

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.

Thank you for your help.

Josh Cole, Grants Director

Grant Recipient Details	
Your name	SUMAN BHATTARAI
Project title	Conservation Based Networking and Library Establishment Project to Strengthen Rhino Conservation Program
RSG reference	01.08.09
Reporting period	Final Report
Amount of grant	£12,000
Your email address	sumancha004@yahoo.com
Date of this report	July 20, 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
Communication/Coordination				
Replication Rhino Conservation Project				
Network Establishment				
Platform Creation / Library Establishment				
Interim Evaluation				
Progress Update				
Final Reporting				

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

People used to place another demands while implementing the project in community level. But some of them are genuine i.e. compensation for loss caused by rhino, high number participation, more training, competitions, etc. Though the demands are genuine, it is not possible to address all due to budget and time limitation.

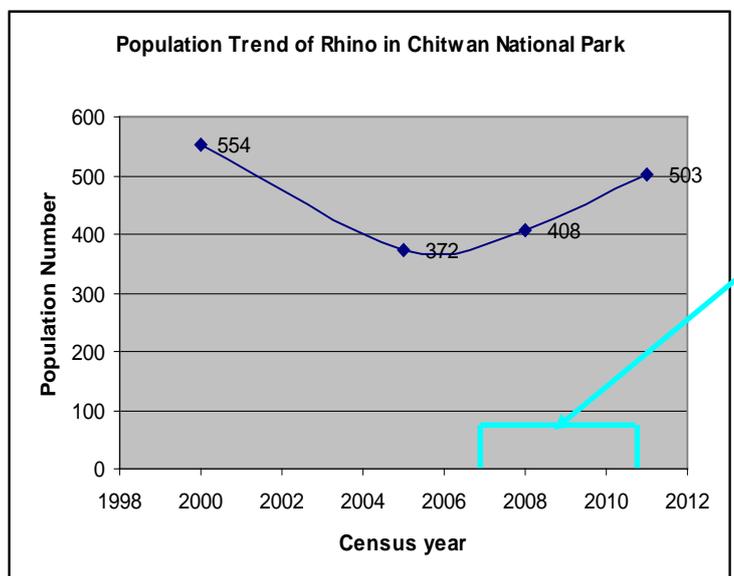
To address these demands in some extent, I saved and transferred some money from one to other activities. Sometimes I urged other grantees to contribute if they have similar activities. I encouraged local people for voluntary supports and request resource person for low charge. In some activities, school and community hall were used in free of cost.

Consultation meetings were also made to develop common understanding and share the project limitation to convince them. Vacation in school and busy schedule of local people in crop cultivation had created timing problem. To settle such problem, I extended proposed project time schedule little bit. So, it became late to submit final report.

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

A. From Rhino Census Record:

We all know that rhino census 2000 had found 612 rhinos in Nepal and among of them, 544 were found in Chitwan National Park. Census 2005 had found only 446 in Nepal and among of them, 372 were found Chitwan Nation Park (Rhino Action Plan 2006). This record confirmed that there was massive poaching and natural death. Record also showed



Project Period

that there was immense poaching in early 2006 period.

By looking such misery, many stakeholders had paid specific attention in rhino conservation. By generating support from Rufford Small Grant Foundation (RSGF), I have carried out awareness creation project as first project in the end of 2006.

In 2007, the rate of poaching was decreasing. As result census 2008 found out 435 rhinos and out of them, 408 were found in Chitwan National Park.

In 2008 and 2009, RSG second and booster projects were launched. Census 2011 had found 534 rhinos in Nepal and among of them, 503 were found in Chitwan Nepal.

This prevails that after the 2006, meaningful efforts have been made to increase rhino population. In this achievement, many people and institutions had contributed directly and indirectly. Among of them, RSGF funded programme is also one of them. From this scenario, RSGF and its supported projects had contributed to bring visible outcomes.

B. Based on feedback of referees, participants, contestant, conservationist, students, co-workers (Including RSGF grantees), implementing partners, local people, small (cupboard) libraries establishment, network buildup and public participation are the three most important outcomes of this booster project.

Library Establishment: To minimize conservation threats in CNP, different organisations / people had conducted different research and implemented many projects by specifying some locations. Some of them had achieved good results but their achievements weren't shared to neighbour communities which were suffering from same kind of problem.

With the establishment of conservation libraries in Bufferzone User Committees, Non-Governmental Organisation, Community Radio and School, conservation-related booklets, brochure, books, reports, article and notice were also kept. Stakeholders and allied agencies had also provided their both free and salable publication to share their progress and outcome.

From these libraries, local forest user groups, students, journalists, conservationists, researchers and other concerned parties have got chance to learn about the conservation ideas and success stories of other places. Similarly, institution / individual has also got chance to disseminate their progress with local community. Due to libraries opportunity, targeted individuals and institution had got chance learned about success stories and started to implement learning in their real field.

We got the following feedback:

- According to Radio Jockey, Sangeeta, she has felt grateful to develop programme after the establishment of small conservation library at station. She added that one library of radio station can flow updated information and influence thousands of people at a time. She believes that establishment conservation library at media center can produce conservation journalist in that media center which will be the milestone for creating awareness.

- According to students and user groups, it became pride to get updated information and learn more ideas of conservation.
- Some grantees and institutions had got chance to disseminate conservation message to their target people easily through libraries. Farmers had got to know about more toxic and harmful pesticide and their alternative options.

Networking: During this project period, we have formed many groups and promote youth to establish clubs and mobilise them at community/local level. Teachers' forum and youth groups were supported to organise conservation programme. Similarly, connection was built with some national and international organization and individuals to make common understanding.

Up to now, we are able to set relation with savingrhinos.org. In the support of savingrhinos.org, project became able to publish the article with the theme adopting the concept of "Rhino Rescue Center". For more details, visit (<http://bushwarriors.wordpress.com/2010/09/16/orphaned-rhinos-highlight-need-for-wildlife-rescue-center-in-nepal/> and <http://www.rhinoconservation.org/2010/09/15/orphaned-rhinos-highlight-need-for-wildlife-rescue-center-in-nepal/>).

Now every progress reports can be updated the savingrhinos.org webpage. This organisation has also committed to provide some support to organise rhino conservation activities. [Savingrhinos.org](http://savingrhinos.org) uses to sell rhino tagged t-shirts and commission will be sent to organise small scale awareness programme.

We had coordinated more than 10 RSG grantees to workout jointly and help each other while implementing the project. This coordination was helpful in increasing the effectiveness of project.

Public Participation and ownership: This was totally field based project so public participation was higher in each and every activity than the expectation. In each activity, we encouraged local people and institution to take organising responsibility so they felt more ownership in this project.

Due to high number participation in awareness and networking build up activities at local level, we organised additional programme also. Due to demand of local people, some more training was organised.

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

The project was community based project and most of activities were carried out through local people's involvement and organised in the joint venture of local Clubs, CBOs, NGOs, Women groups, Farmer groups, Community Forest User Groups, Chitwan National Park Bufferzone User Groups, Schools, Students, Teachers etc.

We always felt that locally created activities will be effective and that can touch target groups. I therefore carried out most of field based activities in the leading of local organisations and people. Local youths were also mobilised as motivators.

Local communities were involved in the activities as participants in training, contestant in competition, beneficiaries groups in income generation activities, resource person in radio interview programme, organiser and co-worker in the conduction of every field based activities. Youths got support to establish clubs and organise some conservation activities in their locality.

Radio programme was also launched through community based FM station. We highlighted community programme and local issues through radio in order to promote local community.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

So far we have launched programme by targeting some areas and got visible outcomes also i.e. nominal recovery in rhino population. Small grant projects could cover some areas and some communities. So, there are also other sensitive areas which were not covered so far. But they should be covered in coming days.

Attitude of people will not be changed through one programme. There should be regular interaction to knock previous groups and cover other areas so it is utmost need to continue the project. To make regular touch, I used to visit those sites and interact with people though project was over.

Similarly, I have just building network with some local, national and international groups and it should be increased and strengthened. If project is stopped in this time, building of such relations will not keep meaning. That is why; I have planned to continue this work to cover other areas and strengthened networking.

Nowadays, I am still visiting field, coordinating partners and organising some activities with the aim of building relation.

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

During project period, after the completion of each and every activity, results and reports were shared through website; www.rhinonepal.org, radio program, mail and next program. At local level, small reports were dispatched in notice board to inform local people, concerned clubs, women groups, CFUGs, BUGs, school etc. Success stories were also shared in meetings and disseminated through radio. Progress report was also submitted to RSGF for publishing in its website.

In coming days, results will be shared with other through radio programme, local papers, libraries, notice boards, meetings, website etc. Presentation will be conducted in seminar as far as possible.

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

After the approval of project, funding was made on January 2010. So, RSG was utilised from January 2010 to March 2011 to organise proposed activities. With compare to other projects, it had more activities so it took more time. Strike, electricity load shading, fuel scarcity, political issues etc. are the major problem in Nepal. And these causes influenced the project directly and indirectly. It had extended the proposed project time schedule.

Similarly, Josh Cole visit to Nepal and my desire to keep this message in report had also taken more months for final reporting.

After March 2011, I have been organising field visit and discuss with beneficiaries groups to make regular update and set relation. I have conducted school teachings voluntarily in some schools. Radio programme is also being run because our radio station has committed to continue radio programme for some months.

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
Website	150.00	160.00	-10.00	Exchange rate fluctuation
Communication	600.00	600.00	00.00	Adjusted in proposed budget
Bank charge and audit	150.00	150.00	00.00	Already committed so equal
Fishery	300.00	310.00	-10.00	Increased in participation
Bee-Keeping	300.00	290.00	+10.00	Increased in participation
Home-Gardening	300.00	300.00	00.00	Adjusted in proposed budget
Talk program / Drama	400.00	420.00	-20.00	Increased in participation
Documentary Show	200.00	250.00	-50.00	Increased in show numbers
Radio program	1560.00	1560.00	00.00	Already committed so equal
Plantation	500.00	480.00	+20.00	Reduced charge
Conservation Board	300.00	300.00	00.00	Adjust in proposed budget
Women Education	300.00	300.00	00.00	Adjust in proposed budget
School Teaching	200.00	230.00	-30.00	Increased in participation
Interaction program	200.00	200.00	00.00	Adjust in proposed budget
Orientation program	100.00	100.00	00.00	Adjust in proposed budget
Library Establishment	1800.00	1650.00	+150.00	Transfer to other expenditure
Conservation publication	500.00	500.00	00.00	Adjust in proposed budget
Advertisement	100.00	100.00	00.00	Adjust in proposed budget
Training "Article writing"	200.00	210.00	-10.00	Increased in participation
Stakeholders Interaction	300.00	320.00	-20.00	Increased in participation
Membership	750.00	650.00	+100.00	Transfer to other expenditure
Networking Workshops	450.00	450.00	00.00	Adjust in proposed budget
Brochure/booklet	200.00	210.00	-10.00	Increased in charge
Article of students/ people	200.00	210.00	-10.00	Increased in activity
Team Members	1460.00	1500.00	-40.00	Increased in field visit days
Transportation	480.00	505.00	-25.00	Rate increased in fuel rate
Fuel	250.00	300.00	-50.00	Rate increased in fuel rate
Equipment hire	250.00	250.00	00.00	Adjust in proposed budget
Materials & stationery	450.00	450.00	00.00	Adjust in proposed budget
Refreshment	450.00	480.00	-30.00	Participation increased
Reporting	100.00	100.00	00.00	Equal to proposed budget
Total	13500.00	13535.00	-35.00	

Rufford Small Grant Foundation Contribution= 12000.00

BICORF/Nepal = 1500.00 (Voluntarily support of resource person in training & equipment)

Local Partner Contribution = 35.00 (Remaining part / due budget)

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

I am always looking forward to keep project's existence in rhino conservation on regular basis. So far, project was able to achieve visible outcomes. So, I want to continue some effective activities to other sites and strengthen previous local beneficiary groups by focusing success stories.

To make regular relation with local stakeholders, still I am organising radio programme, school teaching, website updating, technical support to community based organisation, regular field visit activities etc.

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 used RSGF logo in each and every activity and publication that were produced in relation to this project. Logo was kept in banner, Certificate, Pamphlets, Education Material, Webpage, Poster, Prize, Book provided to library, conservation / notice board, banners etc.

Due to remoteness and inaccessibility, I was unable to keep logo in few cases. At that moment, credit was made by briefing orally and sometimes writing "Rufford Small Grant Foundation".

11. Any other comments?

I felt so comfortable due to support of many people and institution which was not hoped while developing and submitting the proposal and starting the project. I like to thank all stakeholders of the project; Rufford Small Grant Foundation for major funding, Biodiversity Conservation and Research Forum-BICORF for co-funding (voluntarily support), Co-workers (RSGF -Grantees), Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs), Community Based Organizations (CBOs), Schools, Clubs, Forest User Groups, Bufferzone User Groups, Women / Men Groups, Students, local youth and park staffs for their unaffordable contribution to make possible of this project's activities.

It was very pleasure to meet with Josh Cole, Grant Director of Rufford Small Grant Foundation in project site and share project performance face to face. Therefore I also like to appreciate Josh visit programme and request RSGF for time wise monitoring visit in future also.

Last but not least I owe depths gratitude to my referees for their incredible support during the project and suggestion for next steps. I would like to appeal everyone and concerned agencies to support conservation activities what is possible from your side.