

## The Rufford Foundation

### Final Report

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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](mailto:jane@rufford.org).

Thank you for your help.

**Josh Cole, Grants Director**

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Grant Recipient Details	
Your name	Peyman Moghadas
Project title	Disappearing large mammals in a Caspian forest refugia of northern Iran
RSG reference	24814-1
Reporting period	Final report
Amount of grant	£5000
Your email address	<a href="mailto:peyman.moghadas@yahoo.com">peyman.moghadas@yahoo.com</a>
Date of this report	May 2019

**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
Establishing relationship with local hunters and herders in order to develop a joint baseline survey				We interviewed key herders and hunters in the area, made connections and created a network of local informants. Many of them were engaged in conservation and community activities.
Hiring and training a local conservation officer in order to assist in data collection and to manage interaction with communities				We hired two conservation officers, one a cattle rancher and one hunter. They have been working continuously in the field to monitor wildlife and to control illegal activities.
Socio-economic studies on target communities (attitudes, incomes, livelihood, literacy level and interaction with large mammals)				It was conducted as part of a master's thesis and the final report was shared with Iran Department of Environment.
Baseline biodiversity assessment using camera traps with at least 15 stations				We launched the monitoring programmes using camera traps, once in spring and then in winter. Sadly, due to some compromises happened during winter 2017-2018 for a few wildlife conservationists in Iran, we had to suspend the second camera trapping season.
Developing capacity for local rangers and conservation practitioners on carnivore ecology and community engagement				A training workshop was organised for all rangers in which they were presented data on carnivore ecology. Then, a group of local rangers were sent on a training mission to Tandoureh National Park for a few days to learn more about carnivore conservation experiences.
Data analysis and sharing with local partners, particularly rangers and hunters				Socioeconomic data were analysed and shared. Also, the first camera trapping season's data were also analysed to understand more about spatial patterns of species

				occurrence. We are hopeful to conclude a scientific paper based on the analysed data.
Developing a conservation plan and sharing with policy-makers and authorities, both at local and national levels				It was developed by the project team, with inputs from our local and regional stakeholders.

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

Due to unforeseen difficulties for wildlife conservationists, our permission was compromised for camera trapping during winter.

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

1. A comprehensive baseline of the status of mega-fauna was compiled.
2. A socioeconomic study was conducted on human-large carnivores conflict and local attitudes toward large carnivores in the study site and local hunters were known which can be used as a foundation for next stage engagement programmes.
3. Local conservation practitioners such as rangers and experts are trained and a conservation plan is developed jointly with the local network and is then endorsed by Iran Department of Environment.

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

We hired and trained two cattle rancher and hunter as conservation officers in the area to be engaged in conservation activities. Besides training, they were also equipped for their daily conservation works. Rangers were also trained and equipped in the study area. Finally, in order to restore part of the study area for ibex, in partnership with local herders, we constructed 2 km of pipeline to bring water into a valley, which can be used both by herders as well as wildlife.

**5. Are there any plans to continue this work?**

Yes, based on the conservation plan all stakeholders agreeing on, we plan to continue our work through implementing the plan.

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

A report composed of socioeconomic findings and attitude surveys were shared with Iran Department of Environment. We also regularly share news through our social media such as Instagram (over 17,000 followers), Facebook (over 6,000

followers) and our website ([www.future4leopards.org](http://www.future4leopards.org)). Key findings have been also regularly shared with local authorities through multiple meetings.

**7. Timescale: Over what period was The Rufford Foundation grant used? How does this compare to the anticipated or actual length of the project?**

We used it during one year, which matched 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
Project coordinator (1 person)	1200	1300	+100	
Field assistant (1 person)	960	700	-260	
Local conservation co-ordinator (2 person)	700	1400	+700	We had to hire two officers to work jointly
Local guides and rangers	300	300		
Camera traps	500		-500	We obtained necessary camera traps from other donors
Batteries	180	40	-110	
Fuel	200	200		
Local accommodations (residence, food, etc.)	340	800	+460	We had to rent a local house as our base camp
Insurance	200	200		
Training workshop for rangers	400	500	+100	
Communication and internet	20			
<b>Total</b>	<b>5000</b>	<b>5440</b>	<b>+440</b>	We were able to raise around 440 GBP via crowd funding schemes.

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

We have been successful to establish basic connections with local stakeholders such as hunters, rangers and villagers. As the next step, we should engage them more in implementing the conservation plan, notably through community outreach programmes. Also, we need to run collaborative monitoring programmes using

camera traps with engaged hunters and rangers. Finally, we need to form an identity of local people such as a local NGO from surrounding villages in order to be engage in conservation.

**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?**

We had our project annual report (2017) in which RSG was mentioned as a donor. Our 2018 report is under preparation. Also, we plan to prepare a scientific paper in peer-reviewed journals in which the RSG will be acknowledged.

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

**Peyman Moghadas:** Project manager

**Pouyan Behnoud:** Field assistant

Two local hunters: Local conservation officers

**Mohammad Farhadinia:** Scientific advisor

**Fatemeh Hosseini-Zavarei:** Accountant and Finance

Six local rangers from adjoining areas: Assisting in monitoring program

**12. Any other comments?**

The RF support enabled us to carry out the first baseline survey in the area and also to train and engage local hunters and rangers. As the next stage, we are planning to implement the conservation plan with active engagement of our local stakeholders.



