

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	The winter habitat selection of red panda in forest research preserve of Ugyen Wangchuck Institute for Conservation and Environment (UWICE), Bhutan.
RSG reference	18033-2
Reporting period	12 months
Amount of grant	£5000
Your email address	pemadndp@gmail.com
Date of this report	September 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
1. To assess different types of habitat variables preferred by red panda in the winter.			YES	All types of preferred and avoided habitat variables are assessed and recorded accordingly.
2. To record red panda distribution in the UWICE research preserve.			YES	Distribution of red panda in different altitudes has been recorded.
3. To devise conservation strategies and habitat conservation plan of the red panda in the research preserve.		YES		This objective is partially achieved. The data were all analysed and accordingly manuscript submitted for publication in the peer reviewed journal. If the manuscript is accepted for publication, then this objective can be achieved. A copy of article will be given to the management of UWICE.

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

As such, the team did not come across any unforeseen difficulties except for some bad weather conditions. During the time of survey, there was snowfall and the blanket of snow proved difficult for the survey team to actually locate red panda evidence (dung). The survey team had to wait for almost a week for the snow to melt and then again restart the works.

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

Three most important outcome of my project are:

- All most 25% of the entire survey area had red panda signs (dung). This proves that there is a viable red panda population within the research preserve.
- In winter red pandas in the forest research preserve preferred mixed conifer forest over fir forest located within 3600 to 3700 m asl with highly dense bamboo understory.
- Red panda preferred steep slopes ($>30^\circ$) facing southeast direction associated with water sources ≤ 70 m.

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

During the survey, local people were used as a guide and as porter to carry necessary field equipment and foodstuffs. Alongside, they were 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, similar kind of work will be carried out in Ramina village, Goen Shari sub-district, Punakha district under Jigme Dorji National Park. The forest area within the vicinity of the village is said to be the home to a good number of red panda population. For both the red panda studies, RGS has provided financial support. Again for the proposed project, RSG will be approached.

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

The manuscript titled "The winter habitat preferences of endangered Red Panda (*Ailurus fulgens*) in the forest research preserve of Ugyen Wangchuck Institute for Conservation and Environment, Bumthang, BHUTAN" has already been submitted to one of the international peer reviewed journals. The manuscript is currently under review. If the manuscript gets published, I will upload in the Research Gate or provide a copy to Rufford Foundation and make it available to other communities.

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 from October 2015 – August 2016 and this is 100% 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
Daily allowances	800	1000	-200	More numbers of days were take due to snow
Stationaries and equipment	200	180	+20	
Workshop and seminars	500	300	+200	
Vehicle rentals and maintenance	800	850	-50	Inflation cost
Food and logistics	700	700	0	
Payment to local guides, porters and ponies	700	650	+50	
Monitoring of survey plots	800	600	+200	
Extension kits	500	700	-200	
Total	5000	4980	+20	GBP 20 balance

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

Creation of awareness on red panda conservation is very much important. If we do not take into consideration the human component, scientific approach to conserve red panda will be a total failure. Therefore, local communities within the red panda habitat should be created awareness on red panda 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?

Yes, The Rufford Foundation logo was used during my presentation. The Rufford Foundation in Bhutan has gained much popularity and publicity. I am sure you are receiving many applications (grants) from Bhutan and by the Bhutanese.

11. Any other comments?

RSGF has been of great help to many Bhutanese researchers and to the world at large. This is my second RSGF and with this I am now able to know more about red panda ecology.

