

Final Project Evaluation Report

Your Details	
Full Name	Sujata Karki
Project Title	Big Cats (Common/Clouded/Snow Leopard, and Tiger) Conservation in Nepal: Role of Media to Combat Crime and Conflict of Carnivores
Application ID	25641-1
Grant Amount	£4700
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Date of this Report	8 th July, 2019

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
To create awareness and educate the general public for big cat's conservation, conflict management and law enforcement system				News Publication: More than 30 big cat-related news items were published in online news media - over half a million people read the news.
To engage and encourage local communities, youths and frontline staff, builds their capacity to big cats conservation				Interaction programmes was organised with media colleagues, representative of local communities, frontline staff and policy makers for big cat conservation hardship (focusing conflict and crime) and possible ways forward to overcome those hardship.
To support policy maker in natural resource management and policy formulation process				Regular discussion and interaction was carried out with policy maker of department and ministry official aiming to support policy revision process.

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

This project was implemented at eight big cat-bearing protected areas. However, those protected areas are located in remote areas from lowland to high mountains and it was really difficult to collect first-hand information. However, I coordinated with protected area staff and collected all big cat-related information on periodic basis. Regular coordination and publication of the news motivates the protected area staff to provide first-hand information to me.

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

- i) Enhanced awareness and education of local communities to big cat conservation, their conflict management and law enforcement system.
- ii) This study support to capacity building of local staff and local communities, and handling the human-wildlife conflicts.
- iii) The studies supported to policy-makers in policy reform process particularly human and wildlife conflicts and wildlife law enforcement system.

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

The project activities enhanced the capacity of local communities for biodiversity conservation. They received training and also actively participated in the workshop. The awareness and education level to tackle the human-wildlife conflicts and law enforcement was greatly enhanced. The involvement of youth was observed which was crucial to increase the participation of local communities. In fact, the knowledge of local communities was enhanced about the big cat's conservation. Big cat conservation activities was implemented in various protected areas. In addition, each project activities supports the local communities to save lives from wild animals, not to involve in poaching activities and support government in biodiversity conservation activities.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes, big cats bearing protected areas are located from lowland to high mountains. The conflicts between human and big cats are constantly increasing due to habitat loss and other reasons. I am planning to continue this work particularly aiming underlying causes of big cats habit loss and its impacts to conflicts with human being. My research field is conservation journalism so I would like to contribute big cat conservation through writing many hidden stories by visiting different hotspot of big cats particularly human wildlife conflict and crime. Further this type of study is also essential as big cats are suffering from adverse effects of climate change in developing countries like Nepal.

If we want to see the existence of endangered species in one side and co-existence between human beings and nature, further research is essential on perspectives of wildlife victims and their grievances. It is indispensable to understand for a long term co-existence suppose how a father feels if his kids is killed by a tiger or vice versa.

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

I already share some of the results through online news portal namely <http://naturekhabar.com/ne/> and social media face book: Sujata Karki. I am planning to share the results through a number of means. The easier way is online publication where maximum visitors can read and understand the big cats and their conservation importance. Further I would like to share the results of study through writing news articles, peer review, journal articles, and presentation in conference on wildlife conservation and giving presentation for university students and interaction with policy makers. In addition, I will share the results by giving interviews and interaction through social media, radios and television.

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

The project was implemented as stipulated in the proposal. However, some of the big cat-bearing protected areas are located in remote areas and it was really difficult to visit due to territory geography climatic condition. I coordinated field staff

to collect the first-hand information from the ground considering the time constraints. I found one year time shorter to carry out four types of big cats at eight protected areas focusing on two major issues namely conflicts and crime.

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
Desk Study and information collection	100	100		
Principal investigator field visit	1200	1200		
Assistant investigator field visit	1200	1200		
Interaction with National Park staff	100	100		
Interaction with local communities	200	200		
Interaction with media people	200	100	-100	
National workshop and policy makers	300	200	-100	
Transportation and communication	100	100		
GIS Consultant Fee	200	200		
Poster publication and distribution	200	200		
FM Radio talk program	200	200		
TV talk program	300	200	-100	
Training cum workshop with wildlife victim		300	+300	
Presentation at international conference	200	200		
Miscellaneous	200	200		
Total	4700	4700		

Note: When I visited to the field, I observed a serious situation of wildlife victims. Some people had lost their family member while other were either injured or lost their crops. I also observed health and food security problem as well. Therefore, I decided to organize a separate training-cum workshop gathering to the wildlife victims' families and their members. The program was really effective to keep calm and retain their active participation to biodiversity conservation.

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

After completion of this project what I feel that people victimised from wildlife particularly big cats are in tremendous stress and pressure. I observed that they need both physical and financial support. I didn't see any support neither from government side nor from other conservation organisations. Victims are not getting any psychological support from either side.

In addition, I observed a big gap between local expectations and government support mechanism. From the perspective of government, local people are not being proactive in conservation while people think that wildlife is government property.

I would like to take next step to fulfil this gap through innovative research. I will give my full effort to big cats conservation from the perspective of local community hardship and their difficulties as they are suffered from conflict and crime particularly focusing on feelings of wildlife victims after the loss of their family member.

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?

Yea, I have use the Rufford Foundation logo in PowerPoint presentation and poster while organizing outreach program.

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

Ms. Sapana Thapa: Collection of data from lowland protected area.

Ms. Abisha Baskota: Involved in collection of data from highland.

Mr. Sagar Bhomjam: Updating news, collection of big cat's story and analysis of News. He also helps in event photography.

Ms. Manuka Kunwar: Involved in Radio program production and dissemination.

12. Any other comments?

I am very much thankful to Rufford Foundation for giving me life change experience to go deeper in the field of my interest. This project helps me to go deeper in big cat's conservation and enhance my confident.



Tiger Habitat in Bardia National Park



Common Leopard in Surya Binayak Area



Clouded Leopard in Kathmandu Valley nearby Shivapuri National Park



Snow Leopard Habitat in Annapurna range



Livestock –wildlife



Media briefing