

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	Ganga Nakarmi
Project title	Community Education and Outreach Program for Human-Wildlife Co-existence in Nepal
RSG reference	8828-2
Reporting period	November 2010 – October 2011
Amount of grant	£5990
Your email address	ganga116@gmail.com
Date of this report	November 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
Assessment of existing conservation education programme			√	<p>Although there have been many conservation education and activities being undertaken, there was a big gap of missing human-wildlife conflict issue, particularly, wildlife behaviour and tactics to be safe from aggressive wild animals in conservation education and activities.</p> <p>This gap has been realised by the participants representing from various stakeholders.</p> <p>A booklet having information on ecology, behaviour, situations of attack and tactics to be safe from four wild animals such as tigers, rhinoceros bears and an elephant is in press. 1000 copies will be produced and distributed to local inhabitants including school children.</p>
Exposure visit/Field seminar			√	<p>The participants were very happy and appreciated this opportunity of interacting with the Park personnel regarding their everyday difficulties while living with wild animals.</p> <p>The participants also got opportunities of discussing in alternative livelihood opportunities. Some participants asked for support.</p>
Drawing Competition for school children			√	<p>This was most probably the first programme for school children to participate in the drawing programme with especial emphasis on human-wildlife conflict issues.</p> <p>Although human-wildlife interaction topic was new to school children, in particular for drawing, the students' enthusiasm was appreciable. All participants recognised and appreciated it as being useful to educating children in this very crucial issue.</p>

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

Participation of school children for drawing competition was quite challenging. Although 20 schools were planned to invite for participation initially, we invited all 47 schools in the buffer zone. However, there was no participation as invited and expected because of various reasons. Some reasons how far understood were:

- Although the local students have been interacting with wild animals in their everyday life, it was not easy for them to reflect such situation of conflict in the drawing form.
- Belated receipt of invitation letters by the schools.
- Some schools did not accept information via phone as a formal invitation. However, we sent letters and we did phone calls as well, just in case if letters would not reach to them in time.
- Schools internal system to send students for participation.
- We should invite school teachers as well because schools did not want to send students only to participate in the programme.

These difficulties were tackled to some extent. For instance, some schools responded with keen interest to participate in the programme, but, there was a difficulty for them to arrive timely in the previously set time. So, the programme date was postponed by one day. Also, students were explained the theme of the drawing programme and were given some time to practice so that they could reflect the theme in their drawings.

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

a. Realization of missing or if not, inadequate human animal conflict issue in conservation education programme by the conservation agencies, school teachers and students and other organisations. They told that they would consider upon this issue in programmes and activities in the up coming events in the future.

One thousand copies of a small booklet having pictures and information on behaviour and tactics to be safe from four wild animals – rhinoceros, tigers, elephants and bears along with information on taking care of an incident with respect to filing a case of incident and to proceed for necessary action was produced. It's in press and will be distributed to communities and school of buffer zone of Chitwan National Park.

b. The victims, victims' families and the other inhabitants in the vulnerable areas were imparted knowledge on ecology, behaviour and tactics to be safe from wild animals such as tigers, rhinoceros, elephants and bears. Their participation and willingness to formalize into special target group for further discussion and activities was notable for further action.

c. A theme of human-wildlife interaction has been understood at least by some students as of brainstorming. The very appreciative enthusiasm of the participated students would definitely create a group having knowledge on human – animal interaction. I am sure that this programme was an example for motivating students in this subject matter.

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

Local communities' involvement was active and appreciable since the beginning of the project. Their passion and help in communicating about programme activities were worthy. The local communities are directly and indirectly benefitted by the project. The participants in the project activities were directly benefited in terms of knowledge upgrading in relation to human –wild animal interaction. Likewise, the participants committed to share the acquired knowledge in their families and communities which would certainly help to disseminate information on behaviours of wild animals and to tackle worries while living with wild animals.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes, I would like to continue my work in Chitwan National Park with more awareness and livelihood supportive activities to community people, in particular to victims, victims' families and communities in the vulnerable areas. I have also a plan to prepare a database on wildlife-induced human casualty in Bardia National Park and other lowland parks having such problem (as I did in my first project) in order to prepare a database in the national level. I believe that this type of database will help the management authority with stringent information for revisiting the existing relief mechanism and other mechanisms for further conservation and management planning process.

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

I will be sharing about the project findings along with my thoughts and ideas of maintaining human – wild animal relationship with the Park personnel and community people in all possible opportunities. The report will be kept in the DNPWC library where interested people such as students, researchers, etc., can get access to information about the same. Also, once the report has been published in the Rufford website people from all over the world will get access to this report whoever is interested. Besides, I have always looked at opportunities of sharing the finding through participation in national and international conferences and writing articles. For instance, I had presented a paper on wildlife –induced human casualty in the conference held in Colorado, United States. Now, I am looking forward to create one website in order to expand accessibility to information regarding this human-wildlife conflict aspect.

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

The project was signed in 15th October 2010. The RSG was used throughout the project period as per the plan.

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
Assessment of existing conservation education programme	1700	1590.90	109.10	
Exposure visit/Field seminar	1800	1647.90	152.10	

Drawing competition	1500	1697.10	-197.10	
Travel	400	435.60	-35.60	
Stationary	200	193.00	7.00	
Report Preparation	400	425.50	-25.50	
Total	6000	5990	10	

Actual amount receiver was £ 5990.

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

I am always passionate about human dimension and conservation. I was fortunate to receive Rufford's 1st grant to start work on wildlife -induced human casualty, one of the many issues of managing wild animals and local inhabitants in CNP. I am also grateful to Rufford for approving my second attempt to extend my project with an aim in educating local inhabitants regarding wild animals' behaviour and tactics to be safe from aggressive wild animals. I am excited to be extending my understanding of human dimension and conservation, as people are an extricable part of every ecosystem and is also, increasingly important in today's participatory conservation paradigm. The following are some of the next steps in my thoughts. I am looking forward to apply for the Rufford Booster grant to work further in these ideas.

1. Update data of wildlife-induced human casualty in Chitwan National Park and Buffer Zone.
2. Identify vulnerable areas in and around protected areas based on movement of wildlife, dependency of local people on the Park and buffer zone resources and economic background of community people in the area.
3. Develop risk map in Chitwan National Park and Buffer Zone.
4. Continue education programme through street drama, documentary show, drawing competition, etc. to impart knowledge to local community people on wild animals' behaviour and tactics to be safe from aggressive wild animals in order to enable them to live constructively.
5. Formalise victims and victims' families and vulnerable communities as special target group, at least one group in each sector of the Park in order to create a platform to discuss in this issue. This will provide them opportunity to share both problems and solutions to these problems.
6. Establish feasible, appropriate, adequate and sustainable earning opportunities as solution to maintain human -wildlife coexistence.
7. Document and assess prevalence of wildlife-induced human deaths and injuries and develop a nation wide database on the same and problem animals in Nepal.
8. Assist policy makers and planners in formulating pragmatic solution to address human-wild animal conflict issue in conservation and management of wild animals and protected areas.

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 used the RSGF logo in all activities of the project. I used the logo specifically for banners and certificates during the project work. I will be using the logo if I could publish or present the project findings in any conference, seminar, meeting, etc.

11. Any other comments?

I felt proud to bring this issue of managing people and wild animals in the fore front which was very crucial and to be addressed adequately in order to conserving wild animals and managing people and protected area. The victims and victims' families including the Park management authority, Buffer Zone Management Committee, Buffer Zone User Committees all appreciated the work very much which was a great achievement of the project and more of RSGF. I am looking forward to apply for Rufford Booster Grant to continue working in this very crucial aspect of people and the Park management as well as for valuable suggestion. The Rufford's support in cash and knowledge is precious to ensure human-wildlife co-existence in Nepal.