

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

Progress report

(1st stage)



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Cheer Pheasant Monitoring and Conservation Project

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Project Sponsor	The Rufford Small Grants Foundation.UK
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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Progress Report	Progress Report (Ist Stage)

Background

Cheer Pheasant is listed as an endangered species in Red Data Book (IUCN). In Pakistani it is found in some areas of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, especially in Jhelum valley and this is the only area with major population of Cheer Pheasant. Extant population of this endangered Species is declining due to illegal hunting and habitat degradation. There is an urgent need of the time to conserve this threatened species through conservation measures and regular monitoring. This is an initiative for the conservation and monitoring of Cheer Pheasant through capacity building of the Wildlife staff and involvement of the community especially school children in the conservation process through education.



Cheer Pheasants Habitat in
Pirchinasi Zone

Facts and Figures

In Pirchinasi Zone two Calling sites were surveyed in 2002-03 for Cheer Pheasant's population and a total of 16 pairs were recorded from Pirchinasi zone (Awan et al 2004).

Cheer Pheasant Monitoring and Conservation Project

Keeping in view the above facts current project has been initiated with the following objective

- Monitoring of cheer Pheasant Population using previous study plots.
- Identification and survey of new site to estimate abundance of cheer pheasant in Jhelum Valley.
- Capacity Building of Wildlife Field Staff for long term monitoring of the target species.
- Involvement of Community especially school children in the conservation of cheer Pheasant and its habitat.

Progress towards achieving Project Objectives

1- Project inception Meeting

Meeting with Wildlife officials

We conducted Meeting with the Director of Wildlife & Fisheries Department AJ&K for project introduction. He has been briefed about the objectives of the project. We also forward a letter for the nomination of the field staff needed to be trained in Galliformes especially cheer Pheasant's Surveys and census techniques.

Meetings with community

We organized community meetings for the introduction of the Project. Such meetings were conducted in all the three zones of project area (Pirchinasi, Gari Dopatta and Chinari). Community members were briefed about the projective objectives and importance of Community Organization for the Conservation Purpose.



2- Capacity Building of Wildlife Staff.

Nomination of Wildlife field staff for capacity building in Cheer Pheasant Monitoring was finalized after two consecutive Meetings with Wildlife Official. A total of 10 wildlife field staff were selected for capacity building A **Training Workshop** under Title “Global Importance & Threats to Cheer



Figure 1 Delivering Lecture during the training of Wildlife Field staff

Pheasant Population.” Was conducted in Gari dupatta. A total of 9 Wildlife Field staff attended the workshop. They were educated in Global Importance and threats to cheer Pheasant with special reference to Jhelum Valley, Azad Kashmir.

3- Conservation Awareness

Meetings with the head of the 9 Schools in the study Area was conducted for program introduction. Principal of the schools were mobilize for awareness sessions for the school children in the respective schools.

4- Awareness material

Posters including information on Cheer Pheasant in Urdu language have been prepared to be distributed among school children and community members as a part of awareness. Posters have also been presented to the Wildlife officials to be kept in the Office and distributed among wildlife staff.



5- Collection of information

New areas in all of the three zones were surveyed and information on the presence/ Absence of the target species was collected. Interviews and discussion were carried out with the Community members, Wildlife field staff and hunters to get information. We also collected information on the major threats to cheer pheasants in different zones of the proposed study area.



During the Collection of Information on Cheer Pheasant in JV

6-Others (Additional Progress)

Meeting with the teachers of Zoology Department, University of AJK was conducted to involve the MSc level students in the research on cheer Pheasant and other Galliformes of Jhelum Valley.

A semi structured questionnaire has been designed after consulting my Referees especially k. Ramesh from Wildlife Institute of India during the 5th International Galliformes Symposium in Thailand. Aim of this questionnaire is to find out the grazing impact on the Habitat of Cheer Pheasant in Jhelum Valley.

Such findings would be helpful in conservation planning of Cheer Pheasant in Jhelum Catchment areas.



Muhammad Naeem Awan Presenting Previous Research work in 5th International Galliformes Symposium organized by WPA. UK in Chiang Mai, Thailand.

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