

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	Rinchen Namgay
Project title	Habitat Mapping and Assessing Conservation Threats to Black-necked Cranes wintering in Bhutan
RSG reference	12847-1
Reporting period	Final report
Amount of grant	£6000
Your email address	rnamgay@uwice.gov.bt / or rnamgay77@gmail.com
Date of this report	26/1/2015

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
Mapping of black-necked cranes habitats in Bhutan			✓	The roosting and foraging habitats of black-necked cranes wintering in Bhutan have been mapped as of date, thus the country has the exact and updated roosting and foraging habitats of the bird.
Assessing conservation threats to black-necked cranes wintering in Bhutan			✓	The biological threats happened to be the major conservation threats to the bird, thus through this research few recommendations were given for the conservation of the bird species from abandoning/ or extinction from these wintering areas.

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

Due to budgetary support from your organisation, not much of difficulties have been encountered during the period of research work. Thank you.

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

The major outcomes of this project are;

1. Production of habitats map of black-necked cranes (BNCs) wintering in the country.
2. Able to know exactly what the conservation threats to BNCs wintering in Bhutan are.
3. Very importantly, through this research we are able to incorporate Bumthang cranes habitats under the crane conservation area network of the country.

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

The local communities were involved in the restoration works of the degraded cranes habitats through wetland management and enhancing more cultivation activities, where the cranes are been found to be foraging. Although this project is mainly focused on research activities, but the finding from this project are been used to explore and in getting funding support from other organisation for some of the habitat's restoration works in the cranes habitats.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes, I would definitely like to continue working on this project, so that most of the degraded habitats are restored and managed properly. And the focal bird is conserved, and it continued to visit every winter uninterruptedly in the country.

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

I am currently targeting Biological Conservation journal for the final publication as research article in that journal. Once it gets published, the data and the information can be accessed freely for the interested user.

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

The fund has been used almost throughout the entire period of the research works. The fund was used for payment of researcher and assistance researcher travel expenses. The major portion of the fund were used during the consultative workshop and meeting with the communities residing in the black-necked cranes wintering areas.

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/mobility cost	2119	2200	-81	The cost have escalate due to increase in the fuel prices in the country, which was unforeseen during the budget estimation
Daily subsistence cost for researcher	1630	1635	-5	There had been an increased in the daily subsistence allowance on the instruction of the government, but because the budget has already been approved, we have adjusted with the budget estimated approved.
Community awareness and support programme	711	715	-4	
Printing of information pamphlets and sign boards	300	250	50	
Stationeries/equipment	1240	1250	-10	We have purchased camera and binocular. The equipment shall be used by any researchers for any research works that requires the use of these equipments in the institute that I work in (UWICE).
Bank charges		7	-7	The bank charge was unaccounted during the estimate.
Total	6000	6057	-57	

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

The long-term monitoring of its population and habitats will be very crucial for the survival of this species in its wintering habitat in Bhutan.

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?

Yes, I have used RSGF logo in various media. The presentation, posters and brochures relating to this project all have RSGF logo with proper acknowledgement of funding being provided for the study of black-necked cranes in Bhutan.

11. Any other comments?

The current population trend of black-necked cranes in Bhutan is very fluctuating. Of the three wintering habitats in Bhutan, except in Wangduephodrang, the population of cranes is found to be decreasing at the other two habitats (Bumdeling and Bumthang). The government or some organisation should come up with strategic plan to counteract its decreasing population in these two wintering habitats.