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	Kanchan Thapa
Project title	Status of big cats and their conservation in newly declared extension areas of Bardia National Park, Nepal
RSG reference	5752-1
Reporting period	15-June 2010-12 December 2011
Amount of grant	£5975
Your email address	kanchan1@vt.edu
Date of this report	12 December 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
To estimate the proportion of area occupied by tiger and leopard in BNP based on the sign survey			χ	
To estimate the proportion of area occupied by tiger and leopard in BNP based on the the expert opinion survey.			χ	
To estimate presence and absence of tiger (high movement areas) using camera traps		χ		Camera traps have been purchased but full survey could not done due to off season for camera trap survey and risk of losing the cameras (high movement of local people) during the grant period. All the camera traps purchased has been handed over to NTNC / BCN (Bardia Conservation Project) which looks after the wildlife monitoring program in Banke and GPS and five camera traps have been handed over to Khata Community Forest Coordination Committee to monitor the tiger movement in their forest.
Poster and bookmark design for raising the awareness			χ	
Education campaign among the eco clubs using the bagh bahadur promotional material			χ	We promoted the campaign using through development of bagh bahadur character (design exclusive to the principle investigator for the project). This design was not included in the original proposal.
Additionally, we conducted the bagh Bahadur Club campaign over the Facebook			χ	This is an additional work conducted with grant

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

Most difficult problem I had during the project was getting the permit from the government. This delayed my work in my anticipated schedule for the project. I had a presence absence survey using camera trap. Hence I could not carry out the survey during the season. As a result, survey was not successful as it was carried out in off season where there was no movement of tigers in the strategic locations. This also complemented with high movement of people in the survey areas. As a result we had to stop the camera trap survey. However all the purchased equipment has been handed over to NTNC/BCP for their future monitoring in Banke National Park. Few cameras and GPS have been handed over the community forest user groups in Khata corridor for monitoring tigers in their corridor forest.

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

- Firstly, this is first estimates of occupancy and detection probabilities of big cats from Banke National Park.
- Second, this is first attempt to use the occupancy framework based on sign survey and expert opinion survey in Nepal. This approach can be easily replicated elsewhere.
- Thirdly, I used the innovative techniques of raising the awareness of the local people using the bagh bahadur campaign. Central character "Bagh Bahadur" has been influential in raising the awareness during the project period and beyond. Bagh Bahadur Club has been designed to raise the awareness and information among the interested groups in Facebook (here we do not ask the people to join the club but the character "bagh bahadur" attract the people to join the club). Members are increasing day by day.

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

Central character "Bagh Bahadur" has been influential in raising the awareness during the project period and beyond. Bagh Bahadur Club has been designed to raise the awareness and information among the interested groups in Facebook (here we do not ask the people to join the club but the character "bagh bahadur" attract the people to join the club). Members are increasing day by day. Bagh Bahadur campaign has been successful in raising the awareness among the community. During the campaign, we target the school children for the campaign. I made an initiative to teach the community member in raising the awareness about the tigers through involving them in monitoring tigers. I teach them way to monitor the tigers with camera traps and use the GPS to monitor the movement.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

I am planning to continue my work in Banke National Park focusing on the buffer zone. Human dimension to wildlife management is important in this regard. We now know where our big cats are roaming but need to know who community feels about the big cats?

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

I have drafted the paper from this work and have been circulated for the peer review. After the peer review, it will be posted in the website (bagh Bahadur Club) for interested person to look at it. First round of result has been also shared in the workshop held in Kathmandu with all the Rufford grantees including managers from DNPWC. At the local level, result has been disseminated during the teaching the local ecoclub students as well.

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

I used the RSG for more than 18 months due to delay in the initial period of the grant. The prior extension was asked from the foundation. This was six month more than actual length of the project.

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
Researcher Cost for 10 months	£1035	£1035	0	
Research Field Cost for total of 120 field works	£1661	£1856	-£195	
Local Transportation	£414	£436	-£22	
Equipment Purchase (Netbook, GPS, Camera traps)	£1870	£1887.91	-£17.91	
Awareness Campaign	£866	£866	0	
Stationary	£86	£78.55	-£7.45	
Miscellaneous	£43	£46.58	-£3.58	
TOTAL	**£5975**	**£6207.54**	**-£232.52**	

The grant received in Nepalese rupees equivalent to GBP 5985 The exchange rate was calculated to be 1 GBP = NRS 115. 942

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

Right now, I am focussed in the raising the awareness to general people through my central character developed through this grant "Bagh Bahadur Character". I want to publicise the character to wider audience. Now, I want to look what the local people perceive about the big cats in general. Since the area is newly developed for managing the resource as wildlife for all, it is pertinent to think what the local people perceive about the wildlife and management. This is important to look into this aspect in the future for better managing the resources. We now know, what is the situation with big cats in the protected areas; now important is manage the wildlife through appropriate measures. Local people must be managed for fulfilling their resource hence their view and attitudes must be known to the manager in hand. These steps should be taken care of.

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, RSGF logo has been used as appropriate in all the material related with the project. No doubt that RSGF received the publicity through all my promotional material at both the local level and central level.