

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	Dhawal Mehta
Project title	Abundance, Distribution and Conservation of the Four-Horned Antelope (<i>Tetracerus quadricornis</i>) in Gir Protected Area
RSG reference	22367-1
Reporting period	November 2018
Amount of grant	£5000
Your email address	dhawalbmehta@hotmail.com
Date of this report	21/11/2018

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
Estimation of the current abundance of the Four Horned Antelope in Gir Protected Area				The abundance estimation of the focal species could be achieved through distance sampling on vehicle transects traversing across the study area, and subsequent analysis of the collected data using Distance software.
Understanding the factors that govern distribution and occupancy of the species				This objective could be achieved in the current scenario, further surveys would help in enhancing our knowledge on the distribution of the species in and around the study area
Identification of the threats for conservation of the species				Continued surveys will help in understanding the conservation threats to the species.
Generation of awareness among different stakeholders				Throughout the course of the project, several interactions with the forest staff and locals have helped in generating awareness about the species.

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

There was a delay in obtaining the permission from the competent authority to conduct the project work at the field site. The commencement of the project work was therefore delayed.

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

- The project helped in understanding the population status of the four horned antelope in the Gir protected area.
- Factors governing the distribution of the species in the study area could be understood.
- Awareness on the conservation significance of the species was created among different stakeholders in the study area.

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

During the interactions with locals during the project, it was realized that there was a lot of ambiguity among them in identifying the four horned antelope. Most people confused them with the chinkara. Many locals were unsure of their existence in Gir. Throughout the course of the project, conservation awareness was generated among them through photographs, resource materials developed as a part of the project, presentations, etc. Locals with a good understanding of wildlife were trained in field data collection and hired as field assistants for the project work.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Continued field effort will enhance our understanding of the ecology of the four horned antelope in the study area. More awareness needs to be generated among public in other adjoining areas where the species exists.

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

The results of the work will be shared with the Forest Department to aid conservation and management. Resource material developed as a part of the project will be circulated among different stakeholders and interactions with locals will continue.

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 awarded in June 2017. The project period was stipulated to be one year. The permission from the competent authority to conduct work in the Gir Protected Area was obtained in late November 2017. The project work was carried out from December 2017 to November 2018.

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. 1 GBP= INR 85.82

Item	Budgeted Amount	Actual Amount	Difference	Comments
Travel	3671	3670	1	
Field equipment	685	680	5	The cost of the field equipment was slightly less than anticipated
Miscellaneous expenses	129	135	6	Expenses on batteries, stationery, etc. were slightly higher than anticipated
Logistics	122	122		
Field Base rent	393	393		

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

Further field work is necessary to develop a detailed ecological understanding of the four horned antelope in the study area. Awareness generation and sensitisation needs to be continued among stakeholders, especially in non-protected areas where the species lives.

10. Did you use The Rufford Foundation logo in any materials produced in relation to this project? Did The Rufford Foundation receive any publicity during the course of your work?

The RF logo was used in certificates given to assistants who immensely helped in implementing the project work. The logo was also used in the resource material that was developed as a part of the project. Throughout the course of the project, I disseminated information regarding The Rufford Foundation during interactions with the locals, assistants, wildlife enthusiasts and the forest staff.

11. Please provide a full list of all the members of your team and briefly what was their role in the project.

The project was implemented by me as the Principal Investigator, **Mr. Ikbal Bloch** worked as Field Assistant. **Mr. Osaman Ali Parmar**, **Mr. Hamal Bloch** and **Mr. Fateh Mohmmad Bloch** helped in devising the methodology for field data collection.

12. Any other comments?

I am grateful to The Rufford Foundation for providing the funds to conduct the project and enhancing my belief in conservation. The project has incredibly helped me in my personal as well as professional development. I look forward to a continued support from the foundation.



Four Horned Antelope female. ©Dhawal Mehta