

# The Rufford Small Grants Foundation

## Final Report

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Congratulations on the completion of your project that was supported by The Rufford Small Grants 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>	Nabin Baral
<b>Project title</b>	The Maoists insurgency and conservation in Nepal: exploring institutional resilience of community-based conservation
<b>RSG reference</b>	03.03.08
<b>Reporting period</b>	2008-2009
<b>Amount of grant</b>	£2910
<b>Your email address</b>	<a href="mailto:nbaral@gmail.com">nbaral@gmail.com</a>
<b>Date of this report</b>	December 7th 2009

**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
What are the characteristics of resilient institutions?			x	I am planning to write a couple of manuscripts based on these objectives.
What accrues legitimacy in eyes of committee members and villagers to conservation institutions and does it foster institutional resilience?			x	
Why are committee members committed to institutions and where do their motivations come from?			x	
What socioeconomic or other factors influence committee members' attitudes towards conservation institutions and institutional resilience?			x	

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

I did not encounter any unforeseen difficulties during the project. The only challenge I had was getting a reliable field assistant to conduct surveys in rural Nepal, which I had expected. Because of this I had to spend more time in the field conducting surveys myself.

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

The project assessed the performance of grassroots conservation committees during the Maoist insurgency and found that they were resilient to varied degrees to the insurgency. Despite the many negative impacts of the insurgency, conservation was happening in Annapurna due to empowered local communities. The research project contributed to building a scientific knowledge in the emerging field of resilience. It has garnered empirical evidence to test theoretical constructs such as resilience, legitimacy and capital stocks. Furthermore, the project broke a new ground for assessing sustainability of community-based conservation. In doing so, it has also suggested avenues for future research in this field.

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

The participation of local communities in this project is in the role of information providers. I interacted with many local conservation leaders and villagers and we exchanged information on various aspects of nature conservation and sustainable development. I am planning to send all committees a summary report in the Nepali language. This report will contain what are their strengths and weaknesses, and the areas in which they can improve. The report will serve as external unbiased feedbacks intended to improve the overall performance community-based conservation organizations (i.e. CAMCs in ACA).

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

Probably - I would like to build on this research if I have an opportunity to continue this line of research work in my professional career.

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

I've already submitted four manuscripts to international peer-reviewed journals. Three of the manuscripts are already accepted for publication and one is under review. Once these manuscripts are published, researchers throughout the world can have an access to the results of this project. Also, I have archived my dissertation online so that the interested public can access it freely. I intend to participate in a couple of conferences/seminars to present the research findings.

**7. Timescale: Over what period was the RSG used? How does this compare to the anticipated or actual length of the project?**

The first big chunk of the grant was spent at the beginning of the project. I bought a return ticket to get to Nepal and I had to spend a bit on domestic travel. I went to Nepal in September 2008 and returned to the United States in January 2009. The second big chunk of the grant was spent on my lodging and food between September and January. During the field research, I also paid a salary to field assistants. Towards the end of the project cycle there was a little expenditure. Most of the grant was spent during the first six months 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
International Travel USA – Nepal – USA	1,200.00	1,300.00	+ 100.00	I bought a ticket in September so the rate slightly increased.
Domestic Travel To and from Kathmandu to the field site	300.00	250.00	- 50.00	I travelled by bus instead of airplane, so it was a bit cheaper.
Per diem for Principal Investigator	800.00	900.00	+ 100.00	The cost of food has gone up slightly up in compared to last year's price.
Subsistence payment for a local assistant	500.00	450.00	- 50.00	I could not find a reliable assistant to work full time.
Stationery and expendable materials	150.00	150.00		
Report preparation and mailing	250.00	150.00	- 100.00	I used some resources of my department which reduced the expenditure.
<b>Total</b>	3,200	2,910	290	Previous year's carry over

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

The Government of Nepal is planning to hand over the Annapurna Conservation Area to local communities when the present management contract with the National Trust for Nature Conservation expires in 2012. As envisioned, the local communities will form an overarching council representing all 56 Conservation Area Management Committees (CAMCs) to enter into the legal agreement with the government. It is thus critical to empower CAMCs to take over the management responsibility of a protected area on their own. There is a need to convince the government that the local communities have developed the managerial capacity based on the scientific findings. The research results of this project are critical to advocate in favour of local communities (i.e. CAMCs). There is also a need for continuous monitoring of CAMCs.

**10. Did you use the RSGF logo in any materials produced in relation to this project? Did the RSGF receive any publicity during the course of your work?**

As a scientist, I have produced scientific papers and published them in international peer-reviewed journals. In all the manuscripts that have resulted from the field research funded by your grant, I have sincerely acknowledged your support. Thus, the RSGF received some publicity in the scientific community during the course of my work. I have also talked with my peers about your organization recommended them to apply for the RSG. My PhD advisor committee members had not heard about the RSG before, but now they know something about your organization.

**11. Any other comments?**

The project can be considered as highly successful on the basis of its scientific contributions in the academic disciplines of community-based conservation and resilience.