Final Evaluation Report

Your Details	
Full Name	Kabindra Shahi
Project Title	Community-managed insurance scheme and conservation education for snow leopard conservation in Manang, Nepal
Application ID	39545-1
Date of this Report	04.06.24

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
Identify the livestock owners for interviews and educational training			☑	We consulted with the Annapurna Conservation Area Project (ACA)-Manang Unit Office staff and local leaders and snow leopard conservation committee members to identify livestock owners, prepare and facilitate interviews in Khangsar, Braka, Ghayru, Lower pisang, Manang, Upper Pisang, Upper Manang, and Nawal villages and training in Manang village.
Conduct livestock owners' perception of community-managed insurance scheme			☑	We conducted a survey to understand the perception of livestock owners who were currently active in community-managed insurance (CBIS). We found only a few of the households were active currently. Those livestock owners were not satisfied with the existing CBIS. In addition, we also collected their willingness to participate in improved CBIS and their attitude towards snow leopards.
Understand livestock owners' willingness to participate in improved community-managed insurance scheme			☑	We conducted interview surveys of 90 livestock owners using semi-structured questionnaires to assess their willingness to participate in improved CBIS. In addition, we also examined their attitude towards snow leopards. Data is being analysed to understand factors that affect

				willingness to participate using seemingly unrelated regression (SUR).
Conduct herders' workshop and compensation and Insurance training/education for livestock owners				We conducted a training on revised wildlife damage relief guideline for livestock owners (n=22) so that they understand the process better and are equipped to file for compensation for their livestock loss. We also did an educational programme to improve livestock owners' knowledge of CBIS, its importance and its effective operation. In addition, a herders' workshop was conducted for a small group of herders to educate them about snow leopard and its conservation importance. Whenever, a herder was met while traveling during household interviews conservation of snow leopard was communicated during the interaction.

2. Describe the three most important outcomes of your project.

a) Educating livestock owners on revised wildlife damage relief guidelines. They were unaware of the revised wildlife relief (payment amount and process). Therefore, educating about relief and training them to file a receive compensation was paramount.

b) Livestock owners were educated about not only the importance of community-managed insurance scheme and how it operates but also how to make it effective.

c) We gathered information about current scenario/situation of community-managed insurance scheme and assessed its effectiveness. In addition, we tried to identify what variables need to be focused on to implement improved community-managed insurance scheme as some important pre-requisites for more livestock owner participation.

3. Explain any unforeseen difficulties that arose during the project and how these were tackled.

The project was in very remote, isolated villages in high mountain terrain, with some villages only accessible by foot. We also witnessed some difficult to convene livestock owners in one place for education/training because of their business in their work, and people constantly traveling from Manang to lower altitude cities. Our field work slightly overlaps with a seasonal tourist travel time, which made us initially challenging to engage with hotel owners who are also livestock owners. However, we were able to overcome the challenges and undertook all the activities and completed project in time.

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

Local communities – herders and livestock owners primarily benefitted from the project. Herders and livestock owners were the participants for our amended/revised wildlife damage relief guideline and community-managed livestock insurance educational training. In addition, during our household survey, we interviewed livestock owners. All these activities contributed to improved knowledge of snow leopard and its conservation, process for claiming compensation under revised wildlife damage relief guideline and importance and effective operation of community-managed livestock insurance.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

We certainly have plans to continue this work. We want to build on this project. Since for this project, we only considered social aspects of snow leopard, understanding ecological factors for livestock depredation (snow leopard distribution, prey availability, pasture delineation) and combining with the social survey data that we have collected will be useful to generate a combined socio-ecological determinants of livestock depredation and to better assess tolerance level of local communities, which will better inform to ways mitigate the livestock depredation problem effectively. In addition, our observation and preliminary results showed that the community-managed insurance scheme (CBIS) is almost defunct in most places and in places where it is operating it is not effective. However, most of the livestock owners are interested in improved CBIS. Since some groundwork on the CBIS has already been laid, we want to improve the existing CBIS by learning from other protected area of Nepal (Kanchenjunga Conservation Area) that is successful and effective in implementing CBIS and then conducting a comprehensive and

collaborative study of CBIS for its better design and implementation in our current study area (Upper-Manang of Annapurna Conservation Area)

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

We plan to share our project results with Annapurna Conservation Area Project-Manang Unit Conservation Office, Annapurna Conservation Area, and Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation. Our project results will be communicated to national experts and scientific community focused on snow leopards through journal article we are planning to write-up in *Oryx* once we complete our detail data analysis.

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

Since most of the mitigation measures are placed on ad-hoc basis. Therefore, a thorough/comprehensive study on what would be the most effective the mitigation measure or combination of mitigation measures for livestock depredation from snow leopard in this area would be one of most important and essential steps. Furthermore, easy, simple and adequate wildlife damage compensation process along with livestock grazing management would be critical for positive attitude of local communities and mitigating livestock depredation. Finally, better engagement with affected livestock owners through awareness or other conservation programs would also be central for sustained snow leopard conservation.

8. 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, during conservation education training and workshop. Also, we updated about this project on our social media Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn.

9. Provide a full list of all the members of your team and their role in the project.

Kabindra Shahi - He designed the research/project, prepared questionnaires, lead the trained team members on questionnaires, supervised team members on field, ed herders' workshop, and reports and journal article write-up.

Vidhyaman Thapa - He led household interviews, assisted in project planning and implementation, facilitated connecting livestock owners and conservation authority (ACAP-Manang) and helped in workshop and training material development.

Vishal Bhandari – He assisted in household interviews, stakeholder consultation and facilitated workshop and training.

Prakash Adhikari – He, working as a Ranger at ACAP-Manang UCO, helped to build a good rapport with the local communities, facilitated household survey and led educational compensation training.

10. Any other comments?