

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	Hari Prasad Sharma
Project title	Exploration and Diet Analysis of Red Panda (<i>Ailurus fulgens</i>) for its Conservation in Rara National Park
RSG reference	9526-1
Reporting period	February 2011 to July 2012
Amount of grant	£6000
Your email address	himalayanhari@gmail.com
Date of this report	July 24, 2012

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
Distribution of red panda in the Khaptad National Park		√		No sign of red panda found in the Khaptad National Park. We searched nearest red panda presence areas and found Jumla and Mugu district of Rara national park. But Khaptad is also suitable place for small population of red panda.
Distribution of red panda in the Rara National Park		√		Possible red panda distribution outside protected area need to explore for the conservation of this species on the base of metapopulation concept for corridor development
Diet analysis of red panda			√	Two seasonal (pre and post monsoon period) 150 samples were analysed
Conservation Awareness programme		√		It is continuous process

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

I did not have any difficulties during the project except that some remote places were physically challenging. I could not visit all red potential habitats between Rara and Khaptad National Park.

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

A total of 222 GPS locations were fixed in 12 transects from approximately 2995 m to 3600 m elevation. Red panda pellet groups were observed in all transects and found from 3117 to 3591 m of elevation. Frequency of pellet groups were found increasing markedly from 3200 to 3350 m and became constant up to 3400 m declined sharply at higher elevations.

New habitat for red panda was found in Jumla District in the buffer zone of Rara National Park. In this habitat one red panda was rescued during this project period

The diet of red pandas consisted primarily of *Thanmocalmus* sp. and berries of *Sorbus*, *Aconogonum* and *Juniperus* were found occasional feeding components as shown by a sample of 150 droppings inspected at pre and post monsoon season.

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

Interaction with local people, herders and park authorities was imperative. Red panda eco-club was established and small amount of seed money was provided to run the programme in the future. The

capacity building of local assistants from two different potential habitats of red panda has been great achievement of this project. These locals now can be used for similar surveys.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

We don't have the data of population status, conservation status, and disease of red panda. So it is necessary to continue the project.

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

I am preparing manuscript for publication in international peer-reviewed journal from the data collected from Rara National Park and its buffer zone. I am planning to participate in workshops and conferences for paper presentation.

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

I spent the RSG throughout the project cycle for field. I went to Khaptad National park two times in 2011. I did not get sign of this species in this area and I searched the potential habitat of this species towards Rara National Park. A big amount of the grant was spent during the field research. Accommodation and field assistants' salary were big amounts spent at that time. Towards the end of project cycle there was no expenditure.

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
Travel from Kathmandu to two different fields@ 3 people 4 round trips	1200	1400	-200	We did field work in Khaptad and Rara National Park and exchange rate of currency fluctuated.
Logistic Accommodation of PI and assistants	2000	1850	+150	
Subsistence payment for a local assistant	672	672	0	
Equipment, stationery, and expendable materials	380	380	0	
Chemicals and Equipments	1000	900	+100	I used some chemicals from Central Department of Zoology, TU
Seed money for clubs and materials for awareness programme	748	900	-152	I request Wildlife Research and Conservation Group Nepal, a local NGO to support this cost differences. Till now it is not confirmed.
TOTAL	6000	6102	-102	

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

More specific study into the species is necessary especially for its population and conservation status.

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?

I have used the RSGF logo in my report to your organisation. The RSGF received some publicity during the course of this project. I mentioned the RSGF's name in all applications filed to get a permission to carry out research. Also, I mentioned your organisation's name to eco- clubs when they asked me about the funding source. I recommended them to apply for the grant if they wish.

11. Any other comments?

The project was successful.