

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	Krishna Pokharel
Project title	The Four-Horned Antelope: The Distribution Patterns, Resource Selection and Immediate Threats in Chitwan National Park, Nepal
RSG reference	9748-1
Reporting period	14 months
Amount of grant	£5,930.00
Your email address	kp.pokharel@gmail.com
Date of this report	July 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
1. To explore the habitat preference			Yes	One of the most important achievements of this study
2. To explore the significantly associated habitat factors that explain the occurrence of study species		Yes		In the RSF model developed from this study, landscape level variables could not be included because of the lack of access to appropriate software dealing with Landsat images.
3. To explore the impact of invasive species and fire		Yes		It may need a long term research to successfully achieve this objective
4. conservation activities				
Poster publication			Yes	
Community outreach and Public awareness /discussion			Yes	
Student targeted program			Yes	Through interschool poem competition and classes taken with the help of teachers association "Prakriti-pathshala sanjal"

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

N/A

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

- I. Besides confirming the presence of the four-horned antelope in Chitwan National Park, this study explored the distribution patterns and habitat preference of the four-horned antelope in Chitwan National Park.
- II. The significantly associated habitat factors (including the animal factors such as inter-specific competition) that can explain the occurrence of the study species in Chitwan National Park is another important finding of this study. This information helps us to understand the habitat – ecology of this threatened bovine and to further explore the potential areas of its presence.
- III. Most of the people including some of the park people in Chitwan were unaware about the presence four-horned antelope in Chitwan. This study has successfully delivered the information on presence and general ecology of this endemic species. This study, to some extent, is successful to make them aware that besides some economically/touristically important wildlife species, there are some other wildlife like four-horned antelope they are also in extreme need of care/management.

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

From members of community forest and tourist guides to the academic members (school students and teachers) were actively involved in the conservation education programmes. They got to know about the importance of natural environment and wildlife to human beings. Besides some highlighted species (from economic point of view), they were also made aware of the other neglected species such as four-horned antelope. School students also spent some time to think about the nature and wildlife. It is believed that the program would motivate the local communities to actively participate on the conservation of the nature in future.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes, this study will go on exploring the four-horned antelope in other probable areas of its distribution to contribute to the conservation of this endemic species.

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

Major part of this study has already been presented in a conference entitled “Nepalese conference of Rufford grantees” in Kathmandu and a paper has also been published. Besides this, basic information about this study, like presence of four-horned antelope in Chitwan National Park and conservation education programme conducted there, were broadcasted through local FM radios in Chitwan. Moreover, the final report of this study will be distributed to the different government and non-government bodies that are related to the nature/wildlife conservation. In future, after adding more research results, this work will be published in appropriate journals.

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

The project needed more time than expected especially because of the weather, the working season or busy schedule of local people and the unstable political situation of the country. Those factors not only affected the field work but also postponed the conservation awareness activities several times. Despite those difficulties, the RSG was good enough to complete the proposed work for whole project period.

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	200	200	0	
Salaries	2400	2400	0	
Lodging and food (for team and leader)	1680	1620	-60	
Equipment	250	210	-40	GPS unit cost cheaper than expected
Local transportation (elephant hire)	600	320	-280	Second phase of the study was done by setting a camp inside the forest

				rather than hiring an elephant every day.
First aid supplies	100	120	20	
Conservation programme	500	680	180	Food for participant and cost for poster/flex print was more expensive than expected
Miscellaneous (data analysis, report writing, communication etc.)	200	380	180	Had to pay for some journals, cost for data analysis was higher than expected.
TOTAL	5930	5930		The exchange rate was £1=NRs 112.00.

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

Exploring the Four-horned Antelope, with the help of the information obtained, throughout the area of its distribution is most important. After getting idea about extent of its distribution and habitat relationships of the FHA, short and long term management plan could be developed that would be helpful for successful conservation of this endemic and vulnerable species.

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, the RSGF logo has been used in report, posters and the banners used during the conservation programme. During the conservation education/awareness programme, a short introductory speech on RSGF was given. All the participant and concerned stakeholders were thankful to the FSGF.

11. Any other comments?

I am extremely thankful to the RSGF for supporting me to carry out this study. I am also thankful to the IDEA WILD for supporting this research project by providing a portable projector to facilitate the public presentation in remote areas. I hope, the RSGF will continue its support to the young scientists working in the field of conservation of threatened species including the neglected ones.