

## Final Project Evaluation Report

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We ask all grant recipients to complete a project evaluation that helps us to gauge the success of your project. This must be sent in **MS Word and not PDF 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 – remember that negative experiences are just as valuable as positive ones if they help others to learn from them.

Complete the form in English and be as concise as you can. Note that the information may be edited before posting on our website.

Please email this report to [jane@rufford.org](mailto:jane@rufford.org).

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Your Details	
<b>Full Name</b>	Bhuvan Singh Bist
<b>Project Title</b>	Status, Distribution, and Conservation Initiatives of Rusty Spotted Cat ( <i>Prionailurus rubiginosus</i> ) in Shuklaphanta Wildlife Reserve (SWR), Nepal
<b>Application ID</b>	20581-1
<b>Grant Amount</b>	£4992
<b>Email Address</b>	<a href="mailto:bhuvanbistaiof@gmail.com">bhuvanbistaiof@gmail.com</a>
<b>Date of this Report</b>	November 13, 2017

**1. 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
Camera trapping for presence/ absence				<p>Only three confirmed camera trapped images of rusty-spotted cat were obtained in the total survey effort of 45 days. This research was the pioneer research on the species. Malfunctioning of camera seemed to be one of the major problem. CT's captured different species of small, meso and mega species like Asian palm civet (<i>Paradoxurus hermaphroditus</i>), small Indian civet (<i>Viverricula indica</i>), Indian grey mongoose (<i>Herpestes edwardsi</i>), spotted deer (<i>Axis axis</i>), rhesus macaque (<i>Macaca mulatta</i>), royal Bengal tiger (<i>Panthera tigris tigris</i>), common leopard (<i>Panthera pardus</i>) and one horned rhinoceros (<i>Rhinoceros unicornis</i>). Some of the bird's species like Indian peafowl, Asian woolly neck stork, common shikra, red jungle fowl etc. were also trapped in the cameras.</p>
Preferred habitat				<p>As per (Lamichhane et al 2016), the elusive cat was previously recorded in Sal forest in Shuklaphanta. Our research recorded this feline member in the Sal forest as well. Our direct sighting of rusty-spotted cat also confirmed its presence in sal forest. Due to the limitation of the number of cameras, huge documentation of the species photographs couldn't be generated.</p>
Conservation awareness Outflow				<p>First rusty-spotted cat district level workshop was organised in Kanchanpur district. The workshop disseminated research findings of the project as well as the presence of this cat species in the forest of</p>

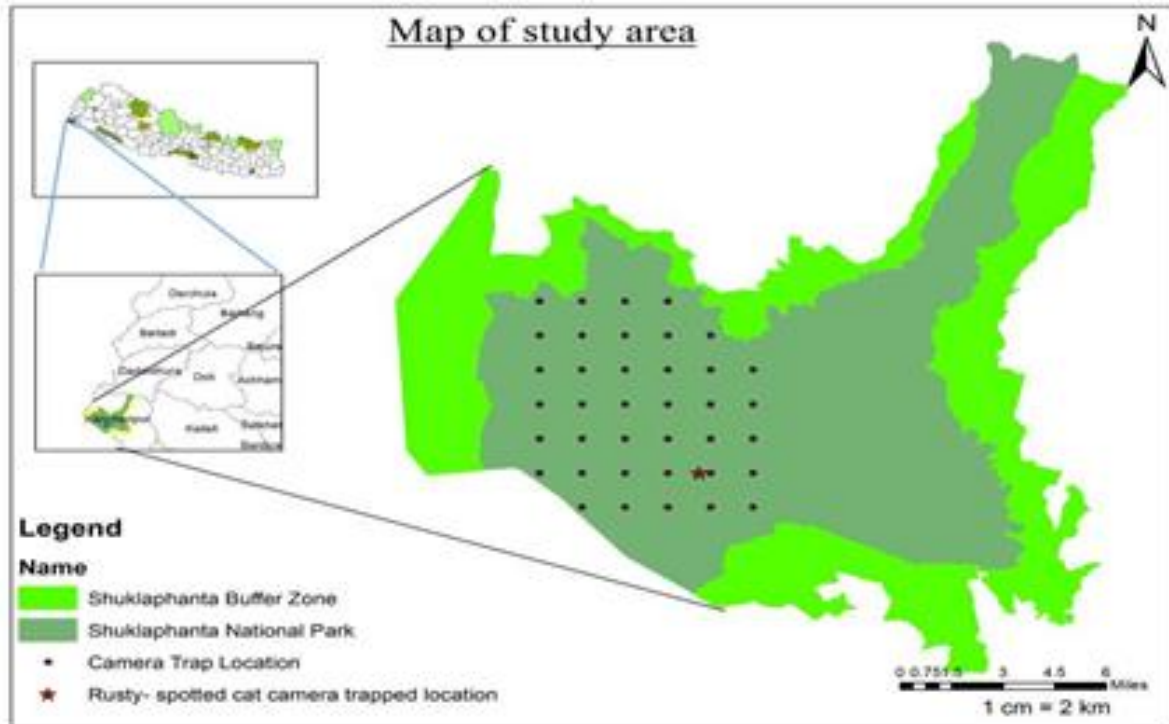
				Shuklaphanata along with the conservation outflow. Besides this, the university students were given the knowledge about the working mechanism, installation process of camera trapping. District Forest Officer (DFO) was the chief guest of the programme. Other attractions of the programme were professor, students of universities, journalists, elite people, and local community people.
Poster dissemination during (Industrial fair), Conservation Rally				The posters depicting the picture of rusty-spotted cat as well as related information about the species was attested in the hoarding board as means of awareness programme among the thousands of visitors in fair. Presentation was also delivered among the students of Institute of Forestry, Pokhara campus highlighting the major outputs of the project.

**2. Please explain any unforeseen difficulties that arose during the project and how these were tackled.**

Due to the malfunctioning of some of the cameras which produced the blur and overexposed picture of the species made the identification process tedious and difficult. Similarly, there was also the limitation of camera traps during the survey. We organised district level rusty-spotted cat workshop (not mentioned in the proposal). We developed extra 46 t-shirts during the conservation awareness programmes. 26 t-shirts were extra (not mentioned in the proposal).

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

a). The camera trapped location map of the rusty-spotted cat (*Prionailurus rubiginosus*) was extracted.



b). Despite being elusive species, we opportunistically made the direct sighting in between the locations Shimpur and Bauney Creek during the morning hours 9:13 am.

c). We were successful in organising district level rusty-spotted cat workshop at Maya party palace, Kanchanpur where intellectuals from different field were invited with chief guest as District Forest Officer (DFO), Kanchanpur. Journalists, conservation lovers, undergraduate students from Far-Western University, local people were the main attraction of the programme. Similarly, we were able to explore about this elusive cat in the Institute of Forestry, Pokhara campus, Nepal through presentations during different programs.

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

Three locals from the buffer zones of the study site Shuklaphanta National Park were hired as the field assistants for the camera trapping survey. They were taught about the working mechanism of camera trapping, its installation process and its uses. Similarly, the locals were also told about the species distribution range in the world, its elusiveness and related facts about the species.

Locals were used during the district level rusty-spotted cat workshop as volunteers. Similarly, the field assistants (locals) shared some of our sweet and bitter experiences from field along with the instrument camera trapping, its working mechanism and the reasons of malfunctioning of the camera traps. Local people, journalists, elite people etc. were the main attraction of the workshop where they were delivered about the species which they had never heard about.

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

There is deliberate need to carry out the research focusing specifically on small mammals like rusty-spotted, fishing cat and other species which lack special attention of donors and government in terms of research and conservation to find out the status in Nepal.

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

A full detailed report is being prepared for sharing it with the concerned authorities i.e. Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation (DNPWC), Shuklaphanta National Park (SuNp), Institute of Forestry, Pokhara campus, Nepal and other relevant organisations dedicated in the field of conservation. The results of our project have been shared among the University students of Far-western University, Kanchanpur, Nepal through presentations. The results were also shared to the students of Institute of Forestry, Pokhara campus, Nepal as a keynote speaker in the program entitled "Unleashing young minds for wildlife research and conservation".

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

This RSG was used for 12 months' time period.

**8. Budget: 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. It is important that you retain the management accounts and all paid invoices relating to the project for at least 2 years as these may be required for inspection at our discretion.**

Item	Budgeted Amount	Actual Amount	Difference	Comments
Camera trap/GPS	1490	750	+740	We received the additional camera trap support of SMCRF and NTNC BCC- Chitwan.
Per diem for the investigator @ £6 per day x 45 days X 4 person	1200	1080	+120	Cheaper than proposed (Food and lodging)
Travel expenses for intensive survey, campaign and monitoring.	320	320		As proposed
District level Rusty-spotted Cat Workshop		1000		Though we had proposed to conduct the awareness program in schools, we found the species

				and its information more sensitive and conducted first district level Rusty- spotted cat workshop. Though it wasn't proposed in our project, we managed to organize it.
Conservation awareness programs (School teachings, poster preparation, hoarding boards, Preparation of campaign material, Drawing competition, T-shirt preparation etc.)	1882	1700	+182	Though we proposed of making 350 copies of posters, we made 1000 copies. We also made 46 pieces of T-shirts which was more than proposed as means of conservation awareness.
Report writing/ Binding	100	142	-42	Detailed final technical report is under preparation and will be submitted in short period of time. A layout, design and printing charge of the report meets less than proposed.
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4992</b>	<b>4992</b>		* Local exchange rate at the time of grant receipt: 1£= NRS 131.08

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

Though the primary baseline data have been achieved of the species regarding its most probable and camera trapped location, further extensive camera trapping must be done in years to come for the further investigations to find out the status of small mammals lacking attention in scientific research.

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

Yes, the RF logo was used in the posters, hoarding boards during the community outreach programs. RF logo was used on the banners during the district level workshop as well as in wildlife week. The logo of Rufford was used in every presentation we delivered on the rusty-spotted cat. We are also acknowledging the RF support in final report.

**11. Please provide a full list of all the members of your team and briefly what was their role in the project.**

Man Singh Bist: *Undergraduate student at Far-Western University, Kanchanpur, Nepal. He was the coordinator of the District level workshop of Rusty-spotted cat (Prionailurus rubiginosus) as well as the volunteer during the presentation in Far-Western University, Nepal.*

Manoj Chaudhary: *He is a citizen scientist and local dweller of the Kanchanpur district. He was a field assistant during the camera trapping survey.*

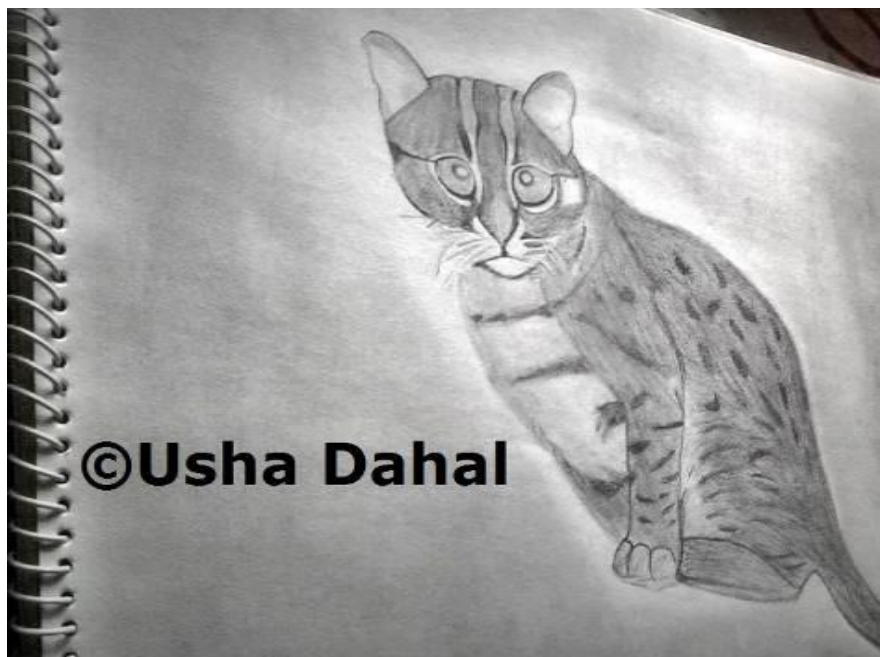
Umesh Thagunna: *Plus two Science students at Radiant Higher Secondary School, Mahendranagar, Kanchanpur. He has assisted as a camera trap volunteer during the field days.*

Deepak Singh Kunwar: *Local citizen scientist from Kanchanpur district. He was also a field assistant during the camera trap survey.*

Milan Budha: *He dealt with the GIS (Geographic Information System) map works during the research period.*

## **12. Any other comments?**

Personally and from the people of Kanchanpur district, would like to provide special felicitation to Rufford Foundation whose financial support helped disseminate and explore species among the local people of the district along with the elite peoples. I would like to thank Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation (DNPWC) for providing the permission to carry out the research. Similarly, thanks goes to Shuklaphanta National Park and National Trust for Nature Conservation(NTNC), Small Mammal Conservation and Research Foundation(SMCRF) for their technical help in the field and special mention goes to Jim Sanderson, Angie Appel, Anya Ratnayaka, Appel, Bed Kumar Dhakal, Baburam Lamicchane, Karan Bahadur Shah, Yadav Ghimirey, Yajna Prasad Timilsina, Suman Bhattarai, Sanjan Thapa, Amar Kunwar, Sagar Dahal, Prashant Ghimire, Basant Sharma, Milan Budha, Chiranjeevi Khanal, Dev Raj Joshi, Suman Malla for their direct and indirect help during the project tenure.





Camera trapping workshop to the university Students



District level awareness program at Maya Party palace



Discussion about species with local journalists



Monitoring the Camera traps in the field.



Indian Peafowl (*Pavo cristatus*)



Spotted Deer (*Axis axis*)





Common Leopard (*Panthera pardus*)



Unidentified image of the species.



Wild boar (*Sus scrofa*)



Indian grey mongoose (*Herpestes edwardsi*)