

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 | Hemanta Kumar Yadav |
| Project title | Ecology and Conservation of swamp deer (<i>Recervus duvaucelii duvaucelii</i>) in Shuklaphanta Wildlife Reserve, Nepal |
| RSG reference | 18464-2 |
| Reporting period | November 1, 2015 to November 30, 2016 |
| Amount of grant | £5000 |
| Your email address | yadavhemanta@gmail.com |
| Date of this report | 29 th November, 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 |
|--|--------------|--------------------|----------------|---|
| To study the seasonal movement of swamp deer in Shuklaphanta Wildlife Reserve | | | | Twelve months data on seasonal movements of radio-collared swamp deer collected. 12 swamp deer were collared but only nine collars worked for the full period of tracking, |
| To study the seasonal predation of swamp deer in Shuklaphanta Wildlife Reserve | | | | The scats for the study were collected from the previous fund. This time the fund used for the laboratory works to do the micro-histological analysis of scats of tiger and common leopard. |
| To raise conservation awareness on swamp deer and tiger. | | | | 10 events of conservation awareness classes were conducted in 10 schools of buffer zone which benefitted about 600 school children of 11 to 18 years age group and got awareness message related to tiger conservation, Shuklaphanta's fauna and flora, issues and threats related to conservation. |

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

None.

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

- a) The seasonal movement and habitat preference of swamp deer in Shuklaphanta Wildlife Reserve. We tracked nine swamp deer for 12 months and this will be used to estimate the seasonal home range and habitat preference of swamp deer in Shuklaphanta Wildlife Reserve.

- b) The seasonal food habit of tiger with emphasis on seasonal contribution of swamp deer to diet of tiger.
- c) Ten school students from 10 schools of buffer zone got conservation awareness orientation class which benefitted about 600 schools students.

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

The project involved local communities in two ways viz. involvement of local technicians for tracking of swamp deer and involvement of local school children for conservation awareness classes. Ten local technicians and about 600 school students benefitted from this project directly.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

As this project is a part of my PhD study, I must continue this project. Now, I will study the genetic diversity of different groups of swamp deer in Shuklaphanta Wildlife Reserve and compare the genetic diversity between Shuklaphanta and Bardia population. The small population of Bardia (less than 110 individuals) is not performing well in terms of population increment and this proposed study will provide a basis to take management decision on translocation of some individuals from Shuklaphanta to Bardia.

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

I will share the results of my work by publication in peer reviewed scientific journals. The contribution of RSG and others like Massey University, NTNC and USAID funded Hariyo Ban Program (procurement of VHF radio-collar) will be fully acknowledged.

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

The Rufford Foundation grant was used from November 2015 to November 2016. The total project period was for 13 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.

I received £ sterling 5000 on October, 2015, which is equivalent to Nepali rupees (NRs) 750,000 @ 1 £ sterling = NRs 150

| Item | Budgeted Amount | Actual Amount | Difference | Comments |
|--|-----------------|---------------|------------|---|
| Orientation of field technicians | 100 | 100 | 0 | 10 local technicians were given two days training on animal tracking and data collection from radio-collared swamp deer. |
| Mobility cost (domestic airfare, vehicle hire, fuel etc.) | 320 | 320 | 0 | Two times two way domestic air fare (NRs @ 20000 for one time 2 way = 2*20000 = NRs 40,000) from Dhangadhi to Kathmandu for taking tiger scat to laboratory and remaining for local transportation (taxi and fuel) used |
| Equipment and materials (field gear, first aid kit etc.) | 180 | 100 | 80 | 10 raincoat were purchased for 10 technicians @ NRs 1500 = NRs 15000 |
| Field cost for technicians (Lodging, camping, food and snacks) 10 technicians for 12 months | 3000 | 3080 | -80 | Field cost remuneration were provided to field technicians @NRs 3,850 per month for individual for 12 months |
| Field cost for project leader (Lodging, camping, food and snacks) for 5 months | 300 | 300 | 0 | The expenditures covers field snacks, food during stay in field for effective 5 months |
| Cost for a lab technician for micro-histological analysis of scats including laboratory reagents | 500 | 500 | 0 | A MSc Environmental science student Mr Nitesh Singh was hired for the laboratory work and he was paid the remuneration for 5 months |
| Stationary | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Community engagement activities for tiger and swamp deer conservation | 600 | 600 | 0 | Conservation education classes were conducted in 10 schools for buffer zone mainly in eastern part of buffer zone of Shuklaphanta Wildlife Reserve. |
| Total | 5000 | 5000 | 0 | |

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

In next step, my focus is to study the genetic diversity, effective population size and genetic linkage of two sub-populations of swamp deer in Terai Arc Landscape (TAL) of Nepal.

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?

During the project implementation, I used the logo of RSGF in power point presentation during conservation education activities and logo was also used in the poster which was produced for raising conservation of swamp deer and tiger in and around Shuklaphanta Wildlife Reserve.

11. Any other comments?

I would like to thank RSGF for this great support in studying the ecology of swamp deer which was a part of my PhD work. The contribution made my RSGF will be fully acknowledged in the peer reviewed journals.