

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	Bikal Dahal
Project title	Status and habitat analysis of Himalayan Field Mouse Apodemus gurkha in Annapurna Conservation Area, Nepal
RSG reference	19488-1
Reporting period	2007-2008
Amount of grant	£1461
Your email address	bikal.dahal@gmail.com
Date of this report	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

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

As the area was tourist area the involvement of local people was difficult during the focus group discussion and key informant interview. Researcher tackle this problem by conducting FGD and KII during their free time mainly morning and evening.

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

Introduction - Results

Outcome One: Status and Habitat

Seventy-seven individuals of five different genera were captured in 480 individual traps. We recorded 40 individuals of Soriculus niarescens followed by 26 individual of A. species, eight individuals of Mus bogada, individuls two of Episoriculus caudatus and one Rattus. The number of individuals recorded in Poon hill was 22 followed by Ghorepani (15) Deurali (14), Nangethati and Tadapani (8), banthati (7) and Ghandruk (4).



Soriculus nigrescens were found in all ranges while A.gurkha was found above the 2500 m. There were no presence of A.gurkha below 2500 m. Two individuals of Apodemus species were recorded from 2200 m but they were not A.gurkha. Similarly Rattus ratus were confined to the lower range below 2500 m. The individuals of



A.gurkha were recorded most in higher altitude i.e. Poon Hill (3100 – 3200 m) with individuals (11) fallowed by Ghorepani (2800 – 2900 m) with individuals (8), Deurali (2800 – 2900 m) with individuals (5) and Tadapani (2500 – 2550 m) with individuals (1). 19 individuals of A.gurkha were recorded in rhododendron and juniper forest. While five individuals were recorded from mixed forest of blue pine, black juniper, and Cedrus deodara.

Rhododendron (Rhododendron ferrugineum), black juniper (Juniperous indica), deodar (Cedrus doedara), blue pine (Pinus wallichiana), chir pine (Pinus roxburgii) were the dominant forest species in the study site. Juniperus, Pinus wallichiana forest were found in all the ranges while rhododendron, deodar and spruce forest were found above 2500 m. Maximum slope of research site was 40 degrees while minimum slope was 20 degrees. Ground cover in the sites was between 25% and 00%. Four of the study sites were between 50%-75% followed by three of 75-100% and one of 25-50%. The canopy cover of the forest was maximum in a single site with 75-100% followed by four sites with 50-75% and three sites with 25-100%.

Site	Vegetation	Elevation	Slope	Species	Total Number
Poon hill rhododendron,		3100-	40%	Apodemus gurkha	11
	black juniper,	3200		Soriculus nigrescens	9
	spruce, deodar			Episoriculus	2
				caudatus	
Ghorepani	rhododendron,	2800-	35%	Apodemus gurkha	8
	black juniper,	2850		Soriculus nigrescens	5
				Mus bogada	2
NangeThanti	black juniper,	2500-	30%	Mus booduga	3
	blue pine, rhododendron	2550		Soriculus nigrescens	5
Banthati	black juniper,	2200-	25%	Soriculus nigrescens	3
	blue pine,	2250		A. species	2
				Mus booduga	2
Deurali	black juniper,	2800-	35%	Apodemus gurkha	5
	blue pine, spruce,	2850		Mus booduga	1
	deodar			Soriculus nigrescens	8
Tadapani	black juniper,	2500-	30%	Apodemus gurkha	1
	blue pine, spruce, deodar	2550		Soriculus nigrescens	7
Ghandruk	Pinus species	2200-	35%	Soriculus nigrescens	3
		2250		Rattus species	1

Among the total 19 individuals of A.gurkha were recorded in habitat comprising at least 30 degrees slope, canopy cover more than 60% and ground cover more than 70%. They were mainly found in rhododendron and junipers forest types.



Outcome Two: Threat Analysis

Most of the respondent believe that destruction of the habitat is major threat to the species along with local consumption and pest species in the farmland. Most people from Sikha village of ACAP has said that the species is locally consumed but there was no evidence of consumption of species by local people in other areas.

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

This project is mainly concentrated in finding the status and habitat of A.gurkha in ACAP area. As the species is listed in Least Concern by IUCN red list the status and habitat of finding will help the local communities to create more awareness in their localities for the conservation of the species.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes I am thinking to start a new project for this species. I want to conduct the DNA analysis of the species and find out the variance among the species as per the altitudinal range. Similarly I also want to contribute to the wildlife conservation by finding out the different characteristics of the species by DNA analysis I am also planning to study and explore effective ways of linking local cultural and religious institution in communicating conservation messages to the masses in the region.

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

I have already written an article for the project and is in under review for the publication. Also all relevant results/information will be made available on the Rufford website.

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

Grant was used for carrying field work at Annapurna Conservation Area for around 2 months. Altogether two field trips were conducted: One preliminary survey and another final survey. During the preliminary survey 2 weeks was spent in the field while for final survey 1 month was spent in the field. Other time of the project was given for desk study throughout the project as well as for the preparation of posters and analysis of all the data collected and making of different reports. Similarly some portion of the time was allocated for the preparation of articles for dissemination of study.



8. Budget: Please provide a breakdown of budgeted versus actual expenditure and the reasons for any differences. All figures should be in \pounds sterling, indicating the local exchange rate used.

Item	Budgeted Amount	Actual Amount	Difference	Comments
DSA @ 16/day * 60 field days	£960	£960	£O	Including cost of changing return date
Research Assistant/One person @ 12/day * 60 days*2 person	£1440	£1440	£O	For visit to the park sites sometime lifts were taken from wild life department staff.
Transportation	£325	£375	£50	Adjust from Focus Group Discussion
Focal group Expense	£200	£150	£50	Adjusted to transportation
Equipment (Compass, measuring Tapes, slide film, photo film and binoculars)	£275	£300	£25	Adjusted too field gears
Field gears	£275	£225	£50	Adjusted from equipment's
Stationers	£125	£200	£75	Adjusted from report writing
Report writing /printing of brochure	£575	£525	£50	£ 300 was spent for brochure and £225 was for printing of reports and articles to show to different reviewers as well as map printing as son on. Other left was adjusted to stationaries
Miscellaneous (10%)	£417	£417	£417	For review of articles as
Total	£4592	£4292	£300	

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

We feel that awareness about the species is most needed in an area. Most of the people are unknown about the fact that the species exist in their locality. Similarly different research is to be conducted by the Nepal Government to find out information regarding the species which will be helpful in conservation of the species.



10. Did you use The Rufford Foundation logo in any materials produced in relation to this project? Did The Rufford Foundation receive any publicity during the course of your work?

Yes, I used the RF logo in my research poster made for awareness creation of Himalayan field mouse. RF was mentioned to all key stakeholders during field work and will be acknowledged in every publication from the study in the future.

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 am extremely grateful to RF for the provision of financial support which enabled me to complete my field work successfully. I am quite optimistic that this study will help the key stakeholders of ACAP area and other policy makers to make different strategy for the conservation of species. This grant played a key role in this research work which I am sure will contribute to the global efforts of biodiversity conservation. I am really thankful to and hoping for similar cooperation from RF in the future if needed.

