

## 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](mailto:jane@rufford.org).

Thank you for your help.

**Josh Cole, Grants Director**

---

#### Grant Recipient Details

<b>Your name</b>	Sunil Lal Rajbhandari
<b>Project title</b>	Enhancing the Reproductive and Hatching Success of Critically Endangered <i>Gavialis gangeticus</i>
<b>RSG reference</b>	19005-B
<b>Reporting period</b>	22 <sup>nd</sup> August 2017
<b>Amount of grant</b>	Pounds Sterling 10000
<b>Your email address</b>	<a href="mailto:sunilrajbhandari@hotmail.com">sunilrajbhandari@hotmail.com</a>
<b>Date of this report</b>	18 <sup>th</sup> September 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
1. Day count of adult breeding males and females of <i>Gavialis gangeticus</i> in Narayani River.				13 adult breeding females were identified by counting the number of natural nests in Narayani River. Only two adult breeding males were counted.
2. Study of breeding status of gharials.				Out of 13 natural nests, six were left intact for insitu incubation. The eggs from the remaining seven natural nests were immediately shifted to artificial dugout pits in the nearby safe sand bank.
3. Monitoring of insitu and exsitu incubations.				The eggs of exsitu incubation were regularly monitored by the fisherfolk for 1 month. Then they were shifted to Gharial Monitoring Centre at Amaltari. The insitu nests were monitored till the beginning of July 2017.
4. Assessing the hatching success of insitu and exsitu eggs.				Out of seven ex-situ nests, altogether 117 hatchlings were produced. Similarly, 182 hatchlings were produced from six in-situ nests.
5. Transportation of hatchlings to Gharial Conservation and Breeding Center (GCBC) at Kasara for rearing.				A total of 299 hatchlings were safely transported to GCBC at Park's Headquarters, Kasara, Chitwan National Park.
6. Awareness and workshop.				Two interaction meetings were successfully conducted in two major nesting areas, namely Khorla Muhan and Velaunji. This training enhanced the skills of park fishermen, especially in identification and monitoring of nesting areas, techniques of probing of egg nests, recording of trial nests and habitat features including human disturbances. The fishermen were also well trained in selection of suitable sand banks for artificial

				incubation and safe transportation to artificial dugout pits.
--	--	--	--	---

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

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

- a) Population status of gharials in Narayani River of Chitwan National Park known.
- b) Status of breeding population of gharials well known. Information on in-situ incubation and its hatching success established.
- c) Capacity of fishermen in the efforts of breeding management enhanced.

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

This project has involved park fishermen to develop stewardship towards gharial conservation.

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

The gaps in breeding requirements as identified by this project needs to be addressed through the continuation of the study. Therefore, I am planning a research based on the findings of this study.

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

I will disseminate the outcomes of the study to Crocodile Specialists Group (CSG) and also plan to publish the article based on this study in the International Journal like Oryx.

**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 project started from the 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2016 for a period of 1 year. The duration has to be extended by one month for necessary data verification from the Chitwan National Park.

**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
Professional services	720	720	0	
Field expenses	5880	5880	0	
Field gears and equipment	1750	1750	0	
Stakeholder meetings	450	450	0	
Training to fishermen	450	450	0	
Stationary	150	150	0	
Publication	150	150	0	
Communication	150	150	0	
Miscellaneous	300	300	0	
<b>Total</b>	10000	10000	0	

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

I am keenly interested to implement the outcomes of this study for continuity and sustainability.

**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?**

The Rufford logo has been used in the training and awareness programs and the field data was also shared to the Crocodile Specialists Group (CSG).

**11. Any other comments?**

I have developed networking with IUCN/SSC CSG and Prof Dr Jeffrey W. Lang of University of North Dakota, University of Minnesota USA and Prof Dr David Edds of Emporia State University, USA a strong networking was established with the government partner GCBC, Chitwan National Park.