

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	Babu Ram Bhattatrai
Project title	Human-tiger (<i>Panthera tigris tigris</i>) in Bardia National Park, Nepal
RSG reference	48.09.08
Reporting period	February to December 2009
Amount of grant	£6000
Your email address	babu_sharma2000@yahoo.com
Date of this report	

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
Human-tiger conflicts study			✓	Presented as MSc thesis defence and report, got very good credit
Make local people aware about conservation			✓	Activities completed, results not yet measured
To provide conservation knowledge to students			✓	Conservation education regarding tiger conservation was conducted in 20 schools surrounding Bardia National Park
Provide information to Protected Area Managers			✓	With PA managers of four protected areas

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

N/A

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

1. The project revealed the causes of human-tiger conflicts in Bardia National Park, Nepal. The study concluded that the common resource use is the prime cause of human casualties. Grazing of livestock in the tiger habitat is the reason of livestock depredation by tigers. Similarly, poor night stall for keeping livestock accelerated the livestock losses. The poaching of prey species especially in the eastern section of the park has added the livestock depredation rate.

2. The study assessed the reasons of losses of tigers in Bardia National Park. Revenge killing of tigers by outraged farmers and poaching of tigers for trade of body parts are main causes of tigers being killed as a result of human-tiger conflict. Very little compensation and delayed process also encouraged local farmers to poison the tigers.

3. It created conservation awareness among local people and students. Conducting conservation education in surrounding schools helped to make students aware about tiger conservation. Local villagers were informed about the causes of human-tiger conflict and measures of reducing it.

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

Human-tiger conflict study was a part of this project. For collecting data (interview with local people), I employed local assistants. Similarly, I disseminated the results with local communities and the local school students. The project conducted a workshop with tourism entrepreneurs and local farmers to establish the mechanism of benefit sharing from tiger conservation and reducing the losses by tigers in the area.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

I have plans to continue the study on this endangered and charismatic species focussing on seasonal diets. It would be a Ph D project.

The poaching of this species has increased especially in the corridor (Khata area which connects the Bardia National Park and the Katarniaghat Wildlife Sanctuary of India). Poachers are taking advantages of weak protection of the area. Therefore, it is necessary to mobilize the local communities and the government agencies in protecting the area with a strong network of informants. To mobilize the local people, some indirect incentives to them are needed. Programmes like free livestock health caring for the local community or biogas implantation can be beneficial in this aspect. Regarding this, I am planning to prepare a proposal to carry out a project in this location to curb the poaching through incentives to community.

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

The thesis has already been published in website of Nepalese foresters association (<http://www.forestrynepal.org/publications/thesis/4448>). I had given a talk program at University of Greifswald, Germany as defence of thesis. In addition, I conducted the workshop to disseminate the results of my thesis work with protected area managers of Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation. I already shared some of the results with the local stakeholders such as tourism entrepreneurs, farmers, local government officials and the school teachers. I am planning to continue the sharing of the results with Bachelor level students of Institute of Forestry, Kathmandu Forestry College.

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

The grant was used from February 2009 to December 2009.

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 (1£= 115 NRs)
Research Materials and equipments	770	720	+50	
Stationeries	500	550	-50	
Costs for researchers and assistants	1550	1550	0	
Travel	1000	1300	-300	
Group discussion/data collection	190	180	+10	
Workshop for result dissemination	1990	1700	+290	
TOTAL	6000	6000	0	

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

The communities around the park are poor. Three people had been killed by tigers while they went to forest of National Park for using it as toilet. Many other people had become victim of tiger attack

when they went inside the forest to collect the forest resources like fuel wood, fodder and the non timber forest products. Therefore, to get support of local communities in tiger conservation some outreach programme for livelihood upliftment of local communities are needed. Replacement of household energy by biogas in place of fuel wood, fodder production in the community forest and stall feeding practices are necessary to curb the conflicts. The immediate next step is to launch some programmes that benefit the local communities to uplift their livelihood so that they can help in tiger conservation activities.

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?

I used the RSGF logo in my camera and a GPS which are bought during this project. I produced a brochure about tiger conservation where the logo has been used.

