

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	SHANTOSH KARKI
Project title	Community Based Strategy for Conservation of Lesser Adjutant Stork (<i>Leptoptilos Javanicus</i>) in Eastern Lowland of Nepal
RSG reference	16377-1
Reporting period	November 2014-December 2015
Amount of grant	3950
Your email address	skipsantosh@gmail.com
Date of this report	January 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
Population			X	The current project has been successful in counting total population of lesser adjutant storks (LAS) in three districts of Nepal including conservation threat of 2015.
Conservation Threat				In order to identify threat of LAS, a total of 80 key informants and members of the local communities were interviewed during the field survey
Habitat			X	The current project has been successful in mapping LAS habitat in term of its Extent of Occurrence and Area of Occupancy
Awareness Campaign			X	More than 10 awareness campaigns and educational field visits have been accomplished during the survey period, formulated a conservation strategy to support the sustainability of the programme, distribution of 10,000 special posters was also conducted, installed four hoarding boards, conducted radio programmes, formed local conservation club and orienting local community about LAS conservation. Media has played an important role also in disseminating knowledge about LAS importance and conservation.
Community Level Strategy			X	Formulated the conservation strategy of this board, the conduct of wider consultations with communities accomplished have facilitated and enhanced the quality of the strategies on LAS community-based conservation.
Capacity Building			X	At least 20 undergraduate students from Easter Nepal (Damak Multiple college) were trained on data gathering on bird and habitat information scientifically. Also, more than 40 members from local communities also received orientation on LAS conservation, all of whom are current members of conservation club.

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

In terms of project activity designing, and to achieve there was no any technical problems encountered. But due the Nepal's fragile political situation and post calamity due to the earthquake in 2015, these factors have directly impacted the implementation of the conservation activities as

per the planned schedule. In April 2015 when the earthquake struck, the project had to be put on hold for 2 months to allow project team and local communities prioritize personal safety and cope with the situation at the time. Similarly, fuel crisis escalated in September towards the end of December 2015, which also affected the logistics and transportation related to project implementation.

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

The project was able to raise the awareness in the eastern lowland of Nepal. Mapping of the population and habitat of LAS, formulation of conservation strategy, capacity building and formation of conservation team, and education and awareness on the species were the main outcomes of the current project.

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

The capacity building of various local communities and its people from different locations of LAS nesting colonies have significantly been achieved. The formation of conservation team, trainings conducted for them and the direct involvement and participation of local communities and technical experts in formulating conservation strategy are key achievements of the project. The awareness resources provided to local communities as well as the documentations on the LAS will be valuable reading and reference materials for the general public towards the conservation of the LAS and its ecosystem.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

There are plans to continue monitor population and carry out specific work such as nesting habitat preference, diet analysis, and more into ecology and behaviour of the bird. I also plan to work at Western Districts of Koshi Toppu wildlife reserve in Nepal more extensively in the future as there are no or little research done, particularly on the conservation activities of birds such as the LAS and other vulnerable species of the avian.

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

For dissemination of our work, we have published it in local and national newspapers. I will publish the findings in an international journal and also would like to publish again including this research work in other possible communication portfolios. Besides these activities, I plan to share the result via attending workshops and conferences by presenting paper, writing paper in electronic journals which are accessible by all, talking to media, etc. I also plan to put some information on the website of Nepalese Ornithological Union and LAS conservation FB group.

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

Timescale was fine and went as planned in most places. But due to earthquake in Nepal project was delayed for 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
Transportation during Survey	190	350	-160	We conducted our programme in various locations, to reach to these locations there were no public transportation, so we have to hire that increased the project cost and also during program we faced problem of acute shortage of fuel that further increased the cost. Fuel price rises and frequent strikes in the country meant more expenses in the ground transportation for hiring local jeeps etc.
Equipment	210	230	-20	
Strategy development – Community Driven / Focused Group Discussions	1190	1150	+40	
Conservation Awareness Activities	1200	1335	-135	
Stationary	50	80	-30	
Accommodation and Meals / Field Survey	900	950	-50	
Communication	50	100		
Report Preparation	100	50	+50	
Peer Review	120	0	+120	(not yet done), there is plan to submit manuscript in International Journal very soon.
Total			-185	Go Green Nepal and local NGO covered extra expenses

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

More specific study into the LAS species, species and habitat conservation action oriented programmes are necessary to ensure the sustainability conservation efforts done in the region.

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 Rufford Foundation logo on posters, hoarding boards and banners that we produced. The Foundation received good publicity during the project implementation phase.

Total of 10,000 posters distributed during the project. The posters published had the RSGF logo alongside with the Go Green Nepal and the local environmental conservation organization. Also, the four hoarding boards were placed into different locations with RSGF logo for clear visibility of its presence in the areas. A total of 500 copies have been given to Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation for the awareness work by the Government of Nepal and another 500 copies retained with Nepalese Ornithological Union for its own awareness work via different programmes and partners.

11. Any other comments?

Overall, the project objectives were significantly achieved, particularly in formulating conservation strategy and creating awareness in local communities, indeed the project is a success. Consultations with community and experts were crucial and important steps towards establishing and strengthening of the conservation efforts of the LAS in eastern Nepal. In order to ensure sustainability, one of the key activities is the formation of local conservation groups to carry on the advocacy in the community and regional levels. It is further envisaged that regular engagement with local communities, campaigns and trainings for other local conservation groups, local government agencies and other relevant stakeholders in the region are required in future.

I would like to continue working on the LAS species also in the future.