

The Rufford Foundation

Final Report

Congratulations on the completion of your project that was supported by The Rufford Small Grants Foundation.

We ask all grant recipients to complete a Final Report Form that helps us to gauge the success of our grant giving. 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. 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	Ganga Ram Regmi
Project title	Mitigating Human-Assamese Monkey Conflict in Upper Mai Valley, East Nepal
RSG reference	18411-D
Reporting period	Nov 2015 to October 2016
Amount of grant	£10,000
Your email address	regmigr1978@yahoo.com
Date of this report	21 Nov 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
Training to local farmers for the preparation of nurseries of cash crops and medicinal plants			√	
Marketing of the cash crop and medicinal plant and their products			√	
Livelihood improvement of local farmers			√	
Human-Assamese Monkey conflict management			√	
Awareness about the importance of monkeys to regulate the surrounding forests			√	

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

The project completed successfully without any difficulties.

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

Three most important outcomes of my project:

[I]Farmers got trained to grow the cash crops and medicinal plants in the buffer area between the crop land and forest

The farmers were trained on planting and caring the nurseries of medicinal and cash crops. Now they started to grow these crops instead of traditional and low priced maize and potatoes at least in the crop-raiding affected areas.

[II]Livelihood improvement of local farmers

Before launching of the project, it was very difficult for farmers to manage their daily food because the major staple crop like maize and potatoes were raided by monkeys. But now, they have started growing cash crops and medicinal plants in the buffer areas. These crops are not raided by monkeys and also have very good price than maize and potatoes. They can pay the school/college fee of their kids,

can buy the essential medicines and can maintain the daily expenses. Conservation is only successful when the local people are benefitted from the local resources they have in their surroundings such as forests and wildlife. Therefore, now the farmers have some hope of their livelihood improvement and have positive attitudes even towards the crop-raiding and problematic animals like Assamese monkeys.

[III] Commitment of local people for the conservation of Assamese monkeys in their forest

The benefited farmers now have positive attitudes towards monkeys and have committed to conserve the moneys in the forest. However continuous support, empowerment and more alternative livelihoods options to them need to be developed in the coming days. The farmers are very interested to develop and plant alternative high-value cash and medical plant (unpalatable to monkeys) instead of traditional, low-value and vulnerable crops like maize and potato.

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

This project has been implemented completely with the involvement of local farmers who suffer from the crop raiding problem by Assamese monkeys. The farmers were involved in the training and workshops, nursery development, awareness programmes and market research. One hundred and eighty households were directly benefitted from the project. The project trained them to develop the nurseries of cash crops and medicinal plants and the method of care and marketing the products. The project also helped them with the seed and saplings of cash crops and medicinal plants for free for the first phase.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

This farmer-monkey conflict mitigation project was very successful and the local farmers are now committed to conserve the monkeys. Since we have limited budget to support and train the farmers, we applied the project only in our targeted villages. The farmers of other villages and districts are also expecting such type of trainings and support. Therefore we need to extend this project in other villages where the Assamese monkeys are being the problem for the poor farmers.

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

I have already shared the results of my work in the conference and in the national newspapers. I will share the results with the district forest offices and also publish the results in the journals.

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

The RSG was used from November 2015 to October 2016. This period completely fit with the actual length of the project.

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
Project inception workshops	£1400	£1400	0	
Training to the farmers	£4400	£4400	0	
Seed distribution	£2000	£2000	0	
Field visit & monitoring	£800	£700	+£100	I used bus instead of local flight from Kathmandu to field site. So this difference is due to the cheap bus service.
Community outreach activities	£750	£750	0	
Project follow up and evaluation	£650	£650	0	
TOTAL	£10,000	£10,100	+£100	

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

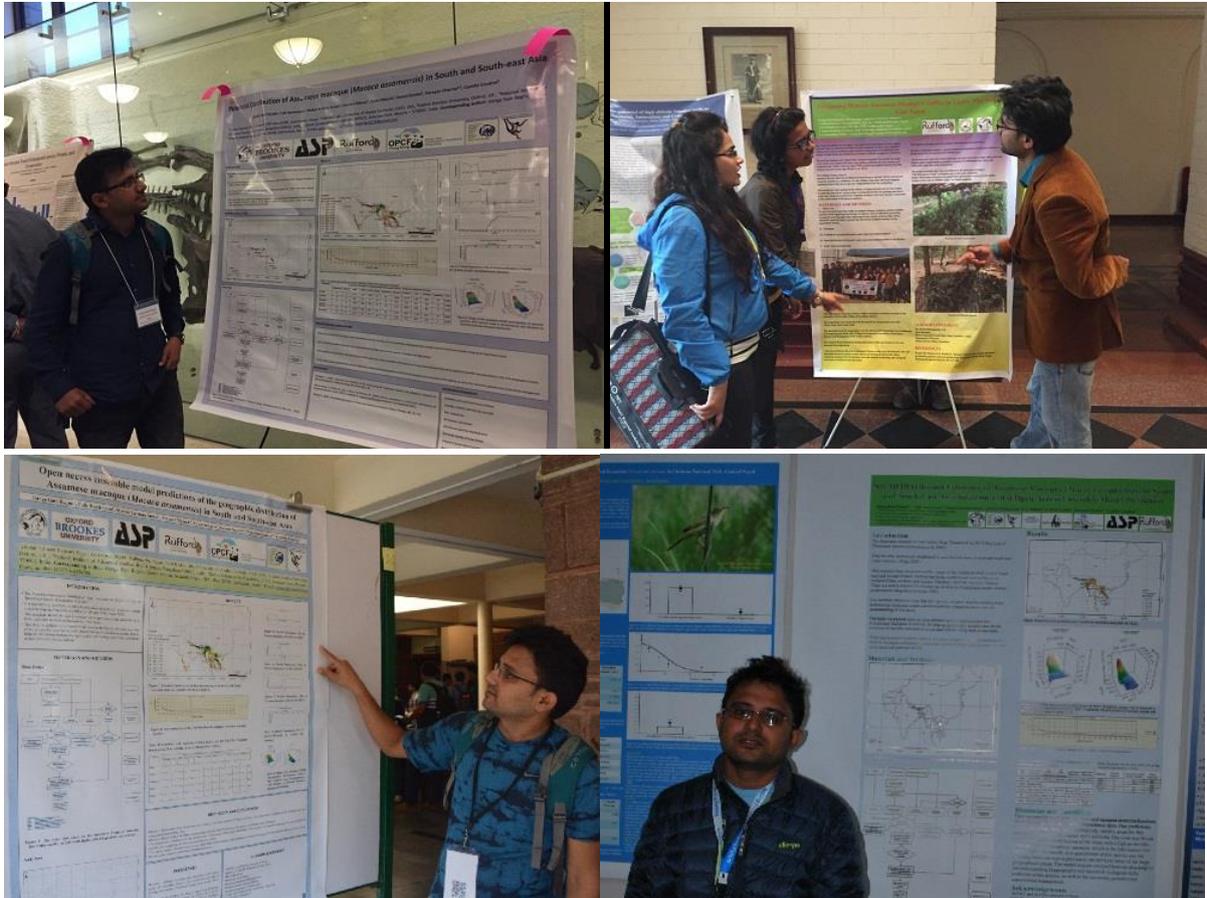
This farmer-monkey conflict mitigation project was very successful and the local farmers are now committed to conserve the monkeys. Since we have limited budget to support and train the farmers, we applied the project only in our targeted villages. The farmers of other villages and districts are also expecting such type of trainings and support. Therefore we need to extend this project in other villages where the Assamese monkeys are being the problem for the poor farmers.

10. Did you use the RSGF 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 the RSGF logo during workshops/meetings, training programmes, in the nurseries plots and also during the national and international conferences. I have sent most of these publicities to the RSGF but I still need to send some publicity about my RSGF funded Assamese monkey works which I have been presenting in USA (2013 & 2016), UK (2011), China (2013 & 2015), India (2013 & 2015) and Nepal (many times). I will send some of these presented posters and images in email attachment.

11. Any other comments?

I would like to thank the Rufford Foundation for supporting my primate research and conservation projects for many years. The RSG grants have not only been helping to boost my career in primatology and conservation but also helped to aware the local people about the importance of Assamese monkeys and other primates in Nepal. I have presented my RSG funded projects and findings in many national and international conferences which have been helping to link with other interested people and organizations. I am hoping for further support from RSG for this farmer-monkey conflict mitigation project in Nepal.



Ganga presenting his Assamese macaque works at Student Conference in Conservation Science (SCCS) in New York, USA from 20-22 Oct 2016, at NAST conference in Kathmandu in 2016, at SCCS Bangaluru, India in September 2015 & at SCCS Beijing in Nov 2014.