

## The Rufford Foundation Final Report

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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](mailto:jane@rufford.org).

Thank you for your help.

Josh Cole, Grants Director

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Grant Recipient Details	
Your name	Dr. Nishith Dharaiya
Project title	Evaluating habitat and human-bear conflict in North Gujarat to seek solutions for human-bear coexistence
RSG reference	72.08.09
Reporting period	January 2011 (One Year)
Amount of grant	£5000
Your email address	<a href="mailto:nadharaiya@gmail.com">nadharaiya@gmail.com</a>
Date of this report	May 31st 2011

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 study the status and distribution of sloth bear in Mehsana and Sabarkantha district		Yes		Presently we are analysing the ground survey data which will overlaid on the land cover map of the entire state in the future very soon.
To assess the nature and frequency of human bear conflicts			Yes	All the bear attack affected villages were surveyed and the respondents were interviewed, and the information was well documented.
To organise the awareness campaigns in forest villages of the area			Yes	We organised two workshops for locals and a training for forest field staff as well as several public meetings under this objective.
To recommend the strategies to minimise the conflicts in the area			Yes	We recommended several strategies for minimising the conflicts and supplied it to the state forest department and other stake holders.

2. Any unforeseen difficulties that arose during the project and how these were tackled

None.

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

- We produced the pre-formatted application formats to claim compensation after bear attack, which is very appreciated by the locals as well as the forest officials.
- The bear distribution revealed in the study area, which has also met the goal of the IUCN Bear Specialist Group.
- The workshop and training of local tribes and forest field staff have been very effective and resulted in much awareness among the community; it has also reduced the level of hostility of local people for bears and other wildlife.

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

Research assistant and field assistants were from the local region and they involved in all the project activities, the workshops and training programmes were organised for the local community in which more than 300 people have participated and more than 30 forest field staff from the local region were trained for monitoring sloth bears.

## 5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes, we look forward to continue this work in the rest of the bear habitat of the state.

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

### Local Level:

We will producing the reports and articles in local languages and publish them in the local news papers and magazines.

### National Level:

We already submitted couple of articles from the present research in the journal and a magazine of national repute.

### International Level:

- We are presenting this work at the 20<sup>th</sup> International Bear Research Conference.
- We are also preparing the manuscript for publication of this research work for some international research journals.

## 7. Timescale: Over what period was the RSG used? How does this compare to the anticipated or actual length of the project?

The RSG was used during the period of January 2010 to April 2011. The actual length of the project was 12 months. However, it took 4 months more than the anticipated time period.

## 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
Services and Wages	1640	1640	00	--
Equipments, Supplies and Operating Expenses				We adjusted the budget heads to overcome the differences shown.
Local Transport	860	900	(-40)	
Subsistence	600	530	(+70)	
Field supplies	200	200	00	
Office supplies	200	245	(-45)	
Training and Workshops	550	550	00	
GIS Coverages	700	685	(+15)	--
Hiring GIS Expert	250	250	00	
<b>Total</b>	<b>5000</b>	<b>5000</b>	<b>00</b>	

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

The next important step is to present this research at the 20<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Bear Research and Management at Ottawa, Canada (July 17-23, 2011) and to publish a research work in the Journal of international repute.

We are also planning to continue the research work in the rest of the bear habitats of the state to congregate with the Goal of the IUCN and Bear Specialist Group to map the bear distribution in the state.

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

Yes, we used the RSG logo in materials produced during the project.

We prepared the banners with RSGF logo for awareness of the local people during the workshop and we posted those banners permanently in the affected villages. We also prepared the pre-printed application forms to claim the compensation and distributed in the villages and forest offices in which we also used the RSGF logo.

Certainly, the RSGF received good publicity during the workshops and training courses. Further the application formats are still circulating among the locals and used for claiming compensations even the project is completed, this gives high levels of impact even after the project work is completed and providing better publicity about the RSG's conservation funds.

**11. Any other comments?**

The banner produced during the project and the application formats are attached herewith.