

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	Prativa Kaspal
Project title	Saving the pangolins: ethno zoology and pangolin conservation awareness in human dominated landscapes, Nepal
RSG reference	40.09.08
Reporting period	31 December 2009
Amount of grant	£3522
Your email address	info@himalayannature.org
Date of this report	27 May 2010

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
Visits to traditional healer shops in the cities to research pangolin trade and status.		√		When the research work was just started, I got an opportunity to have an interview with the national television for the first time. It was instrumental to create public attention towards conservation issues to some extent. Afterwards there was some media coverage on pangolin conservation and its illegal seizure from the wild and from suburban areas. These activities helped a lot in spreading awareness to general people. This might be the reason behind the reluctances of healers and vendors to answer my questions and to show pangolin products.
Questionnaire survey (Purposive Sampling) to know the ethno zoology of pangolin and to find out the perception of local people			√	Questionnaires were in dual languages, English and Nepali, which helped a lot in collecting local people's ideas and opinions about pangolins. 100 questionnaires were filled during the field trips.
Interviews with shop owners, related vendors and others to discover their personal perceptions			√	Rather than formal, informal interactions with the shop owners and vendors were performed was quite good in exploring the utilities of pangolin and its products in purposes and to find out actual trade link of pangolins across the country. Vendor shops though seem small, but they also play the bridge between the supplier and customer supporting pangolin smuggling.
Species identification through standard methods. For field identification Baral and Shah's Wild Mammals of Nepal (2008) field guide			√	During the field visit I found one live species, which was Chinese pangolin. It was confirmed through the consultation with the field guide.

was consulted.				
Increase public awareness through publication and distribution of brochures and posters			√	The pioneer publication of pangolin poster and brochure was very useful to make the stakeholders and government bodies attentive. Their distribution in the study areas, workshops, seminars and to the related stakeholders helped in raising public awareness and motivation towards the conservation of pangolins and their habitats.

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

The frequent strikes in Nepal caused inconvenience in travelling to project site. To tackle this problem, one local person was hired for the project to coordinate the field activities in such strike periods.

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

- ❖ Field based information about the status of pangolin
There is presence of pangolin in the plain and in the hilly areas of Nepal. It was found that the habitats of pangolin have been encroached and degraded by people. I recorded one live Chinese Pangolin in Chitwan. Habitats of pangolin were in good situation till now in good mid-hill rather than in the lowlands of Nepal on the basis of burrow activities. There were many evidences of pangolin poaching in the field. Threats to pangolin in its habitats were hunting it for meat, use of dogs for pangolin search, use of chilli powder and allowing smoke inside the burrow to suffocate pangolin along with red soil excavation for household purposes in local areas.
- ❖ Ethno importance of pangolin
Semi-structured questionnaire and informal interaction was done with local ethnic groups mainly Tamangs in mid-hill and Tharus in lowlands to explore the myths and uses of pangolin. Most of respondents were from Tamang communities. Regarding the uses of pangolin, 34 % of the total respondents had taken its meat to prevent from asthma, 27 % had used the uterine organ to avoid abortion, 12 % had used its scales in order to prevent from evils and collected its scales to make belts and buttons, 10 % had used its scales for making garland. Remaining 5 % had used its scales for keeping vermilion and scale oil for healing bone and muscle disorders.
- ❖ Awareness programmes
TV programs for the first time in Nepal influenced all the public and related stakeholders. The publication of posters and on single species was another important awareness aspect of our project. Poster and brochure appealing for active participation in conservation and in reducing poaching were produced. They reflect conservation messages of pangolin for the wellbeing of people on one side and its picture with its habitat on the other side so as to awake general public. Two thousand copies of the poster and brochure were produced and distributed to the local people, students, teachers, lecturers, conservationists and to the

related stakeholders. The impact of poster and brochure is inevitable. These educational materials helped to motivate public to participate in conservation practices in their area. I appreciate the dedication local people towards conservation of pangolin and its habitats.

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

The main aim of this research was to change the attitude of local people towards the conservation of pangolin and its habitats as pangolin habitats are commonly found near human settlements. That's why this research was concerned with local people living amidst the pangolin habitats. Power point presentations, brochures and posters with pangolin conservation messages were published after the questionnaire survey, consultation and interaction with the local people from different sites. Whenever I made my visit out in the field, I spent most of my time with them, informing and sharing knowledge about the issues of pangolin. They were cooperative and thrilled to understand their role and involvement in conservation. Local people knew about the status and ecology of pangolin. Active participation and their dedication in safeguarding pangolin and keeping eye on its illegal trade was beneficial aspect of my project.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes, I have some future plans to continue this work on pangolins. If possible, I want to continue the work of finding the actual population status of pangolin in wild through the use of camera traps or similar methods. Also, I would like to mapping of pangolin found in Nepal which at the moment looks a bit vague.

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

I have started sharing the results in different public seminars and works. The poster was launched by the Honourable Minister for Forests and Soil Conservation Mr Dipak Bohara on 18th April 2010 during the inaugural session of 26th Warden Seminar in Parsa Wildlife Reserve. The posters are mounted and hung in the Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation and several have been sent in the study sites. These posters were put in the public places so that people can read and know about pangolins. Also, I have sent the posters and brochures outside study areas where pangolins are known to occur and I could not cover them during the field because of my own limitation.

Further paper presentation of this research work was done in National Workshop on Small Mammal held on 15th May 2010. At the very moment I had an FM interview as well. Final report of this project is going to publish in the proceeding of the seminars as well. I will be producing a paper based on this survey and publish it in an open access journal. Information has been shared with government bodies, conservation organisations and related stakeholders. Emphasis has been given to focus on this least studied mammal in Nepal and to facilitate its study in wild.

In Nepal, the process of preparing recommendations for updating the protected animal list for Nepal Government is on the way and the information of this project has been shared with authorities working on the above-mentioned task.

Most importantly, this project has shared information with the conservationists in Nepal who are working to amend the protected animals of Appendix II to Appendix I of Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of wild fauna and flora (CITES).

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

I used RSG for 17 months. This is more than the actual length of the project as the overall period was for a year. However, strikes affected the field survey schedule whereas load shedding caused delay in printing educational materials on time. Within this period, I got chance to launch the poster and to share the information in 26th Warden Seminar in Parsa Wildlife Reserve and in First National Workshop on Small Mammals.

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
Literature collection and detailed review	170	170		
Planning in Kathmandu	40	40		
Field data collection	864	985	121	Due to strikes called by various political parties, the field work was extended for more days. This excess expenditure was covered by Himalayan Nature
Questionnaire survey	350	350		
Species identification	50	50		
Report preparation	100	100		
Poster and brochure preparation and printing	800	845	45	Cost for paper increased at the time of printing. Cost was covered by Himalayan Nature.
Poster and brochure distribution	150	150		
Transportation	648	795	147	Hikes in fuel prices made transportation cost more expensive. This excess expense was covered by Himalayan Nature
Final report	350	350		
Total amount	3522	3835	313	The exchange rate per £ sterling = NRs 122.50

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

The most important next step is to find out the actual population status of pangolin in wild. Many aspects of life history such as population, life longevity, reproduction etc are still to be done in

Nepal. I believe that the long-term study of this particular species and its related issues will not only help species survival and conservation but will also aid the generation of pangolin inventory of national and international importance.

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?

Yes, I have used RSGF logo in the questionnaire, brochure, poster, banners etc. RSG has been acknowledged in each episode of the programme as the main funder of this programme.

11. Any other comments?

I would like to thank RSG for funding this research about awakening people in pangolin conservation. Still I wish to do some works in finding the actual population of Chinese and Indian pangolin in Nepal. I hope to receive similar support from Rufford Small Grants in the future.