

## 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](mailto:jane@rufford.org).

Thank you for your help.

**Josh Cole, Grants Director**

#### Grant Recipient Details

<b>Your name</b>	Nirmala Pradhan
<b>Project title</b>	An assessment of Biodiversity in Panch Pokhari of Sindhupalchok District of Central Nepal Emphasizing Conservation Needs
<b>RSG reference</b>	(Our Ref: 10.09.07)
<b>Reporting Period</b>	March 23, 2009 (Final Report Submitted)
<b>Amount of grant</b>	£ 4990.00
<b>Your email address</b>	bryonep@yahoo.com
<b>Date of this report</b>	March 31, 2009

**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
To document the existing biodiversity in Panch Pokhari and adjoining areas			Yes	The south-east side of Panch Pokhari was fully explored in two phases of study. This work helped us to make a complete documentation of the existing biodiversity of Panch Pokhari to its south-eastern side. The threat factors to the existing biodiversity were also identified. Conservation education programme launched here was highly successful to bring awareness and to make villager's commitment to support conservation campaign.
To assess the local/national status of every observed species of biodiversity found in this region.			Yes	Almost all the recorded components of biodiversity were assessed to its status level. Species carrying high conservation values like red panda which is found here is listed under CITES Appendix I and Protected list of Nepal Government. Likewise, Himalayan musk deer, Himalayan bear, Assamese monkey are also CITES listed and protected species found in this region. Many birds and butterflies reported were categorized into different status levels. Likewise, many floral components were also noted rare in status. One lichen and five bryophyte species were recorded new for the country.
To study the prospect of promoting eco-tourism in this part.			Yes	This area has been found highly potential for tourism especially due to interesting Tamang culture, mind blowing landscape and high altitude Panch Pokhari lake present here but is still beyond the light of tourism. This study also explored out the required physical facilities to develop infrastructure for tourism promotion in this part. Ideas were shared with the local villagers as well. The concerning agencies in Nepal will be approached to develop concrete programmes to promote tourism in this place.
To make people's participation in			Yes	The conservation education programme which was launched here in October of

conservation through conservation programme				2008 was highly successful with the participation of about 100 local peoples. This is the first kind of such programme in this region and local peoples were highly impressed and made very positive response to support this programme.
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**2. Please explain any unforeseen difficulties that arose during the project and how these were tackled (if relevant).**

Not exactly, any problems were faced during entire working period. Only the first phase study was shifted about three weeks later due to countrywide Parliamentary election held in the first week of March 2008. There was no problem in the field at all though this area is remotely located. All the local people were very co-operative to us and were very happy to gain first-hand knowledge about the flora and fauna of this area. They are highly interested to bring tourists in Panch Pokhari region; we had a very fruitful discussion with them and shared valuable ideas and information for tourism promotion in their areas.

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

- a. The documentation and status assessment of various biodiversity components like insects, amphibians, reptiles, birds, mammals, lower and higher groups of plants (lichens, bryophytes, pteridophytes, gymnosperms and angiosperms) were all documented in Panch Pokhari of its South-Eastern region, which was our proposed area of study. All the noted and collected species were identified accurately by us, consulting expertises and relevant literature.
- b. A significant aspect achieved in this work was the successful implementation of the Conservation Education Programme in Botang Village (a nearby village of Panch Pokhari). The villagers provided the knowledge of valuable flora and fauna found in their areas, protected species, value of medicinal herbs and how to utilize natural resources under sustainable way. They made very good response and committed to participate and support in conservation campaign.
- c. This region though potential for tourism is still back due to many problems like the lack of physical facilities to provide to visiting tourists to this place. Significant ideas were shared with the villagers regarding promoting tourism in this place. Various underlying problems to promote tourism in this place were identified. The concerning agencies in Nepal will also be approached and recommended to develop an affective infrastructure for tourism in this place. This will be done after a complete study of the alternative routes which will be done in the next project period.

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

Without involvement of the local communities this work would not have become possible. All the porters and guide involved in this work were employed from the local communities. The local shops also benefitted with our purchase of the required food and other items in Botang village which is on the way to Panch Pokhari. This work also provided some spare stationary like pencils, ball pens, markers, notebooks, etc. to the local school at Botang village for student's use.

Besides this, the local communities were provided with vegetable and cereal seeds and were trained on how to grow different vegetable types in their area.

Likewise, they were benefitted from the knowledge of valuable flora, fauna, medicinal herbs found in their area and how to conserve them under sustainable way. They were also made familiar with various problems to promote tourism and how to solve these problems.

#### **5. Are there any plans to continue this work?**

This work was completed at the South-eastern part of Panch Pokhari region which was not explored before for biodiversity, Conservation issues and tourism prospects. We plan to continue this work to the north–west region from Helambu to Panch Pokhari which is still unexplored for biodiversity and conservation needs. This study is very essential with regards to the study of Panch Pokhari region. So, we have planned to give continuity to this work at the north-west region of Panch Pokhari which is unexplored yet for biodiversity and tourism prospect.

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

The result of this work was shared to the local communities through Conservation Education Programme which was held in Botang Village on the way to Panch Pokhari. More than 100 people made active participation in this programme which was organized in the first week of October, 2008. To share our results, we are approaching to Nepal Tourism Board and National Parks and Wildlife Department and provide them thorough information about the documented flora and fauna, prevailing threat factors, tourism prospects, development of tourism Infra-structure and required scheme for effective Conservation and sustainable system.

We are going to publish this report part wise, so to let other know about biodiversity, nature and tourism prospect at Panch Pokhari region.

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

The RGS was used in actual period. The documentation of biodiversity, its status and threats in Panch Pokhari region (South-east site) was not done before and was felt very essential before this work was implemented. Unmanaged tourism can be harmful to nature. Our Government policy to popularize various areas including this region is a continuing process. If this has been planed with no detail survey and without documenting valuable natural resources can leave negative impact. So this study which has been done in right time was quite fruitful to make complete study of biodiversity components including tourism prospect and conservation issues under a planned way.

The field research of this work was conducted in very right season. Spring and autumn seasons (April and September – October) were selected for this study. The floral and faunal diversity can be found high in these seasons. So, it helped us to come up with good outcome due to selection of appropriate seasons for this work.

The first phase of field study was done for 15 days in April, similarly 15 days of field work was devoted in September/October of 2008 in the final phase of study. The total field days were

devoted for a complete one-month period. Rest of the period was devoted for identification, literature consultations and visiting research centres for expertises help. Likewise, report preparation (midterm and final) was also achieved successfully in this 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.**

**The Local Exchange Rate in Nepalese Currency: £ 1.00 = NCRs.132.00.**

Item	Budgeted Amount	Actual Amount	Difference	Comments
<u>Personnel</u>				
One Zoologist @ £30.00/day for 30 days	£ 800.00 (20 days).	£900.00 (30 days)	£ 100.00	Amount was reduced from £40/day to £30 per day to meet all the required expenses for the entire period of project work. Extended from 20 to 30 days. No reduction in their daily rate was made, so it is same as the budget amount.
Two Botanists @£30.00 each/day for 30 days	£1600.00 (20 days).	£1800.00 (30 days)	£ 200.00	
Two Assistants@ £20 each /day for 30 days.	£ 800.00 (20 days)	£1200.00 (30 days)	£ 400.00	
Two Porters @ £ 10.00 each/day for 28 days	£ 648.00 (3 Porters @ £ 12.00 each for 18 days)	£560.00 (2 porters @ £10.00 for 28 days)	£ 88.00	
Vehicle Hire	£ 240.00	£ 200.00	£40.00.	Vehicle was hired to go and return from field. This was hired for four times (Two phases). Dhap is the last station for vehicle on our way to the field. Not used, amount transferred to other budgetary topics of this work. £10.00 was enough to take permission of study in the Panch Pokhari area. The remaining amount was used in other topics of this work)
Local Transportation	£ 30.00			
Permission Fee	£ 50.00	£ 10.00	£40.00	

Photocopy and Photography	£ 240.00	£ 90.00	£ 150.00	£ 50.00 was invested for photography and £ 40.00 for making copies of the relevant literatures. Remaining amount was invested in other topics of this work.
Expendable Items	£ 40.00	£ 30.00	£ 10.00	This amount was invested for stationeries, chemicals, other required items like ropes, computer paper etc. Invested to buy plant cutters, Herbarium Pressure, Insect nets etc. Included in the above topic of Expendable Items. Some chemicals were also used from our own stock. Personally used, so the amount was transferred to other topics as field days were extended from 20 to 30 days.
Non expendable	£ 50.00	£ 20.00	£ 30.00	
Chemicals	£ 90.00			
Trekking Equipment	£ 150.00	Amount transferred to other topics		
Consultation Fee	£ 100.00	£ 130.00 (the budgeted amount was insufficient to meet consultation fee so the amount was increased to £ 130.00).	£ 30.00.	For identification of some insects and plant species specialists in different institutions were consulted. They were paid for their work. The amount was invested for computer typing and making hard copies for investigators in this work. All the four copies of the report were made ready with hard bindings. (We used email and did not use courier service to send report to RSG, so the amount was decreased, the remaining amount was used in other topics of this work.)
Report Writing	£ 150.00	£ 50.00	£ 100.00	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£ 4988.00</b>	<b>£ 4990.00</b>	<b>£ 1158.00</b>	

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

The next important step, we think, is to explore out the north–west part of Panch Pokhari region which can be said to be an equally challenging task. Besides this, there are some more other parts to reach to this region. So, biodiversity data of the whole region can be perfect if other parts of Panch Pokhari are fully explored. Likewise, tourism feasibility from other parts is also very essential. So, we plan to our next important step is to emphasize other routes and areas where important outcome can be obtained.

The next important step is to launch the Conservation Education Programme in the unexplored parts of this region so to bring Conservation awareness and to make active participation of local people in conservation campaign.

### **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?**

Definitely, the RSGF Logo was produced in all the charts, posters and materials used to demonstrate in Conservation Education Programme where active participation of more than 100 people was made. These logo containing materials are on display at the school of Botang Village to Panch Pokhari. In future also we use RSGF logo to conduct any work which is relevant to this project. This logo has also been used in final report submitted to RSG.

### **11. Any other comments?**

This has been the first extensive expedition with regards to documentation of biodiversity in this region. This study which was conducted to the south-eastern side was quite fruitful with the support of the Rufford Small Grants Programme. Besides, biodiversity study, this work also explored many important factors to develop tourism in this place. This will be recommended to the concerned authorities in Kathmandu so to develop effective infrastructure for tourism in this region. The conservation education programme which was launched here during the final phase of study impressed to local communities to bring conservation awareness and responded very positively and committed to participate in conservation campaigns in future.

The other adjoining parts of Panch Pokhari region still remains unexplored especially the north-west region. This is also a highly potential area both for biodiversity and tourism promotion. This part is linked to Helambu region which is one of the popular destinations for tourists and trekkers in Nepal. So, we have planned to explore this side also i.e. Helambu to Panch Pokhari which can be very fruitful to attract tourists to Panch Pokhari from Helambu side as well. No data on the existing biodiversity and tourism of this side is available so far. The result of this work will be incorporated to the current study made from Melamchi to Panch Pokhari region. Involvement of the local community has been prioritized most in our work. We teach them and employ them in our work. Community based conservation education Programme is one of the main aspects of our work as well. We received good support from the Rufford Small Grant Foundation. Likewise, timely suggestions and co-operation of RGS Foundation is highly appreciable.