

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	Muhammad Naeem Awan
Project title	Monitoring and Conservation of Cheer Pheasant (<i>Catreus wallichii</i>) in Jhelum Catchments, Pakistan
RSG reference	8213-1
Reporting period	1 year
Amount of grant	£5980
Your email address	ajkwildlife@gmail.com
Date of this report	August 07, 2011

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
Capacity Building of the Wildlife Staff in Monitoring.			Yes	
Surveys of already identified sites			Yes	
Surveys for new sites.		Yes		We surveyed only 6 new sites in the three zones of project area, but after the completion of the surveys it is revealed that more sites are needed to be surveyed in the Gari Dopatta Zone, where no records of the Cheer Pheasant population was found on the previous as well as newly selected site. Due to hiking in the prices of petrol/diesel in Pakistan resulted into the hiking of the prices of all daily used material which has limited us to conduct further surveys in this zone to get a complete picture on the Presence or absence of Cheer from this Zone.
Awareness workshops and informal awareness campaign for community members			Yes	
Awareness workshops and talks for school children			Yes	
Quiz and Painting Competitions of school children		Yes		We conducted only three quiz competitions in the three zones separately among the schools of the respective zone. It was also necessary to organise a mega event of quiz on Cheer pheasant among all the schools children of three zones so that all the students can meet each other and can share their knowledge on Cheer with students of the other zone. But the project area is

				large and it was not possible to gather all the students at one venue due to budget limitation.
Field Trips			Yes	
Awareness Material like Posters prepared and distributed			Yes	

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

The only unforeseen difficulty was the roads condition, which was broken by earthquake in 2005, it was assumed that roads must be in good condition to reach the study site without any difficulty but in most of locality road was damage. But we managed to reach the calling site some times after a long walk of 5-6 hours.

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

First important outcome of our project is the well trained and educated wildlife field staff. Staff of Azad Kashmir Wildlife Department has been trained in pheasant surveys especially monitoring Cheer pheasant population. They were mostly expert in wildlife management through law enforcement but have little knowledge in surveys and censing techniques especially pheasant surveys. They have been involved in the surveys to practically train them in the surveys along with workshops and talks. At the end of the project they are expert in use of GPS , map reading , call counting and habitat data collection , which is an important out come for future monitoring of the pheasant population especially Cheer pheasant.

Second important outcome is the establishment of standardise survey protocol for the monitoring of the Cheer pheasant, the only major population of this threatened species In Pakistan. Additionally the population estimation of Cheer pheasant after a long gap of almost one decade is also an important out come. These surveys has recorded a significant change in the population trend after one decade and based on these results conservation actions has been recommended to the relevant authorities for the conservation of this threatened species (Included in Detail Final report). During the survey finding of breeding population is also a major outcome which is a healthy sign that this species is breeding in the project area and population of Cheer can be conserved by protecting it breeding habitat.

Third major outcome of the project is that the community is much more educated regarding the importance of the Cheer pheasant and its habitat. They are more active and organise to conserve this threatened species. School children were the main target of this awareness campaign which has not only motivated the student but also the school teachers to play their role for the conservation of Cheer in their area. So, collectively conservation awareness campaign remained successful activity to mobilize community for the long term conservation of Cheer pheasant in Jhelum catchment area.

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

As mentioned above community has show very positive response during the awareness session, only conservation education was planned for the community to sensitise them regarding the importance of Cheer pheasant. Some community members were also remain involved during the surveys which also help them to understand the habitat and threats to the species. The community members involved show their interest in the conservation and protection of Cheer after the completion of the project which was a very hopeful sign regarding the conservation of the Cheer after the completion of the project.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

As mentioned earlier in the application that monitoring will run over a period of 3-5 years to assess the population trends and impact of conservation education and awareness. Population of this threatened species is only surviving in Azad Kashmir and is declining due to habitat loss under different anthropogenic pressures. So, it is plan to prepare a site occupancy model for Cheer pheasant throughout its range in Pakistan to develop an effective conservation strategy plan for this Threatened species in Pakistan.

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

Results will be share in with major stakeholders which will be in the form of detail final report and scientific publications.

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

Project period was August 2010 –July 2011

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
Travelling	200	270	+70	Due to hiking in the prices of petrol and diesel in Pakistan, rent of vehicles also escalate which effected the planed budget
Field Allowances , food and accommodation	1860	900		
Local assistance	720	720		
Conservation education and awareness including awareness material	1750	1750		
Workshops	500	500		

Stationary, supplies, equipment etc.	950	950		
TOTAL	5980	6050		

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

Cheer pheasant is a threatened species and was declared as extinct from Pakistan but rediscovered in 2002. Since 2002 no work has been done on Cheer pheasant regarding its population monitoring and conservation. Initiative has been taken last year with RSG project and it is anticipated that this monitoring will continue in the rest of its known localities to get a complete picture of Cheer in Pakistan. This will include information on presence/ absence of the species in Pakistan to develop a conservation strategy plan long term future conservation of this Threatened species.

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?

RSGF logo was highlighted in all posters, banners and material which have been used for RSG project.

11. Any other comments?

Cheer pheasant needs special attention for the protection and conservation of the existing population in Pakistan. As results shows that the remaining population is declining rapidly and if this decline continue at the same rate Cheer will be extinct from Pakistan practically. So, it is important to conserve its population through regular monitoring and conservation measures.