

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	Genuine Prajapati
Project title	Strengthening Education for Long-term Conservation of Storks and Their Natural Habitat in Hot Spots of Western Tarai Region, Nepal
RSG reference	21787-1
Reporting period	April 2017- March 2018
Amount of grant	£5000
Your email address	Genuineprajapati7@gmail.com
Date of this report	April 2018

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. Capacity building trainings and workshops				<p>This project organised following capacity building training and workshops:</p> <p>1. A 1-day capacity building training and workshop was organised at Shree Buddha Aadarsha Secondary School. A total of 39 local students from four schools (Shree Buddha Aadarsha Secondary School, Shree Khudabagar Secondary School, Shree Aama Secondary School and Shree Madhuwani Secondary School) actively participated in the programme.</p> <p>2. Another 1-day capacity building training and workshop was organised at Modern Khudabagar Secondary School. Despite the extreme heat, a total of 35 local school students and 22 college students actively participated in the programme. The students were trained with modern field techniques of GPS receivers, data loggers, range finders, silva compass, telescopes and data recording.</p>
2. Participatory investigation				<p>For the investigation on population and distribution of storks, a survey was carried out with the active participation of well trained students, local team members, local conservation groups and experts. During the survey, three species of storks: lesser adjutant, Asian open-bill and woolly necked storks were sighted. During intensive survey in breeding season a flock of 60 Asian open-billed with 39 nests in a single seemal tree and 25 individuals of lesser adjutant with 16 nests and four chicks were recorded.</p>
3. Regular monitoring				<p>For the regular monitoring of breeding colonies and their habitat, well trained students were allocated.</p>
4. Conservation campaigns				<p>1. The project supported to the local project partners to celebrate World Environment Day on 5th June, 2017. The programme was jointly organised by Green Youth of Lumbini (GYL), District Forest Office (DFO) Rupandehi and Lumbini Cultural Municipality (LCM) with the</p>

			<p>support from USAID-funded SUSAHARA programme, The Generation Green, Bird Conservation Nepal (BCN), Global Primate Network (GPN)-Nepal and Rufford Small Grant Programme. The programme was chaired by the president of International Monk Society, Nepal. All the guests highlighted the importance of wildlife in environment for the better human welfare. More than 300 local school students, media persons, farmers and community based organisation representatives actively participated in the programme.</p> <p>2. A short presentation on 'SAVE THE STORKS' was presented at Modern Khudabagar Secondary School. A total of 57 local students showed their great interest in stork conservation in their nearby areas.</p> <p>3. Stork observation day was held near the wetlands of Mayadevi Temple with the involvement of 23 young enthusiastic participants.</p>
5.Sports and education for the stork conservation			<p>1. In June 2017, the inter-school quiz competition was organised at Shree Buddha Aadarsha Secondary School to motivate local rural students in education and conservation. Notice was circulated more than 10 local schools in and around the habitat of storks but due to remoteness only four of them participated in the competition. We expected two students from each school but more than 50 local students showed their immense interest for the conservation via spots and education programme.</p> <p>2. On November 2017, art competition was successfully held where 30 local students from five diverse schools actively participated. The programme was organised with the theme of conservation of storks in which students delivered their ideas of storks through the art and the winners were as awarded by the principal.</p>
6. Plantation and protection of nesting trees			<p>The project successfully launched the plantation week in collaboration with the local government bodies, conservations agencies, district offices planting above hundreds of samplings in the open area of Rupandehi district as an approach to conserve natural habitat of storks in the area. The local project partner Green Youth of Lumbini is regularly monitoring the planted trees.</p>

7. Production and distribution of stationery materials			<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Photographic species identification sheets were produced and provided to each and every student during each and every programme organised. 2. The team winners from the quiz competition were provided with the stationary awards including sets of copies, pencil and notebooks. 3. The top three finalists in the art competition were awarded with drawing sets, colour paints including notebooks. 4. Booklets, photographic plate with conservation messages were distributed to all the participants during trainings, workshops and awareness programmes organised by the project.
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2. Please explain any unforeseen difficulties that arose during the project and how these were tackled (if relevant).

The project was guided by well experienced experts, local team members and other conservation agencies along with the support from local governmental bodies which fortunately led to the success of the project. Most of the objectives and targets of the project were accomplished to expected level because of the hardworking and dedicated team members. But the extreme hot weather made it difficult to work during day in the field while fog made it harder to work during winter season. Therefore, most of the activities were completed in the morning time.

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

1. This project outlined the nesting sites of lesser adjutant and Asian open-bill storks including the nesting sites of sarus cranes. In Khudabagar, a flock of 60 Asian open-bill storks were found in a seemal tree (*Bombax ceiba*) with 39 nests. In Aama region, three colonies of lesser adjutant were found with 25 individuals, 16 nests and four chicks which are the important baseline data for the further conservation initiation of storks in the region.

2. The project produced local 96 well trained young conservationists from the project area ensuring the long term regular monitoring of storks in the area. They were trained with modern field techniques and also were actively engaged in the field work.

3. This project raised awareness among local communities and people motivating them to conserve storks and their natural habitat. Local people were educated with the illegal activities of eggs theft and capturing storks for trade as these were the prior problems seen among the local people.

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

Believing the conservation works should be initiated from the grassroots level, the project preferably focused on educating and involving local communities in the project. The project was initiated jointly with local people, local communities and local team members. The local team members Shristi Bhattarai, Ramu Chaudhary and Santosh Yadav were provided with stipend for the continuous monitoring and reporting of the project activities from the field. Well trained local students Keshav Kohar and Parsuram Lodh were appointed for monitoring of species in Aama VDC. The project helped them widen their areas of knowledge through expert's guidance and field experience.

The project also supported local Green Youth Club financially and technically for the organisation of various environmental days and plantation week. Besides, this project also supported local schools for organizing various sports and educational days to promote local school students in conservation via sports and education.

In addition, open discussion with local people helped us to briefcase the ideology of people regarding the species which has aided us to conduct the awareness programmes in more effective ways.

More than 400 local students and farmers benefited from the awareness programmes. Most of the students were highly influenced and motivated after their participation in the training and capacity building programmes. The training included the use of modern techniques in the field attracted the students to pursue carrier in the field of conservation biology.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Our study reveals that storks are continuing to decline from their natural habitat despite the actions taken in favour of their conservation. Along with regular monitoring and conservation awareness to wider landscape, wetland management and conservation is a need for the long term conservation of storks. Therefore, we are aiming to conduct conservation approaches to conserve and manage wetlands throughout the lowlands of Nepal. Furthermore, study of the seasonal movements of storks would benefit in conservation and thus we are planning to extend the study area throughout the lowlands of Nepal. Also, our team will be monitoring the existing habitats of storks in the study area

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

The project outcome has already been shared among different educational institutions by organising talk programmes. The abstract of the project has been accepted for the presentation by 'Fourth Graduate Conference on Environment and Sustainable Development April 5-6, 2018', organized by Himalayan Knowledge Conclave in partnership with Ministry of Science and Technology (MoST), Central Department of Environmental Science (TU-CDES), Institute for Social and

Environmental Transition-Nepal (ISET-Nepal), Resources Himalaya Foundation (RHF) and School of Environment Science and Management (SchEMS).

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 Rufford Foundation grant was used for a year as per schedule from April 2017 - March 2018.

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
Sustenance during capacity building training and workshop programmes	430	515	85	Increased amount due to additional participants than estimated
Sustenance for local trained students during participatory investigation	940	940	NA	NA
Sustenance for local team during regular monitoring of breeding colonies	1880	1880	NA	NA
Conservation education, awareness, campaigns	390	517	127	Increased amount due to additional programmes than estimated
Support to local schools for sport and education	390	390	NA	NA
Plantation and protection of nesting trees	200	200	NA	NA
Production and distribution of stationary materials	680	735	55	Increased amount due to additional production for increased participants
Communication and consumables:	90	90		
Total	5000	5267	267	Additional amount was adjusted from project partners.

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

- Conservation approaches for the conservation and management of wetlands throughout the habitat sites of storks.
- Conservation awareness programmes to wider landscape.

- Study the seasonal pattern of storks.
- Promote citizen science

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

Yes, we used the provided The Rufford Foundation logo in stationery materials, photographic plates, note sheets, notebooks and banners produced during the project activities. We have also used the logo during poster presentation in 'Fourth Graduate Conference on Environment and Sustainable Development-2018'. In addition, RSGF logo will be used in future relevant works and publications.

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

Team members

- **Shristi Bhattarai**, field biologist arranged logistics and transportation services for the team during species monitoring, capacity build-up workshops and awareness campaigns throughout the project period.
- **Santosh Yadav**, field biologist arranged multimedia, field gears and communication with communities for community outreach throughout the project period.
- **Ramu Chaudhary** and **Shiva Chaudhary**, field biologists from Green Youth Nepal arranged publications and communication with local educational institutions for the sports and education activities. He also monitored the species throughout the project period.
- **Aakash Jyaswal** field biologist helped in the transportation services for the field work.
- **Keshav Kohar** and **Parsuram Lodh** students from Aama VDC monitored the breeding colony throughout the breeding season.

12. Any other comments?

I am very grateful to The Rufford Foundation for awarding the small grant as a conservation initiative for storks of Nepal. I am thankful to Green Youth of Lumbini (GYL), Global Primate Network (GPN), Bird Conservation Nepal, Green Youth Nepal, District Forest Office, Rupandehi, Lumbini Cultural Municipality, Shree Buddha Adarsha Secondary School, Khudabagar Secondary School, Aama Secondary School and Madhuwani Secondary School for their invaluable support throughout the project. I owe my sincere gratitude to Dr Falk Huettmann, Dr Anuj Guruvacharya, and Mrs Neeru Dhakal for their valuable support. I am in debt to Mr Dikpal Karmacharya for the guidance and support through the field works. Also, I am very thankful to my team members Shristi Bhattarai, Santosh Yadav, Ramu Chaudhary, Shiva Chaudhary and Aakash Jaswal for being such a wonderful help and dedicating team which has helped in the timely accomplishment of this project. I am sincerely thankful to everyone who directly or indirectly has been a help for the

completion of this project. I, hereby, vow to dedicate my entire life in the field of conservation biology.



Nesting colony of Asian Openbill



Nesting colony of Lesser adjutant