

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	Ambika Prasad Khatiwada
Project title	Community Based Asiatic wild dog or Dhole (<i>Cuon alpinus</i>) Conservation Project in Kangchenjunga Conservation Area, Nepal
RSG reference	14005-B
Reporting period	December 2013 to December 2014
Amount of grant	£11950
Your email address	ambika.pd.khatiwada@gmail.com
Date of this report	January 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
Significantly reduce dhole mortality with an aim toward no mortality in Community Managed Livestock Insurance Scheme (CMLIS)		✓		Based on KCAMC's 40th board meeting decision, we established three Community Managed Livestock Insurance Scheme (CMLIS) for dholes in Lelep, Tapethok and Yamphudin Village Development Committees (VDCs) of KCA. Tapethok CMLIS also included snow leopard along with dhole in the scheme. We had planned two but actually established three CMLIS. KCAMC suggested to establish three new CMLIS in priority areas focusing on dholes instead of integrating dhole into the existing snow leopard CMLIS. Available amount is provided to each CMLIS as endowment fund. Directives of three CMLISs prepared, discussed at the meetings and endorsed by KCAMC. We are facilitating respective CMLISs to collect the details of herders and their livestock to be included in insurance scheme. Up to now, 88 households/herders included their 575 livestock in Tapethok CMLIS and 49 households/herders included their 226 livestock in Yamphudin CMLIS. Herders and livestock data collection is in process in Lelep, Tapethok and Yamphudin. Basic training to all three CMLIS is provided for record keeping and effective administration of CMLIS.
Determine the extent and distribution of livestock and native prey in dhole diet to focus conflict reduction strategies		✓		In 2012 and 2013 we have collected 82 putative dhole scats and genetically tested to confirm dhole scats. Out of 82 samples tested only six samples were of dhole. In 2014 we have collected 65 putative dhole scats which are now under process of genetic test at laboratory. After completion of genetic test, we do diet analysis of dhole scats to understand feeding ecology of dholes so that we can focus specific conflict reduction strategies to conserve dholes

				in KCA.
Work to reduce negative attitudes toward carnivore conservation by educating local and regional communities about dholes, their prey, their benefits, and ways to reduce conflicts		✓		<p>We have conducted several community meetings for CMLIS formation, to discuss on directives of CMLIS, insurance of livestock and conducted awareness raising activities with school students. We have conducted 13 community meetings, five school teaching programs and several non-formal education discussions with community members. We are on the process of awareness raising materials design and publication. 19th wildlife week was celebrated at Institute of Forestry (IoF) with the theme of "wildlife and water: from the mountain to the rivers to the oceans" organizing different programmes (conservation rally, flash mob, street drama, sanitation programme, community teaching, speech competition, quiz contest programme, birdwatching and documentary show). This project, as a partner, supported IoF students to organise 7-day programme where most of the students, lecturers and professors took active participation. We have collected immature footage of the programmes, landscape and are in process to develop a short video documentary of dhole conservation in KCA. We are also in the process of organisation of district and national level workshop on dhole conservation.</p>

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

Difficulties/Issues:

Remoteness of KCA and busy schedule of local community for their daily subsistence were challenging to accomplish project activities which have demanded more time and efforts. Only dholes and snow leopards are not causing damage to livestock but other predators (wolf, common leopard, clouded leopard, leopard cat, black bear, yellow throated martens etc.) are also causing damage to small and large livestock in pasture land and in the settlements areas as well in KCA. Wolf depredation is considered high at high altitudes since last year.

One adult Yak/Chouri cost minimum \$600 but the livestock owner gets only \$30 - \$40 as relief fund from concerned CMLIS if livestock is killed by dholes or snow leopards. Livestock owners/herders are demanding more amounts (not only relief fund but compensation) of their livestock if losses by

predators. Herders are also demanding relief/compensation fund if their livestock is killed by any predator.

We realised proper record keeping of CMLIS (applications, relief fund distribution and financial transaction of CMLIS etc.) is important and needs local capacity for effective administration of CMLIS.

Solutions: how we tackled/tackling

We have given more time and efforts to reach more herders and still are in process of reaching them to collect their livestock details to be included in CMLIS. At the same time we are talking more about dhole conservation, CMLIS and improved husbandry practice (caring of livestock in pastureland to protect from predators).

We are holding discussions with CMLIS and KCAMC to provide relief fund if any insured livestock is killed by any predator (dhole, snow leopard, wolf, common leopard, clouded leopard, leopard cat, black bear, yellow throated martens etc.) and there should be provision of insurance to all type of livestock (small and large size livestock). Proper record keeping and monitoring can be maintained employing a trained local individual for few years to smoothly run the CMLIS activities in long run. Herders are not losing livestock from predators only but also from livestock diseases which is causing significant economic loss. Herders are demanding livestock vaccination program to overcome losses from diseases. The livestock vaccination programme would be supportive to run CMLIS effectively.

Regular monitoring of species and illegal activities in KCA is crucial which need unified effort of KCAMC, government authority, community based organisations and local individuals. KCAMC and local elite people are supporting herders for effective implementation of CMLISs. Herders themselves are realising that some compensation is better than none. They were not getting any relief fund for their livestock losses in the past if killed by dholes. It is important that conservation authorities now showing concern for their losses. Herders are positive towards CMLISs, so are demanding for other carnivore schemes as well. Herders and communities from outside KCA are also demanding for CMLIS work.

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

With the help of this project, three CMLIS are established in priority areas based on KCAMC board meeting decision which is much helpful to KCAMC to address human-dhole conflict in KCA. Directives of each CMLIS is prepared and endorsed by KCAMC. All newly established CMLIS started to work legally under direct supervision of KCAMC. Now, the herders get relief fund based on directives prepared themselves, If loses livestock by dhole attack. CMLIS also started to mobilize provided endowment fund for income generating activities at lower interest rate at the village among their members.

Awareness raising activities has positive impact at villages and among herders on dhole conservation. Local community did not have much information about dholes and were involved on poisoning to reduce threats to livestock. Through the CMLIS programme and awareness raising activities villagers and herders started to understand the importance of dholes in the area. We cannot claim that all poisoning and illegal activities towards dhole are stopped but we believe at least they think and rethink before doing poisoning and any illegal activities which harms to dhole

conservation in KCA. Regular community engagement programmes and awareness raising activities are important for long term dholes and carnivores conservation in KCA.

Major outcome of this project is increased attention of conservation authorities and local stakeholders towards carnivore conservation in KCA. Community people raised issues of dhole conservation outside KCA as there are increasing cases of human-dhole conflict. CMLIS of Yamphudin stressed urgent need of dhole conservation expansion in neighbouring villages of KCA to secure dhole population in Kangchenjunga landscape.

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

We have conducted our activities coordinating with KCAMC and community based organisations of KCA. Community members and herders were involved in series of community meetings for CMLIS establishment, discussion on directives of CMLIS and awareness raising activities. The CMLISs are started to mobilise provided endowment fund for income generating activities based on their directives. Poor, marginalised and interested members of CMLIS can receive certain amount of fund at lower interest rate to uplift their socio economic condition through income generating activities. Students and local individuals were involved to collect dhole scats and to accomplish project activities. This project helps to address human-dhole conflict in KCA which is directly beneficial to local communities, herders and especially to KCAMC for carnivore conservation and effective management / administration of KCA.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Sustainability and mainstreaming of our interventions of addressing human-dhole conflict is important. We need to work few more years to capacitate newly established CMLIS for documentation, monitoring and effective administration. At the meantime, we have received genuine feedback from community members to expand dhole conservation work (awareness raising, conflict documentation, CMLIS etc.) in neighbouring villages of KCA where human-dhole conflict is occurring more in recent days and would be beneficial to work there to secure dhole population in the landscape. Herders are not losing their livestock from predators only but also bearing economic losses from livestock diseases. So, it would be an excellent idea to support herders to overcome the economic losses from livestock diseases implementing livestock vaccination programme which will be helpful to win local community trust towards carnivore conservation.

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

We are working on manuscript to publish our work in reviewed journals. We shared findings of the project at different national and international conferences in the past. We will share the result of this project organising workshop (district/national level) and meetings/seminar (with university students) this year. We will also work out with local and national level media to share result of this project with wider audience.

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

We are receiving support from RSG since 2010 for dhole conservation. Duration of this project was from December 2013 to December 2014. We are expanding the work and doing our best to ensure real change for dhole conservation in KCA.

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
Dhole scat collection from pastureland of KCA	1900	1900	00	Employed local people and knowledgeable students to collect scats from pastureland of KCA. We have collected 65 putative dhole scats which are under process of genetic test. After genetic test dhole scats will be analysed for diet to understand feeding ecology of dholes.
Equipment and field gear	1400	1400	00	GPS, camera and necessary field gears were purchased to conduct field activities
Scat DNA test	750	750	00	Collected scats are at laboratory for DNA test
Diet analysis of dhole scat	550	00	550	This amount will be used for diet analysis as soon as we complete genetic test and get result from genetic laboratory
Subsistence cost and accommodation	4300	4300	00	This cost was incurred while implementing the project in KCA
Community meetings	1000	1000	00	13 events of community meetings organized
Days celebration and workshops	1200	1000	200	Remaining amount will be incurred while conducting workshops at district and national level
Non formal education and school teaching classes	400	400	00	Conducted five school teaching programs to teach school students more on dhole conservation
Communication, printing, stationery	450	450	00	Expenses incurred to implement the project activities
TOTAL	11950	11200	750	

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

- Sustainability and mainstreaming of our interventions for carnivore conservation in KCA is necessary. Capacity building of established CMLIS (documentation, monitoring and effective administration) is important next step.
- Herders are not losing their livestock from predators but also from livestock diseases. The next step would be to launch livestock vaccination programme to minimize economic losses from livestock diseases.
- It would be important to evaluate how CMLIS work in due course of time and what would be the impact of CMLIS on dhole conservation? Time series assessment and evaluation of CMLIS would be helpful to design carnivore conservation projects in future.
- Human-dhole conflict is accelerating more in neighbouring villages in recent days. The important next step is to expand dhole conservation work (awareness raising, documentation of conflict and implementation of CMLIS) in dhole bearing villages around KCA to conserve dholes in Kangchenjunga landscape.
- Collection of seasonal dhole scat from pasture land (KCA and neighbouring areas of KCA) would be important to understand seasonal feeding ecology of dholes which will be helpful to focus conflict reduction strategies in human-dhole conflicted areas outside KCA as well.

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?

The RSGF logo was used in community meetings, conservation day celebrations and school teaching programmes. The logo will also be used in district/national level workshops and relevant publications of this study in future too.

11. Any other comments?

I am thankful to Rufford Small Grants Foundation, People's Trust for Endangered Species-UK, National Geographic and Snow Leopard Network for generous support to carry out conservation work in KCA. My sincere gratitude goes to National Trust for Nature Conservation (NTNC)-Nepal, Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation (DNPWC)-Nepal, Kangchenjunga Conservation Area Management Council (KCAMC), WWF-Nepal/Kangchenjunga Conservation Area Project (KCAP), Alumni Association for Conservation and Development (AACD)-Nepal, community based organizations of KCA, schools of KCA, all students and local people of KCA for their direct/indirect support to this project. I owe my sincere thanks to Prof. Dr. Keshav Datt Awasthi, Dr. Shant Raj Jnawali, Dr. Maheshwor Dhakal, Dr. Kate Jenks, Dr. Kyran Kunkel, Mr. Bishal Ghimire, Ms. Angie Appeal, Mr. Khagendra Phembo, Ms. Monsoon Pokharel, Mr. Kamal Bhusal, Mr. Sandeep Poudel, Mr. Suman Rai, Ms. Peema Sherpa, Mr. Abirman Rai, Mr. Hem Raj Acharya, Mr. Sujeet Shrestha and Institute of Forestry students, lecturers/professors for their support to implement this project, cooperation and valuable feedbacks. I am thankful to Mr. Purna Pd. Parajui, Mr. Resham Blon, Ms. Sushila Thing, Mr. Mohan K.C, Mr. Prakash Limbu, Ms. Chungla Sherpa, Mr. Sher Bahadur Pariyar, Mr. Ganesh Tiwari, Mr. Dharmendra Dhikt, Mr. Dipesh Mijar, Mr. Asish Tripathi, Mr. Nabin Khatiwada, and Mr. Anup Poudel for their kind support to this project. I am very much thankful to all who supported directly or indirectly to accomplish this project. I sincerely acknowledge all of you and anticipate your support in future as well for conservation endeavours.