

Project Update: October 2018

Since our last correspondence I have been back to Nepal once more, with support from the National Geographic Society, to follow up on the work we did in 2017 with the Rufford Small Grant.

The communities we have been working with in Nepal have been very receptive to our effort to manage dogs in the conservation area and I am eager to continue working with them.

The grant allowed us to introduce humane and long term population management strategies to the study area, and the NGS grant allowed us to screen dogs for canine distemper (which, as you might know from recent news from India, has killed 88% of the Gir Lion population in Gujarat). My study found a high prevalence of distemper amongst free-roaming village dogs in the Himalaya. This has implications for wildlife that live alongside these dogs.

I intend to apply 2nd Rufford Grant, potentially for field work that will commence Autumn 2019. This time we are hoping to find out if wildlife in the area have already been exposed to distemper. We can achieve this by collecting faecal samples. With camera traps and GPS collars, we can also study the movement of dogs in the villages to look for patterns of potential wildlife contact.





