

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	Prabin Bhusal
Project title	Agroforestry Promotion for Livelihood Enhancement and Biodiversity Conservation
RSG reference	18405-2
Reporting period	November 2016
Amount of grant	£4891
Your email address	bhusalp1@gmail.com
Date of this report	December 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
Promote multiple-use farming system for the enhancement of socio-economic status of farmers				There has been substantial change in the mind-set of local community to adopt agroforestry; however it takes some time to be fully adopted by all households.
Increase the local biodiversity and reduce pressure on forest				The community has realised that the plantation in their home garden and barren land will help reduce the pressure on forest for firewood and fodder.
Raise community awareness on the importance and need of agroforestry				The collective actions and series of meetings through participatory action research process and with the leadership of programme management committee and community forest leaders has help to educate users on the importance and need of agroforestry.

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

There was not much difficulty in conducting the meetings and discussions as per the activities of the project. The Community Forest User Group (CFUG) as an institution has helped in effective implementation of the project. However due to the earthquake we have had to postpone some of the activities. The increasing concern of users in reconstruction has somehow slow down the user's participation and shifted the priority of district stakeholders.

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

- It has increased knowledge of local community to choose and practice appropriate agro-forestry techniques for better management of their land.
- Increased biodiversity and help conserve the forest through plantation of non-timber forest products. This will also help improve the livelihood of the poor people who are the member of CFUG.
- It has helped better management of barren and degraded land, now community have initiated to plant fodder and fruit trees in their home garden. There is increased connection of community with the government agencies like forest office. They visit forest office for plantation and on other technical issues in forest management.

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

The Community Forest User Group (CFUG) is the legal institution formed for the management of forest where all the local community are the members. We have formed the programme management committee and different groups for management of demonstration plot from the CFUGs. This has helped for the direct involvement of local community in the project activities. The CFUGs arrange meetings each month where leaders (who are also the member of PMC) get together and discuss the issues and programmes and their requirements. In these meetings they usually discuss the project activities, progress and challenges. Besides, the local community are involved in each of the project activities: in plantation during demo plot formation, plant distribution, in training and visits and during the local awareness programmes.

This has increased the collective action among the CFUG members. They have now decided to carry out non-timber forest species plantations in barren forest land with the involvement and leadership of women groups. Most importantly, more than 80% of members have renewed their memberships and committed to be involved in plantations. Similarly they have good connection with forest office where they can get the plant seedlings free.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

To ensure sustainability of the activities the executive committee members of the CFUG has been trained on the agroforestry techniques and on its importance for better management of land and forest. Now they can educate their users and other

CFUG members during formal and informal meetings of CFUG and discuss it each year in their general assembly. They have formal sub-committee on management of demonstration plots which are constructed on the barren land inside the community forest. In this way they will continue for better forest management and livelihood benefits.

Further, I am also thinking to scale out these activities to other districts in mid-hills and Terai of Nepal through the upcoming projects.

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

I am drafting the article for the national daily newspaper on the agroforestry role for land and forest management. Similarly, through the radio programme I will disseminate the results of the project. Besides, I am also planning to write the peer-review article for agroforestry journal based on the results of the first and second Rufford projects. For this I will request help from some of my colleagues in university (As I am now appointed as assistant professor in Tribhuvan University, Institute of Forestry in Nepal) who are working in this field.

Similarly, in the CFUG meetings the progress and the learning's have been updated and will be discussed and shared in the upcoming general assembly in January 2017. The learning and reflection sharing programme with the CFUG members and local leaders was organised in both CFUGs.

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 grant was used for one year and two months period. It was two months more than the anticipated length of the project. The earthquake reconstruction process has slowed down project activities and for that reason the project continued for extra two 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.

£1- Nepalese rupees = 1:150

Item	Budgeted Amount	Actual Amount	Difference	Comments
Program Management Committee and Small Farmers groups formation	150	150	-	spent as per the actual amount
DSA for team leader and field researcher	1260/360	1260/360		provided as per actual amount
Training workshops and excursion costs (Tea and snacks)	850	1100	250	- more expenses for vehicle during field visits - provided some DSA for participants during training
Local Transportation for team leader and field assistance	200	200	-	-
Stationary, printing and communication	250	250	-	-
Plants and seedlings	250	400	150	- increased in the number of households and price of plants, particularly the price of fruit species is too high.
Dissemination costs (hoarding board, calendars, newspaper, pamphlets)	1521	1121	400	The remaining cost was used for deficit amount in training and plants and seedlings headings
Journal paper publication	50	-	50	The paper is not yet published, it will be published this in 2017.
Total	4891	4841	50	

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

The next step is to regularly monitor of the demo-plot and support the CFUGs on the technical issues and ensure the sustainable use of demo plot.

During our 4 years of research in ForestAction we have seen great potential in public land forestry (agroforestry) in southern Terai of Nepal. The forest is 18 km from the northern Chure region and the dependency of southern people on firewood and timber is very high. They have to fight with the northern community for firewood who are managing the forests. And there is severe conflict between southern and northern inhabitants which has undermined the prospect of sustainable forest management in Terai and Chure.

Therefore I am planning to make people aware and adopt agroforestry through public land management so it can decrease their dependency in forest and can fulfil the need of fodder and firewood and therefore decrease the conflict.

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 have used the logo of Rufford Foundation in most of the activities and the publications that were produced in relation to these project activities like banners, hoarding boards, calendars etc.

The RSGF has received a lot of appreciations, the government officials particularly the forest officials have thanked the foundation for its support in conservation. Similarly the CFUG leaders have been very grateful for the financial support to enhance the agroforestry and aware people on forest management.

11. Any other comments?

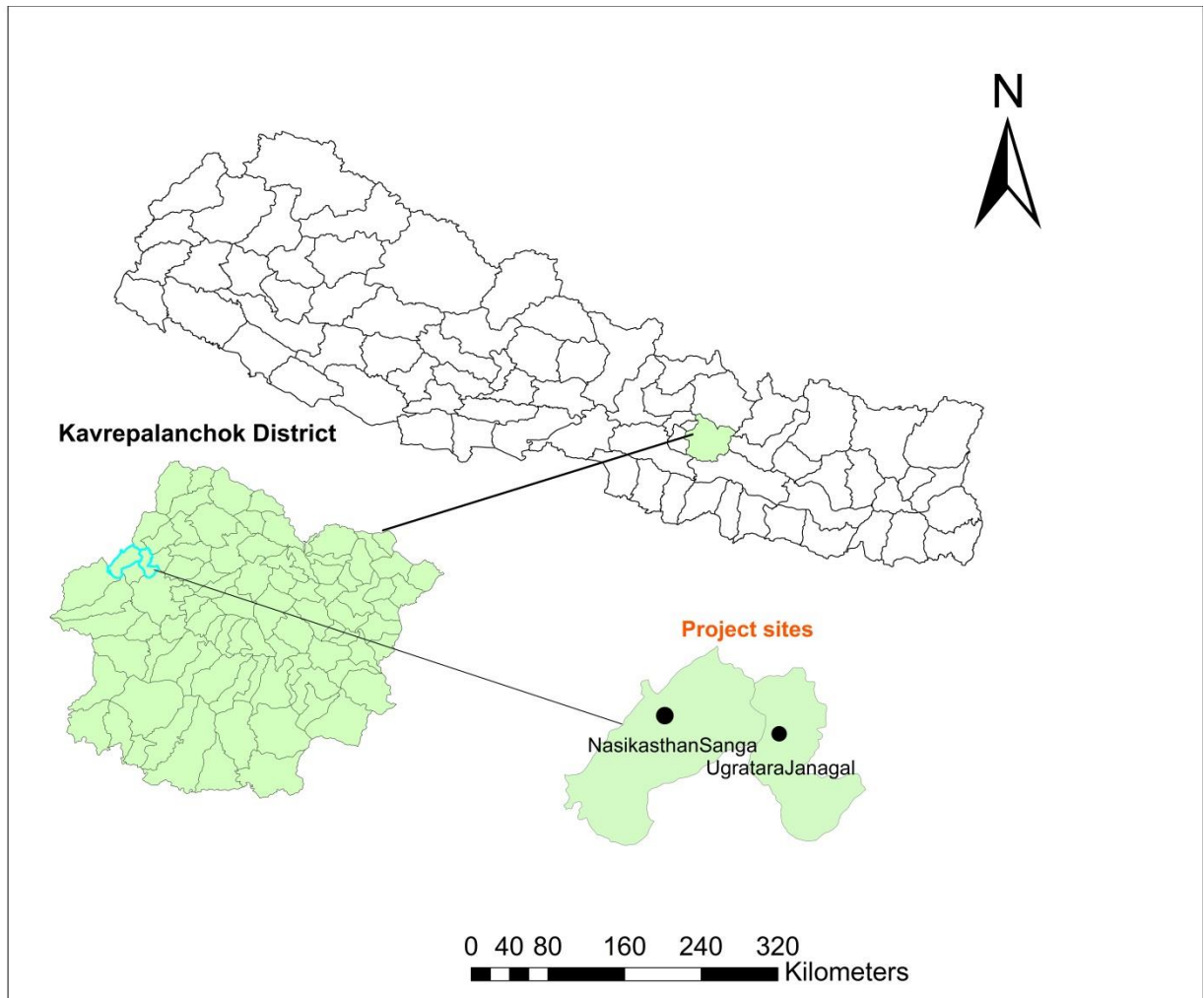
I like to give thanks to Rufford Small Grant for Nature Conservation for the financial and moral support. It has not only helped me to work on conservation but also enhanced my knowledge in biodiversity conservation. I am now very confident in conservation project management and its effective implementation.

I also would like to thank my referees who have been very supportive during the course of the project. Special thanks go to Matt Low who always pushed me and put query on the progress and challenges of the project during the project duration and beyond project duration. Similarly, I am thankful to my office ForestAction Nepal, who provided me the extra time for the project works and helped me during the field works.

Hope to be connected with RSGF continuously for conservation and natural resource management.

Annexes:

Annex one: Map of project site



Annex two: Photos



PMC Meetings



Training sessions



Training and meetings



Seedlings distribution to users



Seedling distribution to users



Plantation in demo plot



Plantation in demo plot