

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.

Thank you for your help.

Josh Cole, Grants Director

Grant Recipient Details	
Your name	Rita Chhetri
Project title	Conservation of Three Threatened Plant Species and their Habitats in Langtang National Park for Livelihood Improvement
RSG reference	14340-1
Reporting period	August 2015
Amount of grant	£5980
Your email address	ritachhetrinhpl@gmail.com
Date of this report	September 2015

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 access the population dynamics of the three target species in the study area		X		We have the data of a single year and we will continue the study in successive years later to achieve this objective.
To ascertain level of threats to the target species (vulnerability assessment)			x	We had gone through this issue in detail and observed all the three target species are in peril in the study site.
Cultivation of target species in the private land for livelihood improvement.		X		We were able to cultivate <i>Dactylorhiza hatagire</i> in private land which could be crucial part of the livelihood since it has a tremendous value both in society and international market, but we were not able to grow other two target species (<i>Neopicrorhiza scrophulariiflora</i> and <i>Nardostachys grandiflora</i>). Unfortunately, our experimental plot was flooded by avalanche after the massive earthquake in Nepal.
To increase level of awareness among local peoples and students			x	Most of the people were aware about the three target species and their conservation for sustainable use.

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

We face a massive earthquake in Langtang village when we were there for conservation awareness programme. A whole Langtang village which we focused our study flooded in the avalanche and about 100 peoples were killed. We luckily were in another village (Kyanjing) but we lost our bags including posters and camera because we used to stay in Langtang village and kept our rucksacks there, actually we had a plan to return there at the same day. There were no more houses left and we immediately returned back to Kathmandu. The experimental plot which we supposed to be a milestone for the livelihood improvement of target area was also flooded but we were able to cultivate one important species which can be replicate in another area. We could not do anything to tackle this problem.

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

a. We were able to access the population study of the target species in the study area which was our prime goal. This reflects whether the species were vulnerable or in fairly healthy population, along with the questionnaire survey. We were capable to estimate the vulnerability of the target species. We found all the three target species (*Dactylorhiza hatagirea*, *Nardostachys grandiflora* and *Neopicrorhiza scrophulariiflora*) were vulnerable and their collection should be avoided until they gain fairly healthy population.

b. We were able to cultivate one of the target species (*Dactylorhiza hatagirea*) in the private land. This would help to upgrade the standard of living by contributing in their livelihood. The avalanche after the earthquake flooded our experimental plot but we will be able to replicate that experience to another part of the country and even in another village of Langtang National Park.

c. We were able to disseminate our project goal of conservation towards sustainable use of important medicinal plant species. We raised training and conservation awareness programme both in communities and schools. We made a liaison between national park, local NGO and peoples. Now all these groups work together and flow information about the conservation of habitats along with conservation of important plants and animal species.

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

The local people were involved in all the activities undertaken in the project. Two local assistants were involved in the process of data gathering from field sampling, questionnaire survey, awareness programme in community and in training as well. Fifteen focal people of the community benefited directly from the training. We also conducted awareness programmes in two communities. We conducted school awareness programmes in two schools, in Saprubesi and Thulosapru. We included lectures classes for spreading our knowledge towards conservation of the threatened species. In addition, we also conducted essay and art competition. We selected the secondary level students for lecturer and essay competition. The art completion was carried out for the students from lower secondary level. All together we were capable to make aware for 100 students in each school. We found that the students were capable of doing work in their way, something really new idea that can make effect in society. They actually prepare the local song on conservation related issue and they were capable of transferring the message of conserving this vulnerable plant species along with other threatened plant and animals.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes, we want to continue the work in the study area since we have to gather data for demographic change in target species. But, the settlement that we chose were in the brink of shifting after the massive earthquake and its consequences, we probably expand our work in

the other part of the country and apply our experiences from this project to improve livelihood of remote people and aware them about sustainable use of the target species. We will continue our work in Langtang National Park after 2 years to see the change in demography of the target species and also strength capacity of local people from refreshment training and awareness classes.

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

We prepared detail final report of this work. One can go through the website www.rufford.org to download it. In addition, we aim to publish our work in scientific journal to make assess for all. Moreover, we also submit the detail final report to Department of National Park and Wildlife Conservation and also for Langtang National Park.

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 RSG grant was used during August 2014 to September 2015. We could not work for the project in the month of June/July due to earthquake, so the project was extended for one and half months.

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	120	250	-130	Higher than predicted
Food Cost	2520	2405	+115	
Living Cost	1260	1200	+60	
GIS layer and consultant fee	150	100	+50	
Awareness materials	300	300	0	
Conservation awareness programme and conservation action team	500	400	+100	
School conservation programme	400	450	-50	
Salary for a local assistant	630	800	-170	We budgeted 6 per day but we had to pay 8 per day.
Report production	100	100	0	
Total	5980	6005	-25	

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

All the target species should be banded for some years to regain its fairly healthy population in the study area. We do not know the status of these highly valuable medicinal plants in other part of the country, so an extensive study of these species is needed and the awareness towards sustainable use of these resources should have to be taught. *Dactylorhiza hatagirea* can be cultivated which can be taken as the important species to improve livelihood of the remote people. We should have to launch similar study in other region of Nepal to estimate the vulnerability throughout 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 logo in poster, leaflets and in lectures classes. The local people were aware about the Rufford Small Grant for Nature Conservation. Other conservation action project in LNP supported by RSG was already conducted, so people are pretty familiar with RSG.

11. Any other comments?

We want to conduct similar study in other part of the country to support conservation and livelihood of local people. We will also conduct population studies of target species (in Langtang National Park) in successive years to analyse population dynamics of the target species.