

## 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](mailto:jane@rufford.org).

Thank you for your help.

**Josh Cole, Grants Director**

Grant Recipient Details	
<b>Your name</b>	Seejan Gyawali
<b>Project title</b>	Participatory Inventory and Sustainable Conservation of Sarus Crane ( <i>Grus antigone</i> ) in Farmlands of Lumbini, The Important Bird Area of Nepal.
<b>RSG reference</b>	13794-1
<b>Reporting period</b>	October 2013 to October 2014
<b>Amount of grant</b>	£5940
<b>Your email address</b>	sgyawali83@gmail.com
<b>Date of this report</b>	21th Oct 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
Co-ordination with local authorities, NGOs and community-based organisations			√	The team established excellent co-ordination continuously with District Forest Office of Rupandehi and Kapilvastu, WWF Nepal, Bird Conservation Nepal, Lumbini Development Trust, Farmer's Club, Lumbini Adarsh Community Learning Centre, Kapilvastu Community, Learning Centre. Lumbini Crane Sanctuary, Eco Clubs, School Environment Conservation Education Network and Green Youth of Lumbini to launch the Sarus Crane conservation project in long run.
Capacity building training and workshop			√	Capacity building training and workshops on "Monitoring and conservation of Sarus Crane were completed in Rupandehi and Kapilvastu districts with grand success. We selected the 120 participants (30 in each four events) from different VDCs where the presence of Sarus crane was confirmed. Actually, the local people were willing such type of events to develop their skills in conservation sector and we fulfilled their desires through the Rufford grant. During the events we made them able to monitor the crane and conduct conservation programs locally. Still the adjoining communities are asking for such events in their areas.
Survey of Sarus Crane			√	After successful completion of capacity building training and workshop events in both the districts we selected 12 dedicated candidates for the survey. It would be hard to conduct the survey by the team members only. It might take the whole year for the team to reach in every VDCs and remote places following each and every trail to count the Sarus crane. Most of the trails are unknown for the team. So, after the training the selected well-trained local people were mobilised to their own VDCs for monitoring the crane population, nests and breeding behaviours. All the human resources used motorbike for road transect survey, bicycle for survey on minor trails, and walked on paddy fields for nest observation using binoculars, digital cameras and filling datasheets.

Awareness and promotion		√	<p>The team visited in 24 schools (14 from Rupandehi and eight from Kapilbastu) for school outreach. We presented the Sarus crane conservation messages through laptop. There were no power lines (except some places) for the multimedia projector. We discussed with the local youth groups, local people and local eco clubs for the conservation of species. The team speeded out the conservation messages through street dramas and participating in various environmental days. The project developed the t-shirts, metallic badge of Sarus crane, stickers, note sheets, notebooks, data sheets and posters with "Save the Sarus Crane" messages which were attached and distributed to all the participants during training, workshops and school outreach programs to flow the conservation messages in mass. The new logo of Rufford Foundation was used in every publication.</p>
Dissemination		√	<p>The activities were disseminated via social network (Facebook) and local FM radios. The compilation of data and analysis is still in progress. Soon after the analysis the draft will be submitted for the online METADATA publication for global access of the work.</p>

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

We launched the project in partnership with the project partners (mentioned above) and the local youths so we didn't meet the major difficulties except geographical remoteness, heavy rain, floods and extreme temperatures (38°C).

In most of the areas the Muslim community protested our activities, because they hunt the Sarus crane for food and they think the crane as agricultural pest as crane build the large nest in paddy field destroying their growing paddies. But the team got success to change their negative thought by dispersing the messages of usefulness of Sarus crane in nature and in agriculture.

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

- Capacity building training and workshop events produced the 120 skilled human resources for the long-term monitoring and conservation of Sarus crane in the area.
- Awareness and promotion activities made conscious to 1,752 young stars of class 8, 9, 10 and the staffs from 24 different local schools, eco clubs and community groups.
- Monitoring of Sarus crane provided the firsthand data base and fulfilled the research gap after the studies by Suwal R. 1988 and Shrestha P. 1996.

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

All the activities of the project were launched in active participation of the local communities. Mass of local communities got the knowledge about usefulness of Sarus crane in nature, status of crane in Nepal, major threats and potential mitigation measures through education outreach. The youths from the eco club of local community assisted us through the outreach programs.

Beside this, the dedicated young generation from the local communities got the opportunity to enhance their skills in monitoring and conservation through firsthand field based training and workshop for further research work. They also got sustenance cost for monitoring the crane in their areas from the project. Now, most of them are doing internship in 'The Generation Green (TGG)' program of WWF Nepal and they are also running the conservation and monitoring activities through local group called 'Green Youth of Lumbini (GYL)'.

**5. Are there any plans to continue this work?**

From this first RSG we have recorded the occupancy of Sarus crane not only in the Lumbini area but also from the adjoining districts along the Nepal-India boarder line. Due to the remoteness, people are still far from the conservation education and the species around them are still under the risk of becoming extinct. Hence, we are planning to continue similar works in these areas in partnership with local communities to protect the species and to spread out the conservation messages in massive land.

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

The activities of the projects were highlighted by the local media. All the relevant results are compiling by the team. The results will be shared to mass through the project report, articles and online METADATA. The results will be also shared with national and international concerned students and expert researchers via presentation in seminars and conferences. It will be disseminated in forms of report to all the partners.

**7. Timescale: Over what period was The Rufford Foundation grant used? How does this compare to the anticipated or actual length of the project?**

The Rufford Foundation grant was used immediately after receipt of the grant. All the activities were on the time as per schedule but due to late release of grant we missed the pre-breeding and breeding activities in September-October 2013. Hence, the monitoring of breeding activities got delayed for a season compared with anticipated timeframe and the project slightly stretched out than the expected length. We recovered the missing data from September-October 2014.

**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
Scientific monitoring of the Sarus Crane	2304	2400	-96	Increased expense due to slightly extended field work.
Transportation	185+65 = 250	200	50	Rather than using local vehicles frequently we used motor bikes of local people and hired bicycles for survey which reduced the cost.
Sustenance	149+521 = 670	670	000	
Accommodation	87	31	56	We used accommodation arranged by local project partners which also condensed the expense.
Capacity building training workshops	769	790	-21	Due to load shedding we hired the generator, so expense increased slightly.
Awareness and promotional materials	1560	1549	11	Reduced cost in flex printing.
Communication and data management	300	300	000	
Total	5940	5940	000	

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

The single project is not sufficient for the long-term protection of the species. This is only the initiation phase. Still huge population from remote areas are unaware about the conservation education. Hence, the replication of similar work in adjoining districts is urgently needed for the protection of scattered population to provide large safe home range. Therefore, I feel the continuation of work is very important next steps for sustainable conservation of these remaining globally threatened, world's tallest flying bird in the entire lowlands of Nepal.

**10. Did you use The Rufford Foundation 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 new logo of RF in all the publication materials of the project and distributed to all the participants and students during each and every function and publicised the RSGF.

**11. Any other comments?**

Our project was approved on mid-September 2013, but the grant was released only on first week of October. October is the post-breeding season of Sarus crane, so we missed the pre-breeding and breeding behaviour. But we monitored the population on October 2013 and conducted the replication survey with monitoring pre to post breeding behaviour from August to October 2014. Hence, the final report got slightly delayed for submission.