Final Evaluation Report

Your Details	
Full Name	Babu Ram Lamichhane
Project Title	Understanding big cat diet in the corridors and non-protected forests of Chitwan valley to reduce human-carnivore conflict
Application ID	28100-2
Date of this Report	2022-11-12

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 the prey density				On the data obtained from this project a student did his thesis and now working on publication based on this
Assessment of the tiger and leopard diet in corridor forest				Two master's students were mobilised for diet study, one for tiger and another for leopard.
Sharing finding with the stakeholders				Two sharing workshops were organised, one at Kawasoti, Nawalpur, and another at Saurha, Chitwan. The stakeholders were informed about the finding as well as discussed on the tiger status in these areas based on national tiger survey 2022.

2. Describe the three most important outcomes of your project.

a). This is the first study on prey and diet of tigers/leopards in forests outside buffer zone in Chitwan Valley. It found the variable density in different areas with high in Chitwan's Barandabhar and very low in Nawalparasi forests in western part.

b). Three students were engaged under this study including two master's and one bachelor's student.

c). Sharing workshop was conducted with the stakeholders in October 2022 including the findings of this project as well as the information obtained during the Nepal's national tiger survey.

3. Explain any unforeseen difficulties that arose during the project and how these were tackled.

Just after the grant was released, the COVID-19 pandemic broke and fieldwork was delayed. It caused delay in completion of the project. I carried out fieldwork during pandemic at one site (Chitwan, Barandabhar area) in coordination with local authorities and for the other site far from our office (Nawalparasi) fieldwork was conducted after the effect of the COVID pandemic was lower last year.

4. Describe the involvement of local communities and how they have benefitted from the project.

We consulted with local communities at the beginning of the project, both in Chitwan and Nawalparasi site.

Community forestry members at initial consulation about the project fieldwork (November 2020)

We also conducted a sharing workshop with the stakeholders near to completion of the project. In the sharing workshop representatives of the community forests from the project area were involved.

Project leader sharing the project finding with the stakeholders in Chitwan. One session was ogranized during a training for members of 15 community forests in Barandabhar corridor and adjoining forests in Chtiwan (August 27, 2022).

DFO Nawalparasi giving his remarks during the sharing workshop (a,b) and participants of the workshop (c) (September 09, 2022).

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

I plan to continue my work on human-tiger conflict. It is more relevant as tiger population has increased and the number of attacks on humans has also increased

in recent years. I plan to work on community awareness programs focusing on tiger behaviour and avoiding the tiger attacks.

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

As I mentioned earlier,

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

This project was more focused on the biological aspect of the tiger/leopard diet and prey density. Working in the field and managing various conflict scenarios of the tiger/leopard conflict with communities, I realised the need of more work on community, especially on the awareness and behaviour change campaigns to avoid tiger attacks on humans. We also need proactive actions to control conflict causing individuals with proper monitoring and identification. Community mobilisation for monitoring of tigers and leopards as well as establishing early warning systems is equally important to minimize the loss.

8. 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 logo in the sharing workshop. Rufford is also acknowledged in the student thesis.

9. Provide a full list of all the members of your team and their role in the project.

Dr. Babu Ram Lamichhane (Team leader)
Overall project management, conducting and supervising the field survey.

Ms. Setarah Babarikand and Ms. Stefani Kelchtermans (student researchers)
Scat collection and analysis for understanding tiger/leopard diet as part of their Master's thesis under this project.

Mr. Muna Chaudhary
Prey density survey and analysis as part of BSc thesis under this project.

Mr. Tirtha Lama, Mr. Binod Darai, Mr. Ramesh Darai & Mr. Tika Ram Tharu (Wildlife technicians)
Field data collection - prey density, tiger/leopard scat

Prof. Dr. Hans H. de Iongh
Supervised the students and supported in report writing

10. Any other comments?