

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	Kumar Paudel
Project title	Monitoring Illegal wildlife trade and strengthening public awareness in Araniko-trail, Nepal-China border region.
RSG reference	
Reporting period	12 Months
Amount of grant	£4970
Your email address	kmrpdl@gmail.com
Date of this report	25 st April, 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
Assessing illegal wildlife trade in Nepal-China border region.				<p>We reviewed last 10 year's seizure records and newspaper record of Kantipur, Kathmandu Post and Gorkhapatra daily covering 10,950 newspapers and their around 164,250 pages and found 264 unique IWT seizure news reports. Additionally, we reviewed IWT recorded on District Forest Office of Kathmandu, Bhaktapur, Kavrepalanchok, Sindhupalchok, Dolakha and Gurishankar conservation area along with the literature, rules, regulations, punishment provisions.</p> <p>We interviewed ex-traders and key informants, explored detail information about the routes and involved people in illegal wildlife trade (IWT) chain in the region specifically in Araniko trail; Kathmandu- Kodari stretch and documented species wise IWT extent, scale, routes, frequency, monetary incentives, and associated myths.</p>
Development and dissemination awareness materials; posters, hording board short film and PSA to sensitize community group, bus/truck drivers and their helpers on controlling illegal wildlife trade.				<p>We produced one short film "Don't Carry the Trouble Savadhan (Be Aware)", one public service announcement (PSA) in Tamang language, two hording boards and 200 posters. The PSA broadcasted through Radio Namobuddha (106.7 MHz) which covers Kavrepalanchok, Sindhupalchok, Dolakha and Bhaktpur districts.</p> <p>This project identified transportation staff are one of the main actor in IWT especially the in border region. Keeping this in mind, we organised sensitisation workshop to alert community against the illegal wildlife trade and discuss about the punishment provisions and important of local wildlife. We used the short film, PSA, poster and research</p>

			<p>materials to aware bus truck transportation staffs.</p> <p>Local youth were actively involved to strengthen public awareness on wildlife trade; installation of pictorial hording board along highway about importance of wildlife and provision of punishment, school awareness campaigns, posters stitching on truck/buses, schools, border check posts and around.</p> <p>The awareness materials we developed during this project are also on YouTube and screening and broadcasting in different programmes.</p>
<p>Publication of op-ed articles on national and local newspapers and peer reviewed journal.</p>			<p>Successfully published two op-ed articles in national daily (Republica daily and Kantipur Publications) and two in local newspapers Sindhu Sandesh. To publish the result findings of the project a manuscript has been prepared and submitted for journal publication and review is under process. Additionally we are preparing for another paper out of the data of this project.</p>

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

The first difficulty we faced was to collect the seizure data from district forest offices, it was not well managed and incomplete too. Then we decided to go for newspaper review but it turned out very time consuming, we exceed out budget limit and used the internal fund to complete it. Secondly, we are working with the transportation agency and their bus/truck drivers and helpers they were very scared to talk with us since wildlife transportation is illegal. It took series of visit and talk to convince to collet the information and to make their participation on sensitisation workshop.

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

Outcome 1: Collection of wildlife trade cases from national dailies; during the 3-month long newspaper survey, three main national dailies; Kantipur, Kathmandu Post and Gorkhapatra daily were reviewed and all the wildlife poaching and trade related cases were abstracted. We went through last 10 year's seizure records and newspaper record of covering 10,950 newspapers and their around 164,250 pages and found 264 unique IWT seizure. We documented species wise IWT extent, scale, routes, frequency, monetary incentives, and associated myths.

Outcome 2: Strengthen efforts to curb Illegal Wildlife Trade; we had already organised various programmes and campaigns to raise awareness in the local community to curb illegal wildlife trade in Araniko Trail. This time we installed metallic information board in ten different places of Araniko Highway, a way to Tibet (An Autonomous Region of China) to raise public and truck/bus drivers concern towards illegal wildlife trade. The information boards with sketch and relevant texts in Nepali language will help to sensitise the local people and truck/bus drivers of entire area of Sindhupalchok, Kavrepalanchok, Bhaktapur and Kathmandu districts. At the same time, a sensitisation workshop was conducted in Barhabise (town near the Nepal-China border) to the local bus/truck drivers and helpers. The workshop help to aware the drivers and helpers about illegal wildlife trade, laws, regulations and punishment regarding illegal wildlife trade.

Outcome 3: Message deliver to public about the illegal wildlife trade; as there is dominance of Tamang community in the study area, we prepare PSA in Tamang language and broadcast in the local radio. This broadcast delivers the message to the local people to curb illegal wildlife trade in their own language. The PSA is uploaded in YouTube channel too; <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1LcFv3KcEJs>. At the same time, the documentary film was made and this present a stronger point to the public and local bus/truck drivers and helpers. This video help to make aware to the public and truck/bus drivers and helpers about the illegal wildlife trade and how they are unknowingly involved in these cases. This video also induced local bus/trucks drivers that they should know what kind of goods they were carrying in their vehicles so that they shouldn't be punished being unknown to these trade cases. The video is in the YouTube; <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m4MXAwTb-BY>

Outcome 4: Publication of op-ed articles on national newspaper; four op-ed articles were published in different national dailies and magazines. The articles were about the illegal wildlife trade, storage of wildlife parts and conservation issues of pangolin. One article was published in Nepal Magazine about the storage of tiger skin in past Prime Minister's house as a decoration. The article was mostly viewed and trended article during that time. Another article was published in February 2017 on the occasion of World Pangolin Day. The article is about the conservation challenge of pangolin in Nepal. The next two articles were published in local newspaper of Sindhupalchok. The articles are about the role of local community to curb illegal wildlife trade in Araniko trail. The published articles can be found in my personal blog as well. <http://www.kumarpaudel.com/>. At the same time an interview was given in Radio Nepal about the wildlife conservation on the occasion of World Environment Day 2016.

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

During the educational material development and dissemination, bus/truck staff and local people were directly involved. Local youth and student were involved on newspaper review, sensitisation workshop. The surprising support of the local youth to install hording board and school level awareness programme was very

encouraging. This project was more about education and awareness than research and we got overwhelming support and involvement of local communities.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

We started to work on conservation education and controlling illegal wildlife trade in Annaniko-trail since 2012 and doing small things out of the best what we have. District forest office, enforcement and customs agencies are really happy with the work we have done in the region and they are saying it is very helpful for them. We are very satisfying with the impact of our work in the region and further more interested to work in the area to understand layers of myth on wildlife harvest and trade in the region, capacity building of the border customs staff and enforcement agencies. We also plan to boost up the community radio programme targeted to importance of local endangered wildlife species and legal provisions ensuring long term control of the illegal wildlife harvest and trade in the region.

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

We are sharing our results with university students, district authorities and national conservation stakeholders through various talks and workshops. More specifically we have shared the results through community radio, and newspapers. In international level we share our primitive result at Conservation Asia 2016 in Singapore and we are working on journal articles and few more op-ed articles to share the results to the general public and scientific communities.

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 Rufford Foundation Grant was used for a total of 13 months which is one more month longer than the proposed 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
Preliminary desk work; literature review; governmental rules, regulations, international conventions and reports.	190	150	40	
Preliminary consultation with stakeholders	80	170	-90	
Field visit and seizure data	925	1675	-750	We reviewed 10+ years

collection				three daily newspaper which took almost 3 months for 2 people. We managed this exceeded cost from our internal fund.
Key informants interview	300	350	-50	
Ex-traders interview	350	600	-250	
PSA production & broadcast	375	300	75	
Hording board, poster development and printing	875	900	-25	
Poster and brochure distribution and hording board installation	350	300	50	
Transportation	750	1150	-400	We had to travel the district prison many times to get the response of the ex-traders from Dolakha, Sindhupalchok and Kavrepalchok districts.
Communication/telephone	225	200	25	
Printing and stationery	300	250	50	
Data analysis and reporting	250	200	50	
Total	4970	6245	-1275	We used the Greenhood Nepal's internal fund in exceed project cost.

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

The immediate important step to start with after this project is to focus on monitoring of wildlife harvest and trade in other active passes in Nepal-China border region. Araniko-trail is one of the active eight border passes between Nepal and China. Additionally, layers of drivers and myth on wildlife harvest and trade in the region is yet to understand. Disseminating the right information to local people and transportation stakeholders about IWT is need in all along border. Additionally, ensuring community participation in anti poaching and trade of wildlife species, awareness and capacity building of border security and customs would be further steps.

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. RSGF received publicity during the course of this project. We have used The Rufford Foundation logo on following materials we produced during this project:

- Short film "Don't Carry the Trouble | Savadhan (Be Aware)".
- The public information boards on punishment provisions of illegal wildlife related offences.
- Tamang languages Public Service Announcement (PSA).

- Posters and Banners of IWT conservation talks.

11. Any other comments?

We immensely thank the Rufford Foundation for funding this project. We anticipate to receiving similar support in the future as well.