

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	Chhimi Dorji
Project title	Habitat Assessment of White Bellied Heron in Punatsangchu River Basin, Bhutan.
RSG reference	18913-1
Reporting period	1st December 2015 to 30th November 2016
Amount of grant	£5000
Your email address	Chhimid10@gmail.com
Date of this report	1 st February 2017

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
Physical environment assessment				All data collected from every single location and analysed. The vegetation along the study area was studied based on type of forest exist.
Food abundance and availability assessment				The fish density, species richness and availability are determined and white-bellied heron habitat variables association was drawn.
Disturbance and threats assessment				All threats both from direct observation and through interviews are collected and analysed for intensity and occurrence frequency in the habitat.
Community awareness programme				The stakeholder workshop was conducted for foresters, local leaders and conservation stakeholders. Meetings were conducted with locals in villages along the river basin and key villages stressing on importance of WHB and nature conservation and importance of co-existence along with nature.
Wider Information Sharing				Information on conservation importance of white-bellied heron and nature. The posters, pamphlets and brochures were printed and supplied to schools, institutions, NGO's, villages. Sign boards were erected in key places.

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

As per the schedule, the study was supposed to complete by 30th November 2016 but as from April till November the bird doesn't stay in the study area. So the leftover data collection has to be done by September till December 2016. For this reason the reporting of the project as delayed as it took some more time to analyse all the collected as well.

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

The three most outcomes of the project:

i. Habitat assessment conducted:

As the main object of the study, all the data on habitat variables such as environment, food abundance and availability and disturbances and threats were collected and analysed. The habitat condition preference of WBH was known from the study. The white-bellied heron and habitat variables association was analysed using canonical correspondence analysis and relation was known.

ii. Awareness to locals:

Another legacy of the study is community awareness education outreach. The locals were thoroughly educated on the conservation importance of the critically endangered white-bellied heron. Locals were also educated on importance of overall conservation of nature.

iii. Wider information sharing

With the fund from Rufford Small Grant Foundation, the information and messages on the conservation importance of the critically endangered white-bellied heron was shared via sign post in critical places, issuing of posters and brochures in schools, institutions, conservation stakeholders and local communities. The study result will be published will international peer reviewed journal acknowledging RSG as sole sponsor for the study for the purpose of sharing information to much wider audiences.

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

The some local community individuals were engaged in data collection. They benefitted with the cash incentives of research assistant. The locals too got education from the project initiative with support from RSG as part of awareness campaign.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

With project completion, the habitat assessment is understood very well. But there is continues need of awareness education. The resource utilisation pattern and resource competition with other birds and mammals are needed to study if we are to conserve the species. These knowledge gap presents hurdle to the species conservation planning. For this, if I can secure second funding from Rufford Small Grant Foundation, study of resource utilisation pattern and resource competition will be studied in depth along with community awareness education outreach programme.

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

The study finding and result will be published in the national and international peer reviewed journal to reach to maximum audiences with acknowledging RSGF. Findings have been shared with local conservation stakeholders for the necessary action.

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 project time line was from 1st December 2016 to 30th November 2017 but as I have secured funding at the end of January 2017, actual grant was used from 27th January 2017 to 30th December 2017, though the study has started from December 2016. During start of the study, activities which requires no money was carried out.

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
Transportation (data collection)	600	600	0	
Salary for 2 assistant support for 168 days (data collection)	900	900	0	
Accommodation for 168 days for 3 persons (data collection)	800	800	0	
Field gears like Fishing nets, Soil and water testing kit, preservation solution, Laser	500	500	0	

range finder, Rope, Tape, etc.				
DSLR camera and Binocular	500	500	0	
GPS, Digital calliper, Altimeter	300	300	0	
Community Awareness Programme	500	545	-45	The cost of working lunch and refreshments were more than anticipated amount. This extra cost of £40
Printing of information pamphlets and sign boards, data sheets etc.	600	600	0	
Report preparation, presentation and dissemination	250	250	0	
Miscellaneous	50	0	+50	This money was kept for miscellaneous purposes and was used to cover extra expenses cost of awareness campaign and bank charges.
Bank charges	0	5	-5	The bank charges where not initially projected.
Total	5000	5000	0	

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

With working on white-bellied heron related project over a year, I see many knowledge gaps about the species. The most important and requires immediate studies and action is the resource utilisation pattern and resource competition faced by the White-bellied heron and continued awareness education outreach initiatives.

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, the logo of RSGF is used on every work and acknowledged on every articles.

11. Any other comments?

The white-bellied heron is critically endangered and its population and conditions are very scary. Conservation action and related study is must to carry on. Funding agencies must put in funds to save this species. Thank you Rufford Foundation for the continued support of the project to save this critically endangered species.