

The Rufford Foundation Final Report

Congratulations on the completion of your project that was supported by The Rufford 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	Ashok Verma
Project title	Population and distribution of harriers (Genus <i>Circus</i>) in the arid and semi arid environments of Rajasthan and Gujarat in north western India
RSG reference	10202 - B
Reporting period	August 2015
Amount of grant	£10000
Your email address	vermaasok@rediffmail.com
Date of this report	3.10.2015

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
Survey potential 13 roost sites of harriers		More than Partially achieved		In fact we found through consulting birdwatchers and naturalists of the respective areas that some of our sites mentioned in the proposal are not worth visiting as they are completely converted to farmlands or reclaimed. We therefore surveyed other potential habitats on harrier migration route and obtain new information of roost occurrence there.
Two training on the identification of harriers and counting methodology			Fully achieved	Many trainings including workshops and one national seminar were conducted with the support of Forest Departments. Many University students attended our programme.
Thar Desert Survey during July			Fully achieved	We did it in first week of September as the year was awaiting rainfall. But harriers did not show up during the month and they arrived little late this year.
Roost counts			Fully achieved	Of 10 sites surveyed, five sites showed harrier roosting however.
Publishing			Fully achieved	We produced manuals and brochures on harrier identification using Rufford logo, local newspaper published our activities. However our final report is to be distributed.

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

Not relevant

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

- We obtained information on new communal harrier roost sites.
- Some of these could give us considerable amount of information on their wintering ecology.
- We obtained information on the problems associated with old traditional harrier roosts in this important region of harriers which will be helpful for their management.

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

Local communities took special interest as now they are well aware of the importance of harriers as biological control and they understand importance of biodiversity. Youth especially college students and naturalists supported our work and took active part in our activities. They updated themselves on harriers by joining our project and some are monitoring harriers on their own in their respective areas

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes, with new information on harriers with us now we are in a better position to target these sites again for detail and more systematic survey to obtain information on harrier population dynamics.

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

- Through our report which will be sent to as many people as possible in the country.
- Through research papers published out of our work.
- Through continuing our workshops in schools and colleges, etc.
- We plan to distribute harrier identification manual to more people and students.

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

The Rufford Foundation grant was the only source for our project and we used it for almost 18 months. For some sites we received survey permission late and we got delayed and also for some sites we were waiting for right season.

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
Maps, top sheets, reference books and one GPS unit	75000	65000		we saved 15000 INR here but it was used to meet other expenses
Digital camera/data card	50000	60000	10000	Extra amount was spent in purchasing memory cards and external hard drive for our field data security
Manual publication /brochures/stationary	80,000	100000	20,000	We used to meet this expense through our contingency etc.
Communications	15,000	30,000	15000	As we need to cover wider network.
Honorarium to field assistants	100000	110000	10,000	Many of our assistant were giving us free service out of their interest

Lodging and boarding	75,000	80,000	5000	Contingency amount was used
Surveys	370000	360000		We saved (INR 10,000) this much and which was used to meet our extra communication expenses and others
Training/workshops/seminar	260000	265000	5000	We used to meet this expenditure through our contingency amount and lodging and boarding amount
Contingency	50000	50000		
Honorarium to experts/botanists/guides/ etc		20,000	20000	We were going to meet experts to get our specimen identified and also asking for their consultancy
Total	1075000	1140000	85000	
		Savings	25000	
			60000	Extra expenditure

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

- We need to do more work on the sites surveyed this year for another 3 years.
- Now we know where our gaps are and with this we can plan our work better.
- Some sites could be given more focus and intensive work could be initiated.
- Involving more local people is very important.

**10. Did you use The Rufford Foundation logo in any materials produced in relation to this project?
Did the RSGF receive any publicity during the course of your work?**

- Yes we used the Rufford Foundation logo in our material produced during our project in workshop and seminar and in our manuals and brochures.
- We also distributed participation certificates using the Rufford Foundation logo.
- Yes RSGF received publicity and many researchers and public asked about the activities of Rufford Foundation.

11. Any other comments?

- Thanks for supporting our work.
- We request a list of RSGF candidates with their address so that we could communicate with them and avail their expertise and experience.