

## The Rufford Foundation

### Final Report

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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](mailto:jane@rufford.org).

Thank you for your help.

**Josh Cole, Grants Director**

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Grant Recipient Details	
<b>Your name</b>	Rinzin Phunjok Lama
<b>Project title</b>	Empowering and educating local communities for the conservation of Pallas's cat ( <i>Otocolobus manul</i> ) in Manang valley, Annapurna Conservation Area, Nepal
<b>RSG reference</b>	18744-2
<b>Reporting period</b>	March 2016 – Feb 2017
<b>Amount of grant</b>	£4,950
<b>Your email address</b>	phunjok@hotmail.com
<b>Date of this report</b>	27-Feb-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 educate local communities, herders and school children about Pallas's cat and other sympatric wildlife in Manang valley				
To motivate and train herders for the good practices for livestock grazing and Pallas's cat conservation				
To train the students and the selected local people for camera-trap set up, monitoring and collecting data				
To develop the good relationships and communications among communities, herders, officials and NGOs				

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

The project was completed very smoothly without any difficulties.

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

I. Camera trapping

Camera trapping was conducted for the 3rd year using 30 camera traps to monitor the wildlife including Pallas's cat in the valley. During the period, Pallas's cat presence was confirmed in a new location along with sympatric snow leopards.

II. Community awareness

The conservation classes were undertaken in the local schools of Manang valley to educate and motivate the local students on Pallas's cat and other wildlife conservation and monitoring in the future. Quiz and drawing competition on wildlife were carried out and rewarded the best students for their work. Community outreach materials posters and leaflets with Pallas's cat conservation messages were distributed to the students, community members, hotel owners and the herders to spread the message rapidly in the study area. Pallas's cat and other wildlife related movie and documentaries were broadcasted to the local communities during the workshops, meetings and school classes. Now most of the people in my

study area are familiar with this small new cat i.e. Pallas's cat and are committed for its conservation.

### III. Herders' motivation

With additional support from Snow Leopard Conservancy USA and the Royal Zoological Society of Scotland UK, the project provided 30 high quality branded flashlights and 30 warm jackets to the local herders to cope with the extreme weather during the livestock grazing and caring in the project areas. The herders are also benefitted with the predator deterrent light i.e. fox light which helps to deter the night predators and their livestock are safe during night. These supports motivate the herders for conservation of the predators in the study area.

### IV. Communication among conservation area officials, NGOs and local communities

One project inception workshop and seven workshops with the herders in the different locations of the project area were completed. Workshops were organised between April 2016 and September 2016 to educate the local herders about the importance of Pallas's cat and other endangered wildlife in the valley. These workshops helped to understand the problem of local communities and were become the medium and platform to share these problems with local government and park managers. The livestock depredation problem by the large carnivores like snow leopard and wolf were discussed and tried to solve and minimise the problem to reduce retaliatory killings of such endangered animals.

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

This project was fully undertaken and completed with the involvement of local communities and the herders. The communities including school students, teachers and the herders were educated and aware about the importance of Pallas's cat and other animals. The project also helped to bridge the communication gap between conservation area managers and the local communities. The herders were also trained to adopt the sustainable livestock grazing in the Pallas's cat habitat and suggested to avoid grazing in the Pallas's cat breeding sites.

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**5. Are there any plans to continue this work?**

Yes, I will continue and extend the Pallas's cat survey, monitoring and conservation program in the new areas of Annapurna Conservation Area i.e. Nar and Phoo valley for the next phase of the project.

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

I have already published two scientific papers in the international newsletters and have properly acknowledged the Rufford Foundation for the support. I have submitted another manuscript and waiting for the decision from the editor.

Lama, R. P., Connor, P. O., Andre, K., Ghale, T. R. and Regmi, G. R. (2016). Historical evidence of Pallas's Cat in Nyesyang Valley, Manang, Nepal. *Cat News* 63: 22–23.

Regmi, G. R., Lama, R. P., Ghale, T. R. and Lama, T. (2016). Pallas's Cat in Nyesyang Valley, Annapurna Conservation Area, Nepal. *Small Wild Cat Conservation News* 2: 20.

I will also present my works in scientific meetings and conferences. The first international small wildcat conference is going to be held in Paris, France in this September 2017. I will present my work there in the conference. During our Pallas's cat work, we recorded the endangered Himalayan wolf after 40 years of its extinction in Manang valley, which is one of our great achievements of the project. This news has been published in the national newspaper "The Kathmandu Post". I have also attached a pdf of this news in the email.

<http://kathmandupost.ekantipur.com/printedition/news/2016-09-10/the-wolves-of-manang.html>

Our works on Pallas's cat and snow leopards were also documented and broadcasted through ITV UK and PBS USA in 2016 in the episode of "The Story of Cats". The YouTube link of this episode can found below:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xf16mefOJ6g>

**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 RSG was used from April 2016 to December 2016, which was more or less similar to the anticipated 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
Travel	500	500		
Food and accommodation	900	900		
Salary to field assistant	500	500		
Outreach materials	1,050	1,050		
Workshops	1,600	1,600		
Reporting	400	400		
<b>TOTAL</b>	4,950	<b>4,950</b>		

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

Based on my experiences from previous two projects, I feel that the survey, monitoring and conservation of this rare Pallas's cat should be carried out in the new potential valleys before they became locally extinct. Moreover, the local communities and the herders should be involved in each of the activities of the project where possible. After surveying in few more valleys, the overall status of the cat should be documented and started preparing effective conservation action plan for this rare Pallas's cat in Annapurna Conservation Area. At least one national level workshop should be organized on Pallas's cat conservation issues in Nepal by next year.

**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 the RSGF logo during the project activities, workshops and outreach materials. I had sent some of these during project progress report to the foundation.

**11. Please provide a full list of all the members of your team and briefly what was their role in the project.**

**12. Any other comments?**

I am very much grateful towards Rufford Foundation for kindly supporting my Pallas's cat work in Nepal. I am hoping similar support for my future projects.