

Final Evaluation Report

Your Details	
Full Name	Rama Mishra
Project Title	Human and Elephant: Conflicts to co-existence in Eastern Terai of Nepal
Application ID	35906-D
Date of this Report	July 2023

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
Training of trainers on HECx				A total of 26 people completed the HECx TOT at Dhanushadham. The participants included government forest staff, Community Forest User Group members, NGO members, and local resource persons.
Refresher training for TOT participants in Koshi				One-day refresher training was conducted for the TOT participants of previous project (2020). A total of 22 persons, including 18 from previous training and four new members, participated.
Preparation & printing/broadcasting of education materials (poster, manual, T-shirts with conservation message, radio jingle)				We reprinted 1,000 copies of the revised poster, 2,000 copies of brochure and 100 t-shirts with conservation message. A radio jingle with conservation message for avoiding elephant attacks was produced and broadcasted from two different stations covering the large.
Understanding the level of HEC in central Nepal				A master's student was mobilised to conduct questionnaire survey which she used for her thesis. She has submitted and defended her thesis and working on final corrections.

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

a). Active engagement of participants in the TOT

TOT on the HECx was conducted for the first time in Dhanusasham area of central Terai, Nepal. The training participants were very actively engaged in the training. They also conducted education sessions (2-3hr) about elephant behaviour and how to avoid elephant attacks, led by themselves in the community. Education materials (poster and brochure) were also distributed to the community people. We originally planned to conduct training for 20 participants but with high demand from the community, we added six more participants in the TOT. Following are some photos of the TOT.



Similarly, refresher training was also conducted in Koshi where TOT was organised 3 years ago. The participants appreciated this initiative of repeated engagement.

b). Radio Jingle and education materials

We prepared and broadcasted radio jingle in two FM radios (Saptakoshi and Mithilanchal FM). In rural parts of Nepal, FM radios are very popular. Radio jingle was prepared in Nepali. These jingles are also uploaded in the soundcloud for archiving in the following links.

<https://soundcloud.com/rama-mishra-674848661/jingle-in-nepali-about-human-elephant-coexistence-being-broadcasted-at-mithilanchal-fm-itahari>

<https://soundcloud.com/rama-mishra-674848661/human-elephant-coexistence-koshi-2022>

Similarly, the poster, brochure and training manual from previous Rufford project was reproduced with required modifications.

c). Master's thesis on HEC in Central Nepal

The project supported master's student of Zoology on her thesis. As in the previous projects, I mobilised a student to understand the level of HEC in the project area using questionnaire survey of the locals. This helped to develop capacity of Nepali researcher while conducting this project.



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

We did not had difficulty to complete the project. We partnered with a local organisation Mithila Wildlife Trust which was very helpful to organise the programme smoothly.

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

All the TOT participants were selected locally in both areas. In Koshi Tappu area this was a refresher training. This was the demands of the participants after they received first training in 2020. They think the programme remains beneficial to them,

especially those who resides at the edge of the reserve where they would encounter with the wild elephants frequently.

For the participants in Dhanushadham area, this is the first of its kind in their locality. They have seen wild elephants roaming around and damaging crops and other property. There is sometimes also human loss due to elephant attacks. However, they didn't know what to do during such incidence. By this training they have learned the technique how they can avoid elephant attacks. Not only the people who has participated the training, but also other locals got knowledge transformation through these people. Now, I can believe each TOT participants can perform good role to mitigate human wildlife conflict when time demands.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

I believe this kind of training should be continue in the future. I have conducted this training from central to eastern Nepal. This kind of programme remains beneficial to all groups of people. People should be reminded of these things continuously. I did the programme in clusters but in the coming years I want to do in all clusters benefiting more people.

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

Yes, I have put all the materials produced from my project in my blog.
<https://Jungalihatti.blogspot.com>

I have also uploaded video clips of the HECx TOT in my YouTube Channel.

Drama by training participants Dhanushadham - <https://youtu.be/vrRyYERDroQ>

Training session - <https://youtu.be/hWKtlw2KzpE>

Refresher training at Koshi - <https://youtu.be/LOMLFxfGTFI>

A master's student defended her thesis and will finalize it soon. Once the thesis is final, I will share it to Rufford to put on the website. We will also work for a research article in future.

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

Continuation of the community education and awareness is important to ensure no human deaths from elephants. I had great experience of refresher's training in Koshi. Thus, follow up work in the areas of previous project area is a priority.

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, the logo of The Rufford Foundation has been used in several ways. While broadcasting the radio jingles, the name of foundation has been aired from different FM stations in different (Nepal, Maithili & Bhojpuri) local languages. The logo was printed on the newly developed brochure and posters. T-shirts have been

printed with the foundation logo and distributed to the TOT participants. While conducting the TOT programmes, the logo of foundation was included in the programme banner each time. In addition to this, The Rufford Foundation has been properly acknowledged for the support of student research in her master's thesis. With all these activities I believe the foundation has got great publicity. Some examples are presented in photos below.





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

The members of our team and their role in the project is described below:

Ms. Rama Mishra: She is the team leader and is responsible to carried out each activity starting from Radio Jingle preparation, Posture and brochure development, TOT and refresher trainings and each activity related to the program.

Mr. Bishnu Lama: He was involved as the resource person while giving refresher training in Eastern Nepal.

Ms. Sita Poudel: She facilitate the TOT in Dhanushadham area and involved in data collection during the questionnaire survey.

Ms. Pabitra Dawadi: Being in the team, she was responsible for the data collection from which she conducted her master's thesis research. She is about to complete her Master's. She also facilitated the TOT program in Dhanusadham area.

Mr. Dev Narayan Mandal: He facilitate the TOT program in Dhanushadham, look after all the technical management for the program. He also involved to monitor the education and outreach program organized by TOT participants.

10. Any other comments?

I appreciate the support from the foundation. The support from Rufford has introduced me to the next level. After my master's I don't have full time job, but always interested to work in wildlife conservation sector. The continuous support from Rufford has been always a motivation for me to move on. Thank you, Rufford Foundation. Keep supporting the students like me.