

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	Gang Chen
Project title	Promoting the Desert Communities Sustainable Development Methods for Better Wild Bactrian Camels Conservation in Xinjiang, China
RSG reference	63.09.08
Reporting period	Feb 2009 to Jan 2010
Amount of grant	£5518
Your email address	gang_chen_his@163.com
Date of this report	1st February 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
Promote the conservation of wild Bactrian camel and planting of branchy tamarisk and desert-living cistanches within 832 new families in desert communities along the Lopnur reserve border.			Yes	
Help these families to give up gradually unsustainable sheep-raising business threatening the conservation of wild Bactrian camels in Lopnur.			Yes	
Creating a better habitat for wild Bactrian camels in Lopnur.			Yes	

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

Everything went well during the project implementation period.

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

Through a series of educational seminars including oral and video presentations, on-site demonstrations jointly organized by my team, a local conservation NGO and local environmental protection official, the local desert communities consisting of 832 new families including 3547 adults along the border between the nature reserve and Ruoqiang county had been taught to grasp our technologies of tamarisk and cistanche planting technology and the methane application for the sustainable improvement of their welfare and the conservation of the wild Bactrian camels.

We had provided seedlings of branchy tamarisks and seeds of desert-living cistanches for artificial planting free of charge to these families. These seedlings and seeds had been planted on abandoned desert land covering about of 800 Mu desert land under our direction and provided better natural condition for the conservation of wild Bactrian camels.

An obvious quantitative increase of wild Bactrian camels had been observed along the western Lopnur reserve border where branchy tamarisks had been artificially planted.

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

Local families received seedlings of branchy tamarisks and seeds of desert-living cistanches for artificial planting free of charge. These seedlings and seeds had been planted on abandoned desert land by these families under our direction. These plants had provided new and increased income sources for these families and help them change the old unsustainable sheep raising business depending on limited wild plants into sustainable agricultural production.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes. We are planning to continue this work by follow-up monitoring of planted branchy tamarisks and desert-living cistanches, the status of the benefitted wild Bactrian camels and other more pertinent actions.

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

We are planning to distribute the results of our project work through written publications and the web site of local conservation NGOs.

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

The RSG has been used from Feb 2009 to Jan 2010. It is in accordance with the anticipated 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
Fuel	1228	1372	144	The British pound depreciated in terms of Chinese Yuan.
Posters and Brochures	230	281	51	The British pound depreciated in terms of Chinese Yuan.
Supply of desert-living cistanches seeds	4060	4876	816	The British pound depreciated in terms of Chinese Yuan.
Total	5518	6529	1011	

The originally budgeted exchange rate is £1 = 12.60 Chinese Yuan as Sep 29, 2008. The actual exchange rate is £1 = 9.84 Chinese Yuan at the date of the receipt of the grant and exchange into Chinese currency. Team members contributed the extra expense more than the budgeted amount.

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

The next important steps include follow-up monitoring of planted branchy tamarisks and desert-living cistanches and the status of the benefitted wild Bactrian camels inside the whole Lopnur area and the implementation of other pertinent measures, promote further the effects within more widespread areas along the lopnur wild Bactrian camel reserve.

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. The RSGF logo has been used in posters and brochures distributed to local communities. The local TV station had reported the support of RSGF on our project work.

11. Any other comments?

I would like to give my most sincere gratitude to the continuous and generous support of RSGF on our project work on behalf of my project team, benefitted local communities and endangered wild Bactrian camels.