

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 | Kinley Tenzin |
| Project title | Conservation of Endangered Snow Leopard in Western Bhutan |
| RSG reference | 21572-1 |
| Reporting period | February 2017 – February 2018 |
| Amount of grant | £ 5000 |
| Your email address | kinleytenzin32@gmail.com |
| Date of this report | 6 th March |

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 the extent of Human-Snow Leopard conflict. | | | | Yak herders lost their yaks to four predators and snow leopard contributed maximum of 78.7%. 314 yaks of 56 herders were lost to snow leopard and last 5 years. Young ones of the yak were highly vulnerable to predation by snow leopard. Majority of predation by snow leopard was done at night (76.4%). Majority (55.4%) of the herders believe that snow leopard conflict with the herders is severe and 44.5% percept that its problem is moderate. This indicates that snow leopard conflict with the yak herders is prevailing and causing major threat to the yak herders |
| To analyze attitude and perception of Yak herders towards Snow leopard conservation. | | | | Majority of the herders (78.6%) had sighted snow leopard. 52% of the herders believe that snow leopard is increasing and 37% believes that population is remaining same. maximum herders (73.2%) believes that snow leopard is very harmful and only minimal (7.1%) believes it is beneficial to our ecosystem. Majority (71.1%) of the herders was not in favour of conservation of the snow leopard and only 7.1% are in favour for conservation of snow leopard and rest 21.4% are neutral in this perception. |
| To produce human snow leopard conflict hot spot site map. | | | | Severe conflict was located in the northern part of JKSNR and its buffer zones and less was reported from lower parts. |
| To provide a Tarpaulin to the herders. | | | | Every yak herder was provided with the 18 x 24 foot plastic tarpaulin as their token of appreciation for the harmonic co-existence with snow leopard. Herders were very much happy to receive the tarpaulin as it would help them to protect their calf yaks during summer along with their herd shed. |

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

There was no unforeseen difficulties arose during the entire period of the project.

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

1. Herders conflict with the snow leopard was severe. Yak herders lost their yaks to four predators and snow leopard was among the highest in yak depredation. Snow leopard attempts mostly young yaks.

2. Herders in the study site were not at all in support of snow leopard conservation. Every herder loses their yak annually to snow leopard and they don't have patients to see their yak being killed by wild predators. They were even retaliating for yak depredation.

3. Herders were very much happy to incentives like tarpaulin for their effort in living in harmony with snow leopard.

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

Questionnaire survey was carried out with interviewing the yak herders on herder's snow leopard conflict and they were provided with tarpaulin each for the yak shed cover.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

There are more plans to replicate the same project in biological corridor number 1, connecting Jigme Khesar Strict Nature Reserve and Jigme Dorji National Park.

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

Findings of this research were already shared with the relevant agencies within Bhutan and to reach to global the article write-up are in line for publication in journals.

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

Budget proposal was made within the project activities. Activities were carried as per the project proposal and the allotted budget was well spent. No activities were dropped or over taken.

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 |
|---|-----------------|---------------|------------|-------------------------------|
| Purchase of Garmin GPS for field survey (£100 x 3 Nos. = £300) | 300 | 300 | 0 | Well spent for all activities |
| Procurement of field survey four men camping tent (£90 x 3nos= £270) | 270 | 270 | 0 | |
| Procurement and supply of extension kits (Field boots and rain gear) for field surveyor (£20 x 12 pairs=£240) | 240 | 240 | 0 | |
| Daily subsistence Allowance for participants during the field staff training in survey protocol (£ 8/day x 12 heads x 2 day = £192) | 192 | 192 | 0 | |
| Working lunch during the training (£6x 12 heads x 2 days =£144) | 144 | 144 | 0 | |
| Daily Substance Allowances for the surveyors on the field questionnaire and educational conservational survey (£9 x 12 heads x 20 days =£ 2160) | 2160 | 2160 | 0 | |
| Potters and ponies charges for transportation of survey team with the survey equipment (£6 x 3 x 20 days=£360) | 360 | 360 | 0 | |
| Procurement of Tarpaulin (£14.5 x 80 = £1160) | 1160 | 1160 | 0 | |
| Publication and printing of the research findings and distribution to various relevant offices (£3.48 x 50 copies =(£174) | 174 | 174 | 0 | |

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

Based on the findings from the current project, now the next step forward towards achieving goals will be initiating conservation educational awareness cum training for the herders to facilitate their task in the field, especially in enhancing the effectiveness of both snow leopard conservation committee group and community based information sharing group. It also requires a funding support to kick start Livestock Insurance Group for reducing the human snow leopard conflict. The financial aid is also required for implementing other mitigation measures such as construction of coral, development of artificial pasture, supply of eco-friendly bio briquettes etc. which are all included under integrated conservation development programmes. Integrated conservation development programs are on future plans to be initiated with the yak herders in development of herders' livelihood in parallel conservation of snow leopard.

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?

Rufford Foundation logo was used in every report in this project and even stickered on the tarpaulins, those are provided to the herders.

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

Local government heads were used to contact the yak herders. Staffs of Jigme Khesar Strict Nature Reserve were used for the entire field survey and the key individuals involved are as follows:

Mr. Sonam Tobgay, Chief Forestry Officer, Jigme Khesar Strict Nature Reserve (research administrative approval)

Mr. Ugyen Takchu, Research section head (Field data collection survey)

Mr. Dechen Wangda, Researcher, Jigme Khesar Strict Nature Reserve (Field data collection survey)

Mr. Sherab Jamtsho, Forest Ranger, District Administration, Haa, Bhutan (Field data collection survey)

Mr. Bakta Bdr.Ghalley, Researcher, Jigme Khesar Strict Nature Reserve (Field data collection survey)

Mr. Phub Dorji, Researcher, Jigme Khesar Strict Nature Reserve (Field data collection survey)

12. Any other comments?

This project was successfully completed without any difficulties with the funding support from The Rufford Foundation. Findings from this project were seriously looked into and next step towards conservation of snow leopard in harmony with the yak herders will be initiated. Funding source for such projects is vital in its implementation and positive move towards snow leopard conservation. Therefore, we anticipate your same support in future projects too.