

The Rufford Small Grants Foundation

Final Report

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. 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. 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	Gandhiv Kafle
Project title	Participatory Research, Environmental Education and Capacity-building Project for Wetland and Biodiversity Conservation at and around Ghodaghodi Lake (A Ramsar Site), Kailali, Nepal (PRECaP)
RSG reference	25.07.07
Reporting period	01/08 – 04/09
Amount of grant	Sterling 4985
Your email address	gandhivkafle@gmail.com
Date of this report	21/05/09

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. Enhance wetland conservation awareness among students and indigenous people			✓	It was performed with the members of the wetland clubs and local conservation groups using extension materials in Nepali language and different communication methods such as presentations, discussions, orientation etc. Major conservation days – World Wetlands Day, World Migratory Bird Day and World Biodiversity Day were celebrated.
2. Form and empower additional wetland clubs and conservation committees			✓	It was performed by forming wetland clubs and local conservation groups in the areas which have been out of reach of major conservation interventions and capacity building programs around the lake.
3. Publish and disseminate awareness-raising materials			✓	Some of the major publications are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pocket guide to flora and fauna of Ghodaghodi lake (Nepali) - An educational kit to wetland, forest and bird conservation (Nepali) - A brochure on status and conservation of Ghodaghodi lake of Nepal (Nepali) - International Journal of Wetlands Ecology (www.nepjol.info/index.php/jowe) - An informative sheet on World Wetlands Day 2009 (Nepali) - Project information sheet on conservation of waterbirds (bilingual) - A number of articles in different journals and magazines - Wetland education curriculum for school students - Posting/circulation of wetland news and

				information in the e-groups regularly
4. Foster networking of conservationists and wetland-stakeholders			✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Making linkages with professionals of different conservation experts and organizations in Nepal and abroad - Establishment of Wetland Friends of Nepal Network (www.wfn-network.ning.com) - Online discussion forums at http://groups.yahoo.com/group/wetlandfriends, and www.wfn-network.ning.com with no less than 130 members from different countries - Membership in Wetland Link International – an international network of wetland centres (www.wli.org.uk) - Membership in Society of Wetland Scientists (SWS) Asia (www.swsasia.org) - Participation of WFN in Ramsar COP – 2008 in South Korea and World NGO Conference on Wetlands / poster presentation - Membership in World Wetlands Network - WFN efforts documented in Ramsar Country Paper of Nepal for Ramsar COP - Linking graduate students in network - Institutional strengthening of Wetland Friends of Nepal
5. Build knowledge and skills of local community in biodiversity surveys.			✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ethnobotanical assessments and inclusion of findings in publication (pocket guide to flora and fauna of Ghodaghodi) - Participatory flora assessment - Assessment of wetland invasion and experiment on preparing compost from Water Hyacinth - Initiation of Otter Research and Conservation Initiative in Nepal with technical and participatory approaches (www.ottersnepal.org)

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

The frequent strikes in Terai region of Nepal sometimes caused inconvenience in travelling to project site. To tackle this problem, one local person was hired for the project to coordinate the field activities in such strike periods.

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

- ✓ Publication of (a) pocket guide to flora and fauna of Ghodaghodi Lake, (b) educational kit to wetland, forest and bird conservation in Nepali language and its distribution; and (c) a number of articles
- ✓ Initiation of publication of peer-reviewed Journal of Wetlands Ecology (JOWE) including articles and news on wetland issues, and making it open access to all readers free of cost
- ✓ Institutional strengthening of Wetland Friends of Nepal (WFN), and its contribution in networking and conservation awareness on wetland issues
- ✓ Strengthening of local conservation groups making them capable to continue conservation, participatory research and awareness activities themselves with minimal external support

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

Two major books (a) Pocket guide to flora and fauna of Ghodaghodi lake, and (b) Educational kit to wetland, forest and bird conservation were prepared and printed in Nepali language. It was distributed to school students and local conservation groups during conservation education phase. It was realized that these publications in Nepali language greatly helped local people in understanding biodiversity and conservation issues in the wetlands. Local CBOs in Kailali, Kaski, Bardia, Gorkha, Butwal and Palpa including Ghodaghodi Area Conservation and Awareness Forum - a local NGO of Ghodaghodi Lake area also received these publications. A perception survey among the readers shows that the readers find these publications very user-friendly as they are prepared in local Nepali language.

Formation and strengthening of local conservation groups has initiated a process of institutionalization of conservation efforts at local level to ensure community participation in wise use and sustainable management of wetland resources. Wetland clubs with support from this project have raised awareness among school students and teachers on wetland issues.

Participatory ethnobotany assessment was useful to document the medicinal and local uses of local flora. It helped the community members to acquire skills and knowledge on documenting local floral resources, fostering conservation awareness as well.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Two phases of this project has been completed in Ghodaghodi lake area. An integrated wetland education model has been developed from this project. There is great opportunity to replicate this model in other wetland sites of Nepal. The future plan is to integrate research, education/awareness and networking within local framework of Integrated Lake Basin Management (ILBM) in more wetland sites of Nepal. There is ample necessity and opportunity to initiate the projects addressing the linkage of downstream and upstream users in watershed within a global framework of Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES).

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

Different forums and tools were used to share the progress results to related stakeholders, including graduate students at Forestry Institute, local community members inhabiting nearby the lakes, international community through electronic mailing list, discussion forum and project website. Powerpoint presentations were made in at least 6 forums and it will be continued in future also in appropriate workshop and conference.

Journal of Wetlands Ecology (JOWE) initiated with the support from RSG and other partners has become an important tool to share the project approach and results. This journal has been hosted by International Network for Availability of Scientific Publications (INASP) and all the articles have been made available to public free of cost.

The Tiger Paper Journal of Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) has published their article regarding assessment of threats to Ghodaghodi Lake Area in December 2007 issue.

An article on "Ghodaghodi Lake Area: Resources, Opportunities and Conservation" was published in BCN's Danfe Newsletter. The article provides an overall glimpse on status and conservation of Ghodaghodi Lake Area. Ghodaghodi Lake Area is one of the Ramsar Sites and Important Bird Areas of Nepal. This article has been distributed among more than 2000 members of Bird Conservation Nepal, Wetland Friends of Nepal and students as well as faculties of Institute of Forestry, Pokhara. This article represents the first most in terms of presenting the overall information about Ghodaghodi Lake Area and Associated Biodiversity.

An article on 'Wetlands: Introduction, Importance and Conservation' was published in BCN's Munal Newsletter in Nepali language. The article provides an introductory information on wetland, its types, values, Ramsar Sites, existing wetland issues and conservation options in Nepali language. This article has been distributed among more than 2000 members of Bird Conservation Nepal, Wetland Friends of Nepal and students as well as faculties of Institute of Forestry, Pokhara.

We have an online discussion forum at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/wetlandfriends> with no less than 125 members. Similarly, a wetland network entitled "Wetland Friends of Nepal – Network" has been established (www.wfn-network.ning.com). These forums have been used to share the information on wetland issues. Sharing wetland information will be continued in these forums.

The project report will be made accessible to all through hard copies in the libraries and electronic copies in the website.

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

The RSG was used for 16 months as indicated in project document. There was not any modifications in time period.

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
Supervision Fees	115	115	0	Paid for experts and reviewers in per day basis
Travel	378	378	0	Cost of movement of researcher, assistants and volunteers to, within and from the project site
Food and accommodation	2654	2654	0	Subsistence living expenses
Equipment and supplies	885	885	0	Binoculars, digital camera, literature, maps, first aid kit, snacks and field gears
Secretarial expenses	269	269	0	Stationary, computer, printing & copying, prizes for winners, literatures for online educational kits and hard copies publications, literatures for website, email, fax, telephone etc.)
Publication and networking	608	670	62	Printing cost of 2000 copies of educational kit and pocket guide; Design cost of Journal of Wetlands Ecology Internet cost for maintaining network at www.wfn-network.ning.com
Contingency	76	14	62	It was used in publication and networking.
TOTAL	4985	4985		

Exchange rate: 1 Sterling = 125.4 Nepali Rupees

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

- ✓ Research on wetland faunal species of which there is no reliable information in Nepal till date for examples: otter, frogs
- ✓ Exploration of wetland sites in middle hill region of Nepal: The distribution of wetland sites in middle hills region of Nepal has not been known.
- ✓ Establishment of wetland information centre to make the publications available to general public and raise awareness
- ✓ Assessment of invasion of Water Hyacinth and their effects in wetlands and associated biodiversity in Nepal

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?

Yes. The logo was used in all the publications, products and events (mentioned above) during this project.

11. Any other comments?

More information about the publications and progress was submitted periodically to RSG and it is available in RSG website at http://www.ruffordsmallgrants.org/rsg/projects/gandhiv_kafle.

12. I agree to this report being published on the Rufford Small Grants website

Signed (or print name): GANDHIV KAFLE