

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	Prakash Thapa
Project title	Conservation Initiatives of Canids in Dhorpatan Hunting Reserve (DHR), Nepal
RSG reference	15162-1
Reporting period	July 2014 – April 2016
Amount of grant	£5880
Your email address	prakash.thapa68@gmail.com
Date of this report	2016-04-14

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
Current status of Canids in Dhorpatan Hunting Reserve			√	
Information about anthropogenic conservation issues in Dhorpatan Hunting Reserve especially human-canids Conflicts.			√	
Community-based conservation programs for canids.		√		
Recommendations for canid's conservation in Dhorpatan Hunting Reserve.			√	

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

Previously I had planned to survey all the blocks of reserve. But due to difficult physiographic condition of the reserve and weather condition, the field work was confined upon three blocks among seven blocks of the reserve. Project was delayed due to massive earthquake and political instability in the country.

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

Three most important outcome of my project are:

1. Information on current status of canids was explored. The trend of canid populations was found to be decreasing inside the reserve. Among different species of canids, red fox was the most abundant one followed by golden jackal, wild dog and wolf. Among different canids, red fox was camera trapped which has Relative Abundance Index 5. Similarly, the relative sign abundance of red fox, golden jackal and wild dog was 0.69/km, 0.38/km and 0.19/km respectively.
2. Major anthropogenic issues for canid conservation inside the reserve were explored. Encroachment, retaliatory killings, grazing, illegal hunting and deforestation were the major issues. About 231 ha of reserve land had been encroaching by 311 households. Livestock grazing activity inside the reserve which began from February to October was a cause for human-canid conflict. During camera trapping also, three horses were also caught on camera trap. Retaliatory killing was prevalent inside the reserve. Herders were killing canids through poisoning carcass. Forest fire and illegal cutting of tree was causing deforestation inside the reserve.

The major places of human-canids conflict were Thakur, Kaspur, Fokseri, Saatban, Tikadhara, Pajbasna, Mursala, Falgunbesi, Kholathari, Sechun, Dhuka, Rajbasna, Jauleghati, Fursedeurali, Ratabhir, Dakharka, Surtibang, Maelkharka, Jalebisune, Bhujikharka (kade), Bhujikhun, Gurjaghat and Kalilekh.

Shared habitat was found to be the major cause for human-canids conflict. People had a negative attitude towards canid's conservation. Regarding the people perception on wildlife preference, wolf was found to be the most dislike species in the reserve followed by wild dog. Similarly, traditional use of canid's body part was prevalent inside the reserve. Local had misbelieved that the alcohol prepared from fermentation of jackal body helps to cure the disease such as joint pain. Also, local had misbelieved that bones of wolf treat body pain. The livestock depredation due to canids attack was found to be 51 during the period 2012 to 2013.

3. Community based awareness program created a positive impact to the local people for canid conservation.
4. Broader level of community-based conservation programs, multi stakeholder consultation for encroachment control and comprehensive canid conservation action plan are recommended.

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

Three locals and two forestry students from Institute of Forestry, Pokhara were involved during the field work. They were benefitted with wages. They are now able to install camera traps. Herders, school students and other public were benefitted through awareness programme. They got the knowledge on ecological importance of canids.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes, I have a plan to launch project at broader level to mitigate human-canid conflict.

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

I have planned to share the results with publication at international scientific journal. I have already shared the results with university students and academics at Institute of Forestry, Pokhara. The findings of the project will also be shared with other related authorities.

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 project was completed within July 2014 – April 2016. Due to massive earthquake and political instability in the country the project was longer.

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
Daily subsistence allowances for team leader	1150	1150	-	
Daily subsistence allowances for field level assistance	1000	1810	+810	Three more field assistants were used
Transportation	450	560	+110	The difference was due to

				increase in fare
Camera Traps	900	0	-900	Kind support from National Trust for Nature Conservation (NTNC)/Biodiversity Conservation Centre (BCC). The cameras were returned after completion of the project.
DSLR Camera	660	690	+30	Due to high price
GPS	160	230	+70	Due to high price
Tea and snacks for group discussions, school awareness program and during field consultation	300	360	+60	Household survey and more field consultation was done
Canids Conservation Fund	290	0	-290	This activity was not conducted
Tent, Sleeping Bag	180	310	+130	Additional sleeping bags for field assistants
Extension materials	250	250	0	
Prizes for School Programs	240	120	-120	Conducted in one school only
Stationary, Communication, Torch Light, Battery, Printing	300	400	+100	Email/internet, additional torch light for field assistants, Telephone was also done with some informants
Total	5,880	5,880		£1 = 160NRs.

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

Dhorpatan Hunting Reserve and its adjoining areas have a good habitat for the canids. But due to retaliatory killings and human impacts, they are posing threats for the conservation. Therefore, a broader level community-based conservation program should be conducted in Dhorpatan Hunting Reserve and its adjoining area.

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?

The Rufford Foundation Logo has been used in conservation awareness banners and posters. Also, The Rufford Foundation has been acknowledged during the presentation at Institute of Forestry, Pokhara.

11. Any other comments?

I am thankful to The Rufford Foundation for funding and I am hoping for similar project in future. I express my sincere thanks to Dr. Suresh K. Shrestha, Dr. Sushila C Nepali, Mr. Raju Acharya, Mr. Ambika Prasad Khatiwada, Mr. Bisho Babu Shrestha, Mr. Saroj Panthi, Mr. Narayan Gautam, Mr. Jeevnath Pandey, Ms. Saraswati Aryal and Dr. Bir Bahadur Khanal for their valuable support. I am



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