

Final Evaluation Report

Your Details	
Full Name	Ganesh Puri
Project Title	Understanding patterns and dynamics of Herders-Snow leopard conflict for piloting non-lethal mitigation measures in Dhorpatan Hunting Reserve, Western Nepal
Application ID	25901-2
Grant Amount	£4,950
Email Address	gpuri.forestry@gmail.com
Date of this Report	03.05.2019

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
Assessment of herder-snow leopard conflict				
Approximate economic losses due to livestock depredation per household				
Identifying and mapping conflict hotspots				
Identifying the best non-lethal mitigation measures to minimize herder-snow leopard conflict				

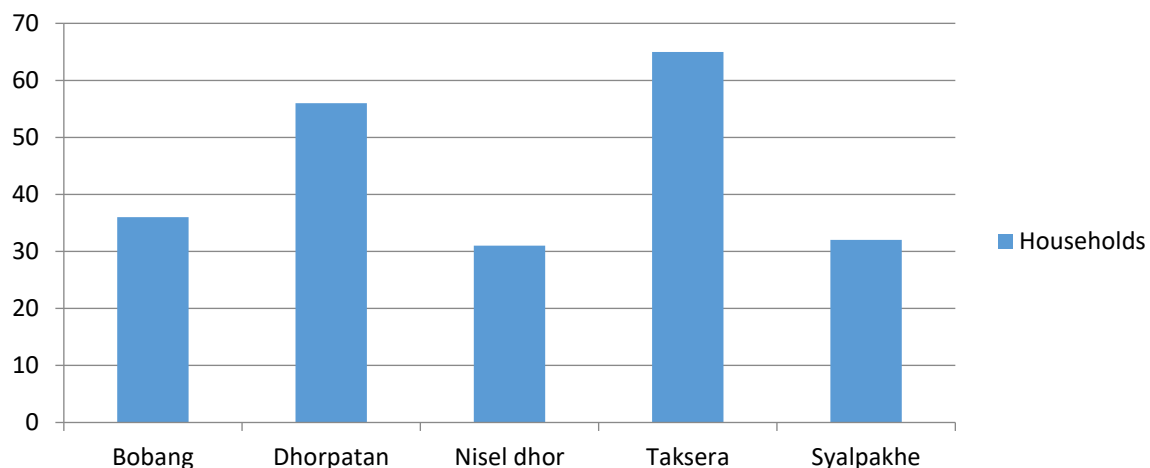
2. Please explain any unforeseen difficulties that arose during the project and how these were tackled.

Due to the prolonged harsh winter in the Himalayas this year, my project activities completed a month later. But this didn't affect so much for the completion of my project.

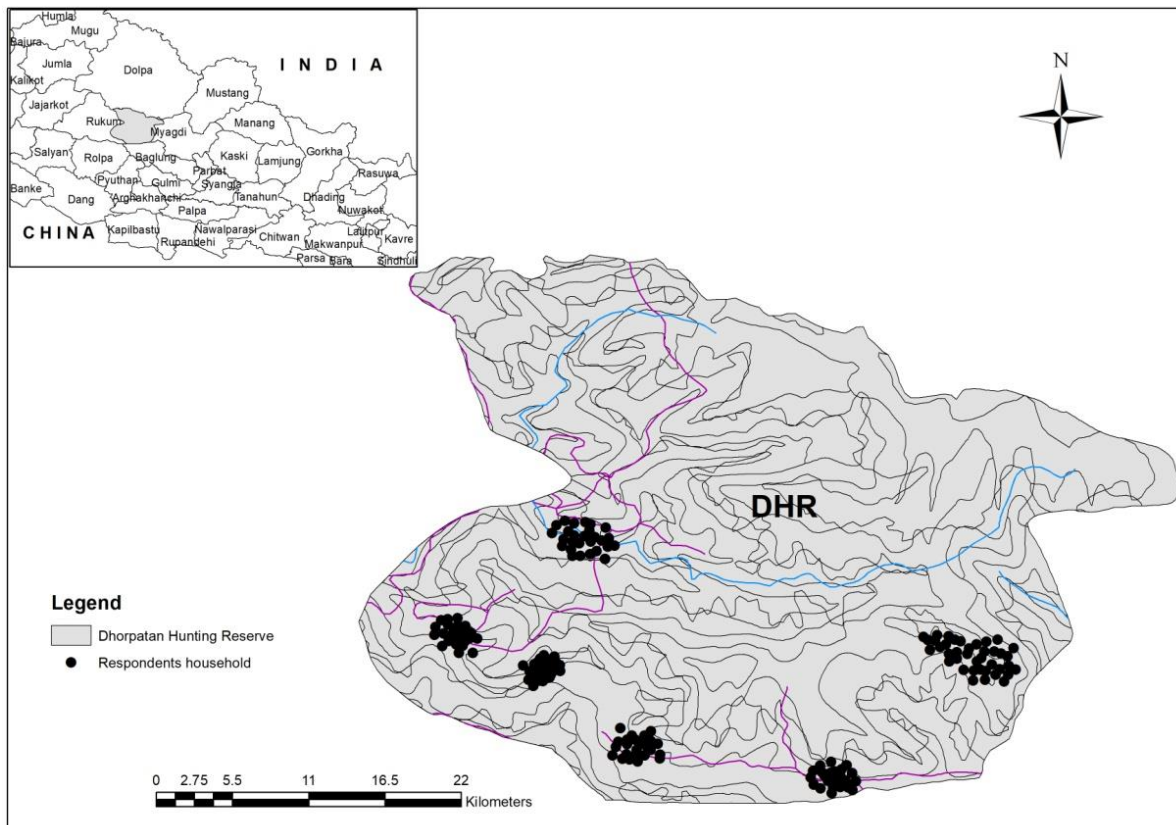
3. Briefly describe the three most important outcomes of your project.

I did a questionnaire survey with 220 respondents including 36 from Bobang village, 56 from Dhorpatan village, 31 from Nisel dhor, 65 from Taksera village and 32 from Syalpakhe village in and around the Dhorpatan Hunting Reserve Nepal. Out of 220 respondents, 95.23% (n = 209) reared 11,218 livestock and 4.77% (n = 11) did not own livestock. Mainly three species of livestock were recorded in the study area: goat/sheep (55.23%), cattle (23.21%) and horse (21.56%).

Respondents' Representation

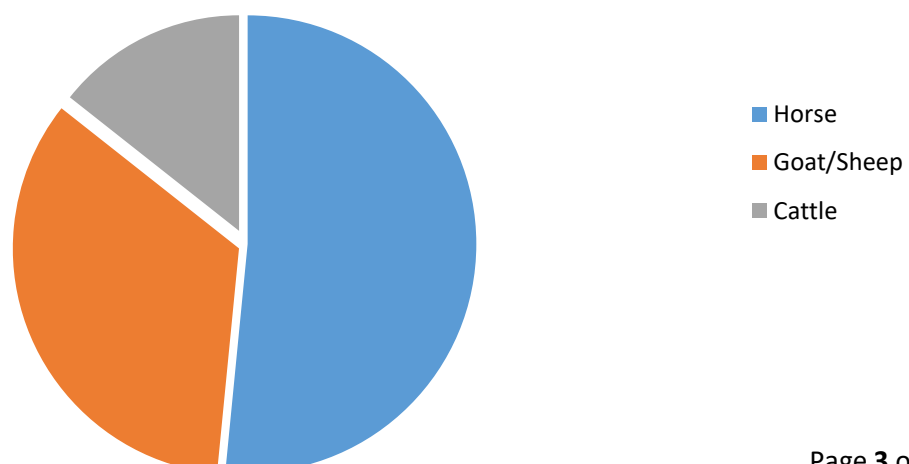


A total of 1521 livestock were lost in 2 years from December 2016 to November 2018 from different causes. Of the total loss reported, 73.2% (1113) were lost from depredation and 26.8% (408) were lost to diseases, accidents, and avalanches. Among the predators, snow leopard caused the highest damage (41% of losses) followed by jackal (36.2%), wolf (19.2%) and feral dog (3.6%).



Estimated financial loss associated with snow leopard depredation in the 2-year period (2016-2018) totalled \$91,846 for an average of \$417 per affected household. The highest financial burden was associated with the loss of horse (\$47,350) followed by goat/sheep (\$31,300), cattle (\$13,196).

Estimated financial loss associated with snow leopard depredation in the two-year period (2016-2018)



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

This project was completely related to the local people as I interviewed them to gather information and level of conflict with snow leopard and carnivores in the area. The local herders and local people were actively engaged in the workshops, meetings and interview surveys. They were enriched with the knowledge on snow leopard, its behaviour and importance in maintaining healthy ecosystems as top predator. The locals were very excited to build predator-friendly corals and expected to get support to install predator-deterrent foxlights in their herding camps.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes, I will continue my project and in the next phase I will emphasise to minimise the herders-snow leopard conflict by applying non-lethal predator deterrent techniques such as foxlight and predator-proof corals by involving local herders and park authorities.

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

I will share the outcomes of my project to the Dhorpatan Hunting Reserve office and related stakeholders. I will also publish my results in the peer-reviewed journal as soon as possible. I will share my publication with the Foundation and other related agencies.

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 from July 2018 to March 2019. This is tentatively match with the anticipated length of the project.

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
Travel	800	890	-90	Due to the increase in fuel price and transportation costs than previously assumed during application time.

Allowances for assistants	1400	1400		
Food and accommodation	2250	2250		
Stationeries and communication	200	200		
Reporting	300	300		
Total	4950	5040	-90	

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

My project site Dhorpatan Hunting Reserve is one of the remotest park of Nepal. The local people living in the surrounding of the reserve are very poor and uneducated. The only livelihood is the livestock rearing. Therefore, livestock depredation due to snow leopard and other carnivores is the major challenge for the livelihood of the local people. So, I want to apply non-lethal mitigation measures i.e. foxlight and safe corals to minimise this conflict to support local people which is also beneficial for the conservation of snow leopard and other carnivores in the reserve. Looking this situation, I will apply for the next Rufford Booster Grant to minimise the herder-snow leopard conflict which is helpful to motivate the locals in snow leopard conservation.

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?

Yes, I used The Rufford Foundation logo during the workshops in banners, power point and outreach materials. Hundreds of local people, wildlife rangers, school kids and forest officials knew about the Foundation during my project activities in the remote Himalayas.

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

A full list of all the members of my project team:

Name of the team member	Job/Organisation	Role in the project
Mr. Bishnu Rokaya	Assistant Warden Dhorpatan Hunting Reserve	Mr. Bishnu Rokaya is the assistant warden of Dhorpatan Hunting Reserve of Government of Nepal. He helped in getting research permission from the park and endorsement of my project. He also supported to gather participants of the project workshops and meetings and also helped to inform and encourage the local park securities i.e. Nepal Police and Nepal Army personnel to participate in the project

		inception workshops. He also hosted the project related workshops and meetings.
Mr. Suman KC	Wildlife Ranger Dhorpatan Hunting Reserve	Mr. Suman KC helped to identify the potential sites for interview surveys and also convinced the local people to participate in the interviews and workshops.
Mr. Dipak Chaudhary	Wildlife Ranger Dhorpatan Hunting Reserve	Mr. Dipak Chaudhary assisted in the workshops and meetings management during the project period.
Mr. Prakash Sigdel	Forestry Graduate Student Institute of Forestry, Agriculture and Forestry University	He supported to interview the local herders and the local people to assess the perceptions on snow leopard and herder's conflict in Dhorpatan Hunting Reserve.
Mr. Arjun Rijal	Forestry Graduate Student Institute of Forestry, Agriculture and Forestry University	Arjun also assisted in interview surveys in the project site.

12. Any other comments?

I would like to thank The Rufford Foundation for funding my snow leopard conservation project and looking forward to support my future projects as well. I also thank my referees; Dr Tirth Raj Ghimire, Prof. Dr. Falk Huettmann and Dr. Rodney Jackson for their support, encouragement and supervision throughout the project.



Dhorpatan Valley