

**Project: Rethinking our actions around species identification in conservation intervention**

Project start date: April 1, 2023

Project host: Greenhood Nepal

Project update: April 2024

**Summary:** In the third quarter, we completed all the field activities (including surveys) and local-level awareness programs in both project districts. We are working on the species id guidebook, project report, and manuscript; details below:

**Project progress**

*Awareness programs conducted in two districts*

We conducted two knowledge-sharing sessions on plant identification and conservation in Division Forest Office (including over 20 officials), and sub-division office Palung (including over 15 local stakeholders). Likewise, we conducted an awareness program with the same theme in the Division Forest Office, Gorkha (involving over 30 officials and local stakeholders). All three programs had enthusiastic participation and were supported by local forest offices with participation from the Division Forest Officer, Assistant Forest Officer, and other key officials.

*Post-training assessments completed*

We conducted post-training assessments in Makwanpur with both enforcement officials and local stakeholders (including non-timber forest products harvesters, community forest user group authorities, and members). These assessment participants were the same whom we trained four months ago i.e. 20 enforcement officials and 20 local plant harvesters (see Q2 project update).

**Project progress vs plan**

Activity no.	Year 1 (2023)			Year 1 (2024)	
	Apr-June	July-Sept	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar	Apr
1	Project scoping				
2		Training			
3		Questionnaire surveys and interviews			
4			Data compilation and entry	Analysis	
5			Results dissemination		

Note: The colors show the progress. Green = activity completed, Orange = activity ongoing

**Activities planned for the future**

- Preparation of species ID guide for at least five mostly traded medicinal plants of Nepal
  - *Progress so far*, I have coordinated with the CITES Scientific Authority the Department of Plant Resources, medicinal and aromatic plants (MAP) section head for a quick meeting to discuss ways to align this publication with DPR's vision for plant conservation.

- Data entry and analysis
  - *Progress so far*, the data entry work is almost completed; currently working on analysis.
- Project reports and manuscript
  - *Progress so far*, we have already identified key ideas for the manuscript. We will prepare a report and manuscript draft after the analysis

**Photos: Highlights from the awareness programs and assessment surveys**

Some of the photos from the awareness programs and in-person assessment surveys. We also conducted online surveys with 18 enforcement officials that are not reflected here.



Photo: Group photo after the program with officials from the Division Forest Office, Gorkha



Photo: R. Bashyal (project PI) discussing the need for plant conservation with the Division Forest Officer, Assistant Forest Officer, and Nepal Police Authority (Inspector)



Photo: P. Poudyal (project team member) sharing technical information on plant identification to the program participant in Gorkha Division Forest Office



Photo: R. Bashyal (project PI) sharing insights on plant conservation, illegal plant trade, and highlighting the need for prioritization in the future conservation initiatives conducted by the local authorities of Gorkha



Photo: Group photo after the program with officials from the Division Forest Office, Makwanpur (Palung division)



Photo: Director of Plant Research Center, Makawanpur, sharing the activities done by the Plant Research Centre and sharing insights on the plant identification



Photo: R. Bashyal (project PI) and program participants during the awareness program in sub-division Palung, Makwnpur

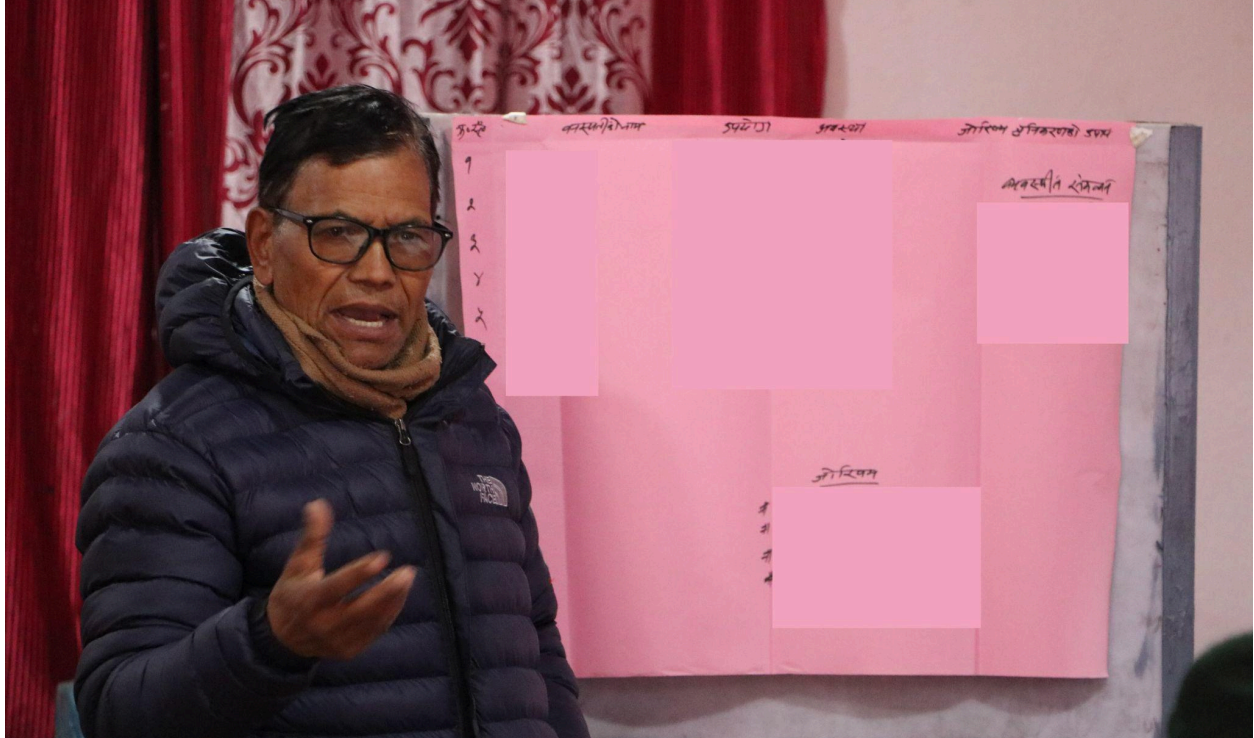


Photo: Program participant sharing the findings from group discussion



Photo: Program participants preparing a list of medicinal plants from the area and identifying the conservation issues for each species in the list



Photo: Program participants (including local CF authority, forest office official) during the in-person training need assessments facilitated by project assistant R. Upadhya and A. Kharel

**Reshu Bashyal** @bashyalreshu

We had knowledge sharing & interactions with enforcement officials and local forest users in Makwanpur (Manahari & Palung). Very thankful for the support, enthusiastic participation, & responses to species ID capacity assessments in plant trade monitoring (incl >100 questions!).

Rufford Foundation and Greenhood Nepal

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**Relevant people**

**Reshu Bashyal** @bashyalreshu  
Into wildlife trade research and conservation. Alum @CheveningFCDO

**Rufford Foundation** @ruffordgrants **Following**  
The Rufford Foundation is a UK registered charity which funds nature conservation projects across the developing world.

**Greenhood Nepal** @Greenhood **Following**  
Official tweets from Greenhood Nepal. We work to protect Nepal's most threatened & neglected wildlife species.

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**Trends for you**

Photo: A glimpse of one of the social media posts