

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. 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. 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	Kamal Thapa
Project title	Conflict, Conservation and Resource Use in Protected Areas: Case Study from Annapurna Conservation Area and Parsa Wildlife Reserve, Nepal
RSG reference	12516-1
Reporting period	13 Months
Amount of grant	£4200
Your email address	thekamal@gmail.com
Date of this report	31 January, 2014

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
Identify conflicts between the park and people regarding usage of resources and the quantification of property damage done by wildlife		X		Sometimes people tend to respond with high amount of damage then actual damage incurred, thinking that it could lead to more compensation.
Identify the types and intensity of resources used and the level of dependency on park resources			X	
Identify the local peoples' attitude towards park			X	
To assess conservation activities adopted by local communities and authority			X	

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

In some cases, people were reluctant to respond the researcher's questions because they have experienced lot of people coming to study in their village. They were sceptic on us if we were from park office or purely for study purpose. Their problems of park people conflict had not solved for many years and they have to bear losses due to park wildlife. Therefore they were not happily responded. Also, it was very difficult to assess and quantify the damage incurred due to wildlife and in most of the cases this is indicated qualitatively.

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

a). The quantification of damage done by wildlife has been documented. This helps the park authority to analyse the current compensation policy. Our findings show us that compensation amount which is provided to the local people is very nominal in comparison to the crop losses and property damage. Though, this compensation policy has been revised recently, the losses to local people far exceeded the amount compensated from park authority and government. Bureaucratic hurdles to get the compensation also existed and most of the local people do not know about the compensation mechanism.

b). Attitude towards reserve and buffer zone has been analysed. Local people have more positive attitude towards buffer zone rather than reserve. This is due to the easy access for resources in buffer zone region than reserve area. People with more agricultural dependency also tend to suffer more from wildlife damage than others. Details about this are documented in detailed project report.

c). Traditional conflict mitigation mechanism do not work with locals. Therefore, some advanced technologies could be used but this is not feasible due to the high cost for establishment and maintenance cost. From the study, it was revealed that local people even shoot the animals (park wildlife) when it comes to raid crops at night.

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

Though this is the small scale research project, this study involved local communities as well. For example, during focus group discussion, local people came to know the existence of compensation (policy) amount and the process to lodge complaints. Since, this study is carried out in direct participation of villagers (through questionnaire survey), the result findings expect to benefit themselves if the park authority launches new project and use this report as a basis for project guidelines.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Speaking truly, I do not have any plans to continue the project right now as it is a matter of funding. However, whenever I get chance to involve in field based conservation activities and to serve these areas, I will focus my study areas. Moreover, the findings from this study can be use by government to launch new conservation projects.

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

Formal report of the study will be submitted to the Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation and Park office. Copies will also be kept in the library of college and institute. I am planning to prepare a manuscript to publish the research findings. Once, it is published I will disseminate via Rufford Foundation website.

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

The RSG was used for about 12 months time period. Since, the exact month of start and end of the project did not comply as stated in the project proposal due to adjustment in project activities and field conditions. Researcher is also a full time student and required to make small adjustments to suit both the studies and research. However, this adjustment did not hamper the study activities. Therefore, all the project activities were accomplished in appropriate time.

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
Food and DSA for researcher and assistants	1600	1400	200	Food in the villages was cheaper than expected earlier.
Accommodation for researcher and	600	475	125	We use local people's house as paying guest to stay in the village to

assistants				reduce cost.
International Travel, Austria-Nepal-Austria-Germany-Austria	900	1000	-100	I use small amount to participate in student week, Germany where I present my findings from Rufford funded project.
Local travel for research team	250	200	50	We used student card to get discount whenever possible.
Stationery: Printing, Copying, Binding, Reporting	400	450	-50	
Communication	150	175	-25	
Supervisory fee	300	360	-60	Supervisory fee for expert advice on research design and project guidance.
Banking transactions and account maintenance fee	0	133	-133	I did not allocate for banking transaction cost and also exchange rate made some differences.
TOTAL	4200	4193	7	

Note: 1 £ = NRs. 139.36 at the time of receiving fund. Exchange rates and figures (from GBP to Euro and NRs) are rounded and put in whole number for GB Pound equivalent

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

- Compensation mechanism must be made fast, easy and reliable to local people and amount must be increased.
- Community committee could be established to work on complaints on damage and to receive compensation money.
- Conservation and development intervention is required immediately in Parsa Wildlife Reserve.
- Alternative resources (especially, fire wood, fodder, pasture etc) are required to promote in Parsa Wildlife Reserve in order to reduce pressure on park resources.

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?

Yes, I did. During my power point presentation at International Student Week in Germany, I put the RSGF logo. Most of the young students who were not known to RSGF were eager to learn about it. I also mentioned RSGF as the sole FUNDER of this research in project report. Whenever I will be able to publish my findings, I will mention RSGF as the funder for this study.

11. Any other comments?

Rufford Foundation has helped me a lot (and other young conservationists!) to get involved in nature conservation activities. RSGF innovative idea to fund the project in developing countries has helped to enhance the conservation capacity of young professionals.