

The Rufford Foundation

Final Report

Congratulations on the completion of your project that was supported by The Rufford 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	Monsoon Pokharel Khatiwada
Project title	Spatial Mapping of Conflict and Conservation of Snow Leopard in Corridor Landscape of Kanchenjunga-Singhalila Complex in Eastern Himalaya of Nepal
RSG reference	9a4b9c-1
Reporting period	November 2017 to November 2018
Amount of grant	£5000
Your email address	monsoon.khatiwada@gmail.com
Date of this report	19 November, 2018

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
Assess livestock population of the area and identify high human-SL conflict locations				<p>4000 livestock were recorded in the study area of which 1167 were found in 28 sheds in Kalikhola and Surumkhim's pastureland which included yak, sheep, goats, cows and oxen at between 3200 and 4200m elevation.</p> <p>Human-carnivore conflict was assessed and a conflict map was prepared. Common leopards, clouded leopards, dholes, snow leopards and Himalayan black bears are major predators in the area. Carnivores were poisoned by the herders in the past in retaliatory killings. Two clouded leopards and a dhole were poisoned and killed in the area in 2015 and 2010 respectively. This study found that 99 livestock were killed by snow leopard, wild dog and other carnivores with a total monetary loss of \$37000 in the last 10 years which was also cross verified with neighbouring herders. The most depredated livestock were sheep and cows.</p> <p>Annually, the loss in monetary form is approx. \$3700 in the study area.</p>
Engage local communities on conservation initiatives and implement snow leopard conservation outreach programs				<p>Pre-interview survey and four community meetings were conducted. Two community based anti-poaching units were activated but are yet to be strengthened. Snow leopard conservation booklet is designed. Printing of the booklet, wildlife monitoring and patrolling training to community based anti-poaching units, equipment support and post interview survey and other remaining activities will be conducted in next field visit in 2019.</p>

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

The difficulty arose was heavy rainfall resulting to landslides during the monsoon. This difficult situation hampered our time line but we overcome our first objective by working in early spring season.

The most unforeseen difficulties arose during the project period is the pregnancy case of Principal Investigator (PI). Being pregnant during the project period confined PI to travel and work in the rough terrain of eastern Himalaya. Due to which we are unable to achieve all the stated objectives in given timeline. Hence, I request RSG to complete the remaining work after 7 months when PI will be able to travel to the field site.

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

Details of pasture land and herder's demography is understood. Approximately 100 livestock were killed by snow leopard, wild dog and other carnivores with an estimated \$3700 as monetary value annually.

Human-snow leopard/large carnivore conflict map is prepared as major outcome of the project. The map indicates the most conflicted pasture land in three villages of the corridor landscape. This map will be helpful to the policy makers and conservation planners to prioritise conservation actions in the area. We have included the neighbouring village, Falaicha of Pachthar district in our conflict study as well. Surumkhim contained the most conflict-prone pasture land.

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

We have consulted local communities to implement the project activities. School teachers, students, farmers and herders were consulted and involved in project activities. Senior citizens and local knowledgeable persons were involved in providing information regarding snow leopard. It was easy to collect livestock depredation record. However, the herders including villagers were reluctant to share wildlife kill records. Even though some of the knowledgeable persons were happy enough to share information regarding illegal wildlife kill. They also share that the area is becoming the route of illegal trade. We conducted informal awareness classes and community meetings where local communities were benefitted with the knowledge of importance of SL and overall wildlife conservation.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

We have planned to continue this work for the conservation of snow leopard, large carnivores and other important species of the area. This corridor landscape is rich in its floral and faunal diversity where illegal hunting of game birds, ungulates and retaliatory killing of carnivores is practised. Increasing human population, poverty, dependency of communities in natural resources and low level of conservation awareness among local communities are major limiting factors for the conservation

in the area. Some people are involved in poaching as a tradition. To address the threats to important wildlife, it is important to continue the conservation work in this valuable landscape.

We are interested to explore more with camera trapping and social survey to understand biodiversity of the area, monitoring of wildlife etc. Community engagement in conservation is key component to save endangered species outside protected area network. Thus, we are interested to implement conservation actions as: construction of predator proof corrals, formation of Community Managed Livestock Insurance Scheme (CMLIS), awareness raising programmes, capacity development for wildlife monitoring, income generating activities etc. to reduce retaliatory killing of endangered species of corridor landscape.

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

The output of the project will be shared among local stakeholders, local government line agencies as we have planned to work continuously in the area. We will work towards a manuscript to publish it in peer reviewed journals so that the work will be published.

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

The Rufford Foundation grant was partially used during the project period (November 2017 - November 2018). We could only partially use the fund as all the stated objectives could not be achieved within the timescale. Due to unforeseen situation of pregnancy of PI during the middle of project period all the stated objectives were not accomplished in given time. We request Rufford Foundation to allow us to continue the remaining project activities after 7 months when the PI will be able to travel to field site and continue her work.

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
Project start up, consultation and community meetings	1000	1000		
Subsistence cost to one researcher, one research assistant and one local supporter	1700	2200	-500	Two research assistants and one supporter were used for the project
Prepare, publish and distribute SL conservation	300	0	+300	Printing of the booklet is under way

booklet				
Establish, strengthen CBAPU, wildlife monitoring and patrolling training and equipment/logistic support	1500	300	+1200	Wildlife monitoring /patrolling training and equipment support is to be conducted. We will use the remaining amount to organize the training and to support equipment in next field visit in 2019
Project monitoring and coordination cost	400	300	+100	Project monitoring will be conducted in next field visit in 2019.
Miscellaneous	100	150	-50	Communication and stationery expenses increased cost
Total	5000	3950	1050	Note: 1£ = NPR 137 during project period

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

The important next steps are:

- Educate local communities on the importance of wildlife conservation of their area.
- Intensive study of the faunal diversity of the area using social and biophysical surveys (camera trapping, transect survey, questionnaire, etc.).
- Construction of predator-proof corral as a pilot study to reduce the loss by livestock depredation.
- Habitat management (removal of invasive species and unwanted bushes of pasture land) to improve pastureland quality for livestock and prey species.
- Promote CMLIS.
- Establish and strengthen more CBAPUs.
- Pilot direct conservation payment (develop a project to pay certain amount of money to the photo of a large carnivores captured in a camera trap).
- Engage local communities in conservation through various capacity development, income generating and livelihood improvement programs/opportunities.

10. Did you use The Rufford Foundation logo in any materials produced in relation to this project? Did The Rufford Foundation receive any publicity during the course of your work?

We used the logo of Rufford Foundation in banner of local level activities. We will use it in snow leopard conservation booklet when we print it. The logo will be used in remaining activities banner as well.

11. Please provide a full list of all the members of your team and briefly what was their role in the project.

Ambika Prasad Khatiwada: Mr. Khatiwada is the local inhabitant and a conservationist working in the area since a decade. He helped in connecting us with local government bodies, line agencies and communities which was much helpful to implement the project activities effectively. He also provided feedback and suggestions to implement the project effectively.

Nabin Khatiwada: Mr. Nabin is also the local inhabitant of the area. He worked as a local research assistant throughout the project period. He was involved in collecting the details of livestock in the village and in the livestock shed, involved in conducting interview survey, collecting the details of livestock depredation and the conflict issues etc.

Kishore Rai: Mr. Rai is a school teacher and is the resident of the area. He supported to make coordination at local level to implement the project effectively.

12. Any other comments?

I am thankful to local communities, local supporters, mentors and team members. I apologies for not being able to complete all the anticipated objectives within the given time because of my personal limitation. I sincerely request Rufford Foundation to grant me an extension of 7 months so that I can travel to the field and complete the remaining objectives: provide training to CBAPUs, post interview survey etc.