

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. 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. 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

Your name	Baseer ud din Qureshi
Project title	Conservation of Himalayan musk deer in and around Salkhla Game Reserve
RSG reference	16.03.08
Reporting period	1 year
Amount of grant	£5540
Your email address	baseerqureshi@gmail.com
Date of this report	

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
Data collection on habitat of musk deer.			Fully achieved	
Data collection on distribution of musk deer.			Fully achieved	
Data collection on threats to musk deer.			Fully achieved	
Awareness education in schools.			Fully achieved	
Awareness education in community.			Fully achieved	
Publishing the awareness material.			Fully achieved	
Distribution of awareness material.			Fully achieved	
Digitize the map of the area.		Partially achieved		The eastern and northern side of the study area lies at the line of control (LOC). Due to lack of confidence between Pakistan and Indian Army it was not possible to note exact GPS locations (boundary points) which lie exactly at LOC. In this regard help was taken from map developed by the Forest Department of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJ&K) to digitize the map of study area.
Involvement of local community organizations.			Fully achieved	

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

In the village of Islampura during awareness campaign illegal hunters and illegal musk pod traders were active for drop away awareness workshop. To resolve this issue, team members arranged three different small sessions in the same village instead of large one. These awareness sessions were with small number of participants. As a result the team achieved success to conduct a joint workshop at the village level.

Due to unpredictable climatic conditions project activities were late by about 2 months. Normally in the forest of project area the snow melts at the end of March. So it is possible to visit or survey the area towards the start of April. But in the summer 2009 snow melting was so late that the survey

which was planned from 1st April was not possible until 14th May 2009. So such climatic conditions have made the project activities late than the proposed time period.

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

Local community turn out to be aware for the benefits which can be taken from the wildlife even from musk deer without killing and exploiting them. Target community also become aware for the importance and population status of musk deer in the world and at local level. As a result of awareness campaign local community establish conservation committees within their community groups in village Rawta and Salkhla.

A detailed study and conservation action plan which is an outcome of the project will provide a support to the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife of Azad Jammu and Kashmir to take measures for the conservation of musk deer and other wildlife species in and around Salkhla Game Reserve.

School going children were much interested in taking the knowledge about wildlife and musk deer and their conservation. Similarly the students have taken part in the art and speech competition very actively. It is very important that mind of the students have been diverted to the importance and conservation of natural resources.

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

Local communities were involved in the project in awareness workshops through their participation. Similarly there was active role of the local community for the development of conservation action plan. During the field studies local residents were hired as porters, guides and for the silent drive count. In this way local community have benefited from the project economically also.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

It is important to save the musk deer which is endangered regionally due to illegal hunting. Population of musk deer survives near the Line of Control in Kashmir between India and Pakistan. India has established a fence at LOC which is working as a barrier for most the mammal species. While whole of the wildlife along the LOC in Azad Jammu and Kashmir is sandwiched between fence and the human population. In this situation there is necessary to continue such type of projects in the remaining part of District Neelum to save the wildlife.

All the team members are committed to continue the work for the conservation of wildlife. It is at the top priority of team members to replicate this project in the remaining area of District Neelum for conservation of musk deer. As lesson learned during the project implementation will make the team more specific for the future conservation activities.

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

Azad Jammu and Kashmir Fisheries and Wildlife Department are working to conserve the wildlife in the area. During the project activities a representative of the department was in close liaison with the project team. A copy of final report will be submitted to the said department for their future planning.

A session is planned with the help of EHED and local community organizations to share the compiled results of the project to the community at District level.

A research paper will be published with due acknowledgement of the Rufford Small Grants Foundation to share the scientific information with the scientists and conservation biologists.

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

Project activities started on 1st August 2008 and finished on 5th October 2009. In this duration the RSG was used for the project-related activities. The actual length of the project was 1 year. But working with community it is difficult to achieve the targets exactly according to the plan. There were reservations and conflicts in the community. The team have to resolve these conflicts prior to start the awareness sessions.

In the schools awareness sessions and art and speech competition were arranged according to the schedule set by the District Education Officer according to their own convenience, resulting in the later than expected time period. In this way the project was completed in about 14 months instead of 12 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
Travel	120	170	+ 50	Due to unsuitability and incensement in petroleum prices hiring also have increased.
Field allowance	2820	2820	-	
Conservation	1250	1241	-09	
Stationary	850	912	+62	Incensement in petroleum products (diesel, petrol, etc.) here in Pakistan, prices of most of the products are increasing regularly.
Workshops	500	500	+62	Two conservation awareness sessions (workshops) were arranged outside the project area so the expenses increased.
TOTAL	5540	5714	165	

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

District Neelum lies somewhat parallel to the LOC. The area is rich in biodiversity and natural resources not in Azad Jammu and Kashmir but at Pakistan level also. There is viable population of musk deer and a number of wildlife species like brown bear, black bear, western horned tragopan, Himalayan marmot (Critically Endangered in Pakistan) and many other species which are endangered regionally and some globally.

It is necessary to replicate this project in the other areas of the District Neelum to save the dwindling population of musk deer.

Conservation awareness campaign should be launched in the whole district not only for public but in the schools for the conservation of wildlife especially musk deer.

Research studies are urgent requirement for the conservation of not only for musk deer population but for the other wildlife species which are threaten and endangered as well.

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?

RSG logo was used on the posters, banners and brochures. RSG logo was also used on the latter heads that were issued in the relevance to this project and certificates that were issued to the speech and drawing contestants. RSG logo was also used on the material that was distributed among the winner of the competition

RSG have received publicity in the area due to the project activities. The introduction in each workshop was started by introducing Rufford Small Grants Foundation, its role and commitment to save the biodiversity on the earth. It was also decided by the team members to make clear to the participants for RSG generous funding grant which make it possible to deliver awareness workshops and carry out research and all other project related activities in the area. Resulting most of the community members are now familiar with the name of Rufford Small Grants Foundation and its work.

11. Any other comments?

District Neelum that covers most part of the Neelum Valley have a number of species which are of global importance. Due to remoteness of the area there is unavailability of roads and other communication facilities. The area has a best forest present in AJK even in Pakistan. Due to inaccessibility most of the wildlife species are unexplored. So it is the best site for those NGOS and persons who are committed to save the biodiversity of the earth. They should work here to save the wild fauna and flora earlier than the stage when we have to develop recovery plans for the species of the area.