

Final Evaluation Report

Your Details	
Full Name	Prakash Kiran Jung Thapa
Project Title	No more crocodile tear: Protecting threatened crocodilians and their critical habitat in the Bardia National Park of Nepal
Application ID	20421-1
Grant Amount	£ 4798
Email Address	prakashkiran047@gmail.com
Date of this Report	

1. 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
Design educational and awareness materials				Various educational and awareness materials such as brochures, posters, bookmarks and PowerPoint slides, were produced and distributed during community outreach and educational programmes.
Conduct conservation education programs for 1500 students and 150 teachers at 15 local schools located in the buffer zone of the Bardia National Park				I was able to increase the knowledge base regarding the importance of conserving crocodilians and their habitat with approximately 1500 students and 150 teachers from 15 schools located in buffer zone of the Bardia National Park.
Organize community awareness and consultation programs targeted at 10 local communities located in the buffer zone of the BNP				I was able to increase knowledge regarding the importance of conserving crocodilians and their habitat with members of 10 participating communities located in buffer zone of the BNP.
Conduct legislative training workshop for 50 local community leaders in 10 communities.				Leaders from Buffer zone User Committees, Community Forest Groups, Village Development Committees and River Management Committees were invited and discussed about laws associated with protecting crocodilians and their habitat and provisions for penalties and the punishment for the crocodilian associated crime.
Advocate conservation of crocodilians and their habitat in BNP and in Nepal using internet social media such as Facebook.				A dedicated Facebook page was created and used to advocate crocodilian conservation.

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

- I. **Fluctuation in exchange rate:** I had requested for £ 4798 and received full funding. I prepared budget by allocating amount to the specific activity in Nepalese currency (NRs) and converting it to the GBP using exchange rate of 1 GBP = 155 NRs (based on exchange rate of December 2nd 2015 which is when I submitted my proposal). Based on this exchange rate, £ 4798= 7,45,000 NRs. However, due to sudden drastic fall in GBP, I received only NRs. 6,14,000. Although I received £ 4798 as requested, converting it to NRs resulted in a decrease of NRs 1,31,000 based on exchange rate on December, 2015 and time I received the money in my bank account (with decrease in almost 20% of the project budget). To tackle this deficit, I decreased some of the project activities without affecting project's overall goal, after discussion with the Rufford Foundation.

 - II. **Arranging time for community awareness programmes:** The majority of local communities where we had planned to conduct awareness programmes were farmers who would work in their farm throughout day and with no regards to public holidays. Therefore, arranging people in one venue during daytime for awareness programme was not possible. Therefore, I visited at least 100 households in 10 communities during mornings and evenings and conducted our awareness programmes. In my experience, rather than conducting mass awareness programmes, such small programmes conducted in many households were more effective in gaining the interest of participants and delivering the message.
3. **Briefly describe the three most important outcomes of your project.**
- **Increased awareness level in students:** Through conservation education programmes, I was able to increase the knowledge base regarding the importance of conserving crocodilians and their habitat with approximately 1200 students and 90 teachers from 14 schools located in buffer zone of the Bardia National Park. I expect that students will be able to discuss and promote crocodilian conservation in their classrooms, meetings of eco-clubs as well as at their homes and neighborhoods. Additionally, we trained teachers in techniques of promoting crocodilian conservation in their classrooms and equipped with teaching materials such as brochures, booklet and posters. I expect that these teachers should be now able to promote crocodilian conservation in other classrooms in their schools.

 - **Increased awareness level in local communities:** Through community awareness programmes, I was able to increase knowledge regarding importance of conserving crocodilians and their habitat and conducting responsible behaviour with members of 10 participating communities located in buffer zone of the BNP. I expect that locals will be able to discuss, advocate and promote crocodilian conservation in their respective communities. Locals will also be able to bring up the issue of crocodilian conservation in regular meetings of their co-operatives, natural resource management groups, etc.

- **Capacity building of local legislator:** Through a legislative training workshop, I was able to build capacity of approximately 50 local community leaders in laws and regulations related to wildlife crime.

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

Local communities were an integral part of this project. Our community awareness programmes were specifically targeted at local communities to make them aware of and get them involved in conservation of gharials and mugger crocodiles. I was able to increase knowledge regarding importance of conserving crocodilians and their habitat in these local communities. Additionally, I also empowered and involved representatives from community-based anti-poaching units, youth clubs and Mother's Group. I trained them and also provided educational materials such as brochures and posters.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

I received positive feedback from schools and communities where I had conducted educational programmes which has encouraged me to continue this work. I plan to continue this project to involve other schools and communities in the buffer zone of the Bardia National Park in the future.

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

I will share final project report with the Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation and the Bardia National Park office. This final report will be submitted along with all project outputs such as brochures, posters and bookmarks. Similarly, I will also share project outputs via my social media handles.

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

The Rufford Small Grant was used over the period of 14 months between November-2016 and December 2017. I was able to successfully complete my project on time.



8. Budget: 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. It is important that you retain the management accounts and all paid invoices relating to the project for at least 2 years as these may be required for inspection at our discretion.

Item	Budgeted Amount	Actual Amount	Difference	Comments
Educational Programs	1455	1555	+100	Some extra fund was needed to conduct educational programs
Community awareness programs	1220	1331	+93	Some extra fund was needed to conduct community awareness programs
Training workshop	480	480		
National workshop	193		-193	To adjust project activities to fit the deficit in funding due to fluctuations in exchange rate, I did not conduct national workshop
Per diem for PI	455	455		
Per diem for field assistant	455	455		
Travel to and from field sites	129	129		
Local travel	161	161		
Stationary expenses	50	50		
Information dissemination cost	200	200		
Total	4798	4798		

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

In my opinion, it is important to implement similar project across schools and local riverine communities in the Chitwan National Park which is also home to gharials and mugger crocodiles. There are records of local communities collecting crocodilian eggs and also high anthropogenic activities in some important nesting and basking areas for gharials. Therefore, in order to make local communities aware of consequences of their action on long-term survival of crocodilians and to encourage and involve them in crocodilian conservation, it will be important to conduct community outreach and educational programmes. Similarly, it is also important to empower community-based organisations such as community-based anti-poaching units, eco-clubs, youth clubs, Mother's Group etc. to advocate and promote crocodilian conservation.

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

I used The Rufford Foundation logo in brochures, posters, bookmarks and power-point slides (used for presentation) produced in relation to this project. These project outputs were distributed to well over 2000 individuals and the foundation received good publicity.

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

Sudeep Niraula: He helped me to identify the schools and communities for organizing programs of this project.

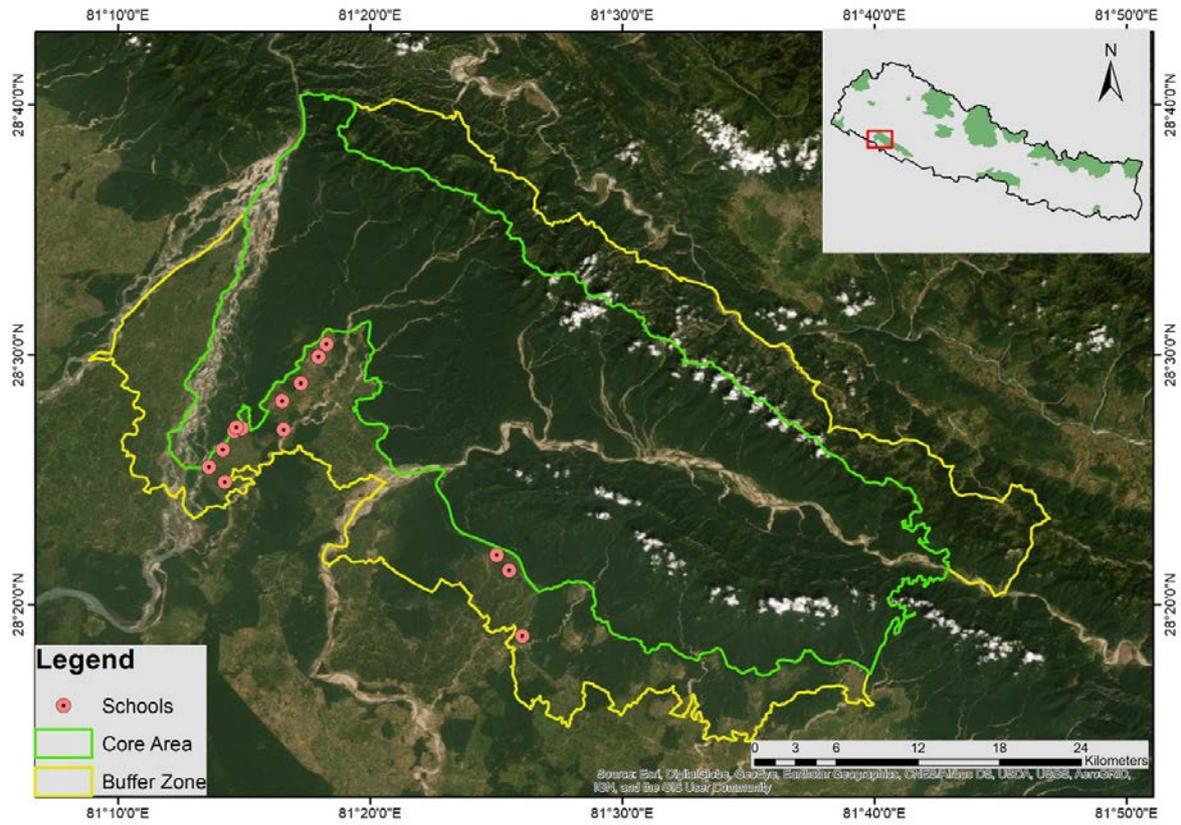
Dr. Sanjay Nath Khanal: He advised me on overall design and execution of the project.

Ashish Bashyal: He advised me on overall design and execution of the project. He also helped with equipment such as GPS, projector, etc.

12. Any other comments?

Our community awareness programs, and conservation education programmes were well received by participating communities and schools. In this regard, I consider this project was successful in meeting its objectives of promoting and advocating conservation of threatened crocodilians in Bardia National Park by garnering support from range of stakeholders. I would like to express my utmost gratitude to the Rufford Foundation for funding this project.





Map of participating schools