

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. 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. 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-bear conflict in North Gujarat, India, to seek solutions for human-bear coexistence. |
| RSG reference | RSG 14.11.07 |
| Reporting period | 12 Months (<i>March 2008-2009</i>) |
| Amount of grant | £4018 |
| Your email address | <i>adinishi@gmail.com</i> |
| Date of this report | March 12, 2009 |

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 Map the distribution of Sloth bears in Banaskantha district | ----- | ----- | Achieved | |
| To evaluate the habitat in the study area through sign survey | ----- | ----- | Achieved | |
| To study bear-human conflicts and evaluate it through interviewing victims | ----- | ----- | Achieved | We interviewed the bear victims of last 10 years |
| To survey villages to know the views of locals about presence of bears | ----- | ----- | Achieved | |
| To suggest strategies for bear- human coexistence in the area | ----- | ----- | Achieved | As the research is carried out for one year and in one district out of three where sloth bear occurs, we proposed primary suggestions. It can be further refined by having a long term study in entire North Gujarat |

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

Not any

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

- A. We found the recent occurrence of sloth bears in the study area and mapped bear presence in both protected and unprotected forests of Banaskantha district.
- B. We mapped and evaluated the conflict zones and conflicts respectively in the study area.
- C. We have suggested some conflict mitigation strategies involving local people participation.

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

We hired a graduate student as a Research Assistant and two persons as field assistant from the local community. We also involved other local people in the research crew in various activities of the project like, driving a car, preparing food, guiding in the forests, etc. The research assistant has registered herself for her doctoral study and she has continued the research for other districts of North Gujarat region, and she is applying for further funds for completion of her Ph.D.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes, certainly. As stated earlier, the work will be continued for other two districts of North Gujarat for evaluating bear habitat and conflicts. It is also planned to carry out the research in the region and prepare a bear-human coexistence strategy and recommend foresting authorities for conservation of sloth bear and to revise management plan for the region.

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

We are planning to present the results in the forthcoming International conference on bear by International Bear research Association (IBA) on a Global Scale. On a local scale we will publish our results in local journals and magazines published by forest department in local languages so it may reach to the local people.

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 12 Months after received the Grant amount. (i.e. from March 12, 2008 to February 26, 2009)

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 |
|--|-----------------|----------------|--------------|--|
| Services and Wages | | | | |
| Salary for 2 field assistants @ £26.54/mo for 10 mo | 637.00 | 637.00 | | |
| Graduate student stipend @ £85.75/mo for one year | 1029.00 | 1029.00 | | |
| Equipment, Supplies, Operating Expenses | | | | |
| Local transportation Subsistence Field supplies Office supplies | 1617.00 | 1620.36 | 3.36 (-) | <i>As travelling cost increased during the fieldwork, we adjusted the expense by merging budget head of subsistence, travel, field supply, office supplies and remaining budget from GIS Coverage and Report Preparation</i> |
| Data Analysis and publication | | | | |
| GIS Coverage Report preparation | 735.00 | 732.64 | 3.36 (+) | <i>The remaining £ 3.36 is transferred to budget head above.</i> |
| TOTAL | 4018.00 | 4018.00 | 00.00 | |

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

We feel that the research work may be continue for next three years so that the bear habitat in entire Gujarat state can be studied and bear-human conflicts can be overcome through findings and preparing conservation strategies for sloth bear. We are also planning to apply for 2nd RSG Grants this year after reviewing our present work by international bear experts and our referees.

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?

We used the logo in the report, ID cards of Project staff and in the final report. We will also use the RSGF Logo whenever we publish any document from this data in future too.