

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	Hem Sagar Baral
Project title	Status and conservation of Great Slaty Woodpecker <i>Mulleripicus pulverulentus</i> in Nepal
RSG reference	9089-1
Reporting period	
Amount of grant	£4700
Your email address	hem.baral@gmail.com
Date of this report	

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
Mapping of woodpecker habitat			X	The current project has been successful in mapping woodpecker habitat in term of its Extent of Occurrence and Area of Occupancy
Population			X	The current project has given more accurate estimate of great slaty woodpecker population. The estimate before were given by Lammertink <i>et al.</i> (2009) and DNPWC and BCN (2011).
Capacity Building		X		At least 10 people were trained in collecting bird and habitat information scientifically. All people trained were locals except Sanjib Acharya who is from east Nepal working at Kosi Bird Observatory of Himalayan Nature. Provided some opportunities are given, these individuals are able to carry on these scientific surveys as research assistant.
Education and Awareness		X		Much education and awareness has been spread during the survey period, by producing a special poster dedicated to conservation of great slaty woodpecker and other threatened species of Nepal's woodpeckers. Media has played an important role also in disseminating knowledge about great slaty woodpecker's importance and conservation.

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

The main problem encountered was difficulty in covering huge distances on transect. The manpower required to do this was difficult to organise and also put demand on resources. In Chitwan and Bardia protected areas, the fear of large and potentially dangerous animals loomed all the time. Survey team always consisted of an extra person in all these places to keep an eye on these animals. The work demanded more resources in terms of trained manpower and also finances. Himalayan Nature backed up this gap due to more active and leading role in the organisation prior to this work.

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

Mapping of the woodpecker extent of occurrence and area of occupancy, training to local birders for scientific data collection, and education and awareness on the species were the main outcomes of the current project.

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

The capacity building of various local birders from different potential habitat of great slaty woodpecker has been great achievement in this regard. These locals now can be used for similar surveys and I highly recommend all who helped me in the collection of data. Rufford grantees should also take advantage of such already trained research assistants.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

There are plans to continue monitor population and carry out specific work such as nesting habitat preference, diet analysis, and more into ecology and behaviour of the bird. I also plan to work at Chitwan more extensively in the future as this site was not covered properly during this work.

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

I plan to share the result via attending workshops and conferences by presenting paper, writing paper in electronic journals which are accessible by all, talking to media, etc. I also plan to put some information on the website of Nepalese Ornithological Union and Himalayan Nature.

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

Time scale was fine and went as planned in most places. Only at Chitwan due to safety from wild elephants present in the survey area, data collection had to be stopped.

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
Visit to libraries in Kathmandu, literature search via web and consultations with subject experts	200	150	-50	There was not much literature available within the country. Most papers and references were obtained from outside the country. Therefore it was less money than projected.
Acquire maps and field equipment, take permission from the Department of Forests as well as Department of National Parks, liaise people of community forestry programme, etc.	900	900	0	It was partly equipment on loan and hire from Red Panda Network, Nepalese Ornithological Union as well as Himalayan Nature, an older and much established NGO
Air fare to far west and local transportation for PI	300	600	300	Fuel price rises and frequent strikes in the country meant more expenses in the

				ground transportation for hiring local jeeps etc .
Survey of forest areas within protected area--people were based here for transect studies	3500	3700	200	Most protected areas run on rather poorer infrastructure therefore cost is also high here. In each protected area, besides the surveyor, one additional assistant was hired to walk the transect. The difference in cost was offset from support by Himalayan Nature
Survey of national forests outside protected area –here also transects were established	700	1300	600	Surveys outside PAs were without much support from the National Parks. This naturally increased expenses for living (room and food) as well as transportation. The difference in cost was supported by Himalayan Nature
Share report one time with Rufford before sending the final report				
Consult world experts on report, edit and produce 10 copies with colour plates, mailing reports, press release, website update (yet to be done)	500	500	0	
Total	6100	7250	1050	(One Sterling pound = 117 NRs)

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

More specific study into the species, species and habitat conservation action oriented programmes are necessary.

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?

A poster with great slaty woodpecker and other threatened species of woodpecker was produced. This poster contained RSGF logo together with Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation (Government of Nepal), Nepalese Ornithological Union and Himalayan Nature logo. The art work was done promoting a local artist from Chitwan. Poster was unveiled by Josh Cole, Rufford Small Grants Director and Jhamak Karki, Chief Warden of Chitwan National Park jointly on 14 January 2012 during Rufford Foundation's Grantees' Conference in Kathmandu, Nepal. A total of 500 copies have been given to Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation for the awareness work by the Government of Nepal and another 500 copies retained with Nepalese Ornithological Union for its own awareness work via different programmes and partners.

11. Any other comments?

I would like to continue working on the species also in the future.