

Final Evaluation Report

Your Details	
Full Name	Raju Acharya
Project Title	National Owl Conservation Action Plan: Laying groundwork for long-term owl conservation in Nepal
Application ID	24441-D
Grant Amount	£10000
Email Address	rajuhugu_13@yahoo.com
Date of this Report	Project extension was granted from Rufford till August, 2020

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
Prepare and Endorse the National Owl Conservation Action Plan				350 copies were handed over to Department of National Park and Wildlife Conservation. Target: 300 copies Printed: 500 copies
National Owl Conservation Sharing Workshop targeting for National Owl Conservation Action Plan and other owl conservation issues				A workshop involving journalists, bureaucrats and researchers was planned to be conducted. It was not possible due to Covid19. However, we used digital platforms like Zoom and other mediums to disseminate the information on owls Post card conservation. Target: 1 Completed: 5
Prepare/print and distribution of Conservation Materials				Altogether, 300 postcards were printed. However, 500 were planned to be printed with five different designs. Target: 500 Completed: 300

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

The preparation, approval and endorsement process took longer than expected. It took almost 2 years. We applied twice for no cost extension to Rufford and, fortunately, it was approved until August 2020.

On the government side, regular follow up meetings were conducted to make the process more precise and faster. We had planned to release the action plan in February 2020 during Nepal Owl Festival 2020 however we were not quite ready at that point. After that there was COVID 19 issue which delayed the project at the end.

The release of the action plan was completed during the COVID 19 pandemic period with limited numbers of policy makers and stakeholders attending the programme. The programme was conducted in the presence of honourable Minister of Forest and Environment and Secretary of the same ministry.

Due to COVID 19, the sharing workshop was not possible, so information was shared in two online national/international workshops conducted by European Wilderness Society and Himalayan Nature.

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

Outcome 1: Owl Conservation Action Plan (OCAP)

OCAP is an effort to conserve species which are heavily persecuted in the country. An application was submitted to Department of National Park and Wildlife Conservation (DNPWC) for preparing OCAP in April 2018 which was approved in October 2018. A term of reference which included the process of the action plan preparation was finalised in May 2019. An initial meeting on the working modality for the action plan was conducted on 29 May 2019 at DNPWC. The draft was publicly shared on 15 September 2019 during a national workshop for OCAP at Kathmandu attended by representatives from the Department of Forests and Soil Conservation (DFSC), DNPWC, other conservation partners and individual experts. Following this a series of field consultations and discussions were held at Khotang in Province 1, Pokhara and Nawalparasi in Province 4. The comments and suggestions from the workshop were incorporated prior to sending the document for review. The review and subsequent finalisation process lasted until 25 December 2019. A review of the final draft and finalisation by the core team was completed on 15 March 2020. OCAP was endorsed by the Government on 13 July 2020. The document was sent for final designing before going to press. The final copy from the press was thoroughly checked for errors by the core team prior to final print. It was officially released on 29 July 2020. It was uploaded in the webpage of Government of Nepal and FON Nepal.

This action plan will guide for further research and conservation in the country. 500 copies were printed, and 350 copies were handed over to the Government of Nepal.

Outcome 2: National Owl Conservation Sharing Workshop targeting for National Owl Conservation Action Plan and other owl conservation issues

Sharing/discussion workshops (formal and informal) were conducted during the process of preparation and after the release of action plan. A series of meetings at Department of National Park and Wildlife Conservation were conducted with core technical team and other experts.

The comments were collected from Pokhara, Khotang and Nawalparasi for owl action plan. The components of action plan were shared with the various stakeholders in an online workshop organised by The Himalayan Nature and European Wilderness Society. Due to COVID 19, information was shared on the Facebook page of FON Nepal.

Outcome 3: Production and distribution of conservation materials

Postcards were published in three styles with owl pictures. Altogether, 300 were printed. They were distributed freely during various owl related workshops. They were also displayed during the 'Nepal Owl Festival 2019 and 2020' and were on sale too, though little funds were raised during the festival site. The remaining postcards will be distributed and sold in the future as well.

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

Local stakeholders were involved while preparing action plan, however it was mostly limited to providing information on the distribution of owl species and status in their respective areas. Most of the involvement for this task was of experts. Due to this reason, local people's involvement seems less in every aspect. However, as more owl conservation initiatives will be carried out in the future, local people will be an important stakeholder in these initiatives and will definitely benefit in future.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Preparing the action plan by involving government is major achievement, but this is just a beginning. Now all the research and conservation related activities must be initiated by various stakeholders. We will continue our efforts to achieve the objectives of the action plan provided we are able to secure the required funds from Rufford Foundation and other relevant agencies.

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

All the hard copies of action plan were provided to Department of National Park and Wildlife Conservation. They will distribute it to entire nation with relevant line agencies i.e. protected area offices and division forest offices. FON Nepal is planning to share and discuss with province and local government for its proper implementation for owl research and conservation at provincial and local level. We will also distribute the hard copies of the document to various relevant NGOs, CBOs, universities and academic institution's libraries. Government of Nepal and FON Nepal also uploaded the digital version of action plan which is available for everyone to download.

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

Date		Gant use
28 March 2018-February 2019	Initial approval	Workshop done; conservation materials produced
Extension of project approved twice from Rufford till August, 2020	Extension granted	Action plan endorsed prepared, printed and released
This project was not completed in time due to going through the government approval process.		

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	Rufford Actual Amount	Actual Amount	Difference	Comments
1. Conservation material					
1.1 Designing			50		
1.2 Printing			100		
1.3 Distribution			150		
	1300	300	300		
2. Workshop					
2.1 Local workshop (three)			1948		Local workshop was not planned, however government said it must be included the locals view in action plan
2.1.1 Khotang Workshop	702				
2.1.2 Pokhara Workshop	639				
2.1.3 Nawalparasi Workshop	607				
2.2 Workshop with technical team			663		Food and other support
2.2.1 1st Workshop with Technical Team (Government)	127				
2.2.2 2nd Workshop with Technical Team	268				
2.2.3 3rd Workshop with Technical Team	268				
2.3 National workshop					Organized by the government
	750	750	2611	+1861	
3. Owl Conservation Action Plan					
3.1 Drafting cost		2000	2323		Stay in separate location. This cost covers the accommodation and food cost

3.1.1 Two Experts for 50 days@24.13/day	2323	1750			
3.2 Internal review @ two experts * 160		1600	320		
3.3 Government review 6 person * 160			960		
3.4 Designing		1800	400		
3.5 Printing		1800	1010		
3.6 Endorsement and release					
3.7 Maps (23 maps @60)			1380		
	10,950	8950	6483	-2467	
Total	13000	10000	9304	-696	Total fund from Rufford was 10000 and a total of 9304 was spend. Thus, remaining amount of 696 is with us. Our contribution was not necessary as we planned before. We'll be happy to send the remaining amount back to Rufford Foundation if you can let us know how to do it.

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

1. Implementation of action plan.
2. Institutionalisation of action plan in local/regional and national policy.
3. Research must be given high priority and conservation at border area must be done.
4. Transboundary meeting and discussion is necessary.
5. Research and conservation activities that reduce the hunting and trade of owls must be strictly carried out.

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?

Logo of the Rufford Foundation was used in the conservation materials. The support from Rufford is acknowledged by the Government of Nepal (forward letter in action plan) and their logo has also been used in the action plan. Facebook page of FON Nepal has also clearly mentioned the financial support of Rufford foundation for the action plan. Their support is also mentioned in the workshop too.

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

Raju Acharya: Conduct workshop, information compiled, drafting the action plan, coordinate with government and discussed with technical team of Department of National Park and Wildlife Conservation.

Som GC: Assistant in the workshop, look the technical part of the action plan

Yadav Ghimirey: Conduct workshop, information compiled, drafting the action plan, coordinate with government and discussed with technical team of Department of National Park and Wildlife Conservation, help in designing, and coordinate for printing

Bishal Gautam: Designing of action plan

Suman Sapkota: Prepared all images (maps) of the action plan

Review team: This team was formulated by the government of Nepal. The experts did review and provided their comments

Technical team: This team was also formulated by the government of Nepal. This was totally responsible for the preparation, finalization, endorsement and releasing process

12. Any other comments?

Generating fund for owl research and conservation is not easy in Nepal. Thank you Rufford for funding to date.



Local workshop at Pokhara



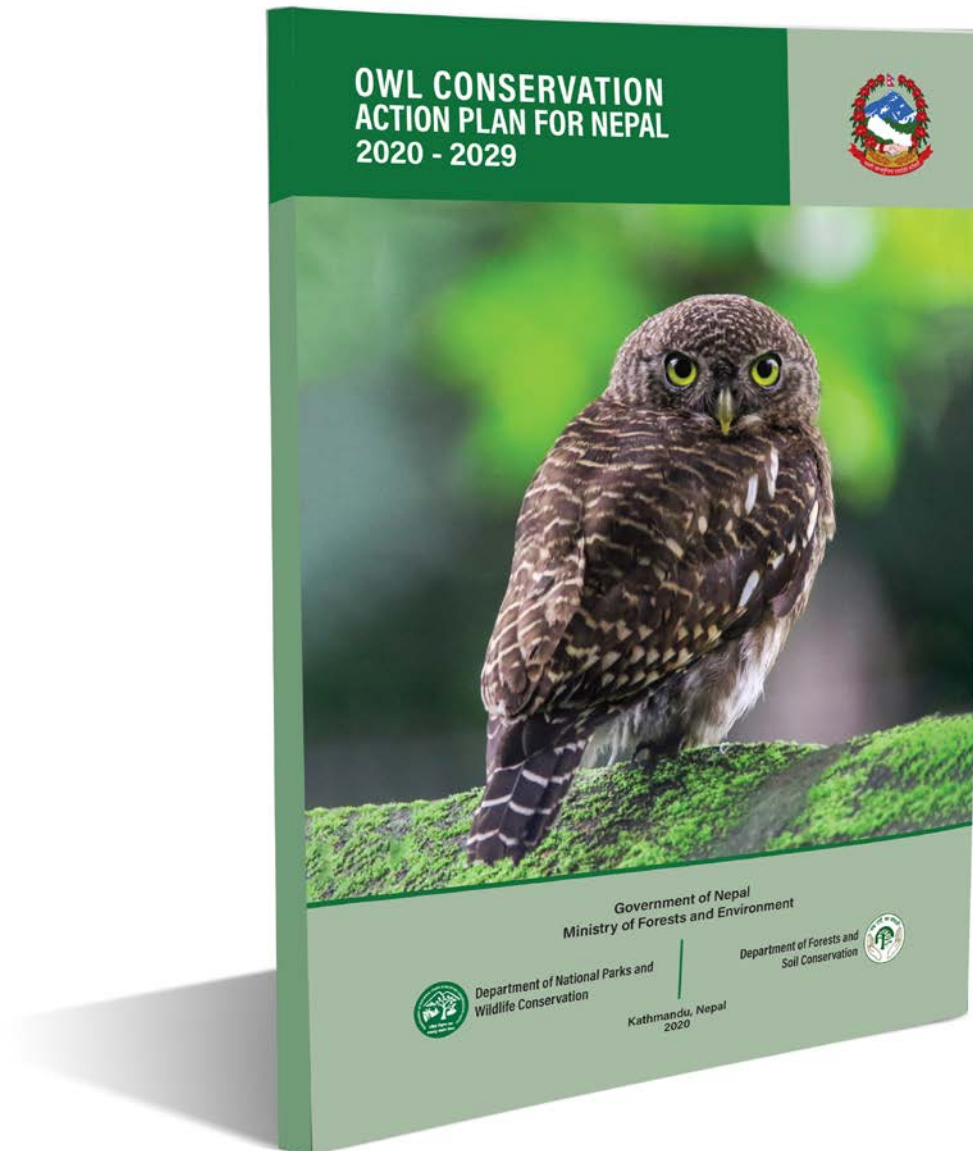
Barn Owl
गोठे लाटोकोसेरो

Place
stamp
here

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Release of owl conservation action plan by Secretary of Ministry of Forest and Environment



Owl Conservation Action Plan