

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	Prakash Bhattarai
Project title	Distribution and Population Status of <i>Dactylorhiza hatagirea</i> (D.Don) Soo and its conservation challenges in Manaslu Conservation Area
RSG reference	11881
Reporting period	August 2012-August 2013
Amount of grant	£5821
Your email address	light.bhattarai@gmail.com
Date of this report	October 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
Access population dynamics of the species		X		Project was set up and 2 years' demographic data were collected. Need to collect data of one more year.
Identifying threats to the species			X	
Establishment of orchid conservation group			X	
Increase capacity building of local people			X	
Awareness programme			X	
Testing of commercial farming of target species		X		The experimental plot (placed far from settlement) was destroyed by cattle the second attempt was in action which is monitored by local orchid conservation group.

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

The target species (*Dactylorhiza hatagirea*) is banded by the Government of Nepal for collection, use and trade of the species so the local people at first did not give the information about its collection and illegal trade. But by assuring them about the secret of their information without writing their name in the question format, they were ready to give the information. In addition, we could not get the permission to mark the plot in one probable site in Tsum valley due to the sacred place of the Conservation Area. We found alternative place for permanent marking by the suggestion of local people.

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

- a) A population dynamic of the *Dactylorhiza hatagirea* was studied in three different valleys of Manaslu Conservation Area. Detailed information on population biology of target species will be used as baseline information to make recommendation, sent to Government Agencies and Conservation Area project office for implementing appropriate conservation measures with the objective of insuring the long-term viability of target species. This part of the study will continue for another 1 year since continual data is needed to understand patters of growth for demography studies.
- b) The threats to the target species were ascertain which showed the over harvesting practice and supplies through illegal channels to Tibet are still in practice. In addition, the collection of tubers for religious and local purposes (like medicine, tonic) was also seen in the area. The

excessive grazing was also considered for its threat. The awareness programme was launched in the study site that helped to teach local people about the importance of the species in ecosystem along with harvesting techniques for sustainable management.

- c) Three orchid conservation groups were initiated in the three different valleys of Manaslu Conservation Area. These groups started their work and involved in conservation and sustainable management of *Dactylorhiza hatagirea* in the study area. Moreover, the demographic study of first 2 years showed the species in Tsum valley is the most threatened in comparison with other valleys so the Tsum orchid conservation group made restriction on collection of tubers of target species for two years.

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

The project work emphasis on direct involvement of local people who play an important role in the conservation. The orchid conservation groups are initiated in the conservation area for orchid conservation and monitoring of experimental plot. The members of the group get trained. The awareness programme helps to increase the level of understanding of the people about the legal basis of the target species as well as the sustainable management of the resources for long term conservation.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

- a) Yes, we will continue the project. The population dynamics study of the target species will be continued for one more year. In addition, the success of commercial farming of the species in the local area will still to discover. After having the data, a set of recommendation will be made and subjected to government authority and Manaslu Conservation Area Project office which help to make a combine effort for long term monitoring and sustainable harvesting of the species. Besides, we also like to study about the people involving in the illegal trade as well as the price; the way by which the tuber exported; and the volume of tuber harvested both for local use and trade.

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

The result will be published in the form of research article in the peer review journal. Moreover, the research assistant hired in this project is doing his master dissertation in certain part of the work and thus, the work will be published in the form of master dissertation by acknowledging Rufford Small Grant for Nature Conservation.

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

The RSG grant was used during August 2012 to August 2013 as predicted. The project is currently ongoing.

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
Travel cost	225	300	75	The transportation cost was higher than predicted.
Food cost	2664	2400	264	
Living cost	1332	1215	117	
GIS layer	100	0	100	Layer got from friend without cost
Awareness materials	400	400	0	
Community awareness programme and orchid conservation group formation	600	800	200	The fund raised to initiate orchid conservation group was more than expected.
School conservation programme	400	425	25	
Extra manpower as an assistant (field allowance)	0	435	435	Hired a field assistant only in field survey for demographic study to achieve goal of the project.
Report production	100	100	0	
Total	5821	6075	-254	CECN cover over budget

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

The population of the species is in peril in the study area so does in other part of Nepal (personal experience when visited in other part of the country). This needs an immediate conservation strategy. The demographic study should have to conduct for next one more year for continuous field survey and still have to know about the success of commercial farming of the species. Moreover, the fund should have to rise for orchid conservation group in the study area to give the continuation of the conservation for at least one more year until they manage fund from other sources.

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 the logo in poster, leaflets and conservation awareness banner. The local people were aware about the Rufford Small Grant for Nature Conservation and kept their interest on funding agencies.

11. Any other comments?

The local people of the area also want to continue the work for at least a year.