

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	Muhammad Naeem Awan
Project title	Conservation of Cheer Pheasant (<i>Catreus wallichii</i>) in Phala Game Reserve, Kashmir, Pakistan, through monitoring, capacity building and conservation education
RSG reference	10875-2
Reporting period	1 year
Amount of grant	£5918
Your email address	ajkwildlife@gmail.com
Date of this report	September 2013

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
Population monitoring surveys along with threats analysis			√	We remained successful in conducting standardise call count surveys at eight survey plots (four previous and four newly established) with 300 m radius. These are first ever complete cheer surveys in the project area. Project marked the GPS locations of all the surveys plots which were not available previously this would help to monitor the population trends in future. We conducted a questionnaire survey to find out the hunting pressure and other threats to cheer pheasant and its habitat.
Capacity building of wildlife field staff in population monitoring of cheer pheasant			√	A total six wildlife staff along with two university students were trained and involved in the project. This helped build their capacity in cheer pheasant surveys techniques along with conservation. Wildlife staff is well equipped with monitoring techniques and are well aware about the location of survey plots established for future monitoring of the population trends.
Conservation education and awareness			√	Project launched a series of awareness sessions for the community which included workshops, seminars and informal conservation talks. Conservation awareness was spread in 15 villages around eight established surveys plots. About 800 community members were educated through different activities. Project organised eight nature clubs in the area and created awareness among school children along with teachers. Published awareness material was distributed among community members and students as a part of awareness campaign.

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

As the project area is also affected with Kashmir earthquake 2005 so the land is still not stable and sliding starts when it rains. Landslides along the roadside due to unexpected heavy rains created disturbance due to which we have to change our plans many times but targets were achieved with little amendment in the schedule.

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

This is the first ever comprehensive mapping of the cheer distribution in the Kahutta valley and most importantly it is recorded that no survey plot exists inside the Phalla Game Reserve as recorded earlier in the literature or believed the occurrence of cheer in the protected area. When we started gathering information about the potential distribution of the species we didn't find any information about its occurrence in Phalla and all the established survey plots (old and new) exist outside Phalla Game Reserve.

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

Project focused to create the awareness among the communities about the conservation of cheer pheasant and associated ecosystem. Communities are well aware about the cheer and its habitat than ever before which would defiantly be helpful to conserve the cheer pheasant, its habitat and this mountain ecosystem.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

We aim to continue establishing further monitoring surveys plots for cheer pheasant in Pakistani part of its range which would be helpful in sketching the true picture of population trend of this threatened species. We will focus those protected areas where cheer has been recorded earlier (about three decades ago) using some robust techniques along with call count to confirm the occurrence of the species. As the cheer is under consideration for IUCN red list uplifting from vulnerable to endangered which needs population estimates based on standardise scientific methods. This work would be helpful in the scientifically approved population estimates of the species needed for IUCN Red List assessment.

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

We planned to present the results of the work in some international conference and published in an international peer reviewed journal. Publications will be shared with the concerned organisation like IUCN/SSC/Galliformes SG, Birdlife International and local wildlife department for better conservation and management planning for this vulnerable species.

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

The RSG has been used for 12 months between September 2012 and August 2013 and the activities gone smoothly as scheduled with little amendment.

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
Travelling cost	600	600		
Allowance to Research Assistant	1800	1800		
Local assistant	600	600		
Allowance to Wildlife Staff	768	576	-192	Only six wildlife were involved in the project so the remaining amount was used for the community conservation and awareness workshops.
Conservation Awareness Workshops for community members	700	892	+192	Saved amount has been used for conservation education and awareness
Conservation Awareness material	400	400		
Capacity building of Wildlife Staff	800	800		
Stationery and supplies, Communication	250	250		
TOTAL	5918	5918		

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

During the implementation of the two projects supported by RSG, we found that this vulnerable species has been recorded outside the protected areas with no effective protection. We will continue our work to establish further monitoring survey plots in other areas which will provide us with updated information on the presence/absence and abundance of the species in this part of its range. This information is very important for the global population assessment and IUCN red-list/Birdlife International's species re-categorization.

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, RSG logo has been used on all published material along with on banners for workshops and seminars as well as data sheets used for data collection.

11. Any other comments?

I am thankful to RSG for the financial support for the monitoring and conservation of the red-listed cheer pheasant in Pakistani part of its range as this important information will be helpful in the reassessment of the species IUCN status.