

The Rufford Foundation

Final Report

Congratulations on the completion of your project that was supported by The Rufford 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	Jyotendra Jyu Thakuri
Project title	Survey and conservation of Cheer Pheasant <i>Catreus wallichii</i> , in Rara National Park, Nepal
RSG reference	11313-1
Reporting period	1 year
Amount of grant	£5995
Your email address	jyotendra@birdlifenepal.org and jyotendra123@gmail.com
Date of this report	July 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
Population status, distribution, habitat requirement and threats			√	This project was successful to generate robust information on existing population status and threats of cheer pheasant around the Rara National Park in. Cheer pheasant were recorded from steep slopes with open pine forest and hill grassland. Direct observation and questionnaire survey provided the information on historical distribution of cheer pheasant and existing threats for the survival of cheer pheasant.
Training for local people and park staffs for the cheer pheasant monitoring			√	Total of eight local people and park staff were trained and involved during the implementation of project.
Awareness raising and promotion			√	<p>Twenty-five conservation awareness events were organised among chiefs of district level office representatives and political parties, security personnel, buffer zone user committee members, school/college and local villagers. A total of 650 people directly participated in these events.</p> <p>Educational materials with conservation message were developed and distributed. Fifty copies of Birds of Nepal, the field guides were also distributed.</p> <p>Cheer pheasant conservation message in local tongue was broadcasted in two local FM radios for 1 month which can be heard in Mugu and Jumla district.</p> <p>One episode on Cheer Pheasant was broadcasted in <i>Panchi Sansar</i> the radio program of BCN in image FM.</p>

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

Project area being located in remote part of country to and from travel was very difficult. Favourable seasons to visit the project site were autumn and spring only. Unfortunately, during these season

difficulties was faced to get air ticket to the project sites. Therefore, it was delayed to run the conservation awareness events.

During midway of this project other two members left Bird Conservation Nepal (BCN) and I alone had to handle this project.

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

- This project was successful to identify the viable population of cheer pheasant from the buffer zone of northern part of National Park. Thirty-three calls were recorded from dawn call method. This area was overlooked by previous studies and declared there is no viable population in Rara National Park. Previously, cheer pheasant was recorded only from buffer zone area; this project was able to identify it from core area of national park at Bahupani. This helps to the park management to identify priority sites for the conservation and monitoring of cheer pheasant in future.
- Park staff and local peoples are trained for the monitoring of cheer pheasant. Now onwards with the minimum cost they can run the cheer pheasant survey in the area.
- More than 650 individuals, at least one person from one household were directly participated in conservation awareness events. This project was effective to make them aware about the conservation status and importance of Cheer Pheasant with lectures and educational materials. This represented pioneer project in this area primarily focused to raise the awareness among the local people for the conservation of Cheer Pheasant.

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

There was direct participation of local people during both occasions i.e. population survey and conservation awareness. During population survey local people especially hunters were selected and trained for the monitoring of cheer pheasant. Similarly, conservation awareness activities were mainly targeted for the local communities. To cover as many as local people village wise events were organised. Therefor this project was able make them aware about the importance of globally threatened species.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes, there are plans to continue work on cheer pheasant which involves surveying the population of cheer pheasant in outside the protected areas in Mugu and surrounding districts and work with the local communities of RNP for their conservation in long-term.

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

I plan to share the results by presenting papers in workshops and conferences, an article will be published in *Danphe*, the quarterly newsletter of BCN, with 3000 copies printed and distributed among its members, conservation organisations, students and other interested people. This can be downloaded from BCN website also. Final technical report will shared with World Pheasant Association, BirdLife International and with conservation organisations in Nepal.

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

RSG grant was used for 15 month. The anticipated project duration was from March 2012 to February 2013 but due to unavoidable circumstances important component i.e. awareness rising activity was delayed.

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
Field equipment	550	550		
Develop awareness and promotional materials	650	950	300	Saved travelling cost was used to produced more educational material
Awareness campaigns	200	300	100	Saved travelling cost was used for awareness campaigns
Porter salary	1600	1600		
Daily sustenance and travel	2090	1700	390	Travelling cost of other team member was reduced
Communication	60	50	10	
GIS mapping	200			Will be used during final detail report preparation
Report Preparation/dissemination	100			Will be used to produce final detail report
Overhead expenses (10%)	545	545		
Total	5995	5695		

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

I feel it is necessary to reduce the pressure on cheer pheasant and on its habitat in RNP by engaging local peoples in alternate income generating opportunities. These can be done by following ways:

- Promotion of ecotourism especially Cheer Pheasant watching;
- Placement of signage in RNP;
- Small hotels and teashop management training;
- Cook training;
- Harvesting and marketing of medicinal plant products;
- Poultry and bee keeping training.

**10. Did you use The Rufford Foundation logo in any materials produced in relation to this project?
Did the RSGF receive any publicity during the course of your work?**

Educational materials like 2,500 copies of posters with short conservation message, 3000 copies of brochures with detail information on cheer pheasant, 100 key rings, awareness programme banner, and presentation slides (wherever PowerPoint presentation was not possible printed slides in flex were used). Logo of Rufford Foundation (RSGF) was used in all these materials. Since RSGF logo was used in every material and distributed it received wide range of publicity in the project area. Still we have 500 copies of posters and 800 copies of brochure in BCN, this will help to disseminate conservation message and publicise RSGF in other part of country.

11. Any other comments?

I am thankful to RSGF for providing the fund to run this project but extremely sorry for the delay to submit the final report.