

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	
	Adiva Vadamsuran
Your name	Auiya Tauanisulen
Project title	Conservation status of wild camel in Mongolia
RSG reference	ID: 20911-1
Reporting period	1 March 2017
Amount of grant	4200 £
Your email address	ya.adiya@gmail.com; adiya@wildcamels.mn
Date of this report	March 2018



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
Identifying environmental variation that contribute suitability distribution				Selection of predictor variables was based on knowledge of habitat conditions that are believed to influence the distribution of wild camels. The location of water sources is an important predictor variable. Also saxaul (<i>Haloxylon ammodendron</i>) dominated shrubs are the main ingredients in their food but they prefer herbaceous species when they are available shortly after summer rainfall. The roads are also big disturbance for camel distribution in protected area. Based on this all variables we will use in analysis.
Conservation awareness and capacity building				Conservation education and awareness programmes were conducted with rangers and local citizens which were contiguous to identified wild camel habitat. During educational training and field monitoring survey has been spread by producing a good work focused on conservation of wild camel. Also, a total of 14 rangers and four from local people (local graduate student and buffer zone of the GGSPA A) were trained and mobilised during field data collection and community activities, field trip monitoring in GGSPAA.
Presence/absence distribution status and sign abundance				The current project has been successful to confirm the presence of wild camels in study area based on visual encounter and target animal's sign (field monitoring survey conducted twice). This project has identified distribution of wild camel in



	different habitat and assessed the sign abundance in their habitat. We have established monitoring transect in three different sites (Maikhan bulag, Edrengiin nuruu and Segs tsagaan bogd) in wild camel habitat.
Habitat characteristic	The project was also able to assess the vegetation analysis of identified wild camel's habitat along with other environmental variables.
Identify the existing threats	The project identified activities like livestock grazing pressure, fuel wood collection, sign of illegal gold mining as major anthropogenic threats; which are similar to threats reported from other areas of the country.

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

There were no any difficulties during the project period

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

3.1. Identifying environmental variation that contribute suitability distribution Based on the model prediction, probability of occurrence was greater in the herbaceous plant communities in summer. This result implies that preference of wild camel to herbaceous species is critical in summer. The evidence of rainfall only occurring in the summer, leads herbaceous species growth. This particular community in summer can be the main desirable habitat where wild camels move to attain enough water. Model predicts that distance to the water sources is critical for camel distribution in all seasons and high probability of camel occurrence was predicted near water sources. Past survey results of numerous researchers showed that abundant number of wild camel herds were found near water sources. Result of this study matches with findings of other researchers. Shallow mountain soils were predicted as favourable soil types for summer distribution. This is typical chestnut soil which is characterized as moderately deep, well drained soils on gently sloping hills where the grasses and annual forbs temporarily appear in summer. Spatial coexistence of herbaceous plants, mountain soils and areas of lower temperature are the favourable conditions in camel distribution during summer.

3.2. Presence/absence status and sign abundance

The project was successful to confirm the presence/distribution status of wild camels in special zone of the Great Gobi a Strictly Protected Area and three different buffer zone habitat patches.



3.3. Conservation education awareness to local community

Educational and monitoring training on rangers and local people towards wild camels, a total of two community programmes were conducted in different buffer zone areas (Ekhyn Gol and Bayantooroi) that consist of local people (herders) and rangers. Also, eight wild camel and wildlife field monitoring sites were formed to monitor wild camel and to control and patrol human threats including illegal gold mining and saxaul illegal collection and livestock pressure in wild camel habitat. Likewise, conservation classes were carried in two schools covering more than 43 students of secondary level. During conservation classes, we gave seminar and small essay competition were conducted among school students. Also, we will aim to run such conservation activities in futures for ecological school clubs around buffer zone of the GGSPAA. Much education and awareness has been spread by producing a special flex-poster focused on conservation of wild camels. Also, a total of 15 peoples (10 rangers, three local citizens and two graduate student) were trained and mobilised during wild camel's field data collection and community activities.

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

During this project implementation, 18 people were trained and hired them as local guides during field monitoring work in GGSPA A. Additionally, the project raised the conservation awareness and significance of wild camel conservation among different groups such as rangers and local herders, and local communities, and teachers and students in schools. People of those communities could help for future monitoring as well as contribute their skill to other researcher who is willing to do related research in the same areas.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes, I have beginning to work on wild camel conservation by developing monitoring protocol, and train rangers and locals as citizen scientist for long term community participatory wild camel monitoring in identified habitats.

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

I plan to disseminate the results by attending workshop and conferences through paper or poster presentation. The output and results will also be published in different printed and electronic journals. A report will be disseminated to Department of Protected Area's Management of the Ministry of Nature Environment in Mongolia Wild Camel Protection Foundation and other concerned conservation organisations. Likewise, copy of the report will be made access in archive of Park administration of GGSPAA and Ministry of Nature Environment and Mongolian National University for the wide use by students and others, who are interested to pursue research in related field. I also plan to put some import information on the websites of Wild Camel Protection Foundation (UK). Beside this, a part of field data and conservation education training programme will be used by Mr Naranbaatar (Institute of Biology, MAS), Mr Dovchindorj (researcher), PhD student in Inner Mongolian Agriculture University for community work credit for his examination.



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

Field monitoring survey portions were run timely and rangers and local peoples educational training were completed lately because of the training teacher's timetable from Institute of Biology and Park work calendar for collecting rangers from different area of GGSPAA.

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
Principal investigator	270	310	-40	Fuel prices rises
Research Associate	150	150		More days
Transportation	240	240		
Accommodation	480	480		Took more day than estimated day
Training logistics	1400	1350	50	Managed in low budget
Training tool kits	80			
Workshops	480	480		
Equipment	260	250	10	Managed in low budget
Field gears	200	220	-20	
Conservation awareness	260			
Field Monitoring	280	280		Fuel prices rises
Report production	100	100		

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

I feel that there is necessity of conservation oriented programmes and long term wild camel monitoring program and community participatory monitoring of wild camel population and its habitat in the identified area.

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

Awareness raising materials (flex, poster and banner and announce) were published in Mongolian language using RF and other organisation logos.



11. Please provide a full list of all the members of your team and briefly what was their role in the project.

Name	Position	Role in project
Adiya Yadamsuren (PhD)	Wild Camel Protection	Project leader/wild camel
	Foundation Mongolia	expert
Naranbaatar Galsandorj	Institute of Biology, MAS	Wildlife monitoring trainer
Dovchindorj Ganbold	PhD student, Inner	Patrol and law
	Mongolian University,	enforcement trainer
	China	
Hadbaatar Baldan	Institute of Biology, MAS	Water and soil monitoring
		trainer
Undrahbayar Uzlii	Master student	Field assistant
Gantulga Naran	Bachelor student	Field assistant
Gansuh Daldii	Driver	Driver
Enhbold Anhbayar	Driver	Driver

12. Any other comments?

I would like to continue research and conservation on this endangered species also in the future specially ranger long term monitoring and controlling programme.