

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	Dr. Nishith Dharaiya
Project title	Evaluating habitat and human-sloth bear conflicts in Gujarat state, India to seek solutions for human-bear coexistence
RSG reference	11214-B
Reporting period	2012-2013
Amount of grant	£10,700
Your email address	nadharaiya@gmail.com
Date of this report	July 27, 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
To know the status and distribution of sloth bear in the State	-----		Achieved	A distribution map of sloth bear in Gujarat state has been updated and submitted to the IUCN-SSC Bear Specialist Group. The findings of the project have also used in State Bear Action Plan 2013, which is approved and released by Government of India.
Document and map Bear-Human conflicts in South and Central Gujarat	-----		Achieved	Human –bear interaction in the study area were documented, evaluated and mapped using GIS analysis to know the areas for conflict management.
Developing recommendations to mitigate bear-human conflicts	-----		Achieved	Recommendations were suggested to state government for its implementation.
Training for forest field staff	-----	In Progress	-----	One short training of forest field staff was organised by our research team Two more such workshops and awareness programme are to be organised in October 2013.

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

None.

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

1. The distribution map of Sloth bear in Gujarat state which is updated and submitted to IUCN.
2. State Bear Action Plan.
3. Capacity building workshop for field staff.

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

The local community is greatly involved in the project activities such as field assistance, data collection and awareness programmes. The project fellow (Mr. Darshan Sukhadiya) is also belong to the local area and he is preparing his M.Phil thesis from the project work, two volunteer students from HNG University studied sloth bear feeding ecology and human-bear conflicts and have submitted their master's thesis to the HNG University.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Certainly, we are planning to continue this work through sloth bear habitat modelling and population monitoring in Gujarat to find potential corridors for bear dispersal.

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

1. A detailed project report will be printed as well as uploaded on our website.
2. A manual of sloth bear sign is to be prepared to distribute among local villagers.
3. We already published one research paper in Indian Journal of Ecology (Vol. 40(1) 14-18) and couple of papers are under preparation.
4. The research work is to be presented in 22nd International Conference on Bear Research and Management at Provo, Utah, USA during Sept. 15-20, 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 have been used for the period of 14 months, the actual length of the project was 12 months; however, two awareness programmes will be organised in coming months as a part of the RSG project.

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
Salary and wages	3100	3100	00	--
Equipments, supplies and operating expenses	6650	6600	50 (+)	Adjusted in data analysis and training
Data analysis and Training	0900	1050	150(-)	Adjusted from University financial support
Documentation, Printing and Publication	0050	50	00	--
TOTAL	10700	10800	100 (-)	Received from University

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

The important next step is to document the information in local language to send the scientific information at the ground level.

A manual for bear population monitoring for forest field staff should be prepared in both local language as well as English.

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, we used RSG logo in all the materials we prepared, presented and circulated and RSGF has received considerable publicity due to these activities.