

## The Rufford Foundation Final Report

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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**

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Grant Recipient Details	
<b>Your name</b>	Iftikar Ali
<b>Project title</b>	Extending the Wildlife Conservation approach in Kargil, Ladakh Trans-Himalaya, through education, Awareness Programmes and PRA Techniques.
<b>RSG reference</b>	15870-1
<b>Reporting period</b>	September 2015 to October 2016
<b>Amount of grant</b>	£ 4548
<b>Your email address</b>	<a href="mailto:Iftida7@gmail.com">Iftida7@gmail.com</a>
<b>Date of this report</b>	15-Nov-2016

**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
Extensive study on Carnivore-Human Conflicts in Kargil				<p>An extensive study on the carnivore-human conflict was carried out in Kargil during the early phase of the Project. Conflicts of snow leopard, Himalayan brown bear, Tibetan wolf and Tibetan fox with the local inhabitants were studied. 17 villages were selected (on the basis of population, area, elevation, terrains, and remoteness) and studied. Detailed information on conflicts were gathered and conflict prone areas were identified. Local people were made aware of wildlife and mitigation from conflicts were discussed.</p>
Formation of Wildlife Nature Clubs for conservation of Wildlife				<p>Wildlife Nature Clubs (WNCs) were formed in different part of the district with an aim "The future of Wildlife is in our hand", which was also the motto for Wildlife week-2016. The main objective of the WNCs would be to check any illegal wildlife activities in their respective zone and report it to the Wildlife Protection Department of Kargil.</p> <p>WNC Kargil  WNC Chiktan  WNC Drass  WNC Wakha-Shargole  WNC Sankoo  WNC Zanskar  WNC Batalik</p>

Wildlife Conservation Education Outreach			<p>Wildlife conservation through education was successfully carried out in 25 schools in various villages of the district to spread and ensure basic knowledge on importance of wildlife to the students. Powerpoint presentations and wildlife movies were displayed to aware them. Overall the students showed interests and positive response towards the aim of conservation of wildlife.</p>
District level Awareness Programmes			<p>A district level awareness campaign was conducted on 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2016 marking the “International Snow Leopard day”. Students from 30 different schools participated in this mega event. A district level speech competition was also conducted on the same day on the topic “Importance of wildlife with special reference to Ladakh”.</p> <p>The whole programme was telecasted on local television networks and All India Radio (National Radio broadcasting of India)</p>
Construction of Coral proof pens in highly conflicted areas			<p>Although meetings were held at regular intervals with the officials at Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council, Kargil, assurance was given to us in collaborating the construction of coral proof pens/cattle sheds in highly conflicted area but change in the power of the council ministers delayed the procedure. A full report identifying the highly conflicted areas of Kargil have been submitted to the LAHDC Kargil and they have assured of assistance in near future.</p>

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

Rough terrain and harsh climate has been a major problem faced by different wildlife researchers in the cold desert of Ladakh. But, being native of the region, our team didn't face any major problem. Only for a once, we were struck for 2 weeks in a village 'Khandi' during field surveys due to heavy snowfall and road blockage. This incident occurred during the late winter survey in the south-eastern region of the Kargil district. This also led to unplanned expenses in the budget.

Our main awareness programme on district level was scheduled in the first week of October (Wildlife Week) 2016, but due to a religious procession of Mohurrum and other activities, students rallies were not possible as denied by the district administration, we planned it for the 23<sup>rd</sup> of October on the eve of International Snow Leopard day, which was a huge success. Hence, for the first week of October we continued on education outreach in various schools across the district celebrating the wildlife week. This led to the delay in the submission of the final report, but the patience from the RSG is highly regarded and appreciated by our team.

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

- **A detailed information on Carnivore-human conflict in Kargil and awareness of local communities.**

A total number of 17 villages were surveyed, and from every village around 20.75 % of the total households were interviewed. A total of 176 cases of livestock attack were reported. Although, (6.5%) of retaliation killing was reported out of the total 176 cases of livestock loss, the people seems to be very unhappy as they were not granted any compensation for the loss, from the respective departments. Only 15.8 % number of affected household agreed that they were been compensated for the loss of livestock which. Compensation for such losses was provided by Dept. of Wildlife Protection, Jammu and Kashmir almost 10 years back but due to lack of funds this was discontinued (Aishwarya, 2010).

The different approach during the surveys was the part during which discussions were made with the local people about the ways of mitigating and reducing human-animal conflicts. People were also made aware of state and national Laws regarding the protection of wildlife of the region.

- **Education Outreach programs to various schools was achieved successfully**

Education outreach programme was carried out in 25 different schools across the district. The students were educated about the wildlife of Kargil, Jammu and Kashmir, India and the whole world through presentations, movies and pamphlets.

This move was appreciated by the villagers, local and district administration and the senior citizens who also wilfully took part in these outreach programmes.

- **Formation of Wildlife Nature Clubs (WNCs) and District level Awareness programs**

1. Our vision was to involve the local people in long time conservation of wildlife. This was practically done by the formation of wildlife nature clubs in seven main blocs of Kargil district. The main objective of the Wildlife Nature Clubs will be to check illegal wildlife activities, Understanding the attitude of the local people towards the wildlife, mitigating and reducing conflicts by walking hand-in-hand with the local communities and ultimately, the conservation of wildlife of Kargil. Bi-Annual meetings would held after every 6 months to review the progress of the WNCs. If preceded in a right way, these WNCs could play a vital role in conserving the wildlife of Kargil. For this, supports would be required from every corner. And we would seek RSG's support in near future to make these clubs a successful step in conservation of Wildlife.

2. The aim at conducting the district level awareness programmes was to educate the people, the on-going wildlife conservation approaches in Kargil, Ladakh and throughout the world and the importance of such efforts. The main event was held on the eve of 'International Snow leopard day' 2016 with a small rally by students of different schools and district level speech competition on the topic "Importance of Wildlife with special reference to Ladakh".

Many students took part in these events and shared their view and aware the people on on-going wildlife conservation efforts. Whole event was broadcasted on local channels and national radio (All India Radio, Kargil), which was a big achievement for the wildlife enthusiasts of the country. It is important to mention here that it was the first time that International Snow Leopard day was celebrated in Kargil (probably first in the country)and with such enthusiasm.

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

The project team on field comprised of four people from the local community of Kargil, two field assistant, one project assistant during education outreach and awareness programs and one driver. The two field assistants were students from the local degree College and very keen in gathering more knowledge of wildlife of Kargil. Beside training them to frame man-animal Questionnaire and interviewing, they were also trained to use different wildlife equipment like GPS, projectors, binoculars, compass, spotting scope, altimeter, map using, altimeter.

Seven Wildlife Nature Clubs formed as a part of this project comprises of local young people native of the Kargil region only. In long term conservation, these local people can play a very important role. 49 local people (seven members of each WNC) is involved in making the WNCs a successful measure in conservation of wildlife.

Since we stayed at different villages, during evenings we use to gather the local people in huge numbers and discuss the various problems faced by the by the wild carnivores and also discuss the ways of mitigating such problems. It was more like debate and informal discussions, but the interest of the people sometime resulted in the discussion up to midnights.

In most of the villages we used to have homestays and this gave us a good opportunity in interacting with them and gain more information.

During some field studies, local wildlife department staff accompanied us and they also learned the techniques used in field and to use various equipment.

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

Yes. In future we are hoping to intensify the study in whole Ladakh region with advance technologies like camera traps, if possible to evaluate trends in population of wild carnivore and prey species and get estimates of abundance and distribution in correlation with climate change and anthropogenic pressures. In coming years, we are hoping to conduct intensive study on some wild carnivores, which will also provide data for conservation status assessment.

Education and awareness of wildlife among local people, cattle herders, and students is the main need for the conservation of wildlife and reducing human-animal conflicts in Kargil. So, in near future we would like to work closely with the people and approach the ground level for this objective.

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

- Presentations were carried out to school students during education outreach.
- The project was also presented at International Snow Leopard day in Kargil (October 23<sup>rd</sup> 2016).
- A detail report was also telecast on local television channel 'S tv- Ladakh' for local people.
- We are also planning to develop a book on "Wildlife of Kargil".
- Research results will be published in scientific national and international journals.

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

Activities	Proposed plan	Actual timescale
Reconnaissance surveys	August- September 2015	September – October 2016
An Extensive study on Carnivore-Human Conflicts in Kargil	October-December 2015	November 2015 – May 2016
Formation of Wildlife-Nature clubs (WNCs) by using Participatory rural Appraisal	January – August 2016	January – September 2016
Education Outreach	May-September 2016	April-October 2016
District level workshop cum awareness programs	October 2015(Wildlife week)	October 2016 (23 <sup>rd</sup> Oct. as International Snow Leopard Day)

**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
Awareness Programme Workshops (three workshops at district level, 25 at school level) (including refreshments, travelling costs of students to the venue etc.)	879	1255	376	Additional amount was provide by a local NGO named 'We for Kargil' and from the overhead.
Equipment on rent (Projector - 1, white board - 1, Camera - 1, GPS - 1 and other require during project)	507	489	-18	The amount which was required to buy and rent equipment was reduced as some equipment which were to be brought was available with the local wildlife department and we are very thankful to the Wildlife Warden of

				Kargil that he provided us the equipment to use in the field for free of cost. The remaining amount was adjusted in the salary and allowances of local staff.
Formation of Wildlife Nature Club (WNCs) at least 10 villages.	750	850	100	The outstanding amount was provided by NGO 'Roots Ladakh'.
Accommodation (includes guest house / homestay fares during village visits)	206	396	190	Due to heavy snow fall once, we were struck in a village for 2 weeks (which was not in the schedule). Thanks to the LAHDC that they provide us with the financial support to come up with the extra expenses.
Travel & Transport (Includes and taxi charges)	327	439	112	The unplanned struck in the Khandi Village for 2 weeks due to heavy snowfall also led in the hike of the travel expenses. This was covered from the overhead and the additional amount provided by local NGOs.
Wildlife of Kargil and its importance - Pictorial hand book preparation and distribution	545	969	424	Additional Amount was provided by NGOs 'We for Kargil' and 'Roots Ladakh'.
Salary and Allowances (includes salaries, per diems & food expenses)	730	800	70	The additional amount was adjusted from the overhead
Miscellaneous (Paper print outs, Pamphlets, Media coverages, stationery items, etc.)	403	448	45	Additional Amount was adjusted from the overhead
<b>Total</b>	<b>4347</b>	<b>5646</b>	<b>1299</b>	
(Excluding the overhead of 5%)				
<i>All are in £ sterling and used exchange rate for local currency (Indian National Rupee) to £ sterling (GBP) 1 GBP = 101.76 .(on 22/09/2015 when received)</i>				

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

1. Continue the monitoring protocol is essential to evaluate population trend and effects of anthropogenic pressure and climate change on prey species in Kargil.
2. Gather data and refine the distribution models of wild carnivores and prey species with the help of camera traps.
3. Replicate similar study in other region of trans-Himalaya to provide data for conservation status assessment.



4. Conduct intensive study on the carnivore-human conflict in the region and continue conservation education to bring people close to nature and make them understand the importance of wildlife
5. My study during the conflict surveys revealed that the lack of knowledge and laws regarding wildlife, there is much anthropogenic pressure on wild carnivore of the region. Hence education and awareness of the local people is the prime need in this region before proceeding towards other approaches on conservation.

**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?**

RSGF logo was used in every PowerPoint presentation delivered during education outreach. The logo was also used on the flex boards which were used during the district level celebration cum awareness programme on 'International Snow leopard day-2016'. During conflict surveys people were made aware of the contributions by RSGF in conservation of wildlife in different parts of the world. Rufford Foundation, UK was also mentioned in length during audio and visual telecast at local and national television and radio while telecasting various wildlife awareness programmes at school and district level. Where ever there is acknowledgment section either in print or in digital presentation, RSGF was mentioned in length.

RSG had received lot of publicity during my fieldwork, especially among the people related to local wildlife protection department and forest departments (during reconnaissance surveys with the staffs), animal husbandry department (during conflict surveys data collection), local people (through local television broadcast and radio broadcast) and students (education outreach) as well as with other NGOs working on wildlife conservation in Ladakh. These people highly appreciated the intangible efforts by RSGF in working towards a better future of Wildlife in Ladakh.

I will use the RSG logo in the report which would be the composition of all the objectives of this project.

**11. Any other comments?**

We are extremely grateful to The Rufford Small Grant for their support in this Project. This project was very important for the wildlife species of Kargil and also to the local people. With all support and wishes from your side, we are successful in making the local people aware of wildlife conservation and maximising their tolerance towards the wild carnivores up to some extent.

This project has been acknowledged by most agencies and researchers working in Ladakh as well as international conservation experts working in reducing the Conflict of man and animal.

We would like to thank RSG and the entire team, especially Josh Cole, for making it possible for me to carry out this project. RSGs patience (agreeing to the delay in the project due to change in the schedule of district level awareness programs) is highly appreciated and acknowledge by me and my team. We sincerely hope to continue working on Wildlife conservation in the near future with RSG.