

Final Evaluation Report

Your Details	
Full Name	Bishnu Achhami
Project Title	Engaging local communities in Musk deer conservation in Manaslu Conservation Area, Nepal
Application ID	38275-2
Date of this Report	April 2024

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
Promoting awareness			√	We conducted an awareness programme not only in the project area but also beyond it, where people were enthusiastic to learn new information about the species they had not heard before.
Sharing and earning the information of Musk deer (From FGD and interviews)			√	People were happy to share what they had heard and experienced and to learn new information which they had not known before.
Survey of habitat condition and the possible threats		√		Some of the habitats were very far from the residential area, and due to limited budget, it was not possible to conduct habitat surveys in every possible area.
Formation of fire control group	√			We conducted forest fire awareness programmes and informed the communities about the impact of forest fires. However, we were unable to form a fire control group and assign them to forest fire control activities due to budget constraints.

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

- a). Short informative video on musk deer with English subtitles was made.
- b). The colourful storybook, containing all the content of the students was published.

c). Conducted awareness programs on forest fire and discussed with the local community for their views and their requirements for mitigating the forest fires.

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

The formation of fire control group was a difficult part of the project. Our plan was to train the previously formed local Conservation Area Management Committees (CAMCs) group by NTNC for forest fire control, but the CAMCs were not active due to some issues. Additionally, we did not have the budget to assign them to forest fire control activities, nor did the rural municipality. Therefore, we planned to allocate the budget for the CAMCs group in the next project and assign them to forest fire control activities. However, we conducted awareness programmes on forest fires in different localities and assessed their knowledge of forest fires through questionnaire surveys.

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

We conducted awareness programmes on musk deer and forest fire, where local women and youth groups actively participated and shared their knowledge and information. Local people were excited and enthusiastic to learn new information about the species found in their localities. Throughout the project, we included local people in every aspect of the programme. We stayed in local people's homes and hotels for food and accommodation. Additionally, we engaged local people in research activities as assistants and porters. As a result of this project, local communities benefited both directly and indirectly.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes, we had planned to continue this work, as there has been an improvement in the conservation awareness of wild animals, including musk deer, compared to the first project. This is partly due to the awareness activities conducted by the Rufford project and similar initiatives in the area.

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

A detailed final report has been prepared. The report will be distributed to the local authorities as well as other concerned authorities. The overall summary of the project will be verbally shared to the local people to inform them about the situation of musk deer, the awareness level of the local population, and the importance of the conservation of the flora and fauna of the area. Additionally, an informative video on musk deer will be published online with Nepali narration and English subtitles. This will enable children, the local community, communities of other areas, and people from other countries to gain knowledge about musk deer and the importance of conservation of this species.

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

During the project activities we observed that different localities within one conservation area face different threats to musk deer and other species. Therefore, the project had to conduct multiple activities addressing the specific threats to the species in those areas. However, conducting such activities requires a significant budget, which may sometimes be challenging to obtain within the constraints of a single project and its timeframe.

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 Rufford Foundation logo was used in the awareness presentation slides, the published children's book of Musk deer titled "Mriga ra kasturiharu", and the information video on Musk deer.

The foundation's publicity was incorporated into every awareness programme and interaction with authorities conducted during the project activities.

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

1. Ambir Tolang - Assisted in the habitat survey, awareness activities, video and photo capturing of the field activities
2. Sujan Deshar - Assisted in the habitat survey and awareness activities
3. Sapana Khajju - Assisted in the school awareness activities
4. Lochana Adhikari - Assisted in the school awareness activities
5. Govinda Gurung - Assisted in the school awareness activities
6. Maheshwor Acharya - Assisted in refining content of the children's book "Mriga ra kasturiharu"
7. Binita Timilsina - Assisted with front and back cover art design for the children's book "Mriga ra kasturiharu"
8. Ankur Shrestha - Assisted in refining content of the children's book "Mriga ra kasturiharu" and review of the video script
9. Sabita Gurung - Assisted in data analysis and making map for the video
10. Shila Gurung - Helped in review of script and narration of the video
11. Divya Baniya - Assisted in the habitat survey
12. Sampada Ghimire - Assisted in the habitat survey

10. Any other comments?

No.