

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. 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. 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	Sumit Dookia
Project title	Conservation of Indian gazelle or chinkara through community support in Thar Desert of Rajasthan, India
RSG reference	Ref. 35.10.07
Reporting period	May 08 to May 09
Amount of grant	£ 5000
Your email address	sdookia_gazelle@rediffmail.com
Date of this report	July 7 th 2009

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. Monitoring of identified cluster populations.			Yes, through the network of volunteers.	The identified population clusters were monitored through the help of especially trained volunteers and changes, if any, recorded for better understanding.
2. Population dynamics of cluster populations of chinkara.			Yes	These cluster populations were followed through the entire project period and population dynamics studies, i.e., natality, mortality, and breeding peaks, conducted. This will lead us for future conservation measures.
3. Creation of a network of volunteers for anti-poaching activities in this region.			Yes	A strong anti-poaching network of community people, wildlife researcher, field biologists and students was built, to help the enforcement agencies for conservation work.
4. Workshop organization, for awareness in various stakeholders.			Yes	A series of local workshops was organized by our team at various localities, schools, colleges, nearest university for covering all age group and village elders for awareness generation.
5. Community involvement in conservation.			Yes	Various local communities gave us overwhelming support during the project work and promised for continues for future too. We have successfully convinced the locals at four places for declaration of "Community Reserve Area", this is now under process from the state forest department for notification. This was our biggest successful step for conservation of chinkara.

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

This project was followed the same area where our 1st RSG project completed. So we were familiar with all the ground realities and difficulties. Our team members came from different backgrounds but volunteers from communities harmonised it, with one theme for conservation work.

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

- a. The initiation of population dynamics studies at cluster populations for long-term study. This will give us good resource material for formation of long-term conservation model.
- b. Formation of a community level anti-poaching network with the well-trained volunteers and serious researcher for conservation of chinkara as well as other threatened wildlife of this region.
- c. Starting a process of the “Community Conservation Area” at four sites where chinkara is the main wild animal along with other associated flora and fauna, giving it high conservation importance.

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

A few local communities, i.e., Bishnoi, Jat, Rajpurohit, Meghwal, Jain, etc. are protecting this animal since time immortal. Our project and its network with these communities formed a sound understanding between the local communities and liaison with enforcement agencies. Anti-poaching network also come out with a better understanding between this. The message also disseminated as chinkara is important for conservation of desert ecosystem. Local communities were sensitized for conservation values of this endangered animal.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes, as in the end of this project, we also came to know about the magnitude of poaching in project area. Records are showing that poaching is increasing day by day. Strengthening of anti-poaching network through capacity development and training of undercover information gathering, is urgently need. A few tribal communities are habitual poachers - after confiscation and rigorous imprisonment, they are back in the same business. It needs a continued dialogue with them and sound rehabilitation programme for offenders and vocational employment generation opportunities for young generation.

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

A complete report is prepared for sharing with the scientific world as well as with the enforcement agencies. The state forest department is already giving us their help for long-term support in anti-poaching. News clips are already coming in the local newspapers. Good articles are on the way to being submitted in magazines for popularising our project in other places.

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

This RSG was used for 13 months, and we took only one month extra. A detailed report is also submitting with the relevant photographs and publicity material.

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. Per diem for the investigator @ £ 5/- X 240 days	1200	1200	0	Complete 6 months were spent in the field work by the Investigator.
2. Travel (intensive survey, campaign and monitoring)	1350	1360	-10	A team of 1 PI, 3 Field Assistants and 3 community volunteers was used for campaign and field study. This team roamed in four-wheeler and covered a vast landscape for this project.
3. Field Assistant 3 X 180 days X @ 2.5/- per day	1350	1350	0	These three FAs were initially trained and later helped in various ways for the success of the project.
4. Preparation of campaign material and communication	538	540	-2	Project campaign banners, resource material and brochures used for dissemination of the project message in the wider audience.
5. Living expenses and contingency	342	340	+2	This amount was used for all kind of field expenses including unforeseen expenditure.
6. Report writing and dissemination	220	210	+10	A coloured/black and white report was published in 20 copies for submission at various government agencies and NGO's. The report was also sent through in soft-copy format to other interested persons, including RSG recipients.
TOTAL	5000	5000	0	* Exchange rate for 1 £ = 78.6 INR as on 30 March 2008.

By the end of the project tenure the budget get adjusted, and complete £ 5000 were utilized for the project purpose.

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

Our team members are very enthusiastic and devoted for the conservation of chinkara as indicator species of desert. Along with the target species, we were also raising awareness for other threatened species. We also want to focus on habitual poachers and their rehabilitation, as this may change their attitude and stopped poaching. Similarly, providing under-cover information of localized poaching of all threatened species.

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?

We used exclusively the RSGF logo on all the publicity material, workshop banners and during the community forums. Various other peoples were also come forward and took assistance from me (Principal Investigator of RSG) for discussion on similar issues and during preparation of other RSG projects. Through proper guidance by investigator 2 new RSGs started and working successfully.

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 threatened species.