

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	Tashi Phuntsho
Project title	Comparative Study of Avifauna Diversity in Khotokha and Gogona Forest Management Units in Western Region, Bhutan: Understanding the conservation repercussion.
RSG reference	19814-1
Reporting period	2 nd June 2016 -2 nd June 2017
Amount of grant	£5000
Your email address	tashiphuntsho2009@gmail.com
Date of this report	2nd June 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. To study species diversity and compare the richness and abundance of birds in logged and unlogged forest in Khotokha and Gogona Forest Management Units.				A total of 63 and 71 avian species were recorded in Khotokha and Gogona FMU respectively. Shannon diversity index revealed unlogged forest houses large number of avifauna in both FMUs. Further Gogona FMU houses more avian species as compared to Khotokha FMU.
2. To analyze the effect of vegetation on the bird diversity in logged and unlogged forest.				Canopy cover and shrub cover revealed a medium association with avian diversity and composition in Gogona FMU. Whereas shrub cover revealed strong association with avian diversity in Khotokha FMU.
3. To strengthen the Forest Management Plans and sensitize the Managers and community people on the importance of birds in ecosystem.				Submitted a dissertation copy both in soft and hard copy to CNR, Uwice and Wangdue Forestry Division. 266 participants from Khotokha and Gogona were sensitized on the importance of birds in ecosystem.

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

The major impediment was faced during the data collection period since both the study areas were located in higher altitude and most of the time these areas were covered by fog, cold weather and rain/snow. Nothing could be done to overcome the impediments rather than increasing the time period and waiting for favourable weather.

Other than that, everything went successful with the support from every individuals involved in completion of this project.

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

i. Generation of baseline data

The nature of this project is first of its kind in Forest Management Units of Bhutan. The proposed project helped in establishing adequate baseline information on avifauna diversity in both Forest Management Units. The findings will assist relevant institutions to formulate regulations/guidelines in proper planning and developing forest management plans in future.

ii. Spotting of Blacked Necked Crane (BNC) in Khotokha

In the midst of project, black necked crane (BNC) was spotted in Khotokha roosting at newly declared wetland (RAMSAR site). BNC uses high Khotokha wetlands for their breeding besides foraging however rapid socio-economic and infrastructural development accompanied by human activities poses' great threat to BNC. This information was shared to come up with relevant plans and strategies to protect BNC from such threats.

iii. Education and awareness

Awareness has been created to the local residents on the conservation importance of avifauna. Further this project has educated and make them understand the importance of the wildlife around them and to create in the young generation, a mind-set of environmental responsibility and stewardship.

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

As planned, many people have been involved for this project. Expertise from College of Natural Resources, Lobesa, Ugyen Wangchuck Institute for Conservation and Environment (UWICE), Bumthang and forestry field staff of Forest Management Units of Khotokha and Gogona have contributed as well as benefitted from this project. Local residents of two FMUs have benefited by through monetary gains, conservation messages and stationeries during the time of awareness and sensitization campaign. Besides, 12 local residents (six each for two study sites) benefited in monetary gains by providing porter pony services during field trips.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

In the midst of data collection at Khotokha FMU, the team happened to encounter BNC roosting at newly declared wetland (RAMSAR site). It was noted that BNC uses high Khotokha wetlands for their breeding besides foraging. However with rapid socio-economic and infrastructural development accompanied by human activities poses' great threat to BNC. So I was looking forward to carry out project with due consideration on stated aspects.

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

It is utmost important to share out the findings since it calls up conservation issues. Accordingly I am gearing towards maximum coverage through various means. I have presented my findings to academicians of CNR and UWICE and catalogued my project both in hard and soft copies as references for future enthusiast

researchers. Further, I have planned to share my findings through every possible platforms as well as in scientific peer-reviewed journals.

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 grant was used for the period of 12 months, starting from 2nd June, 2016 to 2nd June, 2017. The grant on 12 months project was executed as per the proposed timescale.

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
Sensitization and consultative meeting with the local government, Wangdue Forest Division	132.5	132.5		
Awareness meeting with the local community	1065	1133.16	+ 68.16	It was projected for 250 households however extra 16 participants turned up.
Field reconnaissance survey and training of field staffs on the data collection and survey methods	183.6	183.6		
Purchase of Binoculars and Garmin ETREX 10 GPS	1020	851.51	-168.49	Procurement was made directly from dealer with some negotiations.
Purchase of two men tent	150	154.6	+ 4.4	
Vehicle hiring charges for transportation	215	250	+ 35	This was due to the inflation of fuel price.
Field survey and data collection : Payment for the staffs	1224	1377	+ 153	Had to increase the number of days since both the study areas were located in higher altitude and most of the time these areas were covered by fog, cold weather and rain/snow.
Potter charges	30.6	56.1	+ 25.5	
Pamphlets, badges and stickers for educational program	550	450	- 100	Prices for some materials were

Erecting of banners at strategic Locations	300	261	- 39	negotiated.
Printing forms, documents, materials and report writing	125	100	- 25	
Total	4995.7	4999.47		

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

Sensitisation activities through publication of paper, presentations and seminars will be pursued. Media may be engaged at some point of time, especially on the importance and its role in ecosystem in national newspaper and TV programmes. Results and findings will be disseminated to all stakeholders involved directly or indirectly in management of Forest Management Units to assist in framing more practical management plans in relation to avian conservation and resource extractions.

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 foundation logo has been used in all project related activities such as in educational outreach banners, posters, presentations and distributed materials. During the sensitizations, awareness and training with relevant stakeholders, RF was mentioned as the sponsors of the project. Further research enthusiast were made aware about RSGF as grant provider for any research activities in conserving the biodiversity.

11. Any other comments?

With the financial support from RF, the project was very successful and will continue to carry out in near future. Further I reiterate to work at any point in conservation of our biodiversities.