

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. 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	Dr. Jatinder kaur
Project title	Community involvement in conservation of Sarus crane breeding habitat in three districts of semi-arid tract of Rajasthan.
RSG reference	12.03.09
Reporting period	July 2009-Decemebr 2010.
Amount of grant	£6000
Your email address	Jatinder.sarus@gmail.com
Date of this report	18.12.2010

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. Survey of new wetlands in Kota, Bundi and Baran districts to identify areas important for breeding Sarus cranes, and areas that have potential to be restored with public support and government agencies	-	-	Yes	During the study period of 2009 the breeding had completely failed and the year was declared as famine year by the government. One more breeding season in 2010 was also covered but breeding in 2010 was almost not very successful in this year also. Infrequent fragmented rains and canal enforcement work lead to less nesting in the districts. New wetlands were documented and got more information on breeding sites and wetlands from the adjoining district of Jhalawar for the first time. Four nests were recorded for the first time from the district. Of these three nests are being recorded for the first time in paddy field and in a stretch of only 1 km.
2. Carry out awareness programmes and field visits in schools and villages to help identify people interested in Sarus crane conservation in all three districts.	-	-	Yes	Field visits and lectures were conducted in schools and villages during the study area. During the Wildlife Week various programmes were organized with Hobby Nature Club and Hadothi Naturalists Society in the urban area also. An on the spot painting competition was organized in Proposed Umedganj Pakshi Vihar, a key Sarus crane breeding area closer to the city. A three day photo exhibition was also organized at the District Information Centre of Kota from 5 th to 7 th October 2009. The state Forest Department was the co organizer of the exhibition and work on the Sarus crane was also shown in the exhibition. The exhibition was visited by students of the local colleges and schools, visitors, families of various competition prize winners and the guests.

				<p>The second year students of Textile Designing, Commercial Arts and Interior Decoration branches of the Women's Polytechnic College- Kota were taken to Umedganj Proposed Pakshi Vihar to understand the ecology and breeding biology of the Sarus crane. A written quiz and collage competition was organized for these students during the Wildlife Week- 2009, with Hobby Nature Club and Hadothi Naturalists Society. The winners of these competitions were given books on Butterflies, Animals and Trees.</p>
<p>3. Preparation and distribution of education material and lectures in local language to cater to the school children, farmers and village community for awareness and information gathering.</p>	-	-	yes	<p>For the first time we had made pamphlets that were inserted along with the local news papers, through the distribution agents in rural areas. This helped us by getting more information on the new wetland sites and breeding of the Sarus crane. The task of putting all the pamphlets was done between the breeding seasons, i.e. July 2010-October 2010. The education material such as posters, pamphlets, stickers was distributed to schools, villagers and college students.</p> <p>People were very receptive in particular to the short movie by CSE- New Delhi, on the conservation of water by ordinary villagers in different parts of India.</p> <p>During the Sarus crane breeding survey in 2009-10, The Jamunia island was approached with the help of our group in National Chambal Sanctuary and an IBA site and not only we got the information on Sarus but also discovered the largest heronry of the region.</p>
<p>4. Create an active network comprising of farmers and children to obtain information</p>	-	-	yes	<p>The Sarus crane protection groups in all the three districts and adjoining districts Jhalawar was actively supporting us with all the</p>

on breeding and non-breeding Sarus cranes.				programmes in schools and villages. Regular information by phone calls by the peoples regarding sightings of Sarus crane and nesting information.
5. Banding the juveniles to monitor local and seasonal movements of sarus cranes in both wet and dry season, nesting period and information on their monitoring to be documented. (Depending on the permission received from the state forest department).	Not achieved	-	-	We are not able to fulfil the objective of banding the juveniles of Sarus crane. In all the three districts the Sarus crane families with juveniles were very low and it was not supportive to give us detailed information on seasonal movements in Sarus crane families. We had collected all the information from the International Crane Foundation (ICF) regarding the company which makes plastic bands and each and every detail was collected in August 2009. But due to poor rainfall were not able to bands the chicks. We hope for good breeding in coming years 2011 onwards and will do the banding, which is must in Sarus crane in semi-arid tract where rainfall is deficient and wetlands dried up early, and families of Sarus crane move to area where water is available.
6. Features in the print and electronic media on the project showcasing the most outstanding individual who will enable the success of the conservation programme	-	-	yes	Both print and television media were regularly writing down the story on the work and individuals involved in conserving sarus crane breeding habitat
7. To honour the most active participant whose work helped to obtain new information, preserve nest sites, eggs and chicks.	-	-	yes	The grass-roots enthusiast was honoured in the recognition award ceremony. Due to this active network of farmers, villagers, school students and college students we are able to make a bond to save Sarus and wetlands in all the three districts.

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

This project was followed in the same area where our 1st RSG project was completed. So we were familiar with all the ground realities and difficulties. Therefore not much difficulty arose during our work.

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

1. New wetlands and record of new breeding sites from the adjoining district of Jhalawar and farmers, individuals who are keen to form “Rural Village Sarus Crane Protection Groups”. The wetlands covered during the project not only give us the information regarding the Sarus crane but other avian biodiversity also. Villagers are really worried about no water in their wetlands, reason being continuously two year less rainfall and the wetland got dried up very early.
2. Umedganj is one of the key breeding sites of the Sarus crane in Kota district and has Important Bird Area (IBA) Values. The Proposed Umedganj Pakshi Vihar “conservation reserve” is a wetland ecosystem situated 12 km from the city at Kota along the right main canal of the river Chambal. It’s the only place in India where the tallest flying bird-Sarus crane can be seen breeding twice in a year close to the city. In the proposed area three pairs of the cranes can be seen nesting every year. A committee was formed by the State Government To develop the proposal and setting up the bird reserve the committee includes the grant receiver as one of the main expert of the committee and have submitted the Detailed Project Report along with Terms of Reference to the Committee. The report has duly acknowledged the contribution of the Rufford Small Grant towards the setting up of the bird reserve in Kota dist. The proposed Pakshi Vihar will be helpful in securing the wintering ground for 64 of the migratory bird species and 57 of the resident breeding species.
3. The National Chambal Gharial Sanctuary in Rajasthan extends over the Chambal River from Jawahar Sagar dam to Kota barrage .It has been granted the Important Bird Area (IBA) status by The Royal Society for Protection of Birds, UK and Bombay Natural History Society, Mumbai after scientific documentation. The river sanctuary has only one island in the name of Jamunia which is situated 40 km from Kota city on the downstream of river Chambal in its downward flow to Pachnada where it meets river Yamuna. The island is submerged during the monsoons or whenever water is released into the river from Kota Barrage dam. The island was visited for the first time ever in the month of September 2010 due to the information provided by the Rural Sarus Protection Group in the area and along with information on Sarus crane for the first time we discovered the largest heronry of the region.

4.

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

Local communities were sensitised for conservation values of Sarus crane and wetland biodiversity. Through constant vigil and awareness programmes conducted during the project the Rural Village Sarus Crane Protection Group and individuals from different villages giving us information about the

nesting of Sarus crane and other disturbances they are facing in their respective wetlands. It's all due to the efforts of local communities we got the information on death of fishes in Kali Sindh River at Village Kherli due to the use of pesticides.

Secondly local people are very receptive in particular to the short movie by CSE- New Delhi, on the conservation of water by ordinary villagers in different parts of India.

To tie up with the newspaper distributors in rural areas to put pamphlets in the news paper was one big task and that also gave us good result and information on sarus Crane and other wildlife in their areas. Therefore people are aware of the importance of the wetlands and Sarus Crane also.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes, I intend to continue this work, the active network formed during the project in the three districts and partially in Jhalawar districts will continue their role of information and active protection to the Sarus cranes and the wetlands in their areas. The upcoming work should be monitoring the Rural Village Sarus Crane Protection Group to work actively in future. Inventorisation of wetlands and detailed study on nesting by doing awareness programmes should be carried out in Southern Rajasthan, i.e. Bhilwara, Banswara and Pratapgarh districts of Rajasthan, by involving communities and school children.

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

A final report will be sent to organisations that are interested in research and conservation such as the, Wildlife Institute of India, Bombay Natural History Society, and International Crane Foundation. News clips are already coming in the local newspapers. Scientific papers will also be sent to peer-reviewed journals such as *Oryx*, *Biological Conservation*, and the *Journal of the Bombay Natural History Society* etc.

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 for 18 months, from July 2009-Decemembr 2010. The actual length of the project was 12 months, but had covered one more nesting season of the Sarus crane i.e. July 2010 to December 2010 to get more information on nesting and writing report, but due infrequent rains the wetlands getting dried very early and this year also as compared to first RSG the breeding of Sarus crane was very low. During the project one dry season nesting and two wet season nesting was covered.

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
1. Travel	2206	2296	+90	Extensive travelling in the field to cover all the three districts and adjoining district Jhalawar. Hiring of motor cycle and four wheeler was hired during the field work and awareness programmes in schools and villages.
2.TA/DA	1000	1000	0	The districts of Bundi and Baran are far from Kota and the distance needed to cover in these districts are more, night stays during the field and awareness programmes.
3. Field Assistant	794	794	0	One field assistant and sometime few individuals on daily wages were hired.
4.Printing of Report and postage	100	100	0	Published Report copies for submission at various government agencies and NGO's. Sending of report through in soft-copy format to other interested persons, including RSG recipients.
5. Recognition award	400	400	0	The printed certificates, utility materials as a token of thanks to all the individuals for their efforts in the conservation of Sarus cranes during the Recognition award ceremony in Kota and media invitation and booking of hall for the function.
6. Printing Flex/ Banners	441	401	-40	Project campaign banners, flexes, posters and brochures used for dissemination of the project message in the wider audience.
6. GPS	147	147	0	One GPS for the plotting of location on the map of breeding sites and the wetlands.
7. DLP Projector	735	735	0	One DLP projector with multimedia external speaker for the awareness programmes in the school and villages.
8. Photography	100	50	-50	The photographs were taken during the project work and used for publishing the report and will be given to RSG whenever they required our project pictures for their work.

9. Communication	50	50	-	The project had involved different network of agencies and person's who need to be contacted for guidance and suggestions from time to time during the project period.
10. Contingency	27	27	-	Towards contingency for materials such as pen, paper, files etc.was used during the project work. Purchase of small gifts and other material to be distributed during the interactive session (quiz etc.) with the school children's and villagers and other unseen expenses
Total in	6000			* Exchange rate for 1 £ = 78.33 INR. By the end of the project tenure the budget get adjusted, and complete £ 6000 were utilized for the project purpose.

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

1. The important next steps will be the Rural Village Sarus Protection Group which was created and to involve more active people from the villages, schools and collages and trained them by doing small workshops. The reason of involving college student is because many students come from rural background and they gave us information regarding the Sarus crane from their areas and want to be part of the protection groups.
2. Detailed research on local and seasonal movements of Sarus cranes in both wet and dry season nesting period is required by banding juveniles and information on their monitoring should be documented. This will provide information on the kinds of critical habitats to be conserved.
3. Inventorisation of wetlands and detailed study on nesting by doing awareness programmes should be carried out in Southern Rajasthan, .i.e. (Bhilwara, Banswara and Pratapgarh districts of Rajasthan by involving communities and school children, that support Sarus crane.
4. Education and awareness campaigns on a prolonged basis in the three districts and adjoining district Jhalawar, But Southern Rajasthan should be covered and forming Rural village sarus protection groups by interested youth from the villages, schools and college students.

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, RSGF has been acknowledged in materials produced during this project like the posters and pamphlets. The RSGF logo has been used on the cover pages of the reports, and in the presentations. The logo has been used in the flex boards and banners produced during the project work. At an informal level, other student researchers have also been told about RSG and the mode of application.

11. Any other comments?

Last but not the least, I would like to thank RSGF for providing us funding for 2nd consecutive conservation project. This RSG boosted our morale and we added so many sensitive people in our team, directly or indirectly for conservation of Sarus crane and wetlands. Coming to know of the implications of the present work the Dist Administration honoured me on 15th August 2010 at a function through the Home Minister of the State.

