

## 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](mailto:jane@rufford.org).

Thank you for your help.

**Josh Cole, Grants Director**

Grant Recipient Details	
Your name	Bishnu Prasad Devkota
Project title	Human- snow leopard conflict mitigation Project, Nepal
RSG reference	02.03.09
Reporting period	02 July 2009 to 30 March 2011
Amount of grant	£5800
Your email address	<a href="mailto:devkotabishnu@yahoo.com">devkotabishnu@yahoo.com</a>
Date of this report	16 April 2011

**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
Reduce retaliatory killing of snow leopard by educating herders			Fully achieved	Local herders have been educated through literacy classes
Develop an information centre to disseminate the importance of snow leopard conservation.			Fully achieved	Development of information centre, dissemination of information through pamphlet and flip chart.
Empower local people to cope with snow leopard conflict		Partially achieved		Trained local people in basic veterinary service skills, trained law enforcement staffs, herder's education.

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

The major difficulties arose during the project was that the project could not be completed during the specified time due to political instability of the country, local people's time for involvement in the project and remoteness of the project site. The project was however successfully completed taking additional time.

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

This project focused on empowering local people to reduce conflict with snow leopard. The three most important outcome of this project are briefly summarised.

- a. **Empowering the local people:** Local people have been empowered through both knowledge and skill transfer. Literacy classes were run where 45 local herders participated. These classes focused on the importance of snow leopard conservation and way to reduce conflict with snow leopard. Local people are now aware of snow leopard conservation. To mitigate conflict, three local people have been trained through basic veterinary skill so that they can provide treatments to wound and disease suffered livestock. These trained veterinary workers have adopted their professional work which has also improved their livelihood in one hand and accomplish veterinary service in the locality. This can play long last role in creating harmony between snow leopard and human.
- b. **Trained law enforcement staffs:** Though the National Park and Wildlife Conservation Act of 1973 has made strict provision about the illegal trade, penalty and charge for illegal hunting and misuse of wildlife trophy by any means, the level of awareness in such issues amongst the staff was insufficient. So, they were unable to motivate local people which are the major cause of wildlife hunting in project site. Law enforcement staff have been trained on control of illegal

wildlife trade. This was the first training of its kind given to army, police and park staff in Shey Phoksundo National Park. This has raised the level of awareness among the law enforcement staff and deepens their understanding on possible ways of controlling illegal trade of wildlife and their parts.

- c. **Dissemination of importance of snow leopard conservation:** Conducting research and involvement of students have empowered the future generation to be involved in conservation. I have also carried out a research on human-snow leopard conflict in the project site and presented in national level seminar, and later published a paper in the proceedings. Importance of snow leopard conservation has been disseminated through different media i.e. individual, group and mass media. With contact key professionals, coordination of different stakeholders, dissemination work has been more effective and wide spread. Not only in Shey Phoksundo National Park, its dissemination work been conducted in most of the protected areas where snow leopard presence has been recorded.

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

Local people have been considered to be the primary stakeholders in implementation of this project. During this project, local herders have been educated; youth of the village have been trained with basic veterinary skills, and local people are involved in every activities of this project. Thus, through this project both knowledge and skill transfer to local people on mitigating human-snow leopard conflict in the project site has been achieved.

All the activities were conducted in the joint venture of local institutions, community based organisations and local conservationists which made local stakeholders take this project as their own programme and felt ownership in fullest. So, the implementation of the learning will be continued in local areas for ever.

**5. Are there any plans to continue this work?**

After completing this project and looking similar issues to other critical species, learning and achievements of some activities have to be replicated in other protected areas in order to bring harmony between human and wildlife because most of the protected areas are facing such types of conflicts. Some activities have to be improved as well so that local people feel more ownership and are committed to replicate some activities in days to come. Training of law enforcement staff to control illegal wildlife trades has been very effective and this has to be replicated in other protected areas. Some refreshing training to continue veterinary service will have to be continued in the same site so that local youth continue this as their profession which will ultimately help to mitigate human- snow leopard / other wildlife conflict.

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

Only conducting some activities keeps less meaning to make project more effective. Sharing and dissemination of project output and learning will be helpful to attract allied agencies to make responsible in snow-leopard conservation with encouragement of local people.

So, the result of this work will be shared through web, publication and other media (international and regional level web and scientific article, national workshop, seminar and paper, local papers,

interaction and school visits). I have always used seminars and workshops as appropriate places to share my work among the conservation workers. At the grassroots level, I have always linked this work with my other studies related to snow leopard and attempted to lure local attention in this endeavours.

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

Regarding the time scale of my project, it has taken a longer time than what was anticipated. Due to remoteness and personal causes, the project has been delayed by 10 months, but it was still a successful project for its output.

**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
Basic veterinary skill training	1950	2035	85	Due to decrease in exchange rate of £ sterling and increase market prices, previously estimated budget was insufficient
Prepare conflict awareness teaching materials	270	345	75	
Herders education	840	905	65	
Lamas workshop on human-snow leopard mitigation measures	280	258	22	
Establish a snow leopard information centre	380	430	50	
Training law enforcement staff on CITES and trade of wildlife and its part (army, park staff, police, post office staff, anti poaching units)	535	490	45	
Accommodation and field gears for project implementing team	860	962	102	
Transportation to and from sites @ 2 times	200	225	25	
Communication (Phone, internet, fax)	85	50	35	
Equipment (Digital camera)	300	00	300	I used the camera that was given for another project work. I could not purchase it because of insufficient money.

Report dissemination	100	100	00	
<b>Total</b>	5800	<b>5800</b>	00	

Apart from the budget provided by RSGF, local institutions and local government bodies like Shey Phoksundo National Park Headquarter, District Forest Office and District Veterinary Office have been very helpful and supportive in conducting this project. Their support in kind has been taken without which this project would not have been so successful. I have also collaborated with other researchers and conservation workers with similar activities to make the full use of the limited budget.

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

Conservation should be linked with the livelihood of local people. Unless we uplift the livelihood of local people, we cannot implement conservation work and neither obtain the support of local people in this endeavour. In the next step, I should continue to support the veterinary skill training and also encourage the local people to build predator proof corrals to reduce conflict with snow leopard. Livestock insurance scheme can be another option to reduce human snow leopard conflict in the area.

#### **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?**

During the project, I used the RSGF logo in Pamphlet, banner and other publications. RSGF received publicity during the project implementation period.

#### **11. Any other comments?**

The Trans-Himalayan region remains one of the most pristine ecosystems of the world. Due to their remoteness in one hand and political instability on the other, it is very difficult to implement conservation activities timely. The snow leopard (*Uncia uncia*) is possibly a barometer for assessing environmental health and biodiversity conservation in high mountainous areas. So, we should work more intensively in this species in days to come also. Conflict with human remains to be the major reason of snow leopard decline, so this work is not sufficient to save this endangered species.