

## 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](mailto:jane@rufford.org).

Thank you for your help.

**Josh Cole, Grants Director**

Grant Recipient Details	
<b>Your name</b>	Gang Chen
<b>Project title</b>	The development of sustainable desert communities and the conservation of Wild Bactrian Camels in Xinjiang
<b>RSG reference</b>	11.04.07
<b>Reporting period</b>	Sep 06, 2007 to Aug 21, 2008
<b>Amount of grant</b>	£4822
<b>Your email address</b>	gang_chen_his@163.com
<b>Date of this report</b>	Aug 21, 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
Educate local desert farmers and herdsmen to grasp our artificial branchy tamarisks and desert-living cistanches planting technology and the methane pit technology and the significance of wild Bactrian camel's conservation.			Yes	With the strong coordination and organizational support of local governmental officials of environmental protection, we are warmly welcome to do our educational presentations and on-site planting and methane pit installation and application works in each targeted local family involved in this project.
Change gradually the unsustainable local sheep raising economy into sustainable desert-living plants economy.			Yes	The planted branchy tamarisk grows well with 96% survival rate, the planted desert-living cistanches has been harvested once by now. Families involved in this project has been convinced by the results of both economic and ecological benefits brought by this project. They are giving off their previous unrestrictive sheep raising business in the Lopnur Wild Bactrian camel reserve and spend more efforts on planting and caring branchy tamarisk and desert-living cistanches.
Reserve the natural wildly growing plants inside Lopnur desert only for the wild Bactrian camels for their sustainable survival and reproduction.			Yes	Wild Bactrian camels are facing reduced competition for feeding plants from raised sheep and enjoy more living space for better survival in the Lopnur desert.

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

Some Uygur minority farmers and herdsmen involved in this project know little Chinese language, we had difficulties in teaching them about our technologies and knowledge on wild Bactrian camel conservation. We made written educational materials for them and asked professional translator to translate them into their native language for them.

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

A. The newly planted branchy tamarisks has covered 165 mu of previous desert land with more than 95% survival rate, the desert-living cistanches planted at the roots of branchy tamarisks are growing well with more than 98% survival rate, these plants are replacing the traditionally unsustainable sheep raising business, which competed with wild Bactrian camels for wild plants inside the Lopnur desert.

B. The percentage of families keeping using successfully the methane has been maintained at 98% among the targeted group of families, which used to destroy wild trees and grass as cooking fuel.

C. The wild Bactrian camels in the Lopnur Nature Reserve are enjoying more feeding plants, which is crucial for their sustainable survival.

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

Through a series of oral and video presentations, we helped a targeted group of farmers and herdsmen consisting of 77 families along the border between the nature reserve and Ruoqiang County to learn the important ecological and economic values of our planting technology. We provided RSG funded seedlings of branchy tamarisks and seeds of desert-living cistanches for artificial planting free of charge to these targeted families. These seedlings and seeds had been planted on abandoned desert land by these families under our direction. These plants will provide new and increased income sources for these families and help them get rid of the old unsustainable sheep raising business depending on limited wild plants.

Local communities had also been taught the household methane technology and provided the pertinent application equipments funded by RSG. The widespread application of the methane-generating pits is helping save each benefited family about 1.5 tons of annual firewood consumption that usually destroy about 5 mu of wild forest in rural Ruoqiang. In consequence, the local ecological environment can be better protected.

**5. Are there any plans to continue this work?**

Yes. With self-generated fund from this project in the future and extra external fund, this project work will be expanded into larger geographical scope and benefit more desert farmers and herdsmen families and the sustainable survival and reproduction of wild Bactrian camels in Lopnur desert.

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

The results of our work will be reported by local TV Station, radio Station and local newspaper. In addition, we will also disseminate the results with more desert farmers and herdsmen around the Lopnur wild Bactrian camels reserve through our following personal visits and help them to share the benefits of the work results.

**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 from early September (the date of the receipt of the RSG fund) 2007 to early Aug 2008. This period is in complete accordance with the anticipated project implementation period.

**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
Fuel	543£	655£	112£	Price increase of gas
Supply of branchy tamarisks seedlings	1340£	1340£	0	
Supply of desert-living cistanches seeds	866£	866£	0	
Building Materials and Equipments for Methane Pits	2073£	2073£	0	
<b>TOTAL</b>	4822£	4934£		The exchange rate was £1 equalling to 15.02 Chinese Yuan at the date of transaction.

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

Demonstrate the successful experience of this project to more farmers and herdsmen in Ruoqiang County adjacent to the Lopnur Wild Bactrian Camel Reserve and help them to learn and apply our project experience and technologies, make greater conservation effects for the critically endangered wild Bactrian camels.

**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. The RSGF logo is used on the electronic educational presentation materials, which served as the guide of our branchy tamarisks and desert-living cistanches planting technology, methane pit application technology for local communities. Local farmers and herdsmen involved in this project, local governmental environment protection authorities and local media all know about that our project is funded by RSGF, which has become famous for its great support on the wild Bactrian camels conservation and the development of sustainable desert communities in Xinjiang, China.

**11. Any other comments?**

I would like to give my sincere thanks for Rufford Small Grant Foundation's generous support on the wild Bactrian camel's conservation and sustainable desert community's development project on behalf of local communities, local conservation NGOs and local governmental environment protection authorities.