

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	Subir Mario Chowfin
Project title	Crocodylian and Freshwater Turtle Research and Conservation Project, Uttarakhand, India
RSG reference	10047
Reporting period	2011 - 2012
Amount of grant	£6000
Your email address	schowfin@yahoo.com
Date of this report	30/12/2012

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
Crocodilian Surveys		Yes		(i) Evidence of population growth amongst adult size classes in certain sub-populations of gharial in Corbett National Park. (ii) Some changes in spatial distribution of gharial in certain areas as compared to the 2008 surveys. (iii) Mugger population identified in Southern portion of Corbett Tiger Reserve with potential of developing into conflict with humans.
Nesting Surveys and Reproduction Success		Yes		(i) Confirmation of nesting in Corbett National Park of gharial
Turtle Surveys		Yes		(i) Important population of Ganges Softshell Turtle (<i>Nilsonnia gangeticus</i>) identified in Corbett National Park. (ii) Confirmation of nesting of freshwater turtles in Corbett National Park

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

Reservoir conditions are extremely treacherous, and surveys should be conducted together with assistance of experienced Forest Department staff. Often field schedules may have to be reworked with frontline staff due to this which may cause delays.

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

Three important outcomes of this project have been:

- (i) Evidence of population growth amongst adult size classes in certain sub-populations of gharial in Corbett National Park.
- (ii) Confirmation of Gharial nesting in Corbett National Park
- (iii) Confirmation of nesting site of freshwater turtles in Corbett National Park.

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

There are no local communities located within the Tiger Reserve except for Van Gujjar pastoralists whose visits inside the Reserve are seasonal. At present there are no plans to involve these communities in the project.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

The work is on going till 2015 with a focus on population dynamics and nesting ecology of gharial. Census of mugger crocodiles and surveys of freshwater turtles are also being undertaken.

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

The drafting of a Management Plan for Crocodiles and Freshwater Turtles, research papers and newspaper articles are the main areas for dissemination of information. Updates of the project are also featured on The Wildlife Chronicles (www.subirchowfin.blogspot.in). I will be presenting the results of this work at the IUCN SSC Crocodile Specialist Group's World Crocodile Conference in Sri Lanka in May 2013.

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

The RSG is to be utilised till August 2013 as compared to an estimated time of July 2012. This has been possible due to additional funding from The Columbus Zoo, The MBZ Species Conservation Fund, Idea Wild, The Chicago Zoological Society and Pittsburgh Zoo.

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
Vehicle	2000	2650	650	Additional costs borne by The Gadoli and Manda Khal Wildlife Conservation Trust
Celestron VistaPix IS70 Imaging Spotter, 14x70mm, 3.0 Megapixel Spotting Scope/Digital Camera	335.5	400	100	Additional costs borne by The Gadoli and Manda Khal Wildlife Conservation Trust
DK-4500WB tally counter	110	215	115	Additional costs borne by The Gadoli and Manda Khal Wildlife Conservation Trust
Digital Depth Sounder with Air and Water	110	135	25	Additional costs borne by The Gadoli and Manda

Temperatures				Khal Wildlife Conservation Trust
Canon 10x30 Image Stabilization Binoculars	350	335	-35	
Rechargeable HID Handheld Light - RL-11	244	240	-4	
OS418L Infrared Thermometer with Relative Humidity Measurement	100	100	0	
Temperature Data Loggers	415.5	500	115.5	Additional costs borne by The Gadoli and Manda Khal Wildlife Conservation Trust
Titanium Innovations L70 Locator Search Light	610	400	-120	A Thor Searchlight is procured in place of the Titanium and the difference adjusted towards operational costs
Operational Costs	1000	1000	0	
Web Sources	400	325	0	
Misc	400	400	0	
Total	6075	6300	796.5	Additional costs borne by The Gadoli and Manda Khal Wildlife Conservation Trust

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

The next important steps for conservation of these species in Corbett Tiger Reserve is to continue with population estimates and nesting surveys over a period of time so as to document population increases or declines and limiting factors for successful nesting. Establishment of a Crocodile Monitoring Team together with the Corbett Tiger Reserve for monitoring of these species would be an important part of this process.

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?

The RSG has received publicity on Adam Britton's Croc Log podcast (Episode 12) as well as on The Wildlife Chronicles where the RSG Logo has also been featured.

11. Any other comments?

The RSG has been valuable in establishing the foundations of this project which is now being recognised as important work for the conservation of these species in Corbett Tiger Reserve.