

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	Sanjan Thapa
Project title	Altitudinal variation in bats, understanding people's perception to bats and creating bat conservation awareness in Sagarmatha (Everest) Zone, Eastern Nepal
RSG reference	10038-2
Reporting period	Eighteen months
Amount of grant	£5616
Your email address	sanjan_thapa@yahoo.com
Date of this report	June 2013

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
Explore bat species and their habitats. Document variation of elevation in assemblage of bat species			yes	This project records seven species from the eight sites in the project area for the first time. Variation of elevation in assemblage of bat species was seen within the range of 206m a.s.l. to 1373m a.s.l. Maximum diversity was recorded from mid-hills.
Access the level of knowledge regarding bats and their importance			yes	Schedule survey was conducted. Pre-awareness survey was conducted amongst 168 and post-awareness survey was conducted amongst 180 local people.
Awareness to school children as well as parents and locals of the area through arts, documentary and drama		yes		<p>Open-Art Competition and Awareness Programme were conducted amongst 101 and 418 schoolchildren in seven and eight schools, respectively. Post-awareness open art competition was conducted amongst 144 schoolchildren at six schools.</p> <p>Due to the electricity problem (load shedding) the documentary programme could not be launched. Hesitation and unwillingness of schoolchildren to act in drama, drama could also not be undertaken. Both programmes were changed to lecture deliver.</p> <p>The forty-five minutes lecture to schoolchildren programme was conducted in eight schools of the project area. Exams in the school during the time of field visit caused disturbance to conduct awareness activities.</p> <p>The open bat-art exhibition programme in Kathmandu did not receive publicity and public attention because of final exams in the school and continuous strikes.</p> <p>One thousand copies of bat calendar 2014 was printed and distributed which is the first kind of such bat outreach material produced in Nepal. The calendar clearly shows the level of knowledge the schoolchildren has</p>

				gained. The calendar is still on high demand.
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2. Please explain any unforeseen difficulties that arose during the project and how these were tackled (if relevant).

Schools of the project area was closed for a longer time than expected because of the longer winter vacation (in colder parts), longer summer vacation (in inner terai) and untimely closings of different schools. Due to this, the project was started three months later from January 2012.

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

- Exploring bat species and their habitats. Documenting variation of elevation in assemblage of bat species**

Seven species of bats were recorded for the first time from this area. Bat sound analysis was conducted for the first time in Nepal. This project was important to report the highest elevation occurrence of *Eonycteris spelaea* in the world. It was also useful to report the first record of association of *E. spelaea* and *Rousettus leschenaultii* in Nepal. This project resulted in first record of genus *Hypsugo* from Nepal as well as third record of *Philetor brachypterus* to Nepal.
- Accessing the level of knowledge regarding bats and their importance**

The analysis after the post-awareness survey showed that the level of knowledge regarding bats and their importance of ecosystem services was found to be upgraded amongst local people including schoolchildren.
- Creating awareness to school children as well as parents and locals of the area through arts, documentary and drama**

This programme was first of kind bat conservation initiative in the area. It had a high significance in conservation of bats through information sharing from us to their parents, friends, relatives and society. Bat Calendar was first type of outreach material produced on bats. It was successful in the sense; it shows the well knowledge of schoolchildren about bats after the project.

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

Schoolchildren from local communities were given lecture on importance of bats and their conservation which benefitted to aware them not to kill bats and not to allow bat killings further. Similarly, the open art competition and exhibition as well as calendar printing and dissemination added such information to a mass throughout the area and the country emphasizing for conservation of bats.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes, we will continue bat surveys and conservation projects in other parts of Nepal where bat studies have not reached yet.

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

During the project ongoing some articles from the field experience and conservation activities were published in “Small Mammal Mail” newsletter of CCINSA and Newsletter of IUCN SSC Bat Specialist Group, Bat Research News. Presentations regarding this project will be conducted during invited lectures, National seminars organized by SMCRF and international conferences. We have planned to publish a journal article in “Acta Chiropterologica” or “Journal of Threatened Taxa” or any standard journals. Similarly, activities of the project are uploaded in SMCRF’s website. Reports of this project have been disseminated and submitted to different institutions, stakeholders, INGO’s and NGO’s and libraries.

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

The RSG fund was used for 18 months from January 2012 to June 2013, which was equal to the anticipated length of project. However, the project was started lately even after the fund was received during September 2012.

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
Transportation	216	362	+146	The vehicle fare was expensive than expected. At the same time, the fare was increased immensely by the Government.
Accommodation	1920	2078	+158	The living cost was much higher in Solukhumbu district than expected
Pettersson D 240x BAT DETECTOR	872	-	-	Idea Wild supported Pettersson D 200
Open Art Competition Drawing set (Colour, cardboard, pencil, sharpner and eraser)	1280	1376	+96	Increased price for cardboard
Art Exhibition	600	600	0	
Bat Calendar	1000	900	-100	
Communication	80	150	+70	
Stationeries	90	60	-30	Stationeries from bat art competition were used
GIS Mapping	400	0	-400	Team member mapped without any cost
Report preparation	30	90	+60	No. of reports were increased
Total	5616	5616	0	

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

From this project we came to understand that peoples' misperception could not be radically changed, it will take time. It is true that until and unless they get some solid direct benefits from bats, local people would not be encouraged for the conservation of the species. Hence, we are looking forward to initiating the "Nepal Bat Tourism Project" with the support from Rufford Booster Grant and support from other funding agencies.

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 logo was used in banner of the bat art exhibition, bat calendars, published reports during the project. RSGF received great publicity during this project through the calendar.

11. Any other comments?

We are thankful to RSGF, for their kind financial support due to which recording of bats species in Everest Zone was successful which is the first record of species from the area and rare attempts in bat studies of Nepal. Large number of schoolchildren was aware on bats and their importance through this project in the study area. Bat calendar was first time published in Nepal.