

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	Tshering Nidup
Project title	Butterfly diversity and conservation in Royal Manas National Park (RMNP), Sarpang, Bhutan
RSG reference	13656-1
Reporting period	12 months
Amount of grant	£6000
Your email address	tsheringnidup01@yahoo.com
Date of this report	Dec. 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
Baseline information			✓	First of its kind. A total of 181 species of butterflies were identified to date in Royal Manas National Park.
Voucher specimens		✓		Voucher specimens were collected, levelled and preserved in glass box. The specimens will help to create awareness to students and visitors.
Scientific paper			✓	1 st paper already accepted to be published by Journal of Entomology and Zoology studies for first 3-month study. 2 nd paper for whole project is about to complete and will be submitted to one of journal.
Threats for conservation of butterflies			✓	Hardly found any threats inside the park but along the boundary construction of roads, waste disposal and habitat fragmentation were encountered.
Information sharing to School, religious and local communities			✓	Information was shared through power point presentation, public gathering and brochures about significant of butterfly in ecosystem and threats to butterflies. School, religious and local people were drove to Park for awareness campaign, elephant safari and boating.

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

- ✚ No major problem was encountered in the field except for sudden upsurge in dollar rate.

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

- ✚ It was the first study of butterfly in the area and identifying 181 species has really helped to generate baseline information for the park for future conservation programme.
- ✚ This project helped to teach team members, techniques of safe capturing and identifying of butterflies and further encourage school, local and religious communities in conservation of biodiversity.
- ✚ Awareness programme on butterfly was first of its kind in the country. Especially religious community were really excited and thankful in getting such valuable knowledge.

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

- ✦ In some area local people were taken as potters and field guide, they were paid daily wages.
- ✦ They were really made aware on significance of butterflies in ecosystem (pollination, food web and climate changes).

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

- ✦ Yes, with this knowledge and baseline information, we appraised the higher authority for further study in adjoining park in landscape conservation. Now we are also confident to carry out further study.
- ✦ Planned and proposed to develop butterfly garden in park area.

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

- ✦ Result is being shared through staff meetings, conference and seminars.
- ✦ 1st paper can be available on Journal of Zoology and Entomology Studies. 2nd paper will be submitted very shortly to one of the journals.
- ✦ Vouchers specimen is being displayed in information centre in park.
- ✦ Field guidebook on butterflies of RMNP is planned to publish and budget is also already arranged.

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 study period was for 12 months and fund was exclusively used for project accordingly. One year of time period has given us good opportunity to cover all four seasons but still more to explore.

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
Digital camera	700	1000	-300	Dollar rate sudden shot up. Met from signage budget.
GPS	650	725	-75	Dollar rate sudden shot up. Met from signage budget
Rent and maintenances of field vehicle	400	400	0	Used according to budget
Small equipment	200	200	0	Procured according to budget
Preservative (chemical)	150	150	0	Procured according to budget
Butterfly awareness signage	400	0	+375	Signed could not make since budget was used for camera and GPS procurement. Could make only awareness banner.
Daily allowance and	750	750	0	adjusted according to allocated

meal for field staff.				amount
Talk in school, religious and local communities	850	850	0	Carried out according to amount allocated
Field trips to nature club students	400	400	0	Carried out according to amount allocated
Extension kits to field assistance	600	600	0	Procured according to allocated amount.
Dissemination of result	900	900	0	All information dissemination was done according to allocated budget
Total	6000	6000	0	Local exchange rate at present £1=97

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

- ✚ Further study and prepare comprehensive checklist of butterfly of southern foothills of Bhutan.
- ✚ Index/catalogue all butterflies according to their commonness and rarity and come out with conservation priority. We have some vulnerable species so it should be protected. Second paper has mention about the conservation priority of rare butterflies.
- ✚ Educate people on environment and conservation issue.

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?

- ✚ Logo was advertised in brochures, awareness banner, meeting and scientific paper (journal).
- ✚ I personally have shared information on RSG and two of my friends had received grant and one rejected.
- ✚ Students, religious and local communities were surprised when we said the projected was funded by Rufford. They never knew that someone give fund for someone's work.

11. Any other comments?

- ✚ We really thank to Rufford for funding this project, where we failed twice in getting fund from other organisations. The project has really increased our knowledge and capacity.
- ✚ RSG has appreciated and encouraged our interest. With this research our horizon in research related works has increased and people have started recognising our work.
- ✚ Our relationship with RSG will continue for long run. We are planning to write another proposal on small mammal because big animals are being taken care whereas small animals are neglected (but they have equal right to survive).