

**The Rufford Small Grants Foundation
Final Report**

Congratulations on the completion of your project that was supported by The Rufford Small Grants 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	Keshav Puri
Project title	Sunkoshi River Nature Park Development for Wetland Education and Environment Information in Sunkoshi River Corridor of Okhaldhunga, Nepal
RSG reference	34.08.09
Reporting period	April 2010- July 2011
Amount of grant	£5950
Your email address	keshav.naturalist@gmail.com
Date of this report	15 June 2011

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
Demarcation and establishment to Sunkoshi River Nature Park			✓	It is successfully achieved since there was established a Sunkoshi River Nature Park occupying about 3500m ² of Sunkoshi River coast. The land was provided by the government in lease for 10 years to this group to establish this nature park. It was made a stone wall around the park and planted several species of trees and flowers in the park.
Managing the visitor information centre		✓		It is established small information centre along with information of wildlife creatures, wetland creatures, plant species, etc. There is employed a park staff who gets the salary through the visitors fee. Because of the remote area, we are unable to establish a projected centre. Our estimated cost was also insufficient to promote the information centre. But we are still searching fund to achieve this objectives fully.
Placement of boards, signs, painting, placement of statue and dust bins		✓		A named with Sunkoshi River Nature Park (SRNP) banner of flex print is placed in front of park area. Likewise, several signals of park information, way, species information in both Nepali and English language is written in different places of park. Bamboo made baskets are placed for the dustbin purpose there which are very useful for solid waste pollution (plastics and bottles) thrown by the visitors. Similarly, several pictures of wetland creatures were painted in the several sport of nature park. But we are unable to install of statue of wild animals and water creatures because of price hick to purchase them.
Plantation Programme and weeding			✓	The group of the Nature Conservation Nepal organised a plantation programme at Sunkoshi River Nature Park two times on the occasion of Biodiversity Day 2010 and in memory of 24 conservationists

				who lost their life in the helicopter crash in Dhunsa, Nepal, 2006. There have been planted around 1300 plants of several species. Now around 900 plants are alive.
Plant Tagging			✓	All the plants of the SRNP were tagged with Nepali and scientific names that help to identify the species for the general visitors.
Resting place for visitors		✓		Three was constructed 10 wooden resting armed chairs for the visitors rest. Likewise the floor was patched stone and planted <i>Cynodon dactylon</i> . Because of the high cost of the cement, we were unable to make cemented resting roof.
Sample “Wetland Conservation” Pond Management		✓		It was established a water pond in the entry point of the park. Because of the hot climate we are unable to keep water creatures in the pond. Hardly a few species of fishes are alive there.
Environmental Education		✓		It was conducted training for school children in several schools by mobilizing subject teachers. It helps to promote the nature conservation education to the stakeholders through the children. Likewise, on the occasion of environment day of 2010 and 2011, we celebrated environment day by mobilizing school children, farmers, teachers and other stakeholders.

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

Yes, there arose some unforeseen difficulties during the project. But our team members really tried to resolve the difficulties. There were three unforeseen difficulties encountered us as below:

- a. River created disturbance in rainy season: The Sunkoshi River rose in the rainy season by the summer rain. Because of the flood and high level of water in the river, the wooden boat was stopped. Regarding this situation we were unable to cross the river for the project location. Thus, we won't implement the activities during 4 months in the summer season. This unexpected difficulty made two unexpected results: a. project took 17 months long duration when we projected for 12 months only; and b. The plantation activity was partially fulfilled because we were not able to do plantation when it needs to be done in the raining season.
- b. Political Influences: There is no local government in Nepal since 2002 to date. It was happened since the political instability in Nepal. Regarding the vacant of local government, all political parties try to show their power in the development field. Similarly, the local

leaders of the political parties influenced us for the project credibility here also. This created difficult situation to implement the project. But we luckily succeed to tackle the problem.

- c. Price hike of the cement: We were unable to make the cemented resting roof in the park because the price of cement hiked as double as before.

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

Within short period, it is hard to find measurable outcomes when visible outputs make us satisfy.

In the ending of the project, our team collected feedback from local stakeholders to find out the project performance and effectiveness. On the basis of these feedbacks, following outcomes were considered as the three most important outcomes.

- **River Park Development:** This is first historical starting here. No one thought to develop such wonderful park before we develop it. Although the park is not fully managed, it is new starting. Definitely, positive campaign motivates people to follow up such modality of environment conservation.
- It is successfully achieved since there was established a Sunkoshi River Nature Park occupying about 3500 m² area of Sunkoshi River coast. The land was provided by the government in lease for 10 years to this group to establish this nature park. It was made a stone wall around the park and planted several species of trees and flowers in the park.
- **Visitor information centre:** We have managed a visitor information centre in the Sunkosh River Nature Park as a part of the project. It is established small information centre along with information of wildlife creatures, wetland creatures, plant species etc. There is employed a park staff who gets the salary through the visitors fee. This helps to local people to understand the importance and necessity of the biodiversity for balance environment. It is first effort of the local people that would be effective for the conservation effort.
- **People highly encourage promoting eco- tourism:** This nature park is a newly innovation in this region. It motivates the people to promote the eco-tourism in the region. Local people fully hopeful to promote domestic and international tourism.

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

The local communities involved intensively. Their appreciative participation fully helps to complete the project. At the same time the public forest users who used to collect grass from that forest did not support us to implement the project positively that's why we are unable to achieve the targeted objectives easily.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes. It needs to continue the project. It is possible to extend the area of the park and have to complete the incomplete activities. Thus, we have been planning to continue the project by searching fund from several organisations and mobilising local community for the fund raising purpose. In kind support of the local community and donation from several organisations will help to continue the project later. Thus, our team plans to follow and continue the project by searching the different grants from different possible institutions.

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

We encourage college students from different colleges and NGO workers for exposure visit in the park region. It definitely helps to share the outcomes of the project among the people in different region. Likewise, wetland information centre also viable to expand the experiences severally. We also organize several workshops in the park to share information time and again. Our project website, leaflet and publication are also helpful for sharing the outcomes. Recently, we have been planning to organise a press conference in park region to expose the result of the project.

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

April 2010- July 2011. Actually, we had planned to complete the project from April 2010 to March 2011 but because of the unforeseen difficulties hampered the projection time. The Sunkoshi river wave rose in the rainy season by the summer rain. Because of the flood and high level of water in the river, the wooden boat was stopped. Thus we were unable to cross the river for the project location during summer season.

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
Demarcation and establishment to Sunkoshi River Nature Park	1000	1125	-125	
Managing the visitor information centre	700	1000	-300	
Placement of boards, signs, painting, placement of statue and dust bins	800	650	+150	
Plantation programme and weeding	500	490	+10	
Plant tagging	150	125	+25	
Resting place for visitors	1200	1250	-50	
Sample "Wetland Conservation" Pond Management	300	350	-50	
Environmental Education	800	775	+25	
Implementation Support Expenses	500	600	-100	
Total	5,950	6315	-365	(This amount was covered from kind contribution of local community)

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

We feel the following steps need to be done:

- a. We need to reorganise the project to fulfil the incomplete result.
- b. We need to organise follow up programme time and again.
- c. We should raise the fund to manage the park and its sustainability.
- d. We have to continue the lease contract of park land with district forest office.
- e. We should initiate the eco- tourism industry in the region.
- f. We need to manage wetland creatures habitat through environment education

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

Yes

11. Any other comments?

It is very important initiation in the region but incomplete. Lacking of the plenty of budget we could not complete work. So, we have to complete the project by searching several funds. We hope RSGF will also suggest and support in this effort again.