

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	Navinder Jeet Singh
Project title	Towards the survival of endangered Tibetan argali in India
RSG reference	36.07.06
Reporting period	2006-2007
Amount of grant	£4953
Your email address	Navinder.singh@ib.uit.no , navinderjsingh@yahoo.com
Date of this report	May 2008

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
Status and distribution of Argali			X	
Status and distribution of Livestock in the intensive study area – Tso Kar basin, Eastern Ladakh.			X	
Multiscale habitat selection by argali		X		Difficulties encountered in winter field work due to harsh weather conditions and unavailability of sufficient logistics

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

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

- Status of Tibetan argali in India is updated which was last updated in 1997.
- Status and distribution of livestock in the Tso Kar basin is identified, which is an area supporting a reasonable argali population, one of the largest in India.
- Multiscale habitat and resource selection process of argali is identified

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

Three field assistants from the local community were hired and trained for observational studies on the local wildlife. Additionally herders were made aware of the local wildlife present in the area through picture presentations and learning trips in the study.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

- We wish to continue this work to aim at four further questions:
- Prepare a habitat suitability map of argali in the area based on the observations from this study.
- Project the habitat suitability map to larger areas in Ladakh to identify potentially suitable areas for argali.
- Survey and sample those potentially suitable areas to establish presence of argali.
- Identify threats to argali in the potentially suitable areas and the areas where argali already occur to make a nation wide conservation plan for argali.

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

- We are in process of preparation of manuscripts to be submitted to peer reviewed journals so as to present the work to a wider range of scientific audience.

- The project report will be hosted at the Rufford website.
- The project report will also be presented to the local wildlife department as well as the collaborating agencies.
- We have initiated the preparation of conservation awareness material based on the project results which will be distributed to the local and state wildlife departments as well as travel and tourism companies that organise hiking and trekking expeditions through the argali range.

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

The Rufford grant was used during the period 2006-2007. This grant fulfilled the requirements for one year of field work, of the project that will last for four years.

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
Per diems	880	1250	-370	Additional field assistant was hired to meet the objectives of the project, as well as salaries of the field assistants were raised to meet the increasing demand of local labour through tourism
Travel	1515	1130	385	To meet the increased demand of field assistants, some funds for travel were used which were balanced out by lesser travel with more time being spent in the field.
Equipment	1575	1575	0	
Consumables	535	600	-65	Due to additional field assistants and more time spent in the field the expenses on consumables increased
Office Expenditure	53	53	0	
Awareness material	395	345	50	
Total	4953	4953		

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

The important next steps will be

- broadening the scope of the results to a wider area
- conversion of the results into conservation perspective and presentation to local and common audience
- assist the local wildlife protection department in the formulation of species and area based conservation strategies
- ensuring the continued survival of argali

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?

The RSGF logo has been regularly used in the reports. The Rufford Foundation has been acknowledged in all of the publications and conservation and awareness material emerging from the project.

11. Any other comments?

We thank the Rufford Foundation for the generous grant for undertaking the argali work and hope for more future association with Rufford.