

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	Jampel Wangmo
Project title	Community awareness on critically endangered white bellied herons and endangered black necked crane in Bhutan.
RSG reference	19123-1
Reporting period	March 2016 to March 2017
Amount of grant	£ 4950
Your email address	jwangmo88@yahoo.com
Date of this report	18/08/2016

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
1. Assess at what level the communities in urban and rural are aware of white bellied herons and black necked cranes conservation important.				<p>WBH assessment study was done in four districts, namely Wangdue, Punakha, Zhemgang and Tsirang and for black necked crane; the study was conducted in three districts, namely Wangdue, Bumthang and Trashigang which are currently known habitats of these birds.</p> <p>A total of 360 households were randomly selected in both urban and rural areas to know their level of awareness towards these birds.</p> <p>Data collection was done in June, July, August and September 2016.</p> <p>From each district, I have sampled and interviewed 60 respondents of both females and males from each dzongkhag. Which in total was 360 respondents that includes illiterates, official, students and the business communities.</p> <p>The study showed that 71.1% of respondents are aware of these two birds and 28.1% do not know about these birds.</p>
Respondent's awareness on these two birds.				<p>Globally, lack of awareness among the general public is thought to be a primary cause for inadequate conservation measures (Price and Goodman, 2015). In Bhutan, RSPN has done lot of work for the last 20 years and reached in the ears of many decision makers and local communities, which has help build certain level of</p>

			<p>ownership. Various conservation awareness materials such as sign boards and posters were put up along WBH's and BNC principal habitation areas.</p> <p>I have compared the urban and rural awareness in six habitat districts in Bhutan.</p> <p>For community respondents from Trashi Yangtse district, I have selected three places: Bumdeling, yallang and Ramjargeog.</p> <p>From Bumthang district, I have selected respondents from Tang, Chumey and Dekiling geog. The respondents of Tsirang district were from Burichuu, Salamji and Damphu, and from Wangdue district, respondents were from Namgzina, Punatshangchu, and Phobjikha valley. Respondents of Zhemgang district were from Trong geog and residents from Berti valley from and from Punakha district, respondents were from Phochu-Mochu residents, Tsekha and residents from Khawajara which respondents largely farmers. Whereas, respondents from town areas are included under urban resident which it includes officials, shopkeeper and students with different perspectives.</p> <p>The study reveals that 60% of the rural communities are aware while 40% do not know about these two birds.</p> <p>Subsequently, 78% of the urban residents know about the birds and 22% do not know.</p> <p>The study concludes that urban community are more aware than the rural community. This is because of the fact that urban communities have access to social media, newspaper and</p>
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				internet compared to rural community in Bhutan.
Respondent's perception on Importance of WBH/BNC.				<p>The white bellied heron commonly known as "Chubjaa" and black necked crane as "thrunthrunhkarm" which is also known as "lhabjaa" for many decades has had a secret identity in Bhutanese culture. They are often cited in folklore, dances, traditional paintings and other historical text (RSPN, Living with the crane, 2014).</p> <p>The local people believe that circling of cranes as they come into land confers a special blessing to the people and the crop production in the village.</p> <p>Historically, the cranes are referred to as the 'heavenly birds' because of their beauty and elegance. (RSPN, Living with the Cranes, 2014)</p> <p>Majority of the respondents believes that these two birds are very important to their locality and nation as a whole.</p> <p>77.8% of the respondent believes that the bird has important significance in conservation and social association culturally while 22.2% has no idea about their importance in conservation.</p>
Respondents perception on WBH/BNC				<p>White bellied herons classified as critically endangered under the IUCN Red List Categories, and black necked crane classified as endangered under IUCN Red List. They are the flagship species of the country. Black necked crane is mysterious and last to discover out of 15 species of cranes in the world.</p> <p>50% of respondents understand that WBH is critically endangered and BNC is endangered and vulnerable. Respondent feels that both the birds need strong regulation for protection and conservation. 33% of respondent only perceives that the birds are</p>

			<p>important part of the ecosystem that need conservation effort and protection from poaching.</p> <p>The overall analysis from the respondent clearly indicated that many are actually aware of these two birds and their importance in term of ecosystem dynamics and social association culturally and traditionally. Many also knew that these two birds through RSPN, who has been working on conservation for many years. They also say that they see in social media in the form of songs and MTV indicating their importance in ecosystem.</p>
Respondent's awareness on the habitat of white bellied herons in Bhutan.			<p>In general, almost all the respondents were aware on the existence of white bellied herons and black necked crane in Bhutan.</p> <p>WBH habitat areas sampled and compared their level of awareness; 85% of respondents knows that the bird habitats in Punatsangchu basin, Adha and Nangzina under Wangdi District and 66% of respondents aware and seen in Phochu and Mochu river sites under Punakha district and 48% of the people knows about the bird habitat in Berti chhu under Zhemgang district and 58.5% respondents aware birds habitat in Burichu under Tsirang district and subsequently only 15% of the people know about the bird in Trashi Yangtze. This could be because of the fact that WBH was sighted in Trashi Yangtze recently in 2016 and it did not really reached the people in terms of its important in conservation and protection.</p>
Respondents awareness on habitat of Black Necked			<p>In general maximum of the respondent are aware of the presence of black necked crane in Bhutan.</p>

Crane in Bhutan				<p>84.1% of respondents know that the bird habitats in Phobjikha and Khotokha under Wangdi District. 83.3% also responded that BNC are also seen under Trashe Yangtse district and subsequently 60.3% in Bumthang, 41.1% said they have seen in Phobjikha wetland under Wangdue district and 9.1% of respondents are still not aware of its habitat.</p> <p>Therefore, the respondent's awareness on habitat of black necked crane in Phobjikha under Wangdue district are more with 84.1% than other habitation areas of black necked crane in Bhutan</p>
Awareness program on conservation of endangered black necked crane and critically endangered white bellied herons				<p>Hired a hall in Thimphu at the Institute of Health and Science for invited teachers from different school mainly from the WBH and BNC habitat areas, communities from the nearby villages and people who lived in the satellite towns. I have presented them on the importance of these two birds and their conservation importance in the country. Displayed posters and information available on both the birds in the meeting hall. Imparting awareness was part of the process during sampling sites for interview. The awareness program to the local communities along the habitat of the birds was also being supported by students from the college of Natural Resources, Royal University of Bhutan.</p>
Local People's Perception on Threats and Disturbance to WBH/BNC				<p>Respondents said that after awareness programmes in 2007 by RSPN, the people reduced their activities such as sand and stone extraction from WBH and BNC habitats. However there are still some commercial activities that disturb the bird's habitat</p> <p>18% of respondents said illegal fishing, 13% are from logging, 24% are from</p>

				<p>mining 9% are from hunting the birds and 5% are due to new settlement, 12% from excavation of river beds, 17% are due to construction of road, 10% are from transportation purposes and 2% do not know anything about these.</p>
Publicity				<p>Created a Facebook web page titled awareness of white bellied herons and black necked crane in Bhutan. It's a forum where I am putting my research work and updating the important information on these two birds</p> <p>https://www.facebook.com/awareness-of-white-bellied-heron-and-black-necked-crane-in-Bhutan-Jampel/12345,</p> <p>The page will be maintained continuously and also I have shared resources from other sources like internet, RSPN, WWF and oriental bird club org etc.</p>
Develop advocacy program				<p>The research result will be translated into fliers and poster to educate the general publics. The posters will be display in conservation workshops and seminars held in Bhutan. The result will also be presented to forest official, field officials and local government for any WBH conservation decision making process in future.</p>
Recommendations from my study				<p>Local communities need to be consistently involved in conservation activities on these two birds. Need to build high calibre of conservation ownership amongst the general publics for protection and conservation. Conservation alone does not built ownership and therefore livelihood component of the communities need to be looked at. And this can be done only through promotion of high end eco-tourism.</p>

				<p>The current study used the self-administered questionnaire to collect only the quantitative data for the analysis and covers only the six urban and rural communities in Bhutan. Therefore, similar studies are needed to replicate in other rural and urban areas, using combination of both qualitative and quantitative data gathering methodologies such as interviews and observations.</p>
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2. Please explain any unforeseen difficulties that arose during the project and how these were tackled (if relevant).

Having strong support from my organisation and having provided fund by your good organisation I haven't come across with any difficulties.

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

- A Facebook page was created to encourage the young enthusiast and bird lovers. (<http://www.facebook.com/awareness of white bellied heron and black necked crane in Bhutan>)
- As my research grant was accepted I was invited to become a members in Research affiliates of Rufford Small Grant Foundation in Bhutan, from Jigme Dorji researcher mainly to share the information from my study.
- Drafting of scientific paper is underway and submission is underway.

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

Many people have been involved for this project starting from forest rangers, students, business community, official like chokey Dorji, Yoshi Khandu, Lhadarla, Dorji Ngedrup Department of forest and park services and local people. We discussed and shared lot of commonality about the birds but most did not know about the birds.

While who knew had lot of information culturally and traditionally association with birds. Most knew from parents. Local communities are very much welcome to incorporated with my project we shared lots of experiences regarding the bird

species where it contributed to conservational knowledge that people knows it's in a verge to extinction with little knowledge we share it helps them to educate or convince the people to give importance and give due respect to these two birds which eventually contribute their effort to preserve this birds within their locality. It will not only help these two birds but also other bird species whose lives are at risk from modern development or technological advancement but also it will help their continuation of generation to live with the nature.

People who are mostly dwelling with the nature, a home of flora and fauna there will be less infringement of laws relating to forestry as local people knows what will happen to them if they cause harm to these species. Through my postal presentation, Local community has recognized the importance of these two birds both in local and nation as a whole.

The concern shown from conservation sector on the importance of the study is considerable especially the face book page.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

The setting of the current study was purely based on six habitation districts of these two birds, so it may not potentially represents the other habitat area which was not covered in this study. Need to replicate and continue such studies.

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

Drafting of scientific papers are underway for wider publicity. I will present my findings to all the stakeholders and upload in Facebook page. A copy will be shared to Royal Society for Protection of Nature library (RSPN), Royal University of Bhutan (RUB), College of Natural Resources (CNR) and Sherubtshe College.

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 study period for the funds received from Rufford Foundation was for 12 months and the actual length of the project period is very appropriate.

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
Procurement of Digital Camera	900	750	150	
Procurement of Binocular	200	190	10	
Procurement of teds, tents, two number of laptop	600	750	150	
Procurement of GPS	400	200	200	
Printings and publications including dissemination of results(pamphlets, information brochures, journal papers and a dissertation) and Stationaries	250	250	0	
Daily allowances for field assistants and meals during field works	1450	1650	200	Expended from excess amount of the above activities
Vehicle rental and maintenance (for entire trip) and Porter/Pony charges	1150	1160	10	Expended from excess amount of the above activities
TOTAL	4950	4950		

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

In my next project I would like to continue our research on the following areas:-

- The understanding from the current project gives me confidence and encouragement to further pursue similar work in the future.
- Need consistent awareness and advocacy programs in all the habitat areas of the birds.
- Need more ICT materials for general publics and developers
- I would like to thank RSGF for funding my important study. I won't stop this work at any point of our life.

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?

1. Logo is promptly displayed in our webpage <https://www.facebook.com/awareness-of-white-bellied-heron-and-black-necked-crane-in-Bhutan-Jampel/12345> which is developed to share the research findings to all the peoples of Bhutan and across the globe.
2. I will be using the logo during my publications soon

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 would like to thank RSGF for funding my important study. I won't stop this work at any point of my life and I will continue awareness works on critically endangered white bellied herons and endangered black necked crane across the country. (For sir information I have refer this from Kinley Tshering sir, ranger in Tsirang).