

Final Project Evaluation Report

Your Details	
Full Name	Jamuna Prajapati
Project Title	Empowering local communities for snow leopard conservation in lower Mustang, Annapurna Conservation Area
Application ID	26034-1
Grant Amount	£4,970
Email Address	prajapatijamuna51@gmail.com
Date of this Report	29.06.2019

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
Snow Leopard Scouts Programme (To train local school students and herders in camera traps set up and monitoring)				The school students were very interested to participate and learn in camera trapping training but local herders were less interested. This might be due to their busy herding schedule and also due to their age factor.
International Snow Leopard Day (To aware local people about snow leopard and its prey species)				
Herders' Workshop & Improved Coral Training Program (To train local herders for replacing and or improved the traditional unsafe corals)				

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

Not applicable.

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

Outcome 1: Community outreach, education and publicity of snow leopard and its vital role in mountain ecosystem

To increase the awareness about snow leopard and its importance in the ecosystem, I conducted series of community outreach programmes such as International Snow Leopard Day, Snow Leopard Radio Programmes and workshops and meetings with local herders. During these events, I also distributed conservation posters, t-shirts, caps to deliver the snow leopard conservation messages among local people. School students, teachers, local people, Nepal Army, Nepal Police, Annapurna Conservation Area Project staffs, and local government representatives were actively participated in all these events.



Left: Local school students participating in the street rally during International Snow Leopard Day in Jomsom, Mustang. Right: Camera Trapping Training to School students and teachers

Outcome II: Preparation of trained local students in monitoring of snow leopard, its prey-base and overall biodiversity

Local school students were trained in camera traps handling and monitoring. They were also trained for the identification and the monitoring of snow leopard signs such as pugmarks, scraps, scent marks etc. These trained students will support and engage in the snow leopard and overall biodiversity monitoring of their own area in the future.

Outcome III Encouraged and trained local herders for predator-proof corals

Herders from lower Mustang area were visited and trained for improving their traditional unsafe corrals. They were also trained how to install and use predator deterrent fox-light in their herding camp. They promised to replace their traditional corals with the predator proof corals and to install fox-light when available from donors in the future.



Fig 3: Herders' Training and Conservation Workshop in Lower Mustang, Annapurna Conservation Area.

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

My project was absolutely related with the local people participation. Local students, teachers, Nepal Army, Nepal Police, local herders all were actively involved and participated in my project activities. The project activities enriched their knowledge on snow leopard and its vital role in balancing mountain ecosystem and promoting eco-tourism. The local students got trained in monitoring snow leopard and other wildlife in their own local area. The herders got trained on how to make safe corals and save their livestock from snow leopard, wolves and other predators.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

I want to work continuously to minimise and mitigate human-snow leopard conflict in Annapurna Conservation Area and in other snow leopard range districts of Nepal.

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

Since my project is absolutely educational and not research, it is very difficult to publish in the peer-reviewed scientific journals. However, I will try to publish in the local newsletter and also share my reports to the relevant stakeholders.

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

The grant was used from October 2018 to May 2019. This is approximately similar to the anticipated length of the project.

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
Travel for PI	400	480	+80	The difference was paid by my organization.
Radio program production and airing	900	900		
Subsistence allowances for a field assistant	1,200	1,200		
Food and accommodation for PI	1,050	1,050		

Food for herders for field training	500	500		
Food for snow leopard scouts for field training	500	500		
Snow leopard caps for scouts and herders	120	120		
Stationeries, communication and reporting	300	300		
Totals	4,970	5,050	+80	The local exchange rate used: £1 = Rs.144.06

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

From my experiences in the project site and suggestions from my mentors and seniors, we should continue the education programmes, continue to train local students in camera trapping and more importantly it is urgently needed to support local herders for predator-friendly deterrent devices such as fox-light and encourage and support them for replacing traditional corals with the safe and predator proof corals.

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 all education materials (posters, notebooks, t-shirts, caps, jackets) and program banners and I have sent these publicities to the Foundation already and also have attached some relevant photographs with this report.

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

Jamuna Prajapati: Principal Investigator

I am principal investigator of the project and responsible for the implementation, overall management and the reporting of the project.

Dhanu Gurung: Ranger/Annapurna Conservation Area, Jomsom

Dhanu is a ranger of the Annapurna Conservation Area Project (ACAP) run by National Trust for Nature Conservation (NTNC). She helped to facilitate the project with ACAP, permission for project activities and provided the required information.

Niraj Thakali: Founder/President, Modification Jomsom

Niraj is the founder and director of the local NGO of the project site. He helped in coordinating all the community outreach activities, invited people for rally, education programme and coordinated with Nepal Police, Nepal Army, local schools and local government authorities to implement the project successfully.

Besides these core team members of the project, there were number of school teachers and local government officers including Nepal Army and Nepal Police who actively participated and supported me for the successful implementation of the project in such a remote mountain in snow leopard habitat.



Fig 4: Project team members during the International Snow Leopard Day celebration in Jomsom, Mustang

12. Any other comments?

Thank you Rufford Foundation and the Snow Leopard Conservancy for the financial support for this project! I am also thankful to Global Primate Network Nepal (now integrated into Third Pole Conservancy) for all technical support, field equipment (camera traps, binoculars, GPS, compass, spotting scope) and my supervisors Ganga Ram Regmi, Dr Rodney Jackson and Professor Dr Falk Huettmann for reviewing my application and mentoring for the successful completion of this project.