

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	Narayan Prasad Gautam
Project title	Sloth Bear Conservation Project, Chitwan National Park, Nepal
RSG reference	05.03.10
Reporting period	1 year (December 2010- February 2012)
Amount of grant	£5695
Your email address	gautamsimara@gmail.com
Date of this report	February 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
Objective 1: To find out the present status and distribution of sloth bear in and around the Chitwan National Park (CNP), Nepal		✓		<p>Sloth Bear (<i>Melursus ursinus</i>): not receive legal protection in Nepal. Estimated population of sloth bear is about 271 in CNP. It is in increasing in order. This figure was estimated/calculated from the key informant survey and interaction workshops with the CNP nearby people. We agree that this interview and interaction method of estimating the status is not better than other status estimating methods. Along this, it was very hard to calculate the status of sloth bear with the camera trap data processing. Here we can't separate the sex and individual.</p> <p>Distribution map of the sloth bear was prepared with the camera trap data using GIS. These data were requested from the National Trust for Nature Conservation (NTNC), Biodiversity Centre Chitwan. Data were collected in 2008-2009 by Nepal Government, WWF Nepal and NTNC. Total camera fixed in the area was 310 where sloth bear was captured in camera in 44. Maximum capture of the sloth bear was found along the Narayani River (Longest river of Nepal passes through the Park) and eastern buffer zone area of CNP. Sloth Bears occur in a wide variety of habitats ranging from grasslands, thorn scrub, <i>Shorea robusta</i> forest, moist evergreen forest and riverine forest. In occupancy survey, maximum capture was made in <i>Shorea</i> forest.</p> <p>In the approved proposal of this project, there was another method to assess the status i.e. sign survey. But we got the camera trap data which helped us to make distributional map.</p>
Objective 2: To assess the conservation threats concerning sloth bear			✓	<p>Frequency of crop damage by bear is higher than that of human or livestock attack. 14.43% last year crops of people's field were damaged by bear in CNP. Better implementation of crop insurance policy can make positive attitude of people towards bear conservation (willingness to Pay USD 50.01 per annum per buffer zone household of CNP).</p> <p>Whatever victims received as compensation from</p>

				<p>park is not satisfactory (or value is not equal to the loss). People are interested to conserve the bear but need knowledge, with raising awareness and research. Authority has been taking lesser attention on bear and its welfare which is facilitating to poaching and destructing its habitat by human or by invaders. Threats on bear are relatively lesser than that of other flagships in CNP. Conflict led due to bear action is relatively lesser than that of other flagships in CNP.</p> <p>Lesser priority of authority, improper planning, poaching and habitat destruction limit the conservation of sloth bear in CNP. Major threat on sloth bear conservation is habitat destruction by people interference (people use park resources from park use zone where bear presence was observed maximum) and invaders (<i>Mikania</i> plant spp.)</p>
Objective-3: To conduct various conservation activities in favour of Sloth bear			✓	
3.1: Participatory workshop			-do-	<p>Different level stakeholders were participated in the workshop. Total 55 individuals of eight separate fields were participated. In this workshop, out comes of the study under objective 1 and 2 of this project were discussed/disseminated. This was held in Institute of Forestry (IOF) Pokhara Campus Pokhara Nepal. Feedback from IOF faculties, IOF post graduate students and other participants were really valuable to the study team.</p>
3.2: ZOPP and APPA exercise			✓	<p>Another ZOPP and APPA (combine) exercise were organised for preparing the Participatory Sloth Bear conservation plan where NTNC, IOF faculties, Buffer zone users of CNP were involved in the process.</p>
3.3: FM radio program			✓	<p>15 episodes of FM radio programme were designed and broadcast from Radio Chitwan (Community Radio in Chitwan valley) with close coordination with NTNC Chitwan. Here study findings, views of field technicians on sloth bear, researcher views (esp. Achyut Aryal, worked in black and brown bear in Nepal), Park staff and politicians views were disseminated.</p>
3.4: Formation of Sloth bear conservation club			✓	<p>One sloth bear conservation club was formed where Buffer zone users studying at IOF and some from different profession were joined actively.</p>

				They made their working guidelines with the help of us. Name of the club is “Nature conservation group”. Project organised Conservation leadership training and proposal writing training to the club members where USAID funded MemCoE Project (Project in IOF, Nepal) facilitated the sessions.
3.5: Conservation campaigns			✓	Nature Conservation Group (club formed under the project) organised one essay competition, three quiz competitions on the theme of sloth bear. Beside these, five rallies were organised where project outcomes were disseminated.
3.6: Advocacy meetings			✓	The club organised several meetings with park authority, other governmental institutions and local level politicians and conducted small workshops (in the affected area identified by the study) where club put the agenda of prepared plan and its efficiency for conserving the sloth bear in the CNP. It was a part of advocacy for approval of the plan.

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

In approved proposal of this project, there was mentioned sign survey method for assessing the status of the sloth bear in CNP. At that time there was not any facility of laboratory analysis (genetic analysis) in Nepal. In National Park and Wildlife Conservation Act/Regulation Nepal, there is strictly prohibited to cross the border with parts and other animal’s related materials. Due to that reason, we faced some problems in redrawing the methodology of the project esp. for objective 1. It was a prime cause to delay reporting of the project. NTNC Chitwan helped us to overcome this problem; they suggested us to use camera trap data (taken from NTNC, WWF Nepal and Department of National Park and Wildlife Conservation Nepal) for making sloth bear distribution map. Also, they suggested to do interview with field level park and trust technicians, nearby park people, victims of wildlife for estimating the bear status in recall basis. We have successfully accomplished such task according to Trust suggestions.

I have been selected to participate in 1-month long ZSL EDGE training hosted by NTNC Chitwan and held in CNP Nepal during the project period. The training has very useful to me to learn ecological monitoring, GIS and use of statistical software for data analysis. Along this, I have to give an exam of University service commission for promotion in Lecturer at IOF Nepal during the project period. These were other causes to delay reporting of the project. But at those periods I was regularly in contact with the Nature Conservation Group for further planning and monitoring their progress in field. In my absence from the project, the club facilitated and smoothly run the remaining activities in the field.

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

- a) We prepare distributional map of sloth bear in CNP: government authority has not been giving sufficient attention towards sloth bear conservation comparing to other flagship animals. At that arena, we produce sloth bear distributional map, which will be more supportive to the Park authority and other stakeholders for making future plan and carrying out study regarding sloth bear conservation.
- b) Formation of Nature Conservation Group (club): We form peer educator team (eco club) for facilitating the conservation activities, searching resources for such activities, creating pressure for enforcing the participatory plan. We believe that this club will be success to establish local voices or other stakeholders' voice, ideas and skill to future conservation especially sloth bear conservation.
- c) Preparation of Participatory Sloth Bear action plan and its advocacy: We prepare participatory Sloth Bear Conservation Plan which will be the first step towards conserving the sloth bear in CNP. In the plan, we are success to get ideas of all concerned local level stakeholders. The plan represents their commitment and role towards sloth bear conservation. We are so happy to get opportunity to add foundational brick in sloth bear conservation in Nepal. This is a first time in Nepal to prepare Participatory Sloth Bear Conservation Plan.

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

Directly and indirectly, local people have involved in the project. Club was formed from Buffer zone communities who are studying the forestry course in IOF Nepal. FM radio programme helped to share sloth bear distribution, impact of its presence and absence in the area, need of its conservation among the people of Chitwan valley. People who are dwelling the nearby CNP (vulnerable to interface with sloth bear) were informed about the potential threats and policy related to crop damage, livestock depredation and human attack and causality from wild animal. That message/information will help to victims from wild animals to access towards relief benefits. Primarily, representative of local communities were involved in plan preparation process.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

- a. From my side: I am planning to further work in ecological study, diet analysis, dissemination of result through workshops in different level, preparing website, strengthening the club by involving them in the project and exposure visit regarding sloth bear in CNP.
- a. I believe that this project will not be adequately addressed to conserve the sloth bear. This completed project gives idea on prime conservation threats. Now, we have participatory plan and an active group. Using these outputs of the project, sloth bear ecology regarding diet analysis should be needed to study. Also, sufficiently dissemination of plan is must. For that, various workshops will be needed. If we will get chance to continue the sloth bear conservation work, we will try to make a separate website and propose strengthening/sustaining activities to the group (formed under this project).
- b. From Nature conservation group: Ultimately aim of this project was to work for sloth bear conservation locally. Now the group formed from local communities of CNP. Also they have forestry knowledge and skill to write proposal. I believe that now the group can access towards donor by submitting the conservation ideas. Our plan is to make a separate project

for strengthening the group and expand its network horizontally and vertically. In new concept, the activities will be; new group formation as eco club in schools, training to eco club, preparation of regional level Sloth Bear conservation Plan, installing hoarding board, organising quiz, essay and street drama.

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

- Now a day, I am preparing article for publishing in related international journal.
- Planning to organise three seminars for presenting the work carried out under the project (two in forestry colleges of IOF and one in CNP, Nepal)
- Some new findings of the study will be posted in AACD (NGO working for conservation, established in Nepal) website.
- Report submission to CNP, IOF and Rufford.

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

The project was designed for 1 year. Unfortunately, extra 4 months were required for its successful completion. In inception of the project, formal consent was needed from Department of National Park and Wildlife Conservation. We had to redesign the methodology part according to the suggestion received from the park and trust authority. It took 2 months. Also, I had to join ZSL EDGE training, took extra 1 month. All are responsible for delaying the project completion. Now we learned that, we should design assumption and risk of the project before project planning.

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
Communication	81.08	72.07	9.01	
Study	781.3	855.86	-74.56	Taken more respondent (hh survey and KIS) in survey than proposed Study team (local assistant and PI) stayed in field more than proposed
Field allowance (food + accommodation of PI)	217.7	216.22	1.48	
Transportation	90.09	94.59	-4.50	
Study analysis	180	180.00	0.00	
Participatory workshop	73	71.17	1.83	
ZOPP/APPA exercise	187.04	216.22	-29.18	Increased the number of participants in the exercise than proposed/expected
FM radio program	1621.68	1351.35	270.33	The project had used community managed radio "Radio Chitwan" for disseminating the message. Radio Chitwan gave heavy discount due to the program are message oriented.

Club/group formation	434.23	468.47	-34.24	Increased food and hall charged
Essay/quiz competition	112.6	198.20	-85.60	Organised quiz per as community demand (only essay was mentioned in proposal)
Rallies	270	261.26	8.74	
Mobile workshop	450.5	495.50	-45.00	Increased the events
Advocacy programme	450.5	495.50	-45.00	-do-
Report writing/corresponding	135.14	126.13	9.01	
Remuneration to Principal Investigator (PI)	610.12	610.12	0.00	
Total	5694.98	0.00	-17.66	MemCoE (USAID funded project in IOF Nepal) supported in group strengthening activities like training by £ sterling 50. Now group has remaining amount.

[1 £ sterling=111 Nepali Rupees]

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

Ecology analysis of sloth bear, its diet analysis in laboratory, dissemination of sloth bear and concerning research output in mass level and strengthening the group formed under the project will be my second step towards the sloth bear conservation. Also I am motivating the group for applying the proposal on advocacy for sloth bear plan (prepared under the project) enforcement, regional level sloth bear plan preparation, conservation campaigns on sloth bear.

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?

RSGF logos have been used in sloth bear conservation awareness banner, workshop banner, essay and quiz banner, training banner, presentations.

11. Any other comments?

Acknowledgement:

Rufford Small Grant Foundation

Naresh Subedi and Baburam Lamichhane -National trust for Nature Conservation Biodiversity Conservation Centre, Chitwan

DNPWC Kathmandu

WWF-Nepal

CNP Kasara, Nepal

MemCoE Project/IOF Nepal

Institute of Forestry, Pokhara, Nepal

All respondents of the survey.