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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	Meng Qinghui
Project title	Conservation of the endangered Siberian musk deer (*Moschus moschiferus*) in the Great Xing'anling, Inner Mongolia of China
RSG reference	15438-1
Reporting period	From May 2014 to Dec 2015
Amount of grant	£ 6000
Your email address	wildlifechina@163.com
Date of this report	May 5, 2016

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 determine the current status of Siberian musk deer populations			Yes	● Based on the results of the mechanic and random transect lines surveying, the average density of Siberian musk deer in the Great Xing'anling region was 0.021 /km^2, which has been very endangered. ● The wild Siberian musk deer mainly occurs in Genhe region, Jinhe region and Mohe region *etc.*
To survey the structure of the seasonal preferred habitats of Siberian musk deer			Yes	● In winter and spring, Siberian musk deer prefers the habitats at higher elevation with lesser tree density, and shallower snow, but with higher sheltering condition and steeper slope and better food resource. The spatial factors, disturbance factors, slope direction, slope location, food resources and the fallen logs are the most key variables to decide musk deer's favourite habitats in winter and spring. ● In summer and autumn, musk deer favoured the habitat with the lower tree density, low canopy density, steeper slope gradient and high sheltering condition. The human disturbance, forest type, slope location, water source, space and canopy density are the most key variables to are the most key variables to decide musk deer's favourite habitats in summer and autumn .
To survey the socio-economical structure of the local minority communities			Yes	● The socio-economical surveying was conducted in the local Ewenki and Elunchun communities and found that the living style of local minorities in the regions has been changed, and the traditional living style. The hunting has been stopped by the government owing to the policy of Natural Forest Protection, so the reindeer farming and the related tourism has been the most important economic measures. ● There has been the poaching, and most of the poachers were from outside of the regions. Moreover, the wild vegetable and medicine collection have been very popular in the regions, especially in the summer and autumn. ● The eco-tourism has been encouraged and supported by the local governments, and more and more local families choose this as their own economic foundation.

To conduct environmental education				● The team members talked with more than 300 locals, and 3 lectures were hold to the local officials and authorities.

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

The language problem was not expected by the team. In the regions, most of the local Ewenki and Elunchun can't speak Madarian Chinese, but only their own language. After several local minorities was employed by the team, and as their contribution of language translating, the project can be conducted fluently.

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

● **Siberian musk deer Population and preferred habitat**

The average density of Siberian musk deer in the Great Xing'anling was 0.021 /km^2, which has been critically endangered. The preferred habitat structures of musk deer in winter and spring was different from those in summer and autumn. In winter and spring Siberian musk deer prefers the habitats at higher elevation with lesser tree density, and shallower snow, but with higher sheltering condition and steeper slope and better food resource, but in summer and autumn, musk deer preferred the habitat with the lower tree density, low canopy density, steeper slope gradient and high sheltering condition.

● **The socio-economical structure of the local minority communities**

The living style of local minor Ewenki and Elunchun peoples in the regions has been changed, and the traditional hunting has been stopped by the government owing to the policy of Natural Forest Protection, so the reindeer farming and the related tourism has been the local important economic measures. The eco-tourism is encouraged by the local governments, and more and more local minority families choose this as their own most important economic measures.

● **The threatening factors for the endangered Siberian musk deer**

There has been illegal poaching and the wild vegetable and medicine collection, especially popular in the summer and autumn, and most of the poachers and collectors were from the outside of the regions.

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

Totally, there were six local Ewenki peoples working with us in the conducting of the project as the guides and helpers, for which they and their families and neighbouring communities have known the endangered musk deer aim of this project and how to monitor the musk deer populations. Moreover, we made many talks and interviewing with the local officials and authorities, so the results of this project will be fully considered in their future policy making and natural resources managing.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes, we hope we can continue this work under the fund of RSG. This project is very preliminary and if more studies and activities can be conducted, the situation of the endangered Siberian musk deer and other wildlife such as reindeer should be improved.

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

We have made three presentations to the undergraduates and graduate students in Renmin University of China, and such activities will be continued in the future to attract more students to study and conserve wildlife in that region. Moreover, the data collected in this project will be analyzed and the results will be organised into manuscripts which can be submitted to the international and local journals.

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

This project was approved in May 2014, but because of the wrong Bank Issues, we received the fund very late, so the actual project period was different from and longer than the originally planned period. The main timescale of this project list as following:

- From May to June 2014, team members collected the related lectures and decide the actual project plan including methods and the transect lines.
- From July to August 2014, the members went to Genhe via Hulunbeier, and conduct the "summer" habitat studies and population surveying, and the social-economical structure and environment education were conducted.
- In September 2014, the "autumn" habitat studies and population surveying were conducted, and the social-economical structure and environment education were conducted.
- In February 2015, the "winter" habitat studies and population surveying were conducted, and the social-economical structure and environment education were conducted.
- In April 2015, the "spring" habitat studies and population surveying were conducted, and the social-economical structure and environment education were conducted.
- From July to August 2015, the additional survey was conducted in the regions.

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
Travel between Beijing and Genhe	£1200	£2000	£800	One member's round travel between Beijing and Genhe were cost £ 200.
Travel in the local areas	£800	£1000	£200	Rent truck in Genhe
Map buying	£500	£500		Buy the papered maps of Gnehe regions.
Living provision and equipment such as Camping equipment.	£1500	£2000	500	One members' daily cost was £15, and the guides cost was paid by the project.
Environmental education and socio-economical surveying	£800	£1,000	£200	Used to buy gifts to the local in the socio-economical surveying and the stuff for the environmental education;
Local guides	£1200	£1200		£20/day.guide*20 days*3 guides

TOTAL	£6000	£7700	£1700	
Note: The difference between the budget amount and actual amount was covered by other project of the team.				

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

The Siberian musk deer has been critically endangered, so the tense conservation must be adopted and conducted in the regions. In the Genhe regions, the natural reserve must be established, which was advised to the local officials and authorities.

The economic of the local minorities can be improved by the local government to reduce the threatening on the conservation of the endangered wildlife such as Siberian musk deer.

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 actually used the Rufford Foundation logo in the projects, so the local communities have known that this project was funded by RSG and they have known the Rufford Foundation very well.

11. Any other comments?

Many thanks for the RSG support.

Top to bottom: Surveying; Winter habitat; Local Ewenki family; Interviewing locals, Footprints of a musk deer and Pellets from a mush deer.