

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

Thank you for your help.

**Josh Cole, Grants Director**

### Grant Recipient Details

<b>Your name</b>	Faraz Akrim
<b>Project title</b>	Ecology and Conservation of Indian pangolin ( <i>Manis crassicaudata</i> ) in and around Pir Lasura National Park, Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Pakistan
<b>RSG reference</b>	13359-1
<b>Reporting period</b>	October 2014 - October 2015
<b>Amount of grant</b>	£4985
<b>Your email address</b>	<a href="mailto:farazakrim@hotmail.com">farazakrim@hotmail.com</a>
<b>Date of this report</b>	26 October, 2015

**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
Collecting data on distribution, population and threats to Indian pangolin in the study area			X	Data on distribution of Indian pangolin in and around PLNP were collected. Population of Indian pangolin were estimated during the whole study duration in and around the park in nine study sites. Data on threats were collected using 268 questionnaires
Creating conservation awareness among the local community, especially college and school students			X	Fourteen seminars were conducted for spreading conservation awareness among local community. Posters, banners, t-shirts were developed to be used during awareness education activities. Local school and college teachers were also involved in conservation awareness activities. During these 14 seminars around 1700 students and 350 villagers were involved.
Capacity building of field staff of the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife of Azad Jammu and Kashmir through training workshop			X	A workshop was organised to build capacity of field staff of PLNP. Beside field staff many locals also attended our programme.

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

We had planned to survey for Indian pangolin up to elevation of 1000 m since previous published literature shows that this particular animal species does not occur beyond this elevation but during the surveys we recorded distribution of Indian pangolin up to 1540 m elevation in Pir Lasura National Park. So we conducted

surveys in higher elevation areas searching for Pangolin near Line of Control where there were frequent incidence of firing.

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

- We collected data on distribution, population and threats faced by Indian pangolin in and around Pir Lasura National Park. We have recorded distribution of Indian pangolin up to 1540 m in Pakistan which was previously known to exist up to 1000 m elevation in the country.
- Two thousand and fifty members of local community were educated during awareness education campaigns.
- Training workshop helped in capacity building of field staff of Pir Lasura National Park. They were trained to collect data on distribution, population and threats face by pangolin. They were taught to identify indirect signs of Indian pangolin like burrows, faecal material and foot prints.

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

The local community (shopkeepers, farmers, government employees and students) joined us during awareness education activities. They took special interest in awareness education activities and now they are aware of importance of Indian pangolin as biological control of ants and termites and they no longer have myths that Indian pangolin is harmful for humans and eats dead bodies. Students actively participated during awareness education activities. In different study sites we hired local people as local guide in this way they also earned some money.

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

Yes, we have plan to continue our work since during current project we got reports of killing of Indian pangolin from other areas of Azad Jammu and Kashmir. We have currently 430 reports of killing from Mirpur and Bhimber Districts. So there is great need of monitoring population of the species and spreading awareness education among local communities to stop killing of Indian pangolin. For Bhimber District our project was approved by "The MBZ Species Conservation Fund" recently. We also look forward to continue our work in Pir Lasura National Park since we have developed links with local communities so we are in better position now to extend our work in the park.

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

- We are now working on detailed report of the project which will be made furnished to The Rufford Foundation.
- It will also be shared with relevant government department and IUCN Pangolin Specialist Group.
- We had also incorporated some of our results in awareness education activities and capacity building workshop.
- We are also looking forward to publish our data in reputed Journal.

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

The grant was used for the period of one year as anticipated. The activities of project started after we received the grant in October 2014.

**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
(Traveling) three persons up to Pir Lasura National Park for 12 visits.	355	355		
(Field Allowance) 60 days field visit @ £12/day including accommodation, Food.	720	695	+25	We used these £25 for awareness education material.
Local assistant and Technical assistant (2 person @ £8/day each for 60 days)	960	960		
Awareness seminars for local community and training workshop for Wildlife field staff.	1210	1210		
Posters and brochures publication and class material for awareness among local community and students.	750	775	-25	
Stationery and supplies, Communication and Report	190	190		
Equipment (Camera, GPS, Binocular, Search lights and Field bag).	800	800		
<b>Total</b>	4985	<b>4985</b>		

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

We have collected baseline data on some ecological parameters and spread conservation awareness in local community in Pir Lasura National Park. I feel that there is great need of extending work in other areas of Aazd Jammu and Kashmir where, information on baseline ecological data is lacking and Indian pangolin is being killed. There is great need of educating local communities to save Indian pangolin throughout its distribution range.

**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?**

Yes we used logo of RSGF in all awareness education material like posters, banners and t-shirts during seminars. Logo was also used during workshop. Furthermore, logo will be used in final detailed report of the project. The Rufford Foundation will also be acknowledged in research paper.

**11. Any other comments?**

We are thankful to The Rufford Foundation for their support during this project. Without the support of The Rufford Foundation it was not possible to conduct this project in Pir Lasura National Park.