

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	Sonam Dorji
Project title	Assessment and mitigation of Human – Asiatic Black bear conflict in buffer area of Jigme Khesar Strict Nature Reserve.
RSG reference	18479-1
Reporting period	October 2016 to October 2017
Amount of grant	£ 5000
Your email address	Sonamd220@gmail.com
Date of this report	25 th October 2017

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 assess Human-Asiatic black bear conflict status and its root cause				Asiatic black bear is one of the predators for livestock in the study area in the third division after dhole and common leopard. 11% of the livestock depredation was caused by black bear. 70% of the people believe that root cause of bear conflict is over exploitation of the bear habitat by human NWFP collection.
To assess perception of local people towards Asiatic Black Bear conservation.				80% of the people are not in favour of conservation of black bear. They said that bears are coming to their villages and damaging apple orchards, properties and killing their livestock. We even witnessed the farmers attempting to kill bear during our data collection.
To collect the people's perception of conflict mitigation measures and provides practical mitigation measures				70% of the local communities were suggesting for compensation schemes for damages caused by black bear from the concerned conservation agencies. Famers were suggesting for electric fencing around their villages for wildlife conflict.
To conduct Asiatic Black Bear educational conservation awareness program towards local communities				Local communities were well presented and made aware on the conservation significance of black bear, their ecology, behaviour and enforcement details like fines and penalties if they kill or hunt for black bear.

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

Activities and the survey protocol were planned well before the initiation of the survey. There was no much difficulties encountered.

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

Firstly it was found that seven predators were involved in conflict with the local farmers in the present study site. Black bear conflicts with the human were accounted with 11% and it was next to dhole and common leopard. Horses were most vulnerable to black bear predation and moreover property damage and apple orchard damages by black bear were found in the present study site.

Secondly it was found that local communities were not in favour of conservation of black bear. We have encountered a scene where local communities were trying to kill black bear after it got into their snare set in the periphery of their agriculture land. The third most important outcome was that, most of the people in the local communities were not aware about the bear conservation significance, their behaviour and ecology and the enforcement rules on black bear conservation. Conservation awareness and enforcement sensitization were conducted with the local communities in their villages and now the local farmers are well aware about the bear conservation.

One bear caught in the snare and with the help of our rescue team we rescued and send it to its natural habitat.



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

The current project is based on the social data collected from the local communities and their involvement in bear conservation awareness programs. Through this study it was found that human bear conflict is existing in the study area and mitigation measures suggested by them and recommended through this study will help to reduce human bear conflict and create harmonic co-existence. Respondents were provided with the daily substance allowances and they are provided with the working lunch, refreshment and daily substance allowance during the conservation awareness programme.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

To validate the human-bear conflict in the current study site, there are plans to conduct bear distribution and abundance study, activity pattern of bear and measure of human activities in their habitat. Conservation awareness and sensitisation programmes are imperative in disseminating conservation messages to the local communities; therefore there are plans to intensify the bear conservation and sensitisation programmes to the other local communities.

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

The findings of this study will be shared with other conservationist through printed booklets and it will be published through journal articles.

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 and scheduled for 1 year. The presented objectives have been completed successfully within the stipulated time of 1 year.

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. 1 £ sterling = 82.3 Ngultrum

Item	Budgeted Amount	Actual Amount	Difference	Comments
Purchase of Garmin GPS for field survey	290	290	0	
Procurement of field survey four men camping tent	257	257	0	
Procurement and supply of extension kits (Field boots and rain gear) for field surveyor.	296	296	0	
Daily subsistence Allowance (DSA) for participants	386	540	-154	More participants as program was conducted within each villages
Working lunch for conservation awareness program participants	193	250	-57	
DSA for the surveyors on the field questionnaire and Educational	1701	1600	+101	

conservational survey				
Vehicle rental hiring charge for transportation of survey team from one block to another and towards	257	257		
Potters and ponies charges for transportation of survey team, where there is no motor-able road.	177			
Food and refreshment for the participants during Educational conservation awareness program.	966	966		
Designing, production and printing of poster and banners, for educational conservation awareness program.	205	500	-295	
Publication and printing of the research findings and distribution to various relevant offices	257	140	+117	
Total	4985	5273	-288	Excess amount was adjusted from Jigme Khesar Strict Nature Reserve

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

Important next step would be initiated some integrated conservation development programmes and mitigation measures for human-bear conflict. It is very pivotal to study the distribution and activity pattern of bears to understand its ecology and initiate mitigation measures.

The conservation awareness programme plays a vital role in making the local communities aware about the benefits and conservation significances wildlife and it is very imperative to carryout educational conservation awareness programme towards the rest of the local communities.

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 Rufford Foundation logo was being extensively used in materials printout such as banners and posters, in presentations while conducting awareness campaigns in the study area. With the generous support from the RF, the communities as well as the keen conservationist in Bhutan has highly appreciated the noble approach of the Rufford Foundation, for rendering financial support to

carry out conservation activities in Bhutan, which has helped the people at large in reducing Wildlife conflicts.

11. Any other comments?

This project will be not possible without the funding support from Rufford Foundation. It has really come up with the findings of human-black bear conflict and creating conservation awareness on black bear for large number of local communities.

