

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	Babu Bhattarai
Project title	Conflict and Conservation: Sharing the costs and benefits of tiger conservation in communities adjacent to wildlife reserves in Nepal
RSG reference	20886-D
Reporting period	January 2017 to December 2018
Amount of grant	£9960
Your email address	Bhattarai.babur@gmail.com b.bhattarai@federation.edu.au
Date of this report	2/01/2019

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 assess actual and perceived economic losses, attributable to HTC				Draft of chapter 3 (perceived loss) and chapter 4 (actual loss) completed.
To assess the current distribution of economic benefits associated with wildlife and conservation tourism				This objective has been removed during the confirmation of my candidature as per review of my PhD supervisors.
To review current government policies and practices relating to HTC, and utilization of these by local community members				This chapter (chapter 6) is still under analysis. In literature review chapter (chapter 1-which is completed), government policies regarding the management of human-tiger conflict/human-wildlife conflict have been discussed. At the end of my PhD, this objective will be achieved fully
To assess the willingness of park visitors and tourism business owners to pay to compensate farmers against economic losses due to tigers and their prey species				This chapter (chapter 5) is under analysis. It will be finalised within few months (probably by the end of March) and the objective will be achieved fully when chapter completes.
To provide recommendations for an improved approach to addressing the economic aspects of HTC in Nepal.				At local level, two HTC workshops were conducted and recommendations to reduce economic impact due to HTC were delivered. Final recommendations including objective no 4 will be provided by the end of my PhD project

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

One of the experimental plot was flooded and washed away during massive flood in 2017 monsoon season. Crop loss measurement in one plot (out of 42 plots) for one

crop season was therefore affected. After the flood season, it was re-established and crop loss measurement for the next crop season was successful.

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

During the period of this report preparation following three important outcomes have been achieved.

1. Reported (perceived) livestock depredation due to tigers and leopards and economic losses due to depredation were measured.
2. Reported crop loss due to wild herbivores including prey species of tigers and leopards were explored and economic impacts to local communities were estimated.
3. Actual loss of livestock due to tigers and leopards and crop damages due to wild herbivores were measured.

I hope after analysing the data of willingness to pay of park visitors to offset the costs of HTC, would get more pragmatic results to guide policies (managing funds for HWC preventions and mitigations).

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

While investigating livestock losses due to tigers and leopards and crop damage due to wild herbivores including tiger prey species, local communities were involved. Local communities voluntarily participated in interview as well as in actual loss measurement. Also during the data collection, four local assistants were hired; these assistants represent the local communities where the project was launched. Local communities participated in human tiger conflict workshops conducted at BNP and CNP.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

One of the main finding of this project (to this date) is that livestock losses are linked with predator-prone corrals. Some ethnic communities (tharu, janajati and dalit) have lower level of positive attitude towards predator conservation than the Brahmin-chhetri communities. I am planning to conduct series of awareness campaign and assist local communities in formulating projects of building predator proof corrals.

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

The literature review (chapter one) has been submitted to an international peer review journal, the decision has yet to come. Preliminary project and findings of chapter three has been presented in Higher Degree by Research seminars conducted by Federation University, Australia in 2016 and 2018. Findings of chapter three have also been presented in Conservation Asia Conference held in August 2018 in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan and Student Conference on Conservation Science held

in October 2018 in New York, USA. Also, I am planning to publish the results of other chapters in a peer review journal and present in 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 Rufford Foundation Grant was used in data collection process between March 2017 and June 2018. It is my PhD project, the entire project was began in July 2016 and will be completed by the end of August 2019.

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
Stationery and use of venue and miscellaneous expenses	100	150	-50	
Tea and snacks in HTC workshops	1000	900	+100	
Printing survey documents and wildlife photos	200	300	-100	
Training workshop for research assistants	200	275	-75	
Salary for 4 research assistants	5760	5760	0	
Incidental travel within the study areas	750	750	0	
Accommodation for PI	750	775	-25	
Food for PI	1200	1100	+100	
Total	9960	9960	-50	Covered from Uni

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

The project is a noble because it has explored the perceived and actual loss due to endangered top order sympatric carnivores (tigers and leopards) and their prey species (chital and wild boar) and other endangered mega-herbivores (rhinoceros and elephants). The comparison of actual and perceived loss will give insight knowledge, which will be helpful in formulating prevention and mitigation measures and baseline information for compensation. The next step is to disseminate the results among academicians and conservation and management authorities, continue conservation awareness among local communities, support local communities to prevent and mitigate conflicts.

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?

Rufford Foundation logo was used in presentations at seminars and conferences and in HTC workshop conducted in BNP and CNP.

