

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	Ganesh Pant
Project title	Human-Elephant Coexistence in Central Nepal
RSG reference	12353-1
Reporting period	December 2012 to November 2013
Amount of grant	£5,950
Your email address	ganeshpant@yahoo.com
Date of this report	January 22, 2014

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
Assess the spatial and temporal pattern of damage by wild elephants in central Nepal			√	A research report entitled 'Understanding the Nature and Extent of Human-Elephant Conflict in Central Nepal' was prepared and submitted to The University of Queensland as a requirement for MSc in Environmental Management.
Identify major causes of human-elephant conflict in central Nepal and understand local people's perception on elephant conservation		√		We have very limited information to fully understand the causes of human-elephant conflict in central Nepal at present. Thus, a detailed assessment on ecological behaviour of elephant and quantification of elephant damage in this area could help to understand the problem better.
Raise public awareness for elephant conservation through workshop and group meetings in the clusters, which are highly affected by wild elephants			√	Public meetings were organised in the buffer zone of Chitwan National Park to raise awareness on minimising human-elephant conflicts. Awareness raising programs were also organised for school student in the buffer zone of Chitwan National Park.
Share the information generated through the project with protected area managers			√	Sharing workshops were organised for the protected areas at different levels. Altogether three events were conducted at Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation, Chitwan National Park and Parsa Wildlife Reserve.

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.

3.1 The project documented the information on spatial and temporal pattern of the human-elephant conflict in the buffer zone of Chitwan National Park and Parsa Wildlife Reserve.

3.2 The study revealed the major causes of human-elephant conflict in and around Chitwan National Park and Parsa Wildlife Reserve.

3.3 The project helped to raise public awareness on ways and means of minimising human-elephant conflict among local people in the highly affected settlements of the buffer zone of Chitwan National Park. In addition, the finding of the study was shared with protected area managers.

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

In order to collect data for human-elephant conflict study, four local youths were employed for a month. The findings of the study were disseminated with local community and awareness raising programs were organised for school students in the buffer zone of Chitwan National Park.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

I intend to investigate the causes of human-elephant conflict in central Nepal in more detail. As the information on elephant damage at present is very limited, I am planning to design a project to quantify the damage using the standard format. I believe that quantification of the elephant damage would help to understand the problem better.

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

I already have shared the research findings at University of Queensland, Australia as a research report for the partial fulfilment of master's degree in environmental management. The results of the study were also shared with protected area managers at Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation, Kathmandu, Nepal; Chitwan National Park and Parsa Wildlife Reserve. Similarly, I have shared some of the research findings with local community and school students in the buffer zone of Chitwan National Park. In addition, I plan to publish the research finding as a journal article.

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

The grant was used to accomplish the project activities between December 2012 and November 2013.

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
Materials and equipment purchase for the field work	400	380	+20	
Travel cost (Airfare, vehicle hire and fuel)	1,400	1,400	0	
Training for field assistants and questionnaire testing	300	275	+25	

Field cost for researcher and field assistants	1,550	1,550	0	
Stationeries	200	200	0	
Report preparation (Printing, binding)	300	275	+25	
Workshop for result dissemination	300	370	-70	
Interaction meetings for awareness raising on elephant conservation	1,000	1,000	0	
School programs on elephant conservation	500	500	0	
Total	5,950	5,950	0	1 £ Sterling= NRs. 135

This budget breakdown covers the RSG contribution only whereas kind contribution equivalent to £ 1,100 was received from Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation especially for local travel and accommodation.

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

The present study reveals that human-elephant conflict is a serious problem in central Nepal and it's in rise. For instance, wild elephants have killed more than 20 people in and around Chitwan National Park and Parsa Wildlife Reserve over the last 5 years. It is evident that poor people living around Chitwan National Park and Parsa Wildlife Reserve are bearing the cost of elephant conservation in terms of crop and property damage. In fact, human-elephant conflict has long term socio-economic impact on local people. However, measures taken to minimise the conflict are not effective. Thus, there is a need of effective mitigation measures to minimise the conflict to a tolerable limit so as to ensure human-elephant coexistence in central Nepal.

The most important next step to this problem is to understand the underlying causes of the increased human-elephant conflict in central Nepal. In order to analyse the causes of human-elephant conflict, we need to quantify the damage. On the other hand, ecological behaviour of the wild elephants in relation to the increased human-elephant conflict should be studied. Based on this information, practical and effective mitigation measures should be designed to minimise the human-elephant conflict.

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?

I used RSGF logo in GPS units purchased for this project. I also used RSGF logo in presentation slides prepared to share the research findings. However, I did not use the logo of RSGF in research report.