

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

Grant Recipient Details

Your name	Jatinder Kaur
Project title	Community Involvement in Conservation of Sarus Crane breeding habitat in three districts of semi-arid tract of Rajasthan India.
RSG reference	24.07.06
Reporting period	Feb- Feb 2008, but worked till May 2008, and two months for analysing and writing report.
Amount of grant	GBP 5000
Your email address	kaurjatinder@rediffmail.com
Date of this report	27.07.2008

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
1. Survey in Kota, Bundi and Baran districts to identify areas important for breeding Sarus cranes and areas that have potential to be restored or have new wetlands created with public support and government agencies.			Yes	New wetlands were documented and we had covered partially another district also named as Jhalawar, because people got information regarding to save the sarus crane nesting sites.
2. Carry out awareness programmes and field visits in schools and villages to help identify people interested in Sarus crane conservation in all three districts			Yes	Earlier awareness programme in 2004-2005 in Kota to engage children and farmers in conservation, helped to involve more individual in conserving the sarus crane in other two districts. A total of 30 individuals from all the three districts were involved in protecting Sarus Crane breeding habitats.
3. Preparation of education material, lectures and movies in local language to cater to the school children, farmers and village community			Yes	The education material such as posters, pamphlets, stickers was distributed to schools, villagers and local and National NGO's who are involved in conserving the wildlife. Movie made by the GEER foundation was shown to the villagers and in future want to make the movies on sarus crane habitat in semi-arid tract of Rajasthan, India.
4. Create an active network comprising of farmers and children to obtain information on breeding and non breeding Sarus cranes, and to use this information to create a feeling pride in the villagers.			Yes	The sarus Crane protection Group in all the three districts was actively supporting us with all the programmes done in their villages and schools. Regular information by making phone calls and personal visit by us in field.
5. Features in the print and television media on the project				Both print and television media were regularly writing down the story on the work and individuals involved in

showcasing the individuals who will undertake the project, as well as the most outstanding participant who will enable the success of the conservation programme.				conserving sarus crane breeding habitat
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2. Please explain any unforeseen difficulties that arose during the project and how these were tackled (if relevant).

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

1. New wetlands were documented during the project work and these wetlands are also good for other avian biodiversity also.
2. The model named as "Kota Model" now famous in world. First ever work to start in the country to recognize the individuals who are involved in conserving sarus crane breeding habitat, and now being replicated by Uttar Pradesh Forest Department. The state Gujarat is implementing with some moderation by paying cash reward to the farmers.
3. People are now realizing the importance of the wetlands, by whole the rural people are aware of the problems and its solution, but they need a pat on their back to assure that they are right with this gestured approach we think the goal of nature conservation can be done more efficiently and easily.

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

The local communities informed us about the sarus crane nests during the breeding season and through constant vigil and awareness campaigns conducted by the project the local village folks have been made aware of the plight of Sarus Crane and what they could voluntarily do to help save Sarus Cranes in their surroundings. Got the information on the sighting of banding cranes which was banded during the project of wildlife Institute of India during the year 2000-2002. During the awareness programme we even got the information on deaths of Brahminy ducks; therefore local people are aware of the importance of the wetlands.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes, I intend to continue this work, the active network formed during the project should be continued their role of information and active protection to the cranes and wetlands in their areas.

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

A final report will be sent to organisations that are interested in research and conservation such as the, Wildlife Institute of India, Bombay Natural History Society, and International Crane Foundation.

Scientific papers will also be sent to peer-reviewed journals such as Oryx, Biological Conservation, and the Journal of the Bombay Natural History Society.

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

The RSG was used for 15 months, from February 2007-May 2008. The actual length of the project was 12 months, but I had covered one more nesting season of the sarus crane i.e. February 2008to May 2008. During the project two dry season nesting and one wet season nesting was covered. Analysis and production of the report took an additional 2 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 Vehicle hiring and fuel.	1800	2000	200	Since extensive touring was done to the interior villages of the three districts. Hiring of motor cycle and four wheeler was hired during the awareness programmes and field visits
Local Field Assistant	500	500	0	One field assistant and hiring of other individuals sometime during on per day wages.
Contingency	200	300	100	Files, Pen, pencils, gifts for school children, papers and CD etc during the project work
Printing of report and postage	100	100	0	-
Printing and distribution of posters, leaflets and other educational material	700	400	300	3000 posters, 5000 leaflets and 2000 stickers were printed for the distribution. Flex banners and postage.
Recognition award and ceremony	500	400	100	3 binoculars/T-shirts/ printing, certificates to individuals were given and booked a hall for the recognition award programme.
Food and stay	600	800	200	The districts Bundi and Baran are far from Kota and the distance needed to cover these districts are more, night stay during field work, awareness programme. Sometimes accompanied by locals who guided us.
Telescope	350	350	0	3 Binoculars, 1 Spotting scope

Photography	200	100	100	Movies could not be made, needed more budget.
Communication	50	50	0	-
TOTAL	5000	5000	0	

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

1. The “**Rural Village Sarus Protection Group**” was created during the study period and it is proposed to develop a mechanism to make this Rural Community conservation contribution recognition an Annual event. Much of our wildlife outside the Protected Area landscape requires such voluntary protection.
2. Detailed research on local and seasonal movements of Sarus Cranes in both wet and dry season nesting period is required by banding juveniles and information on their monitoring should be documented. This will provide information on the kinds of critical habitats to be conserved.
3. Involving the local communities around the breeding sites of Sarus Cranes through education and awareness campaigns on a prolonged basis and monitor the breeding sites, nests and chicks from predation will help increase the number of the cranes during the present study. Forming more such “Rural Protection Groups” in other areas by interested youths from the rural village (or breeding area.) may be a strategy that not only will link people to Sarus but also will provide much more incentives to local people for wildlife conservation, particularly outside Protected Areas.
4. Inventorization of important wetlands and the surrounding landscape that support Sarus Crane population and annual Sarus counts can be conducted by local NGO’s by creating such network, that will have community involvement. All identified wetlands and the surrounding landscape that support large density of breeding Sarus Cranes are required to be identified and such mosaic of habitat to be made disturbance free, either through creation of Protected Areas or through Community involvement.

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?

Yes, RSGF has been acknowledged in materials produced during this project like the Posters and Pamphlets. The RSGF logo has been used on the cover pages of the report, and in the presentations. The logo has been used in the flex boards and banners produced during the project work. At an informal level, other student researchers have also been told about RSG and the mode of application.

11. Any other comments?

The ease with which student researchers can apply for this grant and the fact that the Rufford Foundation is willing to support such a studies makes it a very encouraging experience. I think such opportunities are invaluable in motivating aspiring conservationists, particularly from developing countries.