

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	Pushpa Raj Acharya, PhD
Project title	Conservation Initiatives for Fruit Bats in Nepal
RSG reference	17384-1
Reporting period	One Year
Amount of grant	£ 5,000
Your email address	Pushpa_psu@yahoo.com
Date of this report	2016-05-26

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
Generating fundamental database on <i>Pteropus giganteus</i> in Nepal Assessment of bat hunting pressure at Chepang (hill-tribe) community at Chitwan district				Details of 17 <i>Pteropus giganteus</i> colonies were documented. Additional 6 to 9 sites are informed that yet to survey. Fruit bats visiting to flowering patches of <i>D. butyraceae</i> were surveyed, where locals hunt the bats at night. Questionnaire survey conducted to understand practice and perception of the locals
Conservation Approach				1059 persons from 12 different bat awareness camps were directly joined who were provided conservation posters (two types) and bat sticker (one type). Public awareness camps were organised to National workshop with policy makers and stake holders has switched to next phase program due to limited budget and insufficient preparation.
Scientific Publication				An oral presentation has been delivered during 7 th national science and technology conference, organised by National Academy of Science and Technology March 2016 A manuscript draft is under progress to publish in peer review journal

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

Most of the flying fox colonies were found on the border of Nepal and India. A political strike obstructed our field travelling. However, we wait relatively safer period to visit the sites and connected with local peoples and achieved fantastic support

for surveying. However, that took longer time than it was expected during planning phase.

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

1. Twenty-four colonies of flying fox were identified nationwide, 17 of them achieved detail information including colony size, roost status and land ownership.
2. Local stakeholders related flying fox colony sites were identified and asked for their perception about future management of the colonies in the existing roost sites.
3. Public awareness camps about bats and their ecological role as well as against bat hunting have been conducted in close connection with local communities.

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

Local people knew about bats and their ecological role and hence to benefits to us. They got knowledge on probable health damage due to bat meat. Schoolchildren were informed about unique aspects of bats and their ecological roles that expected to improve their knowledge in understanding local biodiversity.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes, this project will be continued with more spirit for its long run achievement.

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

I am developing a scientific manuscript of title "Indian Flying Fox (*Pteropus giganteus* Brünnich, 1782) Colonies require special conservation management plan in Nepal" to share the result that will take a few months to be published.

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

This project was planned for a year. As the information gathering for bat colonies were uncertain, the proposed schedule has slightly altered. However, overall time length has been limited to the proposed plan.

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
Fruit Bat Survey				
Field accommodation for 3 persons@70 days @ £10 / day/person	1800	2100		field expenses for 70 days field stays i.e. 70days*3 person*10 per person per day
Transportation (bus trips) 10 round from Kathmandu to outside@3 persons @ £ 10 /round trip	300	500	200	Travelling to far west i.e. Kanhanpur and other new sites causes extra expenses
Equipment supply 850 (GPS, Binoculars, Batteries, Head Lamps, Field Bags, Field Tents, Health Aids	250	300		camera xd cards and other essentials like head lamps and, repairing harp traps caused additional expenses
Production of conservation materials				
Conservation poster and brochure (1000 units)	500	700	200	Two sets of posters were printed instead one in plan: One targeted for flying fox conservation and other targeted against bat hunting.
Bat stickers, bat masks, Bat post cards	300	200		Only bat stickers were printed
Fruit bat public awareness camps				
Logistic support to conservation facilitator (20 camps@10 per camps)	200	400		A student, Ms Neha Shahi, from loF forestry was supported for her thesis report in her BSc Forestry. She was mapping bat hunting intensity at Korak VDC, One of the project sites. She helped parallel to facilitate conservation camps in return. Also, a local field facilitator was hired during bat hunting survey

Food and Snacks for participants @1000 participants/£ 0.5 per person	500	300	200	It was saved to make the program simple for food supply stuffs
Printing and photocopying, communication	100	100		
Prize distribution and stationeries	200	200		
Bat conservation workshop				
Workshop coordinator	100			Switched to next phase due to insufficient preparation and limited resources
Training hal for 2 days	300			
Tea and snacks, lodging and transportation for distant participant Only	450			
Total	5000	4800		

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

Next, I felt that all known flying fox colonies should be monitored in annual basis. The local communities should be involved in long-term management of the colonies especially for habitat security. In my opinion, the public or institutional land owner should be convinced to protect tree roost for flying fox. Private lands are under the risk of collapse as the trees and the land would be cleared for personal purpose. I think tree plantation to nearest public land could develop future habitat to the colonies.

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, the logo in all printed material has been listed. I presented part of this project at 7th National Science and Technology Conference on March 29 to 31, 2016.

11. Any other comments?

This project has documented flying fox colonies nationwide that requires further management schemes. Bat hunting techniques, intensity, practices and perception of locals has been understood soundly. Since wildlife hunting is serious issue, it requires careful effort to address. Technical report will provide detail achievements of the projects.