

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	Mohammad Farhadinia
Project title	Safeguarding a hotspot for Persian leopard across a shrinking desert landscape in central Iran
RSG reference	20937-B
Reporting period	Final report
Amount of grant	£5000
Your email address	Mohammad.farhadinia@zoo.ox.ac.uk
Date of this report	April 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
A comprehensive leopard baseline was developed with active engagement of local partners on size and composition of leopard population;				We conducted a systematic camera trapping study to cover the entire Bafq PA, which resulted in identification of eight leopards, including only one adult male.
Local conservation practitioners (i.e. experts and game wardens) were trained how to monitor the leopard. Also, they were incentivized to enhance their protection and monitoring capabilities;				One workshop was organised to train local conservation practitioners. Also, practical training was intensively provided for local experts and rangers during field work. Also, anti-poaching motorbikes were fixed and all rangers were provided financial and equipment support.
Relevant stakeholders, such as decision makers, DoE managers, etc. will receive proper knowledge to show stronger support for promotion of conservation in the area;				Multiple meetings and debates have been organised to discuss about project findings with local, regional and national authorities at Department of Environment.

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

Fortunately no unforeseen difficulty arose during the project.

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

1. We updated a comprehensive baseline about population density and composition of leopards.
2. We provided personal equipment for local rangers which was expected to enhance their incentives for anti-poaching functions.
3. We leveraged Bafq PA among local authorities to provide stronger support for nature conservation.

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

Local conservation practitioners were engaged during this project. Rangers and experts received necessary training on population monitoring and were actively engaged in the current project. Also, a local NGO, named as Bafq Volunteers Organisation, composed of local youths enthusiastic to assist rangers in protection and patrolling activities were also trained and involved in monitoring program.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

The results of this project have been shared with Iran Department of Environment

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

We have drafted a scientific paper on the population density of leopards in Bafq to be submitted to a peer-reviewed journal by the end of 2018. Also, the project findings were shared as a report with local stakeholders.

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

We used it during one year, which matched the anticipated length of the project.

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
Hardware / equipment purchase	2170	2240	-70	For fixing ranger motorbikes
Running cost (fuel, insurances, field rations)	670	450	220	Lower cost in local facilities
Staffing cost (salaries and allowances)	2040	2310	-270	More locals were paid for services and activities
Capacity building and partnership	120	0	120	Covered by DoE and donors
Total	5000	5000		

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

We have learned about the effect (skewed sex ratio towards females), but we are not sure about the cause. Therefore, we need to repeat the current study in the next

2-3 years in order to assure that the skewness in sex ratio is maintained. Afterwards, the Iran Department of Environment can decide for guiding its conservation efforts, either to continue the current habitat protection or to supply it with interventions.

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?

We had our project annual report (2016) in which RSG was mentioned as a donor. Also, we are in the process of publishing a scientific paper in peer-reviewed journals and the RSG will be acknowledged.

11. Any other comments?

The RSG support enabled us to obtain fine scale data on population of leopards in Bafq, which is a main stronghold for Persian leopards in central Iran.

