

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	Pema Dendup
Project title	Response of Red Panda to natural and anthropogenic disturbances in Phrumsengla National Park (Name changed as per government directives)
RSG reference	14619-1
Reporting period	12 months
Amount of grant	£6000
Your email address	pemadndp@gmail.com
Date of this report	April 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
1. To analyze the effect of natural and anthropogenic disturbances on the occurrence of red panda.			YES	All types of disturbances, both natural and anthropogenic were recorded. We even analysed the effects of different disturbance type with the occurrence of the red panda
2. To assess the effect of environmental variables on occurrence of red panda.			YES	
3. To map possible red panda presence areas in the park.			YES	
4. To analyse red panda distribution and occupancy in the park.		YES		The 4 th objective was partially achieved as there was a snow during the survey period and most of the red panda signs were hidden under the snow and therefore, this might have some impact on the distribution and occupancy data.

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

During the time of survey, there was snowfall and some of the red panda dungs were difficult to encounter as it was covered by the snow. We had to wait for snows to melt and this actually involved some extra working days. Secondly, looking for porter to accompany the survey team was very difficult. The daily wage they demanded was very high and it has increased almost three fold (from Nu. 165 to Nu. 500). I had to pay them Nu. 500 (£ 5.2) per person/day along with three meals. Therefore, the expenditure for logistics really shot up.

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

Three most important outcomes of my project are:

1. Maps of predicted red panda habitats were produced and 33% (297 km²) of the total park area is expected to be suitable for red panda habitat.
2. Different types of disturbances to the red panda in the park were recorded and these disturbances can be easily monitored. Anthropogenic and natural disturbances were 71%

and 29% respectively. Red pandas responded positively to the sites with natural disturbances of intermediate intensity and mostly avoided sites with anthropogenic disturbances.

3. About 18% of the study site was found to be occupied by red panda. Evidence of red panda was found within the altitude range of 2860 to 3597 m asl. The majority of red panda evidence was recorded in forests with *Abies densa* and *Rhododendron kesangiae* with groundcover of *Yushania maling*.

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

During the course of my survey, local people were used as a guide and as porter to carry necessary field equipment and food stuffs. Alongside, they were also created awareness on the importance of conserving red panda and its habitat. They were paid for their services and this has benefitted them in terms of earning extra income.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes, in the same study site, I would like to study on the habitat use by red panda in two different seasons (summer and winter). Similar work will also be carried out in research preserve of UWICE, as many red panda presence has been reported. Funds are currently being explored and RSG will be approached.

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

I am planning to publish my report in the Journals of the Bhutan Ecological Society. I have also provided my report to the College of Natural Resources and they have a copy in their Library. A copy has also been given to the Park Management of Thrumshingla National Park and to the management of Ugyen Wangchuck Institute for Conservation and Environment. The materials will be available for presentations as and when required.

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

My actual work started from July 2014. The grant was used from July 2014 till March 2015 and this is the 75% of the actual 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
Digital Camera (SLR)	1100	1000	+100	
Garmin GPS	650	332	+318	
Extension Kits	800	730	+70	
Daily Allowances for the field Assistance	800	1000	-200	The Daily Allowance of the civil servants has increased by more than 2 times as per the

				government directives.
Stationaries and other equipment	200	150	+50	
Coordination meeting	150	150	0	
Vehicle	550	625	-75	Fuel prices increased three times in the last one year
Food and Logistics	450	450	0	
Charges	300	633	-333	The wage rate of the local labour in the village has increased almost by three fold
Monitoring Activities	800	750	+50	
Report Writing	200	150	+50	
TOTAL	6000	5970	+30	BALANCE of £30 is left

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

Social survey should be conducted in order to know people's perception towards the red panda. The survey should be focused to the people residing near red panda habitat and accordingly awareness should be created (1-day workshop in each village).

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, the Rufford Foundation Logo was used during my presentation. RSGF received huge publicity and in fact many of my friends applied for their research works to the Rufford Small Grant and some of them were awarded too.

11. Any other comments?

RSGF has played very crucial role in the lives of researchers. These researchers had very interesting research topics, but due to the lack of fund, they could not do anything. But with the help of RSGF, they could carry out their research works and enhanced their ability and skill in carrying out research works. RSGF has been of a great help to me in particular. The longing to study red panda in TNP was long overdue and finally I could do it.