

The Rufford Small Grants Foundation

Final Report

Congratulations on the completion of your project that was supported by The Rufford Small Grants Foundation.

We ask all grant recipients to complete a Final Report Form that helps us to gauge the success of our grant giving. 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. 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	Atul Joshi
Project title	Assessment of a unique conflict situation between gaur (<i>Bos gaurus</i>) and humans in the Western Ghats, India
RSG reference	27.01.08
Reporting period	2008-2011
Amount of grant	£5887
Your email address	atul@ncf-india.org
Date of this report	June 2014

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
Identify factors determining variation in the intensity of gaur-human conflict at different spatio-temporal scales			Yes	<p>The variation in human-wildlife conflict intensity was assessed at three different spatial scales – forest range, village and household and at three temporal scales –decade, year and season.</p> <p>A questionnaire-based key informant survey was carried out to assess the perceived conflict intensity at coarse level i.e. across the forest ranges in the landscape and at two different points of time – present and past (1980). A detailed key informant survey was carried out across the selected villages to assess the conflict intensity at medium level i.e. across the villages and in 2 consecutive years.</p> <p>The conflict incidents were monitored at micro level i.e. across households and each day. Cropfields of 250 households from eight villages were monitored each day for 17 months.</p> <p>The environmental and anthropogenic variables that potentially influence the conflict intensity across these spatio-temporal scales were agriculture intensification, ecosystem modification, intrusions into wildlife habitat, vegetation cover, elevation, and aspect.</p>
Assess socio-economic impact of gaur-human conflict on people			Yes	<p>The households monitored had varying landholding and economic status. Therefore, even similar crop losses may impact the households with varied socio-economic status. The impact of crop losses on households was assessed through the assessment of distribution of crop losses across the landholdings and living indices of the households.</p>
Partner with the Maharashtra Forest Department to evolve and execute a conflict alleviation strategy		Yes		

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

One of our objectives of this study was to assess the crop losses inflicted by wildlife species. Therefore, we monitored the cropfields of selected households for one annual cycle of the seasons. At the end of 1 year of monitoring, we realised that the frequency of crop raiding incidents were relatively low to understand the drivers of crop depredation by wildlife species. Therefore, we decided to extend monitoring of cropfields for one more cropping season and recorded the conflict incidences.

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

1. Data from our work has set a valuable monitoring baseline through assessment of losses and local perceptions. Forest department has been using the report on this study to understand the human-wildlife conflict in the region and design conflict alleviation strategies.
2. Nature Conservation Foundation (NCF) has been pursuing ecological and socioeconomic studies on human-wildlife conflicts across India. The data from this study is an important contribution to the growing body of knowledge on human-wildlife conflicts. This, over time, will facilitate a synthesis of factors driving human-wildlife conflict and guide policy options for its management at larger scales.
3. The study was conducted at different spatial and temporal scales. The analysis of data showed how different factors drive human-wildlife conflict at different scales. This sets a baseline to evolve specific conflict mitigation strategies at different spatial and temporal scales.

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

The conflict incidents were recorded in selected eight villages. Local persons were selected and trained to collect the required data from these villages. Along with the monetary remuneration, they also benefitted through capacity building initiatives taken during the project execution.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

There are no immediate concrete plans to continue this work. However, we have assured help to Forest Department in its conflict alleviation initiatives in near future.

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

A report based on the preliminary analysis has been submitted to the Forest Department. Also, a technical report and a research paper are in preparation. We aim to publish popular article/s based on the results of this study in local media.

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

The RSG grant was used from April 2008 to August 2011. The anticipated length of the project was from April 2008 to December 2009. The delay in execution of the project was due to the extension of conflict monitoring period by an additional cropping season and inclusion of additional study - Assessment human-wildlife conflict at larger scale - across the landscape.

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
Per diems and wages	2719	3269	- 450	The evaluation part of the study was extended from 5 to 8 villages and from 12 to 17 months. The amount diverted to this item was mainly compensated by reducing travel costs with the use of cheaper travel means such as bike and public transport.
Equipment	650	654	- 4	
Expendables	250	225	25	
Travel & accommodation	2088	1693	395	
Communication	180	150	30	
TOTAL	5887	5891	- 4	

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

Our study infers that the drivers of human-wildlife conflict and its impact may vary at different spatial and temporal scales. The human-wildlife conflict alleviation can be effectively done through understanding the conflict at different scales and forming conflict mitigation measures at different scales based on it.

10. Did you use the RSGF logo in any materials produced in relation to this project? Did the RSGF receive any publicity during the course of your work?

We used RSGF logo in work presentation in the form of poster in conferences (Young Ecologist Talk and Interact 2008 and 2009) and power point presentation annual meet of the Nature Conservation Foundation in 2011.