

## The Rufford Foundation Final Report

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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](mailto:jane@rufford.org).

Thank you for your help.

**Josh Cole, Grants Director**

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| Grant Recipient Details    |   |
|----------------------------|---|
| <b>Your name</b>           | Nirmala Panthy  |
| <b>Project title</b>       | Distribution, Habitat Modelling, Economic Contribution and Conservation of Yarsagumba ( <i>Ophiocordyceps sinensis</i> ) in Api Nampa Conservation Area of Nepal. |
| <b>RSG reference</b>       | 17916-1   |
| <b>Reporting period</b>    | 12 months   |
| <b>Amount of grant</b>     | £4785   |
| <b>Your email address</b>  | panthynirmala@gmail.com   |
| <b>Date of this report</b> | 25th July, 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 prepare the distribution map and habitat model map of <i>O. sinensis</i> in Api Nampa Conservation Area (ANCA)  |              |                    | ✓              | I have prepared the distribution map and habitat model map of <i>O. sinensis</i> in ANCA. This information is useful for management authority for conservation of this species in its natural habitats. |
| To understand the economic contribution of this species on livelihood of local people, businessmen and community development as well as government revenue |              |                    | ✓              | I have explored the information on economic contribution of this species on livelihood of local people, community and government revenue.   |
| To document the present conservation threats to <i>O. sinensis</i> in ANCA   |              |                    | ✓              | I have documented the immediate and long term conservation threats of conservation of this species.   |
| To aware local people to conserve this species as well as overall biodiversity   |              |                    | ✓              | We aware the local people to conserve this species through sustainable harvesting.  |

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

Due to remoteness and high elevation of study area I felt the high altitude sickness. I arranged time for acclimatization at appropriate places to tackle with that difficulty.

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

Top three important outcomes of my project are as follows.

- A. Distributed and potential habitats of this species are explored: Lolu, Pilkandadaha, Rokhap, Chaimatela, Dhankundya, Dharmaghar, Dhudiban, Kuntisau and Tatalek are major habitat of *O. sinensis*.
- B. Information on economic contribution of this species and threats of this species were explored. Every year around 1000 kg of *O. sinensis* is collected from ANCA. More than \$100,000 revenue is earned by Government of Nepal. Local people earn more than \$20,000,000 by selling that amount. Unsustainable harvesting is the major threats of this species in study area of this project.
- C. Local people are motivated to conserve this species through sustainable harvesting methods. The project conducted the conservation awareness programmes to conserve this species. We discouraged the premature harvesting and encouraged to manage waste materials of collectors at appropriate places.

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

Local people were involved during the field work as field guide and potter. They were benefited by wages, food and accommodation. Maximum numbers of people were involved during the conservation awareness programmes. In these programmes local communities were benefited by getting knowledge and information. All participants were received community outreach materials viz. posters and leaflets.

**5. Are there any plans to continue this work?**

I have plans to continue my work. In my next project I will design project for more border area to conserve this species.

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

I am working with *O. sinensis* specialist to publish the research findings in international scientific 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?**

I worked in actual time frame. My project is completed in 12 months as designed in 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 |
|--|-----------------|---------------|------------|----------|
| Field Accommodations                   | 3070            | 2940          | 130        |          |
| Travel cost                            | 450             | 455           | -5         |          |
| Equipment (GPS and camera)             | 360             | 360           | 0          |          |
| Community Outreach Materials           | 825             | 940           | -115       |          |
| Data Management Analysis and Reporting | 80              | 90            | -10        |          |
| <b>Total</b>                           | 4785            | 4785          | 0          |          |

Exchange rate £1= NRs. 149

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

The major threats of this valuable species are unsustainable harvesting and unmanaged waste materials. In this scenario border level conservation project should be designed to conserve this species and its natural habitats.

**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?**

We have used The Rufford Foundation logo during the conservation awareness programs and presentations in meetings. I used this logo at the time to get permission from Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation also. The Rufford Small Grants Foundation will be acknowledged in all publications related to this project.

**11. Any other comments?**

Contribution of The Rufford Small Grants Foundation is highly appreciated. Thank you very much for your kind support.



Left: Conservation awareness program. Right: Habitat of Yarsagumba in Api Nampa Conservation Area.