

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	Saroj Panthi
Project title	Conservation Ecology of Himalayan Black Bear (<i>Ursus thibetanus</i>) in Kailash Sacred Landscape of Nepal
RSG reference	19227-B
Reporting period	12 Months
Amount of grant	£9980
Your email address	mountsaroj@gmail.com
Date of this report	13th 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
To identify the preferred habitats of Himalayan black bear (<i>Ursus thibetanus</i>) in Kailash Sacred Landscape of Nepal				The project identified the preferred habitats of Himalayan black bear (<i>Ursus thibetanus</i>) in the study area.
To analyse the diet and nutritional value of this species in study area				The project identified the preferred dietary species of Himalayan black bear (<i>Ursus thibetanus</i>) and nutritional composition of dietary species.
To conduct the conservation awareness programs to conserve the Himalayan black bear (<i>Ursus thibetanus</i>) in study area				The project conducted the conservation awareness programmes to conserve the Himalayan black bear (<i>Ursus thibetanus</i>), its habitats and overall biodiversity in the study area.

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

The main difficulty in the field is transportation in remote areas. We travelled on foot for long time to tackle this difficulty.

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

The most important outcomes of the project are as follows

1. The project identified the preferred habitats of Himalayan black bear (*Ursus thibetanus*) in study area. The project identified the positive relation between presence of this species and crown cover, slope and presence of water (5 % level of significance). The habitats with more crown cover, slope and presence of water is preferred habitats for this species. This species doesn't prefer the habitat with presence of livestock and other human activities (fuel wood collection, grass collection and so on).

2. The project identified the preferred dietary species of Himalayan black bear (*Ursus thibetanus*) and nutritional composition of these species. 59 scat samples of winter season (November, December) and 77 scat samples of summer seasons (June, July) were collected for diet analysis. The project explored nine species as major dietary species in winter season and 11 species in summer season. Out of them *Arundinaria* species is major dietary species followed by *Matteuccia struthiopteris* and *Pyrus pyraster*. The project analysed the nutritional value of these dietary species so this information is very much useful to understand nutritional requirements for this species in captivity.
3. The project conducted the conservation awareness programs to conserve the Himalayan black bear (*Ursus thibetanus*), its habitats and overall biodiversity in the study area. Now, understanding of local people is highly improved. They know the importance of biodiversity. The project strengthened the existing community forests to conserve this species, its habitats and overall mountain biodiversity in the study area.

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

Involvement of local communities was major parts of the project. Community level conservation awareness programmes were conducted throughout the study area. School teaching programmes, teacher targeted programmes and community forests level conservation awareness programmes were conducted. All of them were benefited with community outreach materials (posters, pen, and diary). Local peoples were involved as guides and potters. They were benefited with wages.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Biodiversity research is in infant stage in Nepal. In Himalayan region only few projects are launching due to its remoteness. So I have plan to continue this project in different landscape of Nepal.

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

I am preparing manuscript for scientific journal to publish the results of this project. We will publish at least two papers (one paper with diet and nutritional part and other paper with habitat parts) on the basis of the findings of this project. Now, I am co-ordinating with national and international professors, scientists and government officers to prepare scientific papers. The Rufford Small Grants Foundation will be acknowledged in all publications. I have plan to attend biodiversity related

conferences (ICCB, 2017). I will present the findings of this project in these conferences.

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 is completed in 12 months. It is estimated duration according to the proposal. The activities of projects were also approximately (+/- 2 weeks) within the estimated schedule.

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	5280	5220	-60	
Travel cost	1400	1390	-10	
Technician for diet analysis/chemical cost and lab cost - diet and nutritional analysis for two seasons	1070	980	-90	The chemicals expenditure was little less.
Consumables	460	475	+15	
Community outreach materials	1390	1530	+140	The project spent little more to print the quality posters.
Data management analysis and reporting	380	385	+5	
Total	9980	9980		

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

The project identified the preferred food and habitats of Himalayan black bear. The Government of Nepal and conservation partners should conserve these foods and habitats to conserve this species and to tackle with human wildlife conflicts. From the researcher and conservationist point of view, similar kind of project should be launched in another landscape of Himalayas.



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 used logo of Rufford Small Grants Foundation in all materials of community outreach programs and presentations.

11. Any other comments?

The support of Rufford Small Grants Foundation is highly appreciated.