

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	Mr Tshering Nidup
Project title	Building capacity in amphibian research in Bhutan.
RSG reference	16662-1
Reporting period	12 months
Amount of grant	£5000
Your email address	khangpa@gmail.com
Date of this report	December 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
Creation of a primary database of amphibian species from the study area.			√	Documented seven species of frogs which ranges from Least Concern to Data Deficient species according to IUCN Red List.
Publication of at least one peer-reviewed scientific paper.		√		One conference proceeding is submitted to Bhutan Rufford Conference. One paper on new record of frog " <i>Amolops himalayanus</i> " from Bhutan is submitted to "The Herpetological Bulletin" United Kingdom.
An assessment of threats to amphibians across the study area.			√	Threat to amphibians are habitat loss, over and wrong harvesting by the local people. Municipal effluents and non-degradable wastes. No threat of chemical pollutions.
Public awareness			√	One seminar is conducted in Sherubtse College, Royal University of Bhutan, Bhutan and in Jigme Sherubling Higher Secondary School, Khaling, Trashigang.

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

No major and concerning problem was encountered rather sometimes heavy downpour during the field visit.

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

1. Students are introduced to basic amphibian research techniques so that in future they will help in conservation of this particular group.
2. Public awareness of amphibian importance and its conservation is created which is believed to enhance the status of this animal group in public eye which is in Bhutan gone unnoticed until now.

3. Two papers were submitted to different journals for publications which will educate the scientific community and as a baseline information of the study area.

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

- Public awareness is created on the importance of amphibians in the ecosystem.
- Scientific community will be benefited publications.
- Car owners and restaurants are benefited through rents.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes, with the experience and the building of the capacity by the current project I and my team are planning to broaden the study area in the endangered Himalayan subtropical broadleaf forest of Bhutan.

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

- Result is shared through the conference held in College of Natural Resources, Lobesa, Wangdi Phodrang.
- Soon two papers are getting published that can be accessed by scientific community.
- Voucher specimens are deposited in Sherubtse College Zoology Museum that can be accessed by aspiring herpetologists in future.
- Some of the findings like species found in study area, threats that community is posing to the species and their importance in ecological community, are already included and shared in public awareness programmes.
- I am also planning to continue the work even after ending this project.

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

12 months of time period was given that covers all of the four seasons occurring in Bhutan but still more to explore. However, winter season is too cold to survey in the study area.

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 (to and from the study area)	994	1068	-74	Transportation cost is quite high.
Daily subsistence cost for researchers	427	450	-23	Have to include more interested people in the field for capacity building.
Food and lodging (in the field)	536	536		Adjusted from transportation
Equipment costs (camera lenses, microtubes, water sampling kits, callipers, GPS, refrigerators, tents)	1980	1980	0	Adjusted with assigned money
Scientific literature (books and journals)	566	566	0	Adjusted with allotted amount
Workshops and Outreach programmes	497	400	+97	Adjusted for transportation and daily subsistence.
Total	5000	5000	0	

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

- More of this kind of research should be encouraged in Bhutan since funding in Bhutan is not enough.
- Educating people in conservation issue is equally important to the scientist fieldwork.
- We should expand our study area in Bhutan and conduct intense field survey.

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?

Logo is used in scientific papers and presentations including the public awareness and outreach programs.

11. Any other comments?

- I and my team thank Rufford Foundation for funding our project in Sherubtse Natural Resources Study Area. I also learnt very much since this is my ever first project I have handled.
- I also encouraged some of my friends to apply for the fund since they have very interesting project to execute.
- My and my team's relationship with Rufford Foundation will be long term.
- Thank you.