

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. The Final Report must be sent in **word format** and not PDF format or any other format. 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. Please note that the information may be edited for clarity. 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	Sanjan Thapa
Project title	Detailed monitoring survey of bats and their conservation through radio awareness programme and outreach programme to school children in Kathmandu Valley
RSG reference	55.06.09
Reporting period	Twelve months
Amount of grant	£3899
Your email address	sanjan_thapa@yahoo.com
Date of this report	January 2011

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
Re-record the bat species diversity, population and their habitats			yes	The species re-record list upgraded with 12 species. This number is greater by nine species after 2008 preliminary, however, lacking 13 species after Bates and Harrison 1997.
Adopt a radio awareness programme for the conservation of bats			yes	Thirteen episodes of half hour programme "Mammalian World" every week was successfully broadcasted from Radio Kantipur, a leading FM in Nepal. This programme was information disseminating as well as disseminating researchers, conservationists, policymakers and stakeholders view and their commitment for better research and conservation of different small mammals prioritising bats.
Lectures to schoolchildren for the conservation of bats		yes		The 45-minute lecture to schoolchildren programme was conducted in 20 schools within the project area. This programme had a high significance on conservation of bats through information sharing from us to their parents, friends, relatives and society. However, this programme could not be carried out fully because of strikes, vacations, holidays and unavailability of extra time during the field visit.

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

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

- Re-recording of the bat species diversity, population and their habitats in Kathmandu valley. Twelve species of bats were re-recorded after a gap of 13 years. Population of some species were estimated. Previously recorded habitats were monitored, and new habitats were also surveyed and documented.
- Adopting a radio awareness programme for the conservation of bats and nature for the substantial and long-lasting time. Thirteen episodes of half hour programme "Mammalian World" every week was successfully broadcasted from Radio Kantipur, a leading FM in Nepal. This programme was information disseminating as well as disseminating researchers, conservationists, policymakers and stakeholders view and their commitment for better research and conservation of different small mammals prioritising bats.

- Lectures to schoolchildren for the conservation of bats and nature for the substantial and long-lasting time. The 45-minute lecture to schoolchildren programme was conducted in twenty schools within the project area. This programme had a high significance on conservation of bats through information sharing from us to their parents, friends, relatives and society. However, this programme could not be carried out fully because of strikes, vacations, holidays and unavailability of extra time during the field visit.

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

Schoolchildren from local communities were given lectures on importance of bats and their conservation which benefited to make them aware not to kill bats and not to allow bat killings further. Similarly, the radio awareness programme added such information to a greater mass throughout Nepal emphasising for conservation of bats.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes, we have plan to continue this kind of work in other non-surveyed area of Nepal such as Sagarmatha zone of Eastern Nepal and Far western and Mid-western development regions of the country.

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

During the project ongoing some articles from the field experience and conservation activities were published in *Small Mammal Mail* newsletter of CCINSA. Presentations regarding this project will be conducted during invited lectures, national seminars organised by SMCRF and international conferences. We have planned to publish a journal article in *Oryx* or any standard journals. Similarly activities of the project are uploaded in SMCRF's website. Reports of this project have been disseminated and submitted to different institutions, stakeholders, INGOs and NGOs and libraries.

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

The RSG fund was used for 11 months from November 2009 to September 2010, which was anticipated length of project.

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
Transportation	192	192	0	
Accommodation	1782	1782	0	
Radio-programme broadcasting (£168 per 30 minutes for 9 episodes)	1512	1911	+399	Three more episodes extra with one episode free of cost and 5 % discount on total payment
Flex banner	-	-	-	From SMCRF's internal fund

Equipment (two mist nets and a Pesola spring balance)	120	120	0	not for hire but bought
Stationary	20.2	20.2	0	
Communication	40	40	0	
Peer review	200	0	-200	Peer reviewed free of cost
Report preparation	32.8	32.8	0	
Total	3899	4098	+199	199 £ sterling was managed from internal source of SMCRF

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

Population pressure is one of the main causes in land use pattern in the Kathmandu Valley. We could see haphazard urbanization, infrastructure development, industrialization and economic increment has encroached the major roosting habitats of bats. Hence habitat development through Bat house instalment in different sites is an important next step which is undergoing with the financial support from Bat Conservation International, USA. It will also be important to understand peoples' perception and level of knowledge regarding importance of bats after this project. Similarly, climate change impact to cave bats can be suspected in Kathmandu Valley. Hence, study on climate change impact on roosting, reproduction and migration activities of bats should be studied.

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?

RSGF logo was used in banner, radio awareness programme advertisement pamphlets and published reports during the project. RSGF received great publicity during this project through the radio awareness programme.

11. Any other comments?

We are thankful to RSGF, for their kind financial support due to which detailed monitoring of bats in Kathmandu Valley was successful which is the rare scenario in bat studies of Nepal. Large number of schoolchildren was aware on bats and their importance through this project in the study area. The major success of this project was that it initiated nationwide radio awareness programme for bat conservation.