

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	Ajaz Ahmad
Project title	Community Based Human-Carnivores Conflict Mitigation in Gehrata Go community Game Reserve Chitral, Pakistan
RSG reference	15532-1
Reporting period	15th July 2015 to 15th July 2016
Amount of grant	£4000
Your email address	Mountain.society@gmail.com
Date of this report	18 th July 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
Community-based solutions to prevent and manage human-carnivore conflicts will be promoted.			√	Village conservation committee and women village conservation committee formed and functional to prevent human-carnivore conflicts.
Public understanding and awareness about human-carnivore conflicts will be improved.			√	Valley Level Awareness Raising Workshop and meetings conducted with the amis to promote awareness about HCC issue understanding and its prevention.
Positive attitude towards carnivores will be developed.		√	√	Awareness, sensitisation through religious leaders, school lectures and livestock vaccination campaigns conducted to change the traditional attitude of general public towards carnivores.

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

- Since this was the project on conservation of carnivores, and the local people was in conflicts with these carnivores due to predation and initially it was tough to mobilise and motivate the local people in conservation of carnivores, however through proper mobilisation and sensitisation regarding the importance of wildlife and carnivores in ecosystem, and by giving them some incentives like livestock vaccination, the local people was actively engaged in the project activities.
- I had requested a total cost of £5258, but I received a payment of £4000 and the remaining cost was internally adjusted and this result trouble in conducting some activities under this project, but later settled down.

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

- This was the first ever project on human-carnivore conflict mitigation in the project and even in district chitral which promote positive attitude towards carnivore conservation in the area.
- The livestock vaccination campaigns given confidence the local people towards the conservation of carnivore species in the area, and they realised that the rate of mortality of livestock from diseases is greater than predation.
- Promote awareness regarding conservation and ecological significance of carnivores through lectures from the religious leaders worked a lot.

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

Local people have been considered to be the primary stakeholders in implementation of this project. During this project, local people have been organised in to Village Conservation Committees and Women Village Conservation committee, local herders have been educated; youth of the village have been trained with basic veterinary skills during livestock vaccination campaigns, and local people are involved in every activities of this project. Thus, through this project both knowledge and skill transfer to local people on mitigating human-carnivore conflict in the project site has been achieved.

All the activities were conducted with the active participation of local customary institutions, community based organisations and line government organisations which made local stakeholders take this project as their own programme and took ownership. So, the implementation of the learning and lesson learnt will be continue in next phase too.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

After completing this project, there are some other issues to be settled in the project site. Some activities have to be improved as well so that local people feel more ownership and are committed to replicate some activities in days to come. And training of wildlife/forest staff to control illegal wildlife trade is highly needed. Building the capacity of village conservation committee in sustainable harvesting non-timber forest products for income generation and bio briquette making training for the member of women village conservation committee is also necessary to introduce alternative to fuel wood to reduce pressure on natural forest.

Some refreshing training on veterinary service and livestock vaccination campaigns will have to be continued so that local people especially youths continue this as their profession which will ultimately help to mitigate human-carnivore conflicts.

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

Results of this project have been shared with the Chitral Wildlife Division, WWF-Pakistan Chitral, Forest Department and livestock Department Chitral. I always shared the result of the project in workshops, seminar, conference and even in meeting and awareness sessions. A detailed presentation on the project result and lesson learn was also shared with all the stakeholders in chitral and the members of Chitral carnivore Conservation Fund.

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 proposed for a period of 12 months (15th July 2015 to 15th July 2016) , and just after the start the district chitral is hit by massive monsoon flash floods and the Hindu Kush earthquake of 7.9, But this period of time did not affect the actual work rather I received proper time to complete the overall project successfully. Even the data on livestock mortality due to floods and earthquake was collected were used by the concerned line departments for relief and rehabilitation work.

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
Community gathering /Meetings (3 Nos)	350	350	No	
Formation of Village Conservation Committees	300	300	No	
Livestock Vaccination campaign	550	820	270	Some livestock medicines was not available at chitral and we have to transport from Peshwar so the cost increased
Livestock insurance	545	545		

Scheme/feasibility study				
preparation of Human carnivores conflicts mitigation plan	1000	1000		
Valley Level awareness Workshops 2 Nos	540	540		
Schools Lectures program	250	250		
Radio programs on the Issue	250	300	50	Radio Pakistan Chitral revised the on air charges
Pamphlets/Awareness materials	423	423		-
Staff costs	300	180		120 was contributed by mountain society for research & development
Media & Evaluation	250	192		58 was contributed by mountain society for research & development
Field Logistic Costs	500	420		80 were contributed by mountain society for research & development by providing transport for some field activities.
Total	5258	4742		742 contributed by mountain Society for research & Development.

The requested budget amount was £5280, but the amount transferred to me was £4000, so subtracting the agreed contribution of Mountain Society for Research & development Chitral, additionally 742 was also contributed from internally source by the society

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

Conservation should be linked with the livelihood of local people. Unless we uplift the livelihood of local people, we cannot successfully implement conservation work and neither obtains the support of local people in this endeavour. In the next phase, I would like to do the following interventions.

- Livestock vaccinations and veterinary skills service training.

- Training on sustainable harvesting of non-timber forest products like pine nut harvesting, mushroom collection and medicinal and aromatic herbs collections for the VCC members.
- Training for line department and community groups to control illegal wildlife trade.

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?

During the project, I used the RSGF logo in Pamphlet, banner, reports, presentations and Mountain Society for Research and Development other publications. RSGF received wide publicity during the project implementation period.

11. Any other comments?

Human-carnivore conflicts are an important conservation issue in the area and this cannot not be resolve it in short term of time. Population of a predator like snow leopard cannot sustain its existence without the availability of its natural prey. Thus a balance between the populations of predator and prey ensures health and functionality of an ecosystem is necessary. Human carnivore conflicts are the major threats to the survival of snow leopard and other carnivores. So another phase of project is required and I am going to apply for the extension of this project. However the local people and stakeholders highly appreciated the contribution of Rufford small grant.

