

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	Thal Prasad Koirala
Project title	Survey on diversity, distribution and threat of Frog in the catchment area of Gidaphu Forest
RSG reference	16913-1
Reporting period	January 2016 – Dec 2016
Amount of grant	£ 4317
Your email address	thal_prasad@yahoo.com
Date of this report	31 st January 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
To list out diversity and distribution of anurans (frogs and toads) from the catchment area of Gidakom Forest				Extreme climatic conditions and other related environmental factors influence early hibernation of anurans in the upper valley of the study area. So survey was done accordingly to list out available anurans within the limited active period.
Threat factors				It is observed that threat factors are limited. For <i>Nanorana leibigii</i> , it is human consumption. Wood extraction is common habitat destruction.
Conservation education message				More than 500 heads were involved on this conservation message, through different medium of communication.

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

Initially identification of some species became quite confusing and subject of difficulties because identification was done based on morphology of the species only. It was noticed same species within the study area but under different micro – habitat exhibit different colour, size and other characters very similar to some other species of anurans (frogs and toads). However, in order to have a concrete finding, additional different field books on herpetofauna were refereed, scientific paper published on anurans by Bhutanese researchers were referred, photographs taken from the site were sent to Bhutanese herpetologists and to Wildlife Institute of India (WII) to tackle the problems.

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

1. Diversity and distribution of the anurans were listed for the first time from the study area. Initially before the start of this project Himalayan toad was the

only species sighted in the field. So this project helped to list come out with three additional species. The distribution of the anurans ranges from 2100 m asl to 3800 m asl however in the past above 3000 m asl anurans were never sighted at the site.

2. Threats factors: Frog species like *Nanorana liebigii* is very often collected for direct consumption by local community without knowing its status and wood extraction from the site are some of the rising threats which need to be carefully studied and analysed.
3. Participatory approach: Local community involvement for conservation of anurans was really encouraging approach. Participants were convinced the role played by anurans and promise to help to protect the anurans rather than considering the object of hatred. Young school going children were explained on food chain and food web to educate the illiterate parents back home. So the seed of conservation is sown from class room for long term conservation success.

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

Local community and school going children of the catchment area initially have very limited knowledge on the role played by anurans on their living environment, because they were never ever sensitised on its role by anyone. They have different story to narrate stating they thought charismatic animals are subject of protection and anurans are just hatred objects to many them. My presentation in the class field visits and halts could influence and widen the gap of understanding among the community and promised to give helping hand especially for protection of *Nanorana liebigii* which is silently collected for consumption without knowing its status.

Local guides and very often local people were involved in the field in the nearby locality for searching of anurans in the forest and in farm land as a result they were motivated to work on such project for common cause apart from monetary benefits they received for helping us. We observed this really encourage them to understand the cause of protecting anurans.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Sure, I am planning, if not it is just half work done. Through this project I have gained good knowledge and field experience to continue the similar work. The anurans of higher altitude are less studied and less known. I know field work would be tough due to rugged terrain and extreme climatic conditions but I am armed with thought and plan to go ahead if my proposal is approved by RSG. Habitat preference and

breeding behaviour of *Nanorana lebigii* and scutiger species is subject of my interest which would be new chapter of information on the anurans of the country.

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

Continue to present the finding to other migratory community of the area, loggers' miners and individual through field visit, power point presentation on gathering. Report writing and submission to agencies like (WWF Bhutan) Royal Society for Protection of Nature (RSPN) Department of Forest and Park Services (DoFPS) and concerned research institutes. Paper will be published for reference to other interested individual far and wide.

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 time frame initially projected was for 14 months, however owing to extreme climatic conditions and other related environmental factors influencing the sighting of anurans, prioritisation of field survey was done from February to early October 2016. Awareness creation among the community and school children was done during the rest extreme winter months until December 2016 when sighting of anurans was not possible. Therefore there was some adjustment on timing. Report writing and publication is on draft which is likely to take few months.

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
Hiring of vehicle for field visit	384	384	0	
Purchase of 3 pairs rubber boots	150	100	50	
Purchase of 4 men tent	100	150	50	
Purchase of Garmen GPS	110	120	10	
Purchase of cannon camera EOS 1200D	390	370	20	
Purchase of altimeter and compass	50	50	0	
Purchase of 3 number backpack	150	140	10	
Purchase of torch lights and	60	60	0	

medical kits				
Payment for 3 supporting surveyors	2025	2025	0	
Payment for potter	160	160	0	
Payment for food and refreshment to serve to 500 heads of communities and school going children	350	350	0	
Hiring charge of conference hall	120	120	0	
Award of price to best 3 students on essay writing completion on biological role played by frogs	80	60	20	
Publication cost of reports	188			Reserve for future use after reefing the draft report
Purchase of additional field guide books on herpetofauna from India and NHBS(Europe)	0	80	80	Not budgeted
TOTAL	4317	4357	40	

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

Continue to make study on those anurans and make a proper documentation through report writing and publication. Amphibians of the higher altitude are lesser studied, so there is deficient of information at the local and national level. Continue to foster the awareness education among the rural community for long term conservation success through participatory approach and open ended questions to garner the basic information.

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?

Yes, I used and explained the contribution made by RSG on conservation science during the power point presentation among the rural community, school going children and among the teachers and also among my forestry associates and seniors. Same will be acknowledging on report and manuscript publication.

11. Please provide a full list of all the members of your team and briefly what was their role in the project.

12. Any other comments?

I, for the first time completed this project through the sole funding of RSG. I notice it is the only international conservation based organisation easily access for seeking fund. RSG directly supporting field activities on individual is really encouraging and motivating when we are confronted by limited fund. We have rich biodiversity but we lack financial support to understand better. I therefore extend my heartfelt thanks for RSG for providing financial support through which I could contribute valuable information at the local level apart from gaining skill and field knowledge on amphibians to continue similar work.