

## 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](mailto:jane@rufford.org).

Thank you for your help.

**Josh Cole, Grants Director**

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Grant Recipient Details	
<b>Your name</b>	Kamal Prasad Adhikari
<b>Project title</b>	Scale, social-ecological networks, corruption and patronage: Factors affecting sustainability of plant resources in Nepal
<b>RSG reference</b>	8811-1
<b>Reporting period</b>	September 2010 – November 2011
<b>Amount of grant</b>	£5292
<b>Your email address</b>	adhikari.kamal@gmail.com
<b>Date of this report</b>	17 November 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 develop an alternative conservation model for resources			Yes	Data collected from the field are mainly based on local people's perception of plant resources and plant conservation measures. Analysis of these data will produce an alternative conservation model for the plant resources.
to analyse existing development programmes			Yes	Development programmes run at the village level on conservation and the sustainable use of plant resources are scrutinized through their objectives, and the practical realities on the ground.
to identify problems and provide solutions at the village and national levels			Yes	Some problems, for example, economic and moral poverty, lack of awareness and power of the networks are identified at the village and national levels in the overexploitation of plant resources. Solutions will come after analysing the raw data.
to aid INGOs/NGOs in the successful implementation of their projects			Yes	The recommendations of this project will aid the successful implementation of conservation and sustainable exploitation programmes in future.
to publish research articles, joint reports with the DFO to the government		Yes		There is a verbal agreement with the staff of the District Forest Office to write a joint report to the government after analysing existing policy documents on plant resources.
to show the reality of what is happening at the three different levels			Yes	Taking an example of a few species of Orchids, we can see status of these commercially viable species of Orchids at the village level; conservation and monitoring mechanism by the district administrative level; and formulation of policy at the top level. It also elucidates the

				perception of this plant species by people at different levels.
to understand the role of socio-ecological networks which affect the sustainable use of plant resources			Yes	Family, friends, relatives, political links, and wealth are seen as powerful factors which are influencing the overexploitation of plant resources.
to document ethnobotanical uses of plants			Yes	Local names and their local classification of plants are documented along with their medicinal, religious and commercial uses. Stories based on the super natural power of some plants are described.

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

I ran into a couple of difficulties arising from my participants. At the village level, people did not talk to me initially about the illegal trade of plant species from their village. They were suspicious. At first the village elites asked me about my research project. I described to them clearly my academic discipline, the institutions I am involved in with and my objectives. As my research was not similar to other development projects, they were not interested in it. A few developmental organisations are currently working in this village, for example, Plan Nepal, RADO Nepal (Rural Awareness and Development Organization), MIRA Makawanpur (Mother and Infant Research Activities), and Child Welfare Scheme. These programmes either employ some local people or they help to build toilets, schools buildings etc. It took me more than a month to gain their trust and support.

I also felt uncomfortable while conducting interviews with government officials at the District Forest Office, the Department of Forest and at the Ministry of Forest. Some of my participants were not happy when I asked the question about dishonesty or irregularities or corruption involved in the overexploitation of plant resources. These difficulties were overcome later after building a strong network.

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

One of the most important outcomes of my project is to build a network of contacts. I have got an extensive network of contacts. People are now speaking very honestly about illegal trade and corruption. The second important outcome is the cataloguing of plants and their traditional uses. Findings on the overuse of commercially viable plant species, networks of power and patronage are the third important outcome of my research project.

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

I worked in the local community. I spent most of my time in the village. My guides and helpers were local people. I used mostly local resources including food and lodging. I visited almost 90 percent of

the households in Dandabas and conducted a household survey. They have developed self awareness and pride in Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK). Some of them highly appreciated my work in the cataloguing of plants and their traditional uses. One 79 years old shaman, Mr Kaman Singh Rumba was happy to share his chants related to plants and their effects to cure illness. People's perception and the problems of sustainable exploitation of plant resources could lead to policy formulation.

**5. Are there any plans to continue this work?**

Yes, further research is needed to document Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) in Dandabas. I could not spend more time in the field because of the time frame of my PhD. I plan to set up a working group for traditional knowledge in Dandabas. The purpose of this committee will be to discover other people who have this kind of knowledge and to produce a guide book. Once we have set up a committee, we can also conduct awareness programmes and discuss sustainable exploitation techniques of plant resources at the village level. This can be most important finding for policy formulation.

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

Results of this research project will come in the form of my PhD dissertation. I plan to go to conferences, where I will share the results. After writing my dissertation, I plan to publish at least 3 articles, and compilation of these in the form of a book. The results can be a valuable resource for the government of Nepal in the formulation of policy.

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

I was awarded the money to do my field work within my PhD. My fieldwork was originally estimated for 11 months but it was completed within 10 months. The RSG was used throughout my field work i.e. between September 2010 and June 2011. This research project could have been longer, if I had not been subjected to time constraints.

**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
Living expenses in the field (food and lodging)	1573	1655	- 82	Field work was originally estimated for 11 months but it was completed within 10 months. However, the living and accommodation was more expensive than expected.
Local transportation	825	451	+ 374	I mostly used public transportation to go to the village. However, I hired a jeep a few times to get in to Kathmandu and Hetauda.
International air fare (Aberdeen - Kathmandu)	794	762	+ 31	International air fare was £31.1 less than budgeted. This amount was

- Aberdeen)				used for local transportation.
Research assistant, local guide and helpers	950	1015	- 65	Research assistant, local guides from the village; and helpers from both the village and the District Forest Office were used on several occasions as I was travelling back and forth to the village from the district administrative centre.
Payment of expenses for the informants	500	633	- 133	This payment includes gifts to the village; and bills for the snacks and drinks while conducting interviews. Some funds were needed for expedited services in the retrieval of government documents.
Email, telephone, fax, postage	150	275	- 125	CDMA internet connection was used for communication purposes; however, there was poor reception. A cell phone was also used frequently to communicate with the participants.
Publication	500	500	0	I plan to use this grant to publish an article on Ecology and Society.
Total	5292	5292	0	

*\*There was partial support (£200) for travel from the University of Aberdeen.*

*\*Exchange rate of the pound was fluctuating for much of last/this year. An average £1 was equal to 114 rupees (Nepali currency).*

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

1. Currently, the most important next step is to write up my PhD dissertation, and then to publish articles.
2. Questions from this research can be answered in future through working with the villagers. The strong networks which I have built with the people could easily die if I do not continue using them.
3. To set up a working group for the documentation of Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) in Dandabas, and the publication of a guide book, I think, is the most important next step.

#### 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 verbally told everybody that my field work was supported by the Rufford Small Grants Foundation. I plan to use RSG logo in forthcoming conferences.

#### 11. Any other comments?

I would like to thank the Rufford Small Grants Foundation (RSGF) for its financial support for my PhD field work. I hope RSGF will support the further documentation of TEK, and work towards the creation of awareness of issues affecting the sustainability of plant resources.