

Monitoring & Conservation of Cheer Pheasant (*Catreus wallichii*) in Jhelum catchments, Pakistan.

Progress report

(2nd stage)



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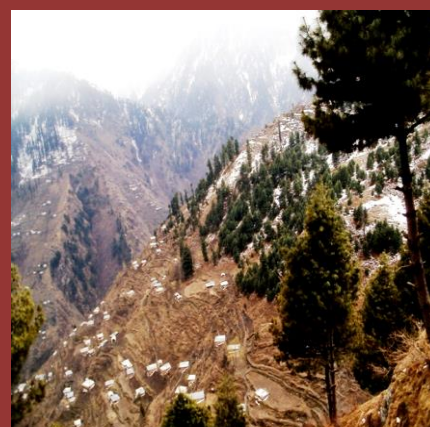
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Cheer Pheasant Monitoring and Conservation Project

Project Ref. Number	8213-1
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Project Title	Monitoring & conservation of Cheer Pheasant (<i>Catreus wallichii</i>) in Jhelum catchments. Pakistan.
Project Executants	Muhammad Naeem Awan R/O Challa Bandi, Muzaffarabad, Azad Kashmir, Pakistan. 13100 ajkwildlife@gmail.com
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Ecology of Cheer Pheasant

It is resident in precipitous, rocky terrain dominated by scrub, tall grass and scattered clumps of trees, most frequently from 1,200 to 3,350 m. Occupied sites are characterized by a combination of low shrubs subject to regular browsing and cutting, with grass growing through spring and summer harvested for livestock fodder in the autumn. It has been recorded in regrowing forest of conifer and broadleaf, juniper and rhododendron on grassy slopes. Its preference for early successional habitats, often created by traditional grass cutting and burning regimes, has led to an association with human settlements (and therefore high vulnerability to hunting (BirdLife International, 2011)).



Cheer Pheasants Habitat and adjacent human settlement pattern in Chinari Zone

Facts and Figures

In Chinari Zone a total population of about 108 birds was estimated in from seven survey plots in 2002-2003 (Awan et al 2004).

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Progress towards achieving Project Objectives

1-Capacity Building of Wildlife Staff.

In continuation of our previous capacity building workshop for wildlife staff, another training workshop has been organized in the wildlife office in Jhelum valley. A total of 10 wildlife field staff has been trained in Pheasant survey and census techniques. All of these staff will be involved in the current surveys, which will be conducted in the month of May.



Muhammad Naeem Awan during wildlife staff capacity building training workshop.

2- Conservation Awareness

We conducted meetings and seminar and also informal conservation awareness campaign to aware the community about the importance of Cheer Pheasant. School children were also involved in the conservation awareness sessions. Wildlife field staff has also been trained and involved in the conservation Awareness campaign.

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Raja Nazir Ahmad, Wildlife Watcher, during informal Conservation session with community

Field trip of school children

School children have been taken to the field to educate them about the cheer pheasant and its habitat. They are also advice about the threats to cheer pheasant. Students were passed through a practical exercise to control the fire. They were told how they could control fire having no formal equipment and how they will call the villagers for they help.



During Field Trip of school children

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3- Preliminary survey

A preliminary survey has been completed to gather information on presence/absence of cheer pheasant and selection of new survey plot for population estimation. These new plots will be surveyed along with the previous plots for population estimation.

Acknowledgement

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