

## Final Evaluation Report

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| Your Details        |  |
|---------------------|--|
| Full Name           | Rama Mishra  |
| Project Title       | Assess human-elephant conflict and develop human-elephant coexistence through community awareness in Eastern Nepal |
| Application ID      | 25005-B  |
| Grant Amount        | £10,000  |
| Email Address       | l.mishrarama@gmail.com   |
| Date of this Report | 1/17/2021  |

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   |
|---|--------------|--------------------|----------------|--|
| Develop HECx training manual                                    |              |                    |                | HECx training manual developed by Zoo Outreach was adopted in Nepalese context with updated information. We have previous plan to print 15 copies, but we printed 100 copies because of high demand.                               |
| TOT (Training of Trainers) on human-elephant coexistence (HECx) |              |                    |                | Although we planned to provide TOT to 10 people, 18 completed the training.  |
| HECx training for locals  |              |                    |                | With COVID-19, we adopted our HECx training protocol. It was supposed to conduct in huge mass but are conducted in small groups and through door-to-door visits to the households by the trainers in their respective communities. |
| Assess the nature and extent of the elephant damage             |              |                    |                | To understand the nature of human-elephant conflict and its extent, nearly 500 questionnaire surveys were conducted.   |
| Radio program:  |              |                    |                | Radio jingles in two different languages (Nepali and Bhojpuri) were developed and broadcast from three FM stations for 6 months reaching over 100,000 people each in the Koshi and Jhapa regions.                                  |
| Brochure and poster publication                                 |              |                    |                | Brochures (2000 copies) and posters (1000 copies) were printed and distributed to the vulnerable communities. The project has reached to almost 500 local households directly through the awareness programmes.                    |
| Hoarding board (permanent banner) (Additional Activity)         |              |                    |                | This was not in the plan previously, but later we thought about it and installed in suitable location.   |

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

With COVID-19, we could not conduct awareness activities and training for trainers (TOT) in our scheduled time. To overcome this, we extended the radio programmes. We waited for the decision of local government to allow conducting our mass awareness/education programmes in person. The travel restrictions and physical gathering of less than 25 persons were allowed since November 2020. Due to this reason, we trained 18 locals instead of 10 so that these people can reach out to more people in their respective communities through training in smaller units.

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

**i) Development of local resource persons (LRP):**

The project has trained 18 local youths, representing two participants from each Buffer-Zone User Group Committee (BZUGC) and nature guides were selected. They were trained for human-elephant coexistence (HECx) training in eastern Nepal.

**ii) Conservation educational materials:**

A manual (n=100) for human-elephant coexistence was produced in local (Nepali) language, which guided the trainers to conduct the HECx training in their local communities. Similarly, posters (1000 copies) and brochures (2000 copies) were printed and distributed widely to the vulnerable communities. The project has reached to almost 500 local households directly through the awareness programmes. Through mass awareness programmes (radio, brochures and posters), the project has reached more than 100,000 people in the periphery of Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve. A hoarding board painted in both sides with contents to reduce the HEC was installed in a suitable location. Now, we expect that human casualties from elephants will be reduced sharply in the project area. With increasing awareness about the elephants, the local communities will not retaliate by killing elephants.

**iii) Thesis work and Article/s:**

Two Master's students from the Tribhuvan University of Nepal were involved in this project to do their thesis work. Now both are writing their theses. A manuscript of a research article about the nature and extent of human-elephant conflict in periphery of Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve based on the questionnaire survey is under preparation.

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

Eighteen people from the local communities were selected and TOT was provided to them. To include those from all locations round the reserve, participants were selected evenly from all buffer zone user group committee (BZUC). Also, some participants were included from Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve. The residential TOT was conducted in a community homestay for 3 days and the homestays in this community also benefitted economically. Further, this homestay also got publicity

with our programme. All TOT attendees conducted HECx training in the communities by door to door visiting in their respective community and distributing the education materials. They have also conducted awareness camps in small groups of five to 25 persons gathered in a location whenever possible. With this project they learned how to be safe from the wild elephants. They also understood how to minimize the conflicts rate with the elephants in future. Local painter was involved to draw the permanent hoarding board. Community is happy having hoarding board installed in their location. Local FM stations involved to broadcast the jingles for 6 months.

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

Yes, I do have plans to continue this work in the future. I want to provide refreshment training to those who were involved in TOT this year. I also would like to conduct such training and conservation awareness camps throughout the wild elephant ranges in Nepal.

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

I share my work and experience in interviews of different platforms. I have blog for elephants <http://www.jungalihatti.blogspot.com/> where I updated my work.

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

The grant was used for 15 months. We planned to complete our project activities in a year but with the COVID-19 we postponed some of our community-based activities, took longer than expected time.

**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   |
|---|-----------------|---------------|------------|--|
| Overhead 10% of sum of all items          | 900             | 900           |            |  |
| Stationaries                              | 100             | 225           | 125        | Additionally, items like face masks and sanitizers were provided to the participants |
| Local transportation and fuel             | 300             | 250           | -50        |  |
| Monthly stipend of the team leader for 12 | 1000            | 1000          |            |  |

|   |      |      |      |   |
|---|------|------|------|---|
| months  |      |      |      |   |
| Communication   | 100  | 100  |      |   |
| Brochure design and printing  | 500  | 450  | -50  |   |
| Training manual development and printing                                | 1200 | 1400 | +200 | Printing of 15 copies of training manual was planned, but we printed 100 copies as cost of printing for additional copies was inexpensive.  |
| Training material (flip chart) printing                                 | 250  | 100  | -150 | We obtained some material for training from Zoo outreach organization.  |
| Poster printing   | 400  | 375  | -25  |   |
| Radio jingle production and broadcasting @ 25 per month for five months | 950  | 650  | -350 | Radio jingle was supposed to broadcast from 5 radio stations for five months, but due to good coverage, jingles were broadcasted from 3 stations for six months.  |
| Questionnaire survey  | 1000 | 1000 |      |   |
| HECx Trainings  | 1500 | 950  | -550 | Due to COVID – 19, all the trainers (n=18) visited door-to-door to conduct awareness programs, and the conservation education was conducted for short time in small groups of 5-25, adopting with the situation. So, no snacks were provided. But this fund was used to support additional trainers.  |
| Training of trainers (TOT)  | 1800 | 2300 | +500 | We have planned to give TOT to only 10 people and each trainer are supposed to provide trainings to 50 people. But with the COVID there was restriction of gathering of people over 25 in a place at a time. Considering this thing, we increased the TOT participations (n=18) to meet our target of educating more local people in the community with more trainers |
| Hoarding Boards   |      | 300  | +300 | We didn't plan to develop hoarding board in the project proposal, but later we realized   |

|              |              |              |  |   |
|--------------|--------------|--------------|--|---|
|              |              |              |  | that it's good to have hoarding boards with some conservation education content which last for longer period. |
| <b>TOTAL</b> | <b>10000</b> | <b>10000</b> |  |   |

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

The trainers who received TOT for HECx should be followed regularly and provide more programmes in future for the conservation of wild elephants. Such training should be provided for the locals in other elephant range communities in southern Terai of Nepal on regular basis.

**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?**

The logo of The Rufford Foundation was used in brochure and posters developed for awareness/education camps for the mitigation of human-elephant conflicts (HEC). The logo was used in the manual developed for the HECx ToT programmes. Furthermore, it was also used in banner developed during the programmes and in a hoarding board kept in the community.

Despite of using logo, the name of foundation was included while the development of radio jingles for the conservation of wild elephants. Beside these, I talked about the continuous support of Rufford Foundation for elephant conservation in Nepal in all possible meetings relating the project.

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

**Ms. Rama Mishra** (Team leader): Conducting reconnaissance field survey, designed and provide assistant to conduct questionnaire survey, organize the training of trainers (TOT) for the local resource persons and conducting the human-elephant coexistence (HECx) training. Developing and printing of TOT manual, brochure and posters regarding HECx. Coordinating with all the members of the project.

**Dr. Kamal Prasad Gairhe**: Provided technical guidance in the preparation of educational materials and HECx trainings.

**Mr. Birendra Gautam**: Coordinate with different stakeholders such as Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve Office, Buffer Zone User Committees, Divisional Forest Office of Sunsari, Udayapur and Saptari. Monitored the radio jingles broadcasted from different stations regularly. Supporting TOT programs.

**Mr. Dol Raj Thanet**: Provided necessary advice for the questionnaire survey.

**Ambika Tiwari & Pawan Rai:** Conducted questionnaire survey to understand the crop damage pattern by wild elephants in Eastern and Western part from Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve respectively.

**Nisha Shiva & Dhira Kumari:** Provided assistant while conducting TOT and HECx trainings.

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

Due to COVID-19 pandemic we have to extend the time period to complete all the planned activities. Although it took a longer period, all the activities went well. Apart from this, we also installed a hoarding board (permanent banner painted both sides with HECx message) in the community as an additional activity.