



## The Rufford Foundation Final Report

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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](mailto:jane@rufford.org).

Thank you for your help.

**Josh Cole, Grants Director**

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Grant Recipient Details	
Your name	Kamal Adhikari
Project title	Documentation of the ethnobotanical knowledge of the inhabitants of a typical village, namely Deurali, in Central Nepal
RSG reference	14118-2
Reporting period	One year
Amount of grant	£4969
Your email address	<a href="mailto:adhikari.kamal@gmail.com">adhikari.kamal@gmail.com</a>
Date of this report	25 October 2016

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 form a local conservation committee		Yes		A village level <i>Jurthumdanda Biodiversity Conservation Committee</i> has been formed. This committee has 14 members including a chairperson and a secretary. However, the sustainability of this and other similar conservation committees awaits acknowledgement by the government of Nepal.
to develop awareness of the importance of local plants and their sustainable management			Yes	A 2-day knowledge exchange programme between the local people including committee members and myself was successfully conducted on three occasions.
to document ethnobotanical uses of plants, and uses of animals and their parts, and minerals in ethnomedicine			Yes	Local names and their local classification of more than 160 plants, animals and their parts, and minerals are documented along with their medicinal, religious and commercial uses. Stories based on the supernatural power of some plants are described.
to publish a book in the Nepali language			Yes	Preparation of a manuscript of a book in the Nepali language for publication is nearing completion. It records this ethnobotanical knowledge

				and details of the local use of medicinal and some economically important plants. An English version will be supplied for the Rufford Website.
to publish a research article on ethnobotany jointly with Dr Dinesh Raj Bhujju, senior scientist at the Resources Himalaya Foundation, Nepal			Yes	A manuscript is under preparation and will be submitted for publication in the Journal of Ethnobiology and Ethnomedicine.

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

Two major unforeseen difficulties were encountered during the research period. Firstly, the timetable was disrupted by the border blockade which lasted several months and interrupted the supply of fuel and other essentials making travel well-nigh impossible out of Kathmandu. However, buying petrol on black market and travelling by motorbike, I was able to conduct one knowledge exchange programme during the blockade and the resulting fuel crisis in Nepal.

Secondly, the *Jurthumdanda Biodiversity Conservation Committee* has not yet been coordinated with the Village Development Committee (VDC), a local body which has been without elected representatives since 2002. Everyday activity is conducted by a VDC secretary, a government employee.

The Government of Nepal is working towards the implementation of Nagoya Protocol by starting to document traditional knowledge, to prepare biodiversity registers and protocols and to form biodiversity management committees (BMCs) in various biodiversity rich areas in Nepal such as the Kanda VDC with financial and technical support from the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) and the Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ). However, legality and sustainability of these BMCs has not yet been confirmed. A draft Access and Benefits Sharing (ABS) Bill has been prepared and is in the process of ratification. Once it has been ratified by the government of Nepal, the legality and sustainability of BMCs and also our biodiversity conservation committee will be clearer.

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

Forming the *Jurthumdanda Biodiversity Conservation Committee* in the village of Deurali is one of the most important outcomes of this research project. The second important outcome is the knowledge exchange programme in the village between local people including committee members and myself conducted on three different occasions. The identification of local medicinal and economic plants and their usage in different diseases and illnesses were discussed during field visits and interaction programmes. Cataloguing plants and their traditional usage, and publication of an ethnobotany book in the Nepali language forms the third important outcome of this research.

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

I worked in the local community. My research assistant and a helper were both local. I used mostly local resources including food and lodging. During the knowledge exchange programme, local people including committee members developed self-awareness and pride in traditional knowledge regarding the ethnobotanical use of plants. Some of them highly appreciated the work on the cataloguing of plants and their traditional uses. They will be further benefitted by reading the ethnobotany book in Nepali language including local plants, their uses told by themselves and some of their photographs.

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

The next important step is to find a way for the sustainability of the *Jurthumdanda Biodiversity Conservation Committee*. I and other committee members plan to continue this work once the committee has been formally recognised. The committee will discover other people who have rich ethnobotanical knowledge and will conduct further awareness programmes and discuss sustainable exploitation techniques of plant resources at the village level.

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

The results of this research project will be presented in an ethnobotany book in the Nepali language, with an online version in English. I plan to present a paper based on this research at the *International Conference on Biodiversity, Climate Change*

*Assessment and Impacts on Livelihood* from 10<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> January 2017 at Kathmandu, where I will share the results. Additionally, an article on my work will be submitted in the Journal of Ethnobiology and Ethnomedicine.

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

I was awarded the money to form a village level conservation committee, organise a 2-day knowledge exchange programme on three different occasions and to publish an ethnobotanical book in the Nepali language and to distribute it among local villagers. Originally, a year was estimated to be needed to accomplish these activities but the publication and distribution of the book is still ongoing. The RSG was used throughout the research period i.e. between September 2015 and October 2016. This research project could have been completed on time, if I had not been obstructed by various problems such as an unofficial blockade by India, the fuel crisis and so on.

**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
Living expenses in the field (food and lodging)	584	620	-36	Living expenses in field were 1000 NPR per day for 3 months. The expenses are a little bit more than originally estimated amount due to the fall in the value of the pound sterling. On 4 June 2015 £1 was equal to 157.68 NPR whereas on 25 October 2016 £1=129 NPR. The average of exchange rate used for calculation here is £1=143 NPR.
Local transportation	360	356	+4	I mostly used public transportation to go to the village. However, I hired a jeep three times to get to Kathmandu.

				On each occasion, it cost £112 for a jeep hire for 4 days. Local transportation during fieldwork cost £20.
Research assistant and helper	700	672	+28	A Tamang research assistant was employed while conducting the knowledge exchange programme on three different occasions. The main duties and responsibility of the research assistant was to organise the interaction programme, field visits and to transcribe interviews. Additionally, one local helper was employed during these three specific occasions while conducting these interaction programmes.
Payment of expenses to the informants	1200	1007	+193	This payment includes gifts to the village, daily allowances to the participants while conducting a 2-day knowledge exchange programme for three occasions, and bills for the snacks and drinks while conducting interviews.
Email, telephone and fax	275	275	0	CDMA internet connection was used for communication purposes; however, there was poor reception. A cell phone was also used frequently to communicate with the participants.
Publication	1850	2039	-189	I am now preparing a manuscript for a book in the Nepali language for publication which records this ethnobotanical knowledge and details of local use of medicinal and some economically important plants. An English version of it will be supplied for the Rufford Website.
<b>Total</b>	<b>4969</b>	<b>4969</b>	<b>0</b>	

\*The exchange rate of the pound was fluctuating for much of last/this year. On 4 June 2015 £1 was equal to 157.68 rupees (Nepali currency) whereas on 25 October 2016 £1=129 rupees. An average of £1=143 rupees has been used for the above calculation.

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

1. The most important next step is to finalise the manuscript for the publication of a book in the Nepali language, to translate this for an online version in English and then to publish an article.
2. Although the *Jurthumdanda Biodiversity Conservation Committee* has been formed in the village of Deurali, it has however not yet been recognised by the government of Nepal. The empowerment of this committee for its sustainability, I think, is another important next step.

**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?**

The RSGF logo has been used on three different occasions while conducting the knowledge exchange programme as the programme information was printed on flex prints including the RSGF logo. I will use the RSGF logo in the book. Additionally, I verbally told everyone that the formation of *Jurthumdanda Biodiversity Conservation Committee* and the knowledge exchange programme was supported by the Rufford Small Grants Foundation. I also plan to use the RSGF logo in forthcoming conferences and to acknowledge the support of the RSGF in the article.

**11. Any other comments?**

I would like to thank the Rufford Small Grants Foundation (RSGF) for its financial support for my pursued work. I hope RSGF will support the further empowering of the conservation committee for its sustainability, and work towards the creation of awareness of issues affecting the sustainability of plant resources.