

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	Bishnu Prasad Devkota
Project title	Human Snow Leopard Conflict Mitigation Project-II
RSG reference	10759-2
Reporting period	1st January 2012 to 31st December 2012
Amount of grant	£6000
Your email address	devkotabishnu@yahoo.com
Date of this report	4 January 2013

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
Train law enforcement staff to enhance knowledge and skill for conflict mitigation for better conservation of snow leopard			Fully achieved	Law enforcement staff trained to control illegal wildlife trade and poaching
Empower and backup local people to cope with snow leopard conflict		Partially achieved		Local conservation workers trained to manage better implement livestock insurance scheme and with basic veterinary skills.
Disseminate information on snow leopard and effective means of conserving it			Fully achieved	Information disseminated through local publications, information centre, discussion forums etc.

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

We did not face any difficulties in implementing the project. However, taking local people's time for involving in project activities, coordinating with different stakeholders for effective implementation and the remoteness of site were tough work in the field situation. The project was successfully implemented within the specified time period.

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

The aim of the project was to empower local people to reduce conflict with snow leopard. With this aim the project was successful in bringing out the following important outcomes.

- a. **Trained law enforcement staff:** Nepal has adopted three different modalities for the management of protected areas. Among these modalities, the Annapurna Conservation Area is managed by a national non-governmental organisation named National Trust for Nature Conservation and the government itself manages Langtang National Park. In both of these protected areas, protected area staff, local people and security personnel were trained to cope with human-snow leopard conflict. This type of training was very successful in raising the level of awareness among the law enforcement staffs and deepens their understanding on possible ways of controlling illegal trade of wildlife and their parts. At the same time, it was very fruitful in planning integrated programmes for better conservation of biodiversity through effective coordination of different stakeholders.
- b. **Empowered local community to cope with snow leopard conflict:** Local people have been empowered to cope with wildlife conflict in two of the above mentioned snow leopard

range protected areas. To mitigate conflict, one youth has been trained with basic veterinary skill refreshment training so that he can provide basic treatment to wounded and diseased livestock; this is expected to bring positive attitude towards snow leopard conservation among the local community. As no veterinary service is available in the upper part of Shey Phoksundo National Park, simple wounds and diseases are the causes of livestock mortality. Regrading the Livestock Insurance Scheme, a very effective programme has been launched in Shey Phoksundo National Park to mitigate human-snow leopard conflict, for this management training was conducted which will be supportive for effective implementation of the scheme.

- c. **Aware people for the conservation of snow leopard:** People are now aware of the importance of snow leopard conservation. Publication of Nepali year calendar of 2069, booklet and pamphlets were very effective in dissemination of conservation message for this endangered species of the Himalayas. We focused on the joint programme of different organisations working in the respective area in support of local community.

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

We have emphasised the involvement of local people in almost all the activities conducted under the project. Local people have been considered to be the primary stakeholders in implementation of this project. During this project, local conservation workers have been trained with management skills; youth of the village have been trained with basic veterinary skills and local people are involved in every activities of this project. Thus, through this project both knowledge and skill transfer to local people on mitigating human-snow leopard conflict in the project site has been achieved.

All the activities were conducted in the joint venture of local institutions, community-based organisations and local conservationists which made local stakeholders take this project as their own programme and felt ownership in fullest. So, the implementation of the learning will be continued in local areas for ever.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

We believe that raising awareness has resulted in changed behaviour of local people towards snow leopard conservation but this outcome is often nebulous and difficult to prove. We have already carried out pre-assessment of people's attitude towards snow leopard conservation and in the next project we plan to carry out post-assessment to see the outcome of project over 5 years. We have also planned to train students in the field to monitor snow leopard status; this will impart knowledge and raise interest towards snow leopard conservation.

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

During the implementation of the project, we have always emphasised involvement of different stakeholders in all activities. Sharing and dissemination of project output and learning will be helpful for better coordination of allied agencies and local people to make responsible in snow-leopard conservation. The result of this work will be shared through web, publication and other media (workshops, seminars and papers, local papers, interaction and school visits). I have always used discussion forums as appropriate places to share my work among the conservation workers. At the

grassroot level, I have always linked this works with my other studies related to snow leopard and attempted to lure local attention.

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

Regarding the time scale of my project, it has successfully completed in the planned time i.e, January, 2012 to December, 2012.

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
Snow leopard conservation book in Nepali for school students and local people	450	450	00	
Nepali year calendar of 2069 with snow leopard conservation messages	200	276	76	
Develop materials for keeping records of livestock insurance scheme and provide to the unit	350	350	00	
Management and record keeping training for livestock insurance scheme	600	500	100	
Provide furniture and additional materials to snow leopard information centre	800	900	100	
Training law enforcement staff on CITES and trade of wildlife and its part	1600	1600	00	
Basic veterinary skill refreshment training	500	550	50	
Accommodations and field gear for project implementing team	900	900	00	
Transportation to and from sites	400	450	50	
Communication	100	100	00	
Report dissemination	100	100	00	
Total	6000	6176	176	

National Trust for Nature Conservation and Snow Leopard Conservancy supported to conduct the activities and the additional cost was incurred by these organisations as well. In the field other local organisations and community-based organisation also supported in kind.

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

To gain the support of local people in conservation, one important thing is also to identify how local people perceive the activities undertaken and how it supports their livelihood. Thus, the next step is to assess people's perception towards snow leopard conservation and also implement some activities that are directly linked to the livelihood of local people. Construction of improved corals to

reduce loss of livestock by snow leopard predation will be major programme in Shey Phoksundo National Park in the next phase.

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?

During the project, I used the RSGF logo in pamphlets, banners and other publications. RSGF received publicity during the project implementation period.

11. Any other comments?

The snow leopard population is declining throughout its range due to habitat and prey loss, human – snow leopard conflict. Since it is a barometer for assessing environmental health and biodiversity conservation in high mountainous areas, more action is required to conserve this species. In the days to come, we are planning to assess the survival condition of this species through scientific research, and same time implementing some effective programme to save this endangered species.