

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	Hemsingh Gehlot
Project title	Motivation of communities for wildlife conservation (blackbuck) in and outside the protected areas in Western Rajasthan
RSG reference	52.07.09
Reporting period	2009-2010
Amount of grant	£5,000
Your email address	gehloths@gmail.com
Date of this report	12th October 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
Systematic survey in western part of Rajasthan where blackbuck is found			X	During survey, the present distribution of the blackbuck was recorded in western part of Rajasthan indicates their occurrence in Tal chhapper in Churu, Gajner sanctuary at Bikaner and some of closed areas of Jodhpur & Nagaur. There are isolated populations of blackbuck in few villages of Jodhpur, Pali, Jalore, shri Ganganagar and Barmer district.
Simultaneously suitable habitat availability will also be documented and parameters note down			X	Suitable habitats, vegetation structure and preferences were assessed and documented in the report which will be submitted to the government. All past habitats of blackbuck were identified. Simultaneously the present habitat map is developed with the recent satellite image. Habitat changes and patterns were observed.
Creation of a network of students, researchers and field biologist for conservation awareness			X	A network of volunteer by local community was created for wildlife monitoring at village level in blackbuck dominated areas. The volunteer will be informed to local forest department about injured blackbuck by feral dogs, poaching, road accident and any unforeseen incident. Thus the network will work together with the Forest Department to give them help for blackbuck conservation.
Promote awareness about blackbuck and other Thar wildlife conservation through education			X	In order to create awareness among local school children essay, debate and drawing competitions were conducted at different schools and simultaneously school rally programmes were organised in

				collaboration with the local NGO “Srashti Sansthan”, Jodhpur. More outreach and education programmes should be needed as there are 104 fringe villages and we felt difficulties in reaching every villages.
Organise exhibitions, workshops, symposia, seminars, audio-visual presentations and lectures			X	Community meeting and awareness programmes were organised for local youth, community leaders, farmers and teachers to raise awareness and education in workshop and seminar at study area for better understanding of blackbuck conservation.
Publish books, maps, photographic compilations and produce wildlife and conservation films	X			Team has been collected good pictures, useful information of unique Thar fauna but could not publish due to lack of time period.

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

No major problems were faced by project team during the project duration. As the project investigator has worked there earlier so he has good relation with the local forest staff as well as the local people.

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

Major three outcomes are as follows

(i) Present status of blackbuck in and outside of closed area in Western Rajasthan.

The present distribution of the blackbuck in desert region of Rajasthan indicates their occurrence in only few isolated pockets with one sanctuary Tal chapper in churu district and some of closed areas of Jodhpur, Nagaur districts. There are some isolated populations of blackbuck in Bhopalgarh, Luni, Bilara and Osian tehsil of Jodhpur and few villages of Pali, Jalore and Barmer district which population are outside of closed area. In addition, there is other blackbuck population in Ridmalsar of Shri Ganganagar district were noticed.

(ii) Motivation and awareness

Motivation of local people and awareness were major objectives of this project. Community education programmes were carried out in dhanies and villages in and around closed area of western Rajasthan. We could create enormous interest towards the blackbuck conservation among the locals. The project team has organised several education programmes like student competition, debate, rallies, essay and drawing, village level meeting with

community leader, local youth meeting and training workshop on blackbuck conservation. Several brochures, handouts were distributed and setting up hoarding boards, banners for blackbuck conservation during awareness programme.

(iii) Collaboration with other stakeholders

Workshop and seminar were organised for blackbuck conservation in collaboration with local NGO, State Forest Department and Gram Vikas Samitte. During this project duration, team was made good association with local NGOs, State Forest Department, Panchyat samittee, Gram Vikas Samitte, Eco club or Nature clubs of different government and private schools for spreading awareness about wildlife conservation. Capacity building programme were also organized for State Forest Department and local NGO.

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

During the project implementation, local communities were involved in blackbuck conservation through awareness programmes in and around closed area of western Rajasthan. Informal group discussions with students in local schools and community have substantially benefited them in knowing more about the blackbuck and its conservation. The two field assistants and volunteers worked in this project were from the local villages. They are now well versed in identifying ungulate as well as other wildlife and will continue to work with other researchers. In future some of them will become a good nature guide.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes. The continuation of this work is necessary to establish different other issues and supporting government in blackbuck conservation plans. The continuation may push up the government to establishment new protected area for blackbuck conservation and we will propose further grant from Rufford Small Grant Foundation for blackbuck conservation in Thar landscape of India because more outreach and education programmes should be needed as there are 104 fringe villages around closed areas and we felt difficulties in reaching every villages during this short project duration.

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

The outcome of the project through publishing reports which will be available for interested individuals, NGO, communities and societies. We are already in touch with experts, policy makers and other stakeholders to share out findings. Two scientific papers are underway to publish in reputed journals to contribute factors effecting blackbuck conservation in arid part of Rajasthan.

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

The RSG was used for 12 months from September, 2009 and August, 2010. Most of the information is used in final project report which submitted to the Rufford Small Grant Foundation London, UK.

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.

Local exchange rate used: £1=Rs.77.26 approx. (during receive of grant)

Item	Budgeted Amount	Actual Amount	Difference	Comments
Equipment (Binoculars, GPS & toposheets)	550	404.55	-£ 145.45	The GPS cost took less than the budgeted cost and toposheets were not purchased.
Per diem for the investigator	1200	1200		
Travel	1493	1555	(+) £ 62	Vehicle hiring and fuel charge increased
Field Assistant	720	720		
Preparation of campaign material and communication	475	558.45	(+) £ 83.45	
Living expenses and contingency	342	342		
Report writing	220	220		
TOTAL	£ 5000	£ 5000		

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

The major next steps will be:

- (1) To publish the outcomes of this project in peer-reviewed scientific journals.
- (2) To make proposal for Community Reserve for blackbuck abundance areas and submit to state forest department of Rajasthan.
- (3) To make a proposal for control feral dog population in blackbuck abundant areas and submit to Ministry of Environment and Forest, Government of India or any funding agency.

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, I used RSGF logo during poster presentation in an International conference on "Nurturing Arid Zones for People and the Environment: Issues and Agenda for the 21 Century" organised by ICAR at CAZRI in Jodhpur, Rajasthan-INDIA (November; 2009)

11. Any other comments?

I wish to extend my sincere thanks to the Rufford Small Grant Foundation, for the financial support which made possible for this project to achieve its fruitful results for blackbuck conservation in Rajasthan state of India.