

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	Milan Sapkota
Project title	Feeding Ecology, Habitat Preference, Distribution and Awareness Programme for Conservation of Himalayan Black Bear in Kanchanjungha Conservation Area, Nepal
RSG reference	14408-1
Reporting period	14 months
Amount of grant	£5960
Your email address	ecomilansapkota@gmail.com
Date of this report	6 th January, 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
Find out current distribution area and impact zone of Himalayan black bear in Kanchanjunga Conservation Area (KCA).			*	I found the distribution area of Black Bear in KCA. Dharapani, Thulo Bahri Community Forest, Thulo Bari Kharka, Amjilasha danda, are the major distributed area and impact zone of Himalayan Black Bear.
Understand feeding ecology of Himalayan black bear for two seasons in study area			*	I found the young shoots of ringle bamboo in summer and <i>Rhodendron, Quercus, and Berberis</i> in winter as main foods Himalayan Black Bear
Understand preferred habitat and vegetation of this species in study area			*	I found <i>Quercus</i> and <i>Rhodendron</i> forest with bamboo cover as preferred habitat of this species in study area.
Change attitude of local people towards the conservation of Himalayan black bear and its habitat is developed in and around study area.			*	Attitude of local people is developed to conservation of this species. When I was second time in field I got positive attitude of local people.
List of threats of this species in study area.			*	List of threats is prepared. I found human bear conflict as major threats of this species in study area.

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

My study area is very remote and difficult to reach. My team faced snow storm during winter field survey.

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

The project got the following most important outcomes:

- The project able to find out the potential habitat of this species in study area. Dharapani, Thulo Bahri Community Forest, Thulo Bari Kharka, Amjilasha danda, are the major distributed area and impact zone of Himalayan black bear.
- The project find out the preferred habitat of this species in study area *Quercus* and *Rhodendron* forest with bamboo cover as preferred habitat of this species in study area.
- The project able to change attitude of local people to conservation of this species. When I was second time in field I got positive attitude of local people.

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

Four local people were involved during field work. They were benefited according to rate of proposal and they also got knowledge to monitor the wildlife. Teachers and students were benefited during school teaching programs. Local communities got information about the ecological importance of this species in biodiversity. During community awareness programs, posters and booklets were distributed.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

KCA and local community will continue conservation works. I will also apply to funding organisation to continue this work.

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

I will present the research finding in Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation (DNPWC), Kathmandu Nepal, KCA office and Kathmandu Forestry College, Kathmandu, Nepal. I will submit final technical report to funding organisation i.e. Rufford Small Grants Foundation UK, KCA office, DNPWC, WWF Nepal and all protected area of Nepal. Finally I will publish report on international journal.

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

All activities except diet analysis were conducted according to time schedule of proposal. Diet analysis work takes more time i.e. 2 months additional time. The Rufford Foundation grant was used for 1 year and 2 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
Field accommodation	3720	3720		
Travel cost	400	400		
Technician for diet analysis	320	320		
Consumables	400	400		
Community outreach materials	1020	1020		
Data management, analysis and reporting	100	100		
Total	5960	5960		

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

I have planning to continue this work. I will do further conservation work to conserve this species.

**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 I have used The Rufford Foundation logo in all materials produced in relation to this project. The RSGF got publicity during my project work. Local people and other stakeholders appreciate the help of RSGF. The RSGF will be acknowledged in further publication also.

11. Any other comments?

RSGF is highly appreciated for funding support to this conservation and research work.