planners and protected area managers have very strong experience of field, but sometimes they are over confidence and looked unnecessary proud. To verify their experience with respect to new knowledge, the conference was found very useful and instrumental. Therefore, it is highly crucial to update their knowledge and make their experience more robust through innovative research outputs. Third, the proceeding which was produced in the conference is such a record which always provides reference to the policy-makers and researchers. It will also help to larger audience who are interested in protected and wildlife conservation and management. The DNPWC has always facing the poor record reporting of research; while the readers can read 46 research papers in a single book, which was rarely found in the past. Forth, but not the least, the Rufford Small Grant Foundation, Director Mr. Josh Cole presented in the conference and observed the presentation. In fact, the conference has provided to know the RSGF to understand how its grantees are doing research in the field and how much they are useful to the society and nature as well. In addition, this proposes conference will provide an opportunity to verify the Rufford Foundation to its objectives in real ground.

#### **8. Conference Organizer:**

The workshop was jointly organized by Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation (DNPWC), Nepal; Rufford Small Grant Foundation and WWF Nepal. The RSGF provided the costs incur to organize the conference as a whole.



## Annex-I

### Research in protected areas of Nepal: Interface between Researchers and Managers

Organized by Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation

Supported by Rufford Small Grant Foundation

Date: January 13, 2012    Presentation time: 12 Minutes    Discussion time: 3 Minutes

Time	Name of Presenters'	Remarks
9:00-10:00	Registration/Tea with snacks	Binod Giri/Bhola Nath Dhakal
10:00-10:30	Self Introduction	Facilitated by Dr. Maheshwar Dhakal
10:30-10:45	Ambika Prasad Khatiwada	<b>Chaired by Dr. Hem Sagar Baral</b>
10:45-11:00	Sagar Paudel	
11:00-11:15	Babu Ram Bhattarai	
11:15-11:30	Bhupendra Prasad Yadav	
11:30-11:45	Bishnu Hari Wagle	
11:45-12:00	<b>Tea break</b>	
12:00-12:15	Bishnu Prasad Devkota	
12:15-12:30	Damodar Gaire	
12:30-12:45	Deepa Paudel	
12:45-13:00	Dev Ghimire	
13:00-14:00	<b>Lunch</b>	<b>Chaired by Dr. Hum Gurung</b>
14:00-14:15	Dhirendra Prahdan	
14:15-14:30	Dipesh Joshi	
14:30-14:45	Dol Raj Thanet	
14:45-15:00	Sailendra Ranjitkar	
15:00-15:15	Ganga Ram Regmi	
15:15-15:30	Hari Prasad Sharma	
15:30-15:45	<b>Tea break</b>	
15:45-16:00	Hem Sagar Baral	
16:00-16-15	Ishana Thapa	
16:15-16:30	Kamal Adhikari	
16:30-16:45	Dhananjaya Lamichhane/RameshParajuli	
16:45-17:00	Kanchan Thapa	

Research in protected areas of Nepal: Interface between Researchers and Managers

**Organized by Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation  
Supported by Rufford Small Grant Foundation**

**Presentation time:**

**Date: January 14, 2012**

**12 Minutes**

**Discussion time: 3 Minutes**

Time	Name of Presenter	Remarks
9:00-9:30	Registration/Tea and Snacks	Binod Giri/Bhola Nath Dhakal
9:30-9:45	Khila Nath Sapkota	<b>Chaired by Dr. Dr. Shanta Raj Jnawali</b>
9:45-10:00	Krishna Prasad Pokharel	
10:00-10:15	Kumar Luitel	
10:15-10:30	Mohan Raj Kafle	
10:30-10:45	Narayan Prasad Gautam	
10:45-11:00	Krishna Bhusal	video
11:00-11:15	Pabitra Jha	video
<b>11:15-11:30</b>	<b>Tea Break</b>	
11:30-11:45	Paras Acharya	
11:45-12:00	Paras Singh	
12:00-12:15	Parshuram Sharma Niraula	
12:15-12:30	Prakash Thapa	
12:30-12:45	Prashant Pant	
12:45-13:00	Prativa Kaspal	
<b>13:00-14:00</b>	<b>Lunch</b>	<b>Chaired by Professor Dr. KK Shrestha</b>
14:00-14:15	Rabindra Parajuli	
14:15-14:30	Sanjan Thapa	
14:30-14:45	Shova Thapa	
14:45-15:00	Suman Bhattarai	
15:00-15:15	Sunil Thapa	
15:15-15:30	Tulsi Ram Subedi	
15:30-15:45	Uttam Sharma (Luitel)	
15:45-16:00	Erica Udas	
16:00-17:00	Panel discussion	Mr. Josh Cole
		Professor Dr. KK Shrestha
		Mr. Deepak Kharal
		Dr. Shanta Raj Jnawali
		Dr. Bishwo Nath Oli
		Mr. Ram Prasad Lamsal
<b>17:00-17:30</b>	<b>Closing ceremony with Hi Tea</b>	<b>Chaired by Mr. Ram Prasad Lamsal</b>

## Annex-II: List of Conference Participants

Research in Protected Areas of Nepal: Interface between Researchers and Managers

Attendance sheet for Nepalese Conference for Rufford Grantees

Duration :

13 and 14 January, 2012

Place:

Sangrila Hotel, Lazimpat, Kathmandu, Nepal

SN	Participant name	Address (District/City only)	Signature		Remarks
			13-Jan	14-Jan-12	
1	Ambika Prasad Khatiwada				
2	Sagar Paudel				
3	Babu Ram Bhattarai				
4	Bhupendra Prasad Yadav				
5	Bishnu Hari Wagle				
6	Bishnu Prasad Devkota				
7	Damodar Gaire				
8	Deepa Paudel				
9	Dev Ghimire				
10	Dhananjaya Lamichhane/RameshParajuli				
12	Dhirendra Prahdan				
13	Dipesh Joshi				
14	Dol Raj Thanet				
15	Sailendra Ranjitkar				
16	Ganga Ram Regmi				
17	Hari Prasad Sharma				
18	Hem Baral				
20	Ishana Thapa				
21	Kamal Adhikari				
22	Kamal Gairhe				
23	Kanchan Thapa				
24	Khila Nath Sapkota				
25	Krishna Prasad Pokharel				
26	Kumar Luitel				
27	Mohan Raj Kafle				
28	Narayan Prasad Gautam				
29	Nirmala Pradhan				
30	Pabitra Jha				
32	Paras Acharya				
33	Paras Singh				
34	Parshuram Sharma Niraula				
35	Prakash Thapa				
36	Prashant Pant				
37	Prativa Kaspal				
39	Rabindra Parajuli				
40	Sanjan Thapa				

41	Shova Thapa				
42	Suman Bhattarai				
43	Sunil Thapa				
44	Tulsi Ram Subedi				
45	Uttam Sharma (Luitel)				
46	Erica Udas				
47	Prativa Jha				
48	Krishna Bhusal				
49	Krishna Prasad Acharya				
50	Bishwo Nath Oli				
51	Dr. Maheshwar Dhakal				
52	Barna Bahadur Thapa				
53	Mr. Bholu Nath Dhakal				
54	Mr. Josh Cole				
55	Mr. Ram Prasad Lamsal				
56	Prof. Dr. KK Shrestha				
57	Mr. Deepak Kharal				
58	Sunil Khatioda				
59	Binod Giri				
60	Sun Man Tamang				
61	Nar Bahadur Tamang				
62	Suman Lamichhane				
63	Laxmi Prasad Dhakal				
64	Dr. SR Jnawali				
65	Dr. Narendra MB Pradhan				
66	Mr. Diwakar Chapagain				
67	Mr. Jhamak Karki				
68	Bishal Dhakal				
69	Suman Devkota				
70	Sunil Sharma				
71	Bindu Kumari				
72	Ambika Paudel				
73	Ram Prasad Lamsal				
74	Krishna Prasad Acharya				
75	Deepak Kharal				