

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	Chiranjeevi Khanal
Project title	Status, Distribution and Conservation Initiatives of Striped Hyena (<i>Hyena hyena</i>) In Deukhuri Valley, Dang Nepal
RSG reference	15252-1
Reporting period	November 2015-November 2016
Amount of grant	£4875
Your email address	chiran_khanal2011@hotmail.com
Date of this report	11 th November, 2016

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
Status and distribution of striped hyaena in Deukhuri valley			√	Camera trap survey, sign survey and questionnaire survey was carried out. Hyaena was camera trapped in 12 camera trap stations and signs of hyaena were recorded in all 10 VDC of study area.
Awareness raising and outreach programme		√		Awareness materials like posters, t shirts, leaflets, calendars were distributed among the locals and forest guards. Since the study area was large enough we selected only the places of frequent traps of hyaena for programme conduction. More conservation programmes are needed in this area.
First Hyaena Research Sharing Workshop-2016			√	Organisations working on wildlife research conservation, journalist, and university students, freelancer researchers and local people from study area participated in the workshop.

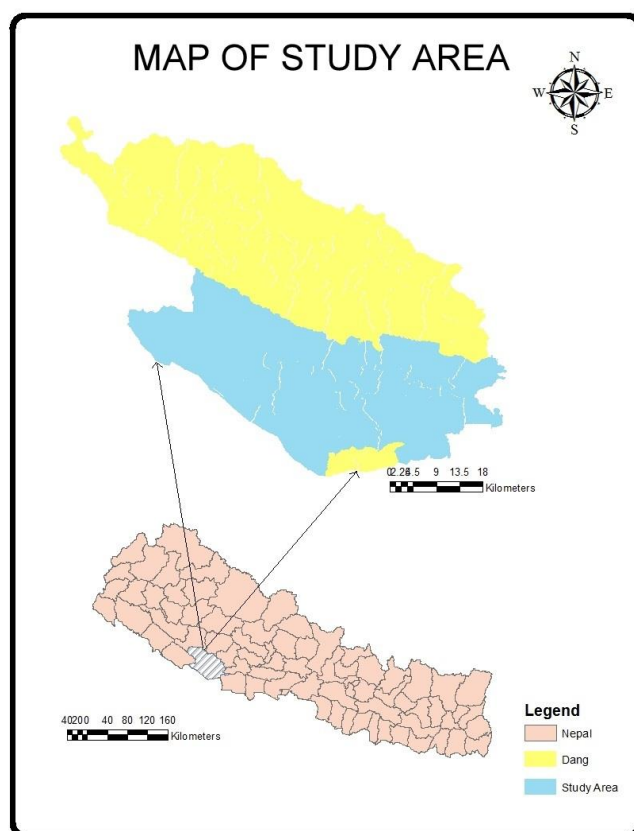
2. Please explain any unforeseen difficulties that arose during the project and how these were tackled (if relevant).

Losing camera traps from the forest was the major problem in the beginning. Later we discussed with villagers and forest users about the camera trap set up in forest for research purpose and consequently such cases decreased. Community forest user committee members helped to convey message to the villagers and forest users.

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

a) Status and distribution of Hyaena in Deukhuri Valley

Camera trap survey was done after dividing the study area in the grids of size 5 x 5 km². Single camera trap was deployed in each grid. The grids with less than 50% forest cover and human settlement area were excluded. Camera traps were placed in 22 places in study area.



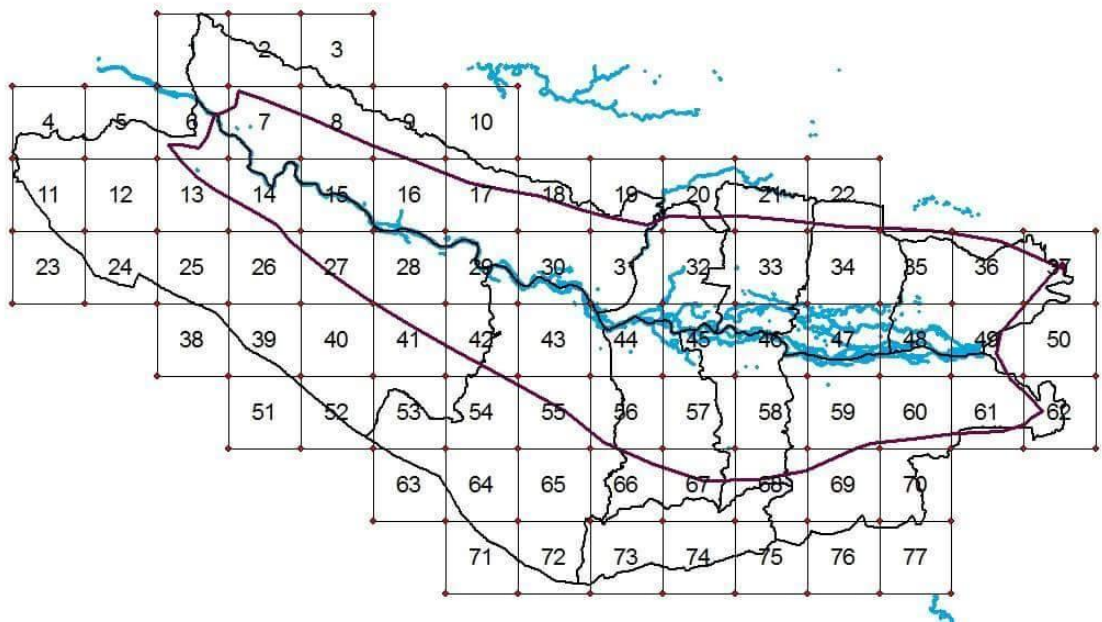
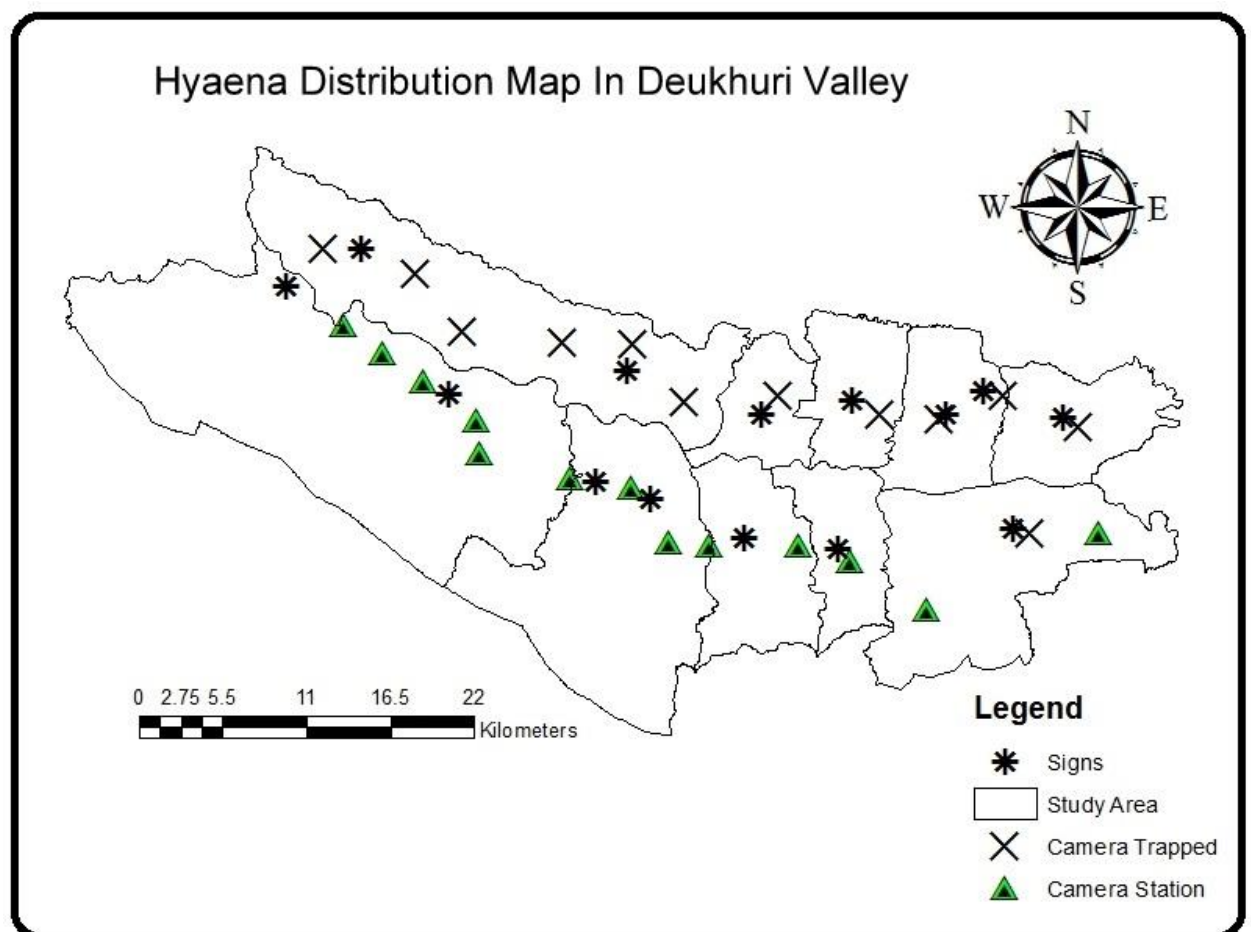


Fig: Study area divided in to grids of size 5x5 km²



b) Conservation Initiatives of Hyaena

The conservation initiatives of this species were done for the very first time in study area. Posters, awareness leaflets, pocket calendars, awareness t-shirts were distributed during the project period which helped to create awareness among students, local youth, local people and local stakeholders.

Huge celebration of World Environment day-2016:

With involvement of 9 schools, Nepal police, local organization and sector forest office and more than 1000 students helped to create mass awareness in Gadawa Village development committee. Two-day long event was organised with various programs like quiz competitions among students, rally and cleanliness programme.

First workshop on hyaena in Nepal was organized in Kathmandu. Organisations working in the field of wildlife research and conservation, Department of Forest, staff of national park, freelancer researchers, journalists, university students and local people from study area participated in workshop. News regarding this workshop was broadcasted by national media and local radio of Dang. Also this workshop was shown in "Serofero" programme by NTV Plus (a national television channel).

c) Exploration of Biodiversity of Valley

This is the first intensive study in valley using camera traps. Camera trap survey and sign survey aided in finding out the distribution of hyaena and other species in Deukhuri Valley. More than 10,000 images from this research were analysed and a total of 19 mammal species were camera trapped during this period.

Honey badger (*Mellivora capensis*) was also recorded in camera trap which is the first record of honey badger for Dang. We also recorded more than 100 species of birds during field work. This camera trap images of mammals and bird checklist will be helpful to prepare the faunal checklist of the Valley.

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

Local people including students participated in the awareness camps and learnt about various hyaena-related information; their importance in ecosystem, threats. It helped to clarify the misconceptions about hyaena and changed their perspectives. Conservation materials were displayed in public areas. These activities

acted as a baseline for the conservation and protection of entire wildlife in the valley.

Local youths and forest guards were accessed with the applications of GPS, camera trap setting and interpretation of signs in the study area.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Further research and conservation activities are needed here and other part of Nepal so we plan to continue this work.

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

Research works were largely covered on local and national newspaper; so many people were known about this project. Interview with researcher on local radio about hyaena research was done twice during the project.

First hyaena research sharing workshop was organised in Kathmandu where various organisations, researchers, local people, journalists and students participated. As mentioned above news regarding this workshop was covered by national media and local radio of Dang. Also this workshop was shown in "Serofero" program by NTV Plus (a national television channel).

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CeNOWWpvlAI>

The outcome of this research has been disseminated through the presentation title "Distribution of Striped Hyaena in Deukhuri Valley" in the international conference on "Mountains in the Changing World" (MoChWo), 1st-2nd October 2016 organised by the Kathmandu Institute of Applied Sciences.

A copy of research report will be provided to local organisations, district forest office and Department of Forest. Furthermore finding of this research will be published in some journal.

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

Majority of the grants were used at the beginning and during field work. Remaining budget was used for printing of conservation materials and hyaena workshop in Kathmandu at the end. As soon as the project was approved we started to work so the project was started before 2 months as mentioned in the proposal.

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
Travel cost	180	320	-140	Long route was used due to increase in water level in river and lack of bridge.
Food cost	665	687	-22	Difference in food cost from place to place
Living cost	1300	1100	+200	Guest Room of community forest office was used in some place.
Allowance	800	800	0	
Stationary and equipment	330	350	-20	
Awareness poster	125	125	0	
Awareness leaflet	400	400	0	
Awareness pocket calendar	80	80	0	
Awareness T-shirts	200	218	-18	Printing cost was expensive then estimated
Awareness Campaign	160	240	-80	Two days long event was organized during world environment day.
First Hyaena workshop	535	535	0	
Data management mapping and report preparation	100	100	0	
Total	4875	4955	-80	This budget was supported by Gadawa CFCC; local NGO of Deukhuri Valley it was partner organization for world environment day celebration.

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

Result of this research shows distribution of hyaena in Deukhuri Valley so there is need of spreading message of conservation of this species. Conservation awareness activities were done during this project but that was not enough due to large

geographical area. More importantly local forest guards should be made more aware about wildlife conservation, so program focusing empowering forest guard should be launched. Regular monitoring and long term conservation actions should be taken for conservation of this species.

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 logo of the Rufford Foundation was used in hyaena conservation posters, awareness leaflets, pocket calendars, awareness T-shirts. The logo was also displayed during the hyaena conservation workshop presentation, and in banners prepared for conservation camps.

Environment day celebration team-2016 provided an appreciation certificate on the name of Rufford Foundation for their support on hyaena conservation and research in Deukhuri Valley. Rufford Foundation was acknowledged in all activities during this project. Project activities were also posted in different Facebook group/page. Also, we talked about support of Rufford Foundation in radio and television interview. Logo of Rufford Foundation was used in all conservation materials produced during project period.

11. Any other comments?

I am very thankful to The Rufford Foundation for funding hyaena project and I am hoping for similar support in the future. I would like to thank local stakeholder (Gadawa and Narti Community forest coordination committee) and all the community forest user group of Deukhuri Valley for their help and support during research.