

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. 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. 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	Ganga Nakarmi
Project title	Ensuring Park and People Co-existence in Nepal
RSG reference	41.07.08
Reporting period	October 2008- September 2009
Amount of grant	£ 6000
Your email address	ganga116@gmail.com
Date of this report	15 th November 2009

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
a. Carry out study to assess feasible compensation mechanism			√	
1. Document and assess the prevalence of wildlife induced human deaths and injuries.			√	Data on human deaths and injuries of 10-year period after the implementation of Buffer Zone Program was documented.
2. Understand causes behind human deaths and injuries.			√	Rhino, bear, tiger were found to cause most of the incidents. Lack of food and proper habitat inside the park, extension of cultivated land and community forest in the buffer zone, ignorance of people were found to be the main reasons for human casualties
3. Assess the existing provisions and practices of relief against such incidences.			√	The park management authorities have been adopting both preventive and curative measures to maintain harmony between park and people. Progressive compensation amount for human deaths and injuries to cover the treatment and funeral expenses is a direct and curative relief being provided to victims and their families. Besides, there are several indirect and preventive measures adopted by the park management authority and the local people. Recently, the Government of Nepal has also allocated some relief amount to such incidences.
4. Recommend feasible and appropriate relief mechanism and necessary interventions to address the problem.		√		The existing one-time monetary relief was not felt sufficient by the community people. Combinations of both preventive and curative measures were identified for sustainable solution.
b. Develop and raise awareness for anti-poaching			√	A poster, reflecting advantages of conservation of wild animals and

				disadvantages of poaching was produced and distributed.
c. To support for biogas plants to those who were deemed victimised in the study area.			√	Support to install 18 numbers of biogas plants were provided to the victims and victims' families.

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

Access in the field and disturbances due to road blockage by strikes of the political parties were the major unforeseen difficulties during the project. Besides, heavy rainfall in the monsoon season and crop harvesting time were other difficulties especially for the timely installation of biogas plants by the selected victims and victims' families. Installation of few biogas plants is still ongoing.

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

1. A concise and comprehensive report on wildlife-induced human casualty in and around Chitwan National Park (CNP), Nepal with quantitative and qualitative data of 10-year period from 1997 to 2007 has been produced.
2. A poster appealing for active participation in conservation of wildlife and control of poaching was produced. The poster reflects message of importance of wild animals for the wellbeing of people on one side and cruelty of poaching of wild animals on the other side so as to raise awareness for conservation of such animals. One thousand copies of the poster were produced and distributed in the project areas and other protected areas.
3. Eighteen numbers of victim and victims' families will be directly benefiting from biogas plants.

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

There was active and satisfactory participation and involvement of local communities in the project activities. The Buffer Zone Development Council (BZMC) and Buffer Zone User Committee (BZUC) are the two major community-based organizations in the study area. These organizations had contributed a lot in communicating with the local people and collecting data on wildlife-induced human casualties. Besides, the Relief Fund for Wildlife Victims (RFWV) and Park Management Authority, CNP had also helped a lot in field visits and other official arrangements needed throughout the project period. The Government of Nepal and the Park management authority/BZUC/BZUC had also helped by sharing cost of biogas plant installation by which six more biogas plants could be installed to the needy victims. Moreover, all the representatives from these institutions including the President of RFWV, Chief Warden of CNP, Colonel from the Security, CNP, and the Chair persons of BZUC and BZUCs (both present and the ex-Chairpersons), Community Forestry had actively participated in the workshops and delivered valuable inputs in the discussions with the on-going practices and the opportunities of support to address such issue in the future. Moreover, the park administration also helped a lot in logistic support during various field visits. Besides, the Biodiversity Conservation Center (BCC), one of the projects of National Trust for Nature Conservation had helped by providing training hall and electronic/multimedia systems for the workshops.

The support has been able to reach many settlements in the buffer zone of Chitwan National Park. Eighteen families were directly benefited by receiving support to install biogas plants which help reduce fuel wood consumption and there by going to forests. The above mentioned organizations would be benefiting by having useful documents for further park management activities. More than 100 community members benefited by knowledge upgrading in wildlife-induced human casualty and coping mechanism related to the issue of human casualty. Moreover, they were briefed by park official on the existing poaching problem in and around the park. The park official had also briefly explained them about the anti-poaching operations run by the park. The explanation also included need of ownership development, value of information from community members about any illegal activities and cooperation of local community as the important tools for further strengthening the anti-poaching operations. And many more are indirectly benefited by the project.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes. With this project I observed the difficulties of the buffer zone communities and the threats and livelihood constraints they face living close to a park having large mammals and carnivores. I found many needs of local community to co-exist with wild animals which are dangerous though endangered in terms of conservation standpoint. However, raising awareness on behaviour and ecology of wild animals amongst the local community especially to those residing in the fringe areas and the implementation of feasible preventive activities, e.g. stall feeding for livestock by producing forage in their own home yards, are urgent. I would like to continue this project with the conservation awareness programme and feasibility study for implementing an insurance scheme in the vulnerable area of the buffer zone.

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

As the project has been implemented in close coordination with the Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation (DNPWC), the results have been shared to the responsible agency. The research report will be kept in the library of the DNPWC from where many researchers, students and professionals from national and international level who are working for conservation of nature and natural resources can access to the research document. Besides, the poster produced as an educational material will be distributed to schools and other protected areas. The participants of the workshops will disseminate the key findings of my work in the villages. Moreover, once the final report is submitted, an electronic copy of the report will be available for the all interested users of the RSGF website. Besides, I will try to publish an article based on this study in a peer reviewed journal. I will also try to present the findings of this research in an appropriate national or international conference. I will also mobilise my organisation, Relief Fund for Wildlife Victims (RFWV), to disseminate the report and its findings through various means. I am also hopeful for sharing the findings of this research will meet one of the recommendations of the IUCN World Park Congress (2003) to establish an international forum acting as a global network for sharing information and expertise in addressing Human Wildlife Conflict (HWC).

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

The project was approved on 5th October 2008. The grant amount was collected in December 2008. The RSG was used throughout the project period as per the plan.

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.

The budget has been utilized as per the plan. The largest fund has been utilized in research and biogas plant installation. The details are shown below in the table.

Item	Budgeted Amount	Actual Amount	Difference	Comments
Research	£ 2500	£ 2588.50	£ 88.50	Database of human casualties produced.
Conservation education and material	£ 1000	£ 860.75	£ 139.25	1000 posters were produced and distributed to schools and organizations.
Biogas support	£ 2500	£ 2550.75	£ 50.75	Although 12 biogas plants were proposed in the proposal 18 were provided to the victims. We could increase the number due to the support provided by the Government of Nepal and the Park management authority. The cost of the plant has been increased than was planned due to increased price of construction materials.
TOTAL	£ 6000	£ 6000		Local exchange rate: £1= NRs. 113 (As in December 2008)

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

First of all I am very grateful to RSGF for the financial support to undertake this project in an important conservation issue.

With the implementation of this project, I realized the need to undertake several important actions to maintain harmony between people and wild animals. However, the main next steps to be undertaken urgently are as follows.

Next steps/Future strategy

A. Conducting awareness activities on behaviour and ecology of wild animals

As most of the incidents also occur due to ignorance of people about the behaviour and ecology of wild animals it is very urgent to make people aware about the behaviour and ecology of wild animals and the alertness needed to avoid the probable chances of encounter with wild animals.

Various ways could be applied to impart knowledge on behaviour and ecology of wild animals. Organizing special training, exposures and study tours to community members including victims and victims' families would be helpful to make them understand the needs of wild animals and tactics to live with them. Arranging a regular interaction between the park authority and local people is a key to understanding the issues and devising effective actions to reduce human casualties.

B. Preparation of documentary on the plight of wildlife victims to increase awareness among conservationists, politicians, planners and donors.

The issue of human casualties of wild animals also should be understood among politicians, planners, conservationists and donors in order to formulate practical solutions. Thus, it would be helpful to make one documentary encompassing the overall situations of victims and victims' families which could be reached to the aforementioned stakeholders. Moreover, this documentary even could be shown to the villagers to enhance their alertness by organizing video shows in the villages. Information sharing by such means could play vital role in understating the issue more precisely.

C. Establishment of insurance schemes and endowment fund to help victims and victims' family

My study found that the existing one-time monetary compensation is not adequate to achieve goal of the participatory conservation. It is appreciable that the Government of Nepal has approved the new guidelines to compensate the loss incurred by wild animals. However, the study found that only monetary relief could not address the real needs of the victims and victims' families. So, it is necessary to identify and implement feasible measures. In this regard, I want to introduce human life insurance (death and injury) and endowment fund as pilot projects in the most vulnerable area of the buffer zone. The endowment fund will work in supporting victims and victims' families either as business grant or as revolving fund or as a loan for certain period.

D. Conducting nationwide study on the issue and development of a database system

Conducting a similar study in other protected areas of Nepal in order to understand the overall scenario of wildlife-inflicted human casualty in national level is another need. This will be helpful to influence the concerned stakeholders as well as to design and implement pragmatic measures to reduce the conflict in national level.

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, I did. To date, I used the RSGF logo in three materials; they are banners for the workshop, a poster prepared for the conservation awareness against poaching and in a research report. However, I may use the logo in other materials such as article, presentations and news as well upon prior approval from the RSGF.

11. Any other comments?

This first RSG support has greatly helped to document the very crucial but usually ignored issue of park management in Chitwan National Park. It is also hoped that the research finding would be a useful document to all interested individuals and organizations and more to the Government of Nepal for formulating policy and strategy in the field of conservation and protected area management. The RSGF grant has been very helpful to local needy people. This is probably the first time that a direct support to

wildlife victims had been provided in Nepal. Yet, it seemed that lower marginalized groups are still deprived of development programmes. For instance, the support of biogas could not be reached to the victim and victims' families because of being landless and lack of livestock and cost involved to install biogas plant. So, appropriate and affordable programmes should be designed and implemented to reach to such groups. We should replicate the project in the other protected areas too. Bardia National Park is another park where human casualties are high and need to implement such research project.