

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	Uttam Babu Shrestha
Project title	Tragedy to Triumph: Understanding the role of community institutions for sustainable management of Chinese Caterpillar fungus
RSG reference	16795-B
Reporting period	2014-2016
Amount of grant	£ 10,000
Your email address	ubshrestha@yahoo.com
Date of this report	May 18, 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
A comprehensive review of literatures on institutions, SES, and CPR will be Conducted.			Yes	I have now a full list of references related to the socio-ecological framework and common pool resources pertinent to the objectives of this study.
Data collection strategy and analytical framework will be developed after a review of literature and consultation with social scientists and statistician.			Yes	I developed an analytical framework and questionnaire and followed that to conduct this study.
Trade and harvest survey: Interviews with different actors involved in harvesting, trading, exporting, and retailing will be conducted.			Yes	A paper based on this has recently been submitted to a peer-reviewed journal. It is currently under review.
Workshop and meeting: Three district level meetings and a national level workshop will be organized with the stakeholders to discuss social, economic, ecological, policy, institutional aspects of the fungus.				Three workshops in three different districts (Bajhang, Darchula, and Jumla) and a consultation meeting with stakeholders in Gorkha district was carried out. Due to the earthquake, while I was visiting Nepal for my field visit (April-May 2015), I was unable to conduct a national level workshop. Nevertheless, I was able to conduct two workshops at that time. The third workshop in Jumla was conducted later with the help of research assistants. Despite this unintended circumstance, necessary data about the economic, ecological, policy and institutional aspects of the fungus were collected by contacting key personals from the various organizations.
Interviews: Personal interviews, formal and			Yes	I have had phone conversations, personal meetings with key

informal discussions will be done with policy makers, government and non-governmental officials, experts, and community leaders				respondents that include policy makers, representatives from governmental and nongovernmental organizations, and community based organizations.
Field visit for case study			Yes	I and a research assistant personally visited three districts (Bajhang, Darchula and Gorkha) and two research assistants visited Jumla district and gathered information.
Data analysis		Yes		I am analysing the data with a help of a research assistant.
Collection of Media reports			Yes	Although this activity was not included in the proposal, it was done to gather information about local institutions, existing conflicts related to caterpillar fungus and the impacts of caterpillar fungus-harvesting on the local livelihoods. As I could not organize a national level workshop, I have utilized some spare money allocated for the workshop to collect published reports in different media about caterpillar fungus from 2008 to 2015. We (including two research assistants) systematically searched news published in all daily newspapers (Kantipur, Gorkhapatra, Nagarik, Samachar Patra, NayaPatrika, Annapurna Post, Karobar daily, Rajdhani Daily) of Nepal in last eight year period. Total 361 news about Caterpillar fungus (Yarsagumba) were identified and the news cuttings were photographed for further use. This data is being analysed. We aim to publish a research paper.
Publication of three peer review research articles		Yes		One paper has been submitted. Other two papers are under preparation. I have published a feature article in the Nepal magazine.

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

I was traveling to Nepal for my field visit. Thirty minutes after I landed at the Tribhuvan International Airport, Kathmandu on April 25, 2015, and the earthquake stroke Nepal. Due to this unpredicted disaster, my plans for this project such as conduction a national level workshop were completely side tracked. It was impossible to conduct a national level workshop for months in this chaotic situation. The workshop cannot be conducted on later dates as my travel budget is limited. Therefore, personal communication, meeting, telephone and skype conversations with the key stakeholders were carried out to gather information. Nevertheless, district level workshops in the Bajhang and Darchula were successfully conducted as those districts were unaffected by the earthquake.

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

1. Data for socio-ecological framework: We have collected data on the social, ecological, institutional attributes of the caterpillar fungus harvesting to analyse the role of local emerging institutions on the socio-ecological outcomes of the caterpillar fungus harvesting. Each district has unique management practice, governance system, and a separate history on caterpillar fungus harvesting. It allows us to perform a comparative study among six major districts of Nepal where caterpillar fungus is harvested.
2. Strengthen the capacity of local stakeholders: We conducted three workshops/trainings in three different remote districts (Bajhang, Darchula and Jumla). We provided information on the various aspects of the fungus to the local participants. We discussed about the harvesting techniques to minimize the ecological costs. Life cycle, the ecological costs of harvesting market, utility of the fungus and government policy related to Yarsagumba. A documentary on the caterpillar fungus was also shown in the workshops. We also published 5000 brochures (3000 colour and 2000 photocopied) to distribute among the harvesters. Those publicizing materials were distributed in four different districts (Bajhang, Darchula, Jumla and Gorkha). Furthermore, we also discussed local journalists about the on-going decline of the fungus and importance of conserving it. The photographs of the workshops/trainings are given below.



Training/Workshop in Bajhang District, Nepal



Training/Workshop in Darchula District, Nepal



Training/Workshop in Drachula District, Nepal.



Training/Workshop in Jumla District, Nepal



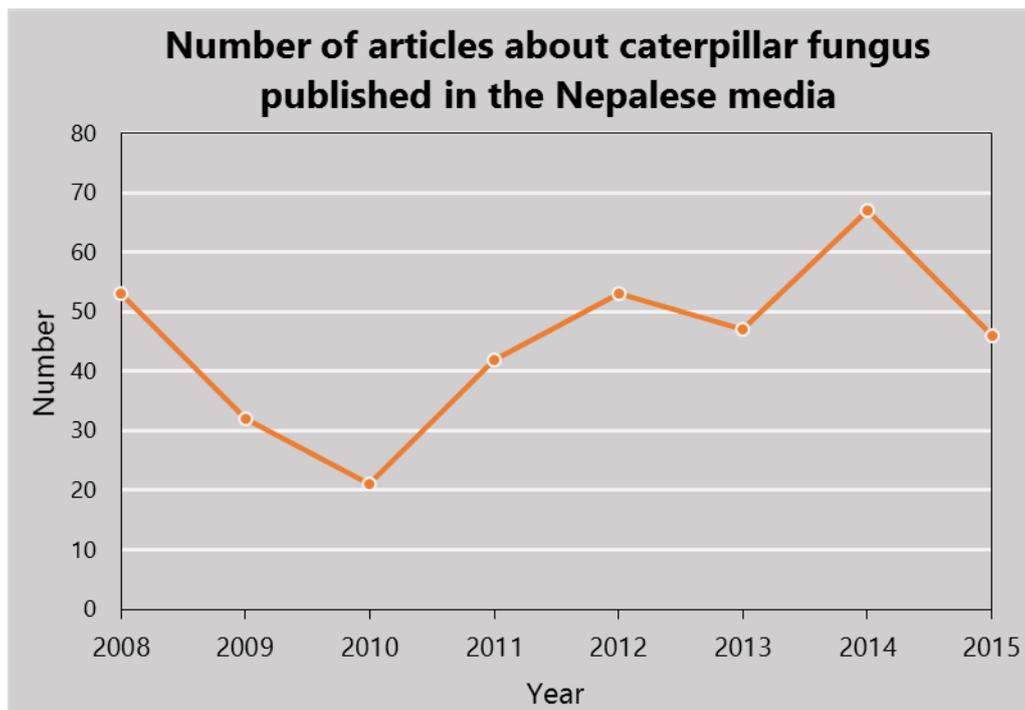
Training/Workshop in Jumla District, Nepal





Training/Workshop in Jumla District, Nepal.

3. Compilation of media reports: We have compiled 361 news reporting about caterpillar fungus published in the major daily newspaper (Kantipur, Gorkhapatra, Nagarik, Samachar Patra, NayaPatrika, Annapurna) from 2008-2015. This is an extremely important aspect of information that allows us to understand the cause and consequence of conflicts related to caterpillar fungus, the role of local institutions in managing caterpillar fungus, and the positive and negative impacts of caterpillar fungus harvesting on local livelihoods. The figure below shows the number of news reporting in different years. We are analysing the data and preparing a manuscript.



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

Local communities were involved in this project both as beneficiaries and contributors. They were trained on the various aspects of the caterpillar fungus. We provided knowledge about ecology, natural history, regeneration process and distribution of the fungus in Nepal as well as market information. Participants in the training were also aware of the negative impacts of the fungus harvesting and ways to reduce ecological costs of harvesting. Trainers provided successful management cases from the other countries such as Bhutan and China. We also showed a short video clip about the life history of Caterpillar fungus. We distributed 3000+ copies of the brochure in four districts to raise awareness and local capacity. The brochure has information about life history, ecology, use, market, distribution and the negative consequences of fungus harvesting. It also has means of reducing ecological costs and sustainable harvesting guidelines.

The local communities also supported the project by providing information about the habitats, collection locations, the role of local institutions in managing the fungus, governance system, history of the collection, resource availability in their nearby pastures. That information will be analysed for the research purpose. Therefore, they not only contributed to the project but also benefited from the project.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes, I am planning to conduct a research on the ecological costs of caterpillar fungus harvesting using remote sensing data and field data.

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

I have shared the results of this and other previous project supported by Rufford foundation through publishing research articles in the peer reviewed journals, op-ed articles in newspapers and magazines, public presentations. I published a featured article on the Nepal Magazine. It is the most widely read magazine in Nepal. One scientific paper is under review.

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

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
Personal	3950	5000	-650	PI and research assistants were heavily involved in collecting data on the media reports.
Bus and Taxies	150	450	-300	We had to use hired vehicle (Jeep) during our trip to Darchula, Bajhang and Gorkha that increased the cost.
Domestic Air travel	600	520	+80	
Food and Accommodation	1800	1200	600	Only two people flew initially from Kathmandu that reduced costs of Accommodation and Food.
District level training	2100	1950	+150	
National workshop	1100	0	1100	Could not accomplish this task due to the earthquake.
Communication	0	300	-300	We have to use international calls to communicate with local stakeholders, traders and others.
Boucher and poster printing	0	350	-300	This was not included in the budget
Stationary and field materials	300	310	20	
Total	10000	9980	+20	

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

The next steps are:

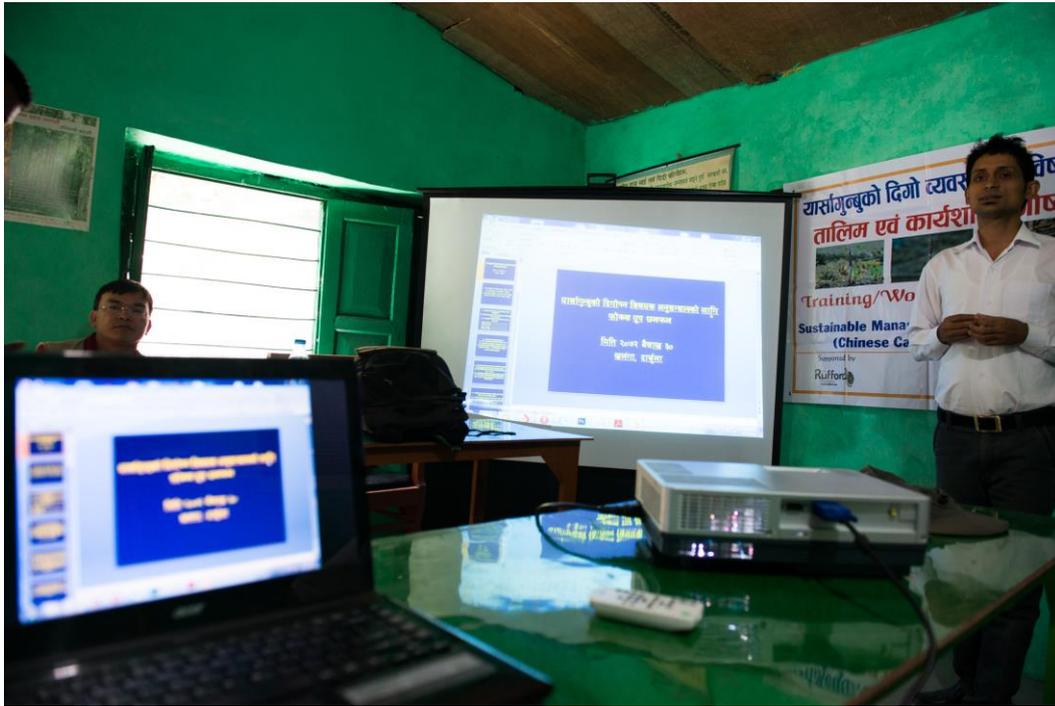
- a) Analysing the data on media report and prepare a manuscript.
- b) Preparing a manuscript on the role of local institutions on managing caterpillar fungus.
- c) Planning for further research on the ecological costs of fungus harvesting.

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 used logo of Rufford foundation in banner, brochure and acknowledgement slide of my presentation as well as in the published articles. Rufford foundation is also mentioned in the article published in Nepal Magazine.



Logo of Rufford Foundation in brochure.



Logo of Rufford Foundation in Poster.

11. Any other comments?

The support of RSGF is very helpful for this project. Locals were very happy to attend the training program. They mentioned that they heard this type of training for the first time that is quite encouraging.