

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	Sujata Shrestha
Project title	Rhetoric and Reality of Biodiversity conservation in Nepal
RSG reference	14787-1
Reporting period	2014-2015
Amount of grant	£5965
Your email address	Sujata.shresth@yahoo.com
Date of this report	3 July, 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
1) Quantification of the forest cover change in Gorkha district will be produced under community forestry management			Yes	The forest cover maps were produced by using Landsat imagery. Quantification of the forest cover change under different time periods is done and final results will be published soon. Will share the results after publication.
2) Ecological survey will be carried out in five-community forests of Gorkha district.		Yes		Five community forests were selected and visited for ecological survey. Stratified random sampling plots were generated for vegetation survey by using Google earth. Remaining analysis will be done by the end of this year.
3) Socio-economic surveys will be carried out in five-community forests of Gorkha district			Yes	The selected community forests were visited. The questionnaire survey was carried out in respective villages to assess the household's socio-economic information, to document the types of forest resources extraction pattern, frequency of community forest visit and participation in community forest management activities.
4) Community forest user groups' (CFUGs) forest management activities and silvicultural practices will be documented			Yes	CFUGs operation plans, meeting minutes regarding forest management activities were reviewed and CFUGs' species selection criterion during silvicultural practices was documented.

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

N/A

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

- i) The positive forest cover change was noticed inside the community forest areas after three decades of community management.
- ii) The contribution of community forests income in total household economy is very nominal compared to the other sources of income.
- iii) The gender differentiation in perception of direct benefits of community forests such as timber, fuelwood and fodder than indirect benefits (soil nutrition enrichment, carbon sequestration, watershed conservation, greenery, wildlife conservation, climate regulation, and flood control). The

male perceives more diverse and direct benefits of community forests on rural livelihoods than female do however female visit more frequently in the collection of forest products than male do.

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

One of the key informants of this project is community forest user groups and their assistance during field visit is noteworthy. Their experience on increase in plant and animal diversity in their respective community forests seemed relevant. However, they do not seem to have much knowledge about the importance of biodiversity conservation both for current and future generations. But they showed enthusiasm to know more about its importance during questionnaire survey.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Definitely, during the next field visit, I am planning to prepare a training/workshop/awareness programme for CFUGs about importance of biodiversity conservation in community forests. It will help them to carry out management practices of community forests based on knowledge. Furthermore, the quantitative analysis of forest cover change throughout Nepal is not present thus I am planning to replicate my work from watershed to district and further to country level. It will fill the data gap.

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

The finding of this work will be published in the international journal and will be used as a chapter of my PhD thesis. Meantime it will be shared with the local CFUGs during next field visit and will be presented in seminars and workshops.

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

The fieldwork was completed within 3 months. The household survey data analysis and GIS analysis is being carried out in University of Massachusetts Boston.

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
Principal Investigator 90 days @ 10	900	900	0	
Research Assistants (3) 60 days @ 10	1600	1800	-200	I had to add one research assistant to complete the work in same place in few days rather than visiting more days in same place.
Local facilitator (1) 60 @ 8	480	480	0	
Transportation	300	500	-200	Transportation fares increased than expected. Supported by

				University.
Equipment	1685	1585	100	It is used for additional Research Assistant
Stationary/Print	400	400	0	
Herbarium preparation identification	100	0	100	It is used for additional Research Assistant
Topographic map	500	500	0	
International Travel	0	1200	-1200	Supported by University.
TOTAL	5965	7365	-1400	

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

Even though the community forestry management programme itself is a successful programme in Nepal in terms of forest protection and management. However, local forest user groups have very limited knowledge about the conservation and utilisation of herbs, shrubs, and non-timber forest products other than timber. Thus, fulfilment of such knowledge gap is important to maintain the healthy forest in the future. Meantime, close monitoring of forest management activities is important to prevent future extinction of plants and animals from the forest.

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 used the logo of Rufford Small Grant and mentioned during my oral exam presentation at University of Massachusetts Boston. And also, before starting of the questionnaire survey with the local communities during the field visit, I explained the contribution of Rufford Small Grant.

11. Any other comments?

I would like to personally thank RSGF for providing the support to complete this research. It is a great opportunity for the young scientist like me to fulfil their aspiration and pursue their research in conservation field.