

Final Evaluation Report

Your Details	
Full Name	Badri Baral
Project Title	Red Panda Action Plan for Jajarkot: A Bottom-Up Approach for Conservation of Endangered Species outside Protected Area
Application ID	27961-2
Grant Amount	5000
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Date of this Report	03/26/2021

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 document its status, distribution and conservation threats in Nalagad Municipality.				Red panda occupancy has been confirmed from Nalagad for the first time.
To produce Information Education and Communication (IEC) materials (1000 pieces of poster, 1000 pieces of story book, 15 pieces of red panda information flex)				Posters and story books were distributed to school students, local people and conservation stakeholders. Colourful posters were printed and distributed wherever necessary. This could be done in the future even when the funding is not granted
To conduct four events of school based red panda conservation awareness and sensitization				Distribution of IEC materials was done in a total of six (150%) and a total of five (125%) school based red panda conservation awareness and sensitisation camps were conducted based on demand by local community.
To conduct six events of community based red panda conservation awareness and sensitization				A total of six events of community based red panda conservation awareness and sensitisation was done before drafting local red panda conservation action plan.
To conduct four events of participatory local red panda conservation action including series of focus group discussions and consultations in the red panda habitats with planners, herders and other stakeholders.				Successful events of participatory local red panda conservation action including series of focus group discussions and consultations were conducted.
To conduct one-day local red panda conservation draft sharing event in each Local government unit				1-day local red panda conservation draft sharing event in each Local government unit were conducted and commitment was ensured for its endorsement.

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

Following a decision, dated March 18, 2020, of the High-level Coordination Committee on Prevention of Infection and Control of COVID-19, formed by the Government of Nepal (GoN) for the prevention of contagion by COVID-19, which has spread globally, educational institutions and training centres of all types all over the country were closed. With the aim of facilitating the educational activities of the schools closed due to COVID-19, through a decision of the GoN, Council of Ministers (CoM), dated July 27, 2020, the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology (MoEST) was assigned the responsibility of issuing a framework of school reopening. As the MoEST, through a decision of the GoN, Council of Ministers (CoM) dated October 8, 2020, has received an approval to resume teaching in schools by adopting a suitable modality, including turn-by-turn shifts, at those local levels where the risk of COVID-19 does not exist or is diminishing to facilitate and streamline teaching-learning and examination and assessment activities in educational institutions. Hence School outreach activities didn't happen as expected on time.

Nepal plunged into yet another political crisis on 20 December 2020 after the Prime Minister dissolved the 275-member House of Representatives — the lower house of the country's Parliament. The move comes in the wake of an ongoing power tussle in the ruling Nepal Communist Party (NPC). Following the parliament's dissolution, two factions of the NCP have informally split and have described themselves as the legitimate faction. In this scenario, local government and parties thereby were in political exercises. Hence, the participation of these key stakeholders on drafting and draft sharing on local red panda conservation action plan. Later on, participation of these local governments, key implementing stakeholders, was ensured and a unified voice and mutual understanding on implementing local red panda conservation action were committed. Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Berekot Rural Municipality, Kuse Rural Municipality and Nalagad Municipality took more time than expected. Amid Covid-19, permission process for the conduction of research from central Authorities like Department of Forests and Social Welfare Council took more time than expected.

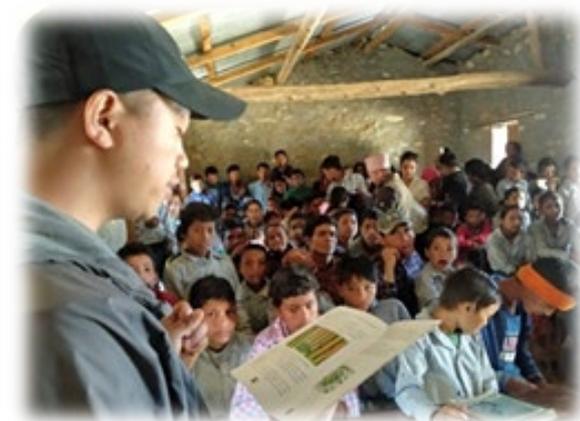
Likewise, due to adverse weather conditions in March 2020, the field expedition to study distribution of red panda in Nalagad Municipality could not be done on time. First field activities were conducted in October 2020 immediately after Nepal ended COVID-19 lockdown.

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

Status of red panda from Nalagad Municipality was documented.

Community and school-based outreach activities were conducted in more than four schools. A story book on red panda conservation has been published in Nepali and English so that it will have both local and international impact especially in range countries.

Some glimpses of school outreach activities:





Some glimpse of Community consultation, outreach activities and stakeholders' meetings:







The local Red Panda Conservation Action Plan has been prepared and unified voice of red panda conservation and local red panda conservation action plan implementation were committed from three different local governments; Namely Nalagad Municipality, Barekot Rural Municipality and Kuse Rural Municipality. This local level red panda conservation action plan has been envisioned as a bottom-up approach to achieve goal of second national red panda conservation action plan. This plan not only supports ongoing community-based red panda conservation activities but also promises to yield a high conservation effect in the region.

4. What do you consider to be the most significant achievement of this work?

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

Local elected members, political parties, hoteliers, herders, NTFPs collectors and senior citizens all took part in knowledge sharing. The participatory planning process was extremely effective in tapping into the unique perspectives of the rural poor, helping to unlock their ideas not only on the nature and causes of the red panda conservation issues that affect them, but also on realistic solutions. Local level participatory consultation, FGD and workshops helped disenfranchised groups like herders and herb collectors to put forward their pragmatic ideas and consent for red panda conservation planning with better understanding of the realities of the community. Participatory planning involved important players from the outset and has ability to teach skills which last far beyond the planning process and can help to improve the community on the long term. People learnt to run meetings, analyse data, construct strategic plans - in short, to become community resources and leaders for red panda conservation. It brought together and established ties among community members who might normally have no contact with red panda conservation issues in their communities. Such relationships could break down barriers in the community. With its underpinnings of collaboration, inclusiveness, and empowerment, a participatory approach embodies the ideals that form the foundations of most grass roots and community-based red panda conservation initiations by local government and conservation institutions.

An episode of role of youth in red panda conservation radio programs was aired from via Local Community Radio Khalanga FM 107.6MHz dated on March 2, 2021. This programme highlighted the programme too.

Field assistants were paid as per proposed rate based on their performance. These project expenditures in their local communities were illustrated as an income for them due to presence of red panda in their forests.

6. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes, there are few plans to continue this work. Yes, there is planning to conduct conservation efforts in multidisciplinary approach incorporating scientific research on red panda, community engagement, and conservation education for its conservation to meet five objectives set in local red panda conservation action plan 2021-2025 as mentioned herewith.

- Enhance understanding and knowledge on conservation status, ecology and habitat dynamics of red panda in Jajarkot.
- Curb poaching and illicit trade of red panda.
- Protect and manage the red panda habitats in Jajarkot.
- Strengthen and extend community based red panda conservation initiative.
- Strengthen cooperation and coordination on red panda conservation at national, provincial and local level.

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

The results of my work have been shared to local stakeholders through local media like local FM, local newspaper to those who are not well familiar with scientific journal. I have planned to get this research published in scientific journal.

We have planned different material output for different audiences like scientific communities, policy makers, and general audiences. We planned to provide a final report to Rufford Foundation and Pittsburgh Zoo and PPN Aquarium, local, national, governmental and non-governmental organisations, scientific research groups, conservation institutions, educational institutions, and development practitioners as basis for their future plans accordingly. Likewise, we plan to submit at least one manuscript to peer review journal publications such as Diversity and Distributions, Journal of Biogeography, Biological Conservation. Likewise, talks and seminars in different national and international conferences have been planned which will bridge the ideas and discuss them with members of scientific communities, government officials, policy makers and local communities. Similarly, we plan to communicate project findings through reports, policy briefs and a social media campaign (via Facebook, Twitter and Blog). Regular project updates and reports had been presented in community meeting. IEC materials like posters, and story book have been developed and distributed.

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

How does this compare to the anticipated or actual length of the project?

Due to adverse weather condition in the high hills, Covid-19, and political crisis influencing local government after Parliament dissolution there was delay executing the Rufford Foundation grant within the time frame. However, activities proposed were fully achieved.

Almost 95% was used within project field duration and rest was used during data entry, interpretation and report preparation time. A part of budget was spent for outreach material design, production and material purchase and the rest of the project budget was used after the termination of lockdown in the country within 8 months.

9. 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
Consultation, workshop events	430	1000	+570	Logistic Support from Rural Municipalities
Data Collection and supplies and equipment	300	800	+500	Logistic Support from Rural Municipalities and NERI reduces the cost
Communication	130	180	+50	In-kind in the form of internet from NERI reduces the cost
Medical Supplies	380	500	+120	Habitat survey was conducted with limited contact with community people during first field and the region was not hit high by Covid-19, So, medical cost remained constant
IEC Materials Production	870	1440	+570	Including posters, Story Book was developed for wider reach in red panda range countries and localities, hence cost increases.
Graphic design	120	410	+290	Since Story book has been developed, the cost of

				graphics design increases.
Field gears	530	620	+90	Priority was given for local brand so as to promote local product and adjust price
Food	1380	4090	+2710	Price has been proposed for 3 persons (2 team members & 1 local assistant) however, number of field assistant reach up to 3 for few days in course of habitat survey)
Stationary	360	480	+120	
Travel Cost	500	1080	+580	Due to Pandemic, government protocol of maintain safe environment in public vehicles increase price
Total	5000	10330	+5330	
Amount received from Pittsburgh and PPN Aquarium			1430	
In-kind support used from NCI-Nepal			1000	
In-kind support used from NERI			1000	
In-kind support used from Local municipalities			2400	

Including all the in-kind support and financial support, the project worth reached £10830 of which £10330 were spent which exceed proposed budget of £10510 by £500 which is Internal budget so remaining budget will be used in other red panda related conservation. Budget head has been transferred from one heading to another, but work has been completed within proposed budget; however financial support from Pittsburgh Zoo and PPN aquarium in the meantime and logistic support from Mountain Partnership, NERI and Rural Municipalities are highly appreciated.

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

The project once again identified collaborative community participation is one promising foundation strategy to capitalise on the unique knowledge of local residents, leverage the power of local networks and collective sense of ownership and a progression to attract new collaborations for scientific research and funding for red panda Conservation as a flagship species in Jajarkot.

This project idea feels multidisciplinary approach incorporating scientific research on red panda, community engagement, and conservation education for its conservation to meet five objectives set in local red panda conservation action plan 2021-2025 as mentioned herewith.

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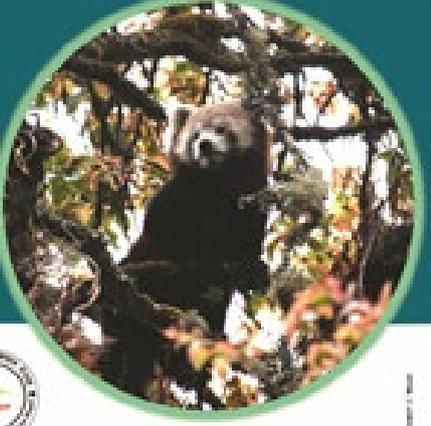
The way forward to conduct activities proposed in local red panda conservation action plan 2021-2025 for Jajarkot has been felt the important next step.

11. 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?

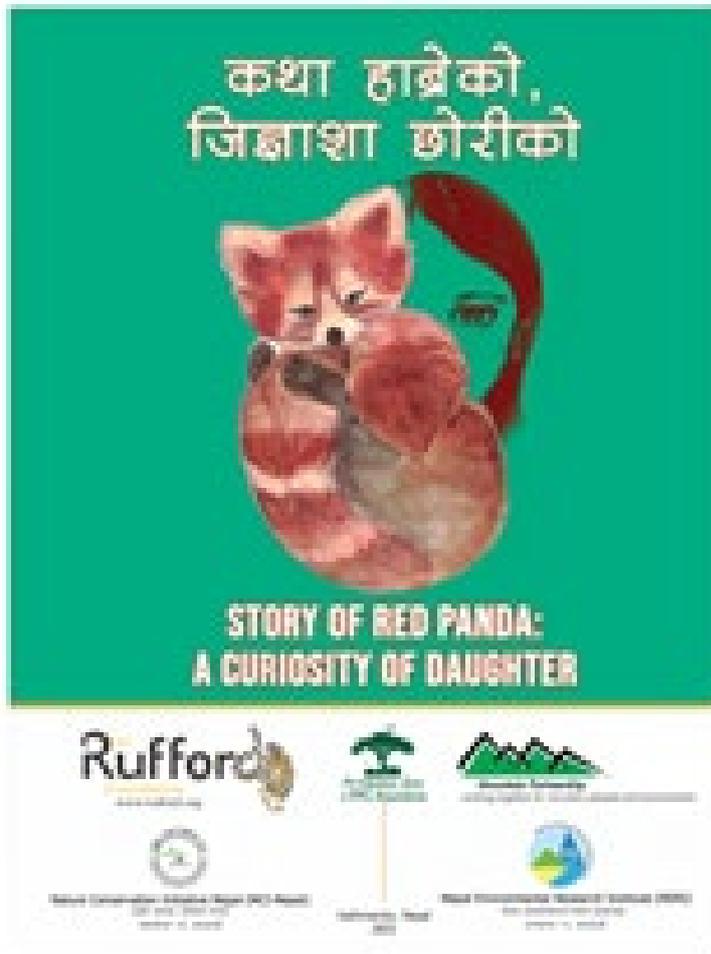
Yes, the Rufford Foundation logo in all the materials produced in relation to this project has been used. Yes, RF receive publicity during the course of work. The contribution of RF was acknowledged during our news covered in local newspaper and local FM station. The logo was also displayed during the red panda conservation workshop presentation, and in banners prepared for community and school based red panda conservation camps. The foundation's name and activities were also posted in our organisation's Facebook group/page (<https://www.facebook.com/NCINepal>) and website (<https://www.ncinepal.org.np/>) as funding agencies

**रेडपाण्डाको वासस्थानको संरक्षण गरौं ।
वन्यजन्तुको शिकार गर्नु सामाजिक र कानुनी रूपमा दण्डनीय अपराध हो ।**

नेपालमा राष्ट्रिय निकुञ्ज तथा वन्यजन्तु संरक्षण ऐन-२०२९, ले हाब्रेलाई संरक्षित वन्यजन्तुको सूचिमा सूचिकृत गरी विशेष संरक्षण प्रदान गरेको छ । नेपाल सरकारको संकटापन्न वन्यजन्तु तथा वनस्पतिको अन्तर्राष्ट्रिय व्यापारलाई नियमन तथा नियन्त्रण गर्न बनेको ऐन, २०७३ ले नेपालमा हाब्रे मार्ने, छाड्ने बनाउने, खरिद गर्ने, छाप्पा बिक्री वितरण गर्ने, नियन्त्रणमा राख्ने वा हस्तान्तरण गरी लिने यिनै व्यक्तिलाई ५ देखि १५ वर्ष सम्म कैद वा ५ लाख देखि १० लाख रुपैया सम्म जरिवाना वा दुवै सजाय कानुनी प्रावधान छ ।




Red panda Conservation poster and Cover photo of red panda conservation Story book entitled "Story of Red Panda: A Curiosity of Daughter"



Use of Rufford Foundation Logo in all presentation.

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

13. Any other comments?