

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	Krishna Pokharel
Project title	Connectivity survey of four-horned antelope in human disturbed landscape between Chitwan and Banke National Parks
RSG reference	24584-2
Reporting period	March 2018 – March 2019
Amount of grant	£5,000
Your email address	kp.pokharel@gmail.com
Date of this report	March 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
Exploring the occurrence of four-horned antelope outside protected areas between Chitwan and Banke National Parks			Fully achieved	Questionnaire survey covered the whole targeted range. Of the four sampling sites that were selected for the field verification, two sites were found to be used by four-horned antelope.
Exploring threats to four-horned antelope and, in general, the local biodiversity			Fully achieved	
Conducting education program		Partially achieved		Participation of local communities, community forest user groups and school students/teachers was motivating. However, the participation of government staffs was not so motivating.

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

I was in Dang during preliminary survey on April 2018 when I heard about an accident. According to the locals, a team of six people went to the nearby forest for hunting. One was shot dead, perhaps mistakenly, by a member of the team. The case remained unreported to the police. As I had planned to set a camp inside forest but that news made me change my plan. Then, I decided either to stay at hotels or homestay as a paying guest.

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

- a. Occurrence of four-horned antelope is confirmed with field verification in Chure range of Kapilvastu district and west of that to Banke. However, no sign of four-horned was recorded from Nawalparasi, Nawalpur and Rupandehi districts. Furthermore, habitat niche of four-horned antelope overlaps with that of goats.

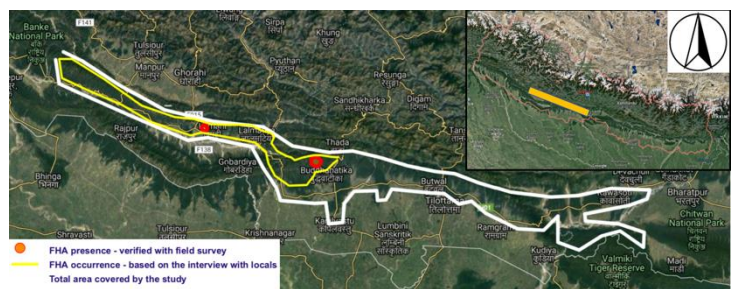


Figure 1 Map showing study area and the range of four-horned antelope (FHA) distribution within (map source: google.com).

- b. Hunting pressure was found to be very high particularly in northern part of Kapilvastu and Dang districts. People used traps in Kapilvastu whereas both traps and guns were used in Dang district. Habitat destruction, fragmentation and loss were another big threat to the native biodiversity including four-horned antelope. In addition, domestic animals such as goats and cattle might have reduced the food availability to the wildlife.
- c. Inclusion of cultural programme in community outreach encouraged more public participation. Local people and school students/ teachers who were unaware of four-horned antelope got to know about the species' ecology and importance of biodiversity.

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

Of the three community outreach programmes, an organised group of women – *Devi krishak samuha* presented a Tharu cultural programme with biodiversity song and cultural dance in one of the programmes. There was a focus group discussion on the issues of the local biodiversity. In addition, a local youth club – *Tankulimai yuwa club* of Kapilvastu district played street drama as an anti-poaching campaign. Furthermore, nine school students (four boys and five girls) from five different schools of Kapilvastu and Arghakhanchi districts participated in the nature-based poem competition. Teachers from respective schools, members of community forests, representatives of local NGOs and local political leaders also participated in the programme. Some participants (say key personalities) gave short talks. There was enough space for discussion and interaction among different stakeholders. As such, the programmes were very effective to inform the community about the importance of biodiversity and the need of conservation. In addition, the project supported conservation of local culture.



Figure 2 Tharu cultural dance

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes, I wish to continue working on the four-horned antelope research and conservation. The next step would be to explore the distribution of the antelope in the eastern part of the lowland of Nepal i.e. east from Chitwan National Park, then west from the Bardia National Park so that we could have a range-map of four-horned antelope distribution in Nepal to support evidence-based conservation.

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

I plan to share the results among scientific communities by publishing in a peer-reviewed international journal. By now, the preliminary results i.e. areas identified as four-horned antelope distribution have been shared amongst the local community,

local government bodies and local conservation organisations through presentation and public discussions.

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 project works started according to the plan in March 2018. Most of the grant was used for the field works/ survey that happened in March to May 2018 and community outreach program that happened in October and November 2018. The project ran according to the plan.

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
Communication, secondary data, documentation of results	250	250		
Stationary items	150	260	+110	We organized three programs. As such, we needed more education materials and posters. Cost for pamphlets and posters was higher than the estimated budget.
First aid supplies	50	50		
Community outreach program	600	690	+90	There were more than 300 participants in total, however, planned were only 200. Fortunately, the total cost for the lunch was cheaper than originally assumed.
Accommodation for PI	210	240	+30	Hotels were more expensive than I thought while preparing the budget.
Food for PI	180	180		
Food for the local team	900	710	-190	As we did not stay in a camp, the project hired one staff less than the planned. In addition, we spent for the breakfast and lunch only.
Allowances to field assistants	2250	2200	-50	We hired only 4 staffs rather than 5 which were originally planned.

				Three of them were from local community, however, we had to pay for hotel bills for the rest staff.
Local transportation	200	200		
Transportation	210	210		
TOTAL	5000	4990	-10	Exchange rate: £1 = NRs. 138

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

The first and urgent step would be to mitigate hunting pressure on wildlife outside protected areas. For this, relevant government authorities, conservation organisations, researchers, local communities and donors may need to join hands and act together. Then, we need to continue exploring the four-horned antelope in the potential areas and identify conservation hotspots.

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?

Yes! We used the Rufford Foundation logo in education materials and banners which were used in different programmes and meetings. The education materials, particularly the flex is currently in display in different organisations (local NGOs and local government offices), community forest offices. The flexes were also distributed among the locals. Furthermore, The Rufford Foundation received publicity during the course of our work and people asked me questions about the organisation. Some graduate students were interested to apply for a grant as well.

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

Mr. Mitra Pande is an experienced conservationist and currently working for the Bird Conservation Nepal as a 'Senior Project Officer'. He has a good experience of working with local community and non-governmental organizations. Therefore, he contributed in designing and organizing the community outreach programmes.

Mr. Asharam Tharu is a member of '*Janajagriti* community forest user committee' and a local politician of Kapilvastu as well. He helped to form a local team for the field survey and coordinated well in organizing community outreach programmes as he has good contacts with other politicians, staffs of NGOs, Schools and community forest user committees.

Dr. Prakash K. Paudel is a conservation biologist and is a staff of an NGO – Kathmandu Institute of Applied Sciences. Discussions with him while designing the project was fruitful.

12. Any other comments?

I am thankful to The Rufford Foundation which made this project possible.

Promotional Materials

