

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	Fan Peng-Fei
Project title	Feeding ecology of Hoolock gibbons in forest cultivated with ts Cardamom in Gaoligongshan, China
RSG reference	8575-2
Reporting period	September 2011
Amount of grant	£6000
Your email address	Fanpf1981@gmail.com
Date of this report	2011-10-25

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
Habitat survey			Yes	We set 33 20x20 m plant plots within a family group and a solitary female's home range to study the tree and liana diversity and forest structure.
Feeding behaviour observation			Yes	We observed the family group 853 hours in 103 days and the solitary female 464 hours in 79 days between August 2010 and September 2011.
Economic survey		Yes		We interviewed 12 local families who plant cardamom inside the forest and collected some basic information of the price, output and plant area in recent 10 years.
Education			Yes	We did some informal conservation education when we encountered local people in the forest and in the villages. Supported by FFI, we held an international hoolock gibbon conservation workshop in August 2011 in Gaoligongshan. More than 50 people from all range counties in China attended this workshop. I introduced hoolock gibbon conservation status in China and ecological behaviour of hoolock gibbons to them. Besides, I co-authored with the director of Gaoligongshan National Nature Reserve and published a paper to introduce gibbon conservation in China in a popular magazine named OUTDOOR.
Training			Yes	I introduced hoolock gibbon behaviour in the workshop. Dr. Warren Brockelman was invited to introduce the gibbon survey method. Dr. Dilip Chetry was invited to share gibbon conservation experiences in India. After the workshop, 20 reserve staff and two Burmese attended the field training of gibbon survey and behaviour observation in my study site, Nankang.

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

All research activities followed the designed plan in the proposal, but economic survey was not very successful because most local people would not like to tell unfamiliar people about the income of their own family. After months of field work in the site, we made friends with reserve rangers and some local people. Finally, we interviewed 19 families and 12 of them told us information of price, output, plant area and cardamom income.

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

First, we finished the first long-term research on eastern hoolock gibbon around the whole world and obtained some important novel information about eastern hoolock gibbon's feeding behaviour. Second, we marked all important food trees, sleeping trees and singing trees inside the gibbon home range and told local people do not cut down these marked trees. Gibbons will directly benefit from this activity. Third, we did a preliminary survey of the local people's economy status and now we understand how important cardamom income is for the local people. All this information will contribute to our understanding to the effect of cardamom plantation on the biodiversity conservation and will help Gaoligongshan National Nature Reserve to make management decisions in the future.

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

We did not hire local people as our field guide in Nankang, so no local people joined in our research activities. But we interviewed some local people and we did some informal conservation education in the villages. Our research will help the reserve to make more science-based management plans and will help the local people to mitigate the conflict of biodiversity conservation and use of the forest.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

As I mentioned in my proposal, I am doing similar research in another site without cardamom plantation. By comparing with the data collected in Nankang, we try to analyse the effects of cardamom plantation on the plant diversity, forest structure and gibbon behaviour.

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

During the workshop, I already shared my research results with nature reserve staff and few international gibbon experts. I will publish the results in international peer-reviewed journals. And I will do some presentations of hoolock gibbon behaviour and conservation in Universities, national or international conferences. All information will be shared with Gaoligongshan National Nature Reserve.

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

I proposed this project start in July 2010 and end at December 2011. In fact, this project was started in July 2010 and the field work was finished in September 2011. And I finished the data analysis and final report in October 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.

Besides RSGF, FFI supported my team 48,000 RMB and Dali University provided some money for this project. I prepared a detail financial report for this project and I took photos of all receipts for financial examination.

Item	Budgeted Amount	Actual Amount	Difference	Comments
Equipment:800	Waterproof suits: 200 GPS: 200 Rang-finder: 400	Waterproof suits and shoes: 328 GPS: 258 Rangefinder: 419 Mouse, computer repair and accessories, hard disk and battery charger: 207 Binoculars: 455 Branch scissors, ropes, oil paint: 121 Total: 1788	+988	Our old binoculars were broken during the research and I bought two new binoculars. I did not include the equipment for plots survey in the proposal. The inflation rate and price rising level last year both reached the top of recent years, so we paid more money to buy equipment.
Consumable things	Pens, notebooks, batteries, shoes and suits etc: 200	443	+243	This is partly because of the price rising in last year.
Insurance and medicine	140	264	+124	I recruited more students to do the plant plots survey. Nine students joined our research, so I paid more on the Insurance and medicine.
Map	40	30	-10	
Travel	650	516	-134	Oil price increased and then bus ticket price increased.
Accommodation	150	83	-67	The nature reserve provided free rooms for us and we just used some money for accommodation when we stayed in the downtown.

Food	3900	2188	-1712	We usually spent the whole day in the forest to follow gibbons to their sleeping trees, so we did not have lunch in most of days. Therefore, we saved a lot of money from food.
Plant specimen's collection and identification	300	118	-182	Some friends helped me to identify the specimens for free.
Print, post and internet	0	172	+172	I did not have this part in the proposal, but we need to print and post some materials between the university and the field site.
Stipend for one field assistant	0	455	-455	In the proposal, I supposed FFI could support the field guides stipends, but we paid too much more on this item and FFI could not cover all of them.
TOTAL	6180	6057	+123	

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

I think the most important step is to finish the research in a site without cardamom plantation. After that, we can figure out the whole picture of the effects of cardamom plantation on biodiversity conservation.

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 acknowledged RSGF in all my presentations in the first place related with hoolock gibbon. I will send the report to Gaoligongshan Nature Reserve and Fauna and Flora International (FFI) and acknowledge RSGF. Gaoligongshan Nature Reserve staff, FFI staff, and few gibbon experts attended our workshop know that RSGF contribute to the hoolock conservation. Once I publish the results in international scientific journals, RSGF will have very good reputation in gibbon conservationist and experts.

11. Any other comments?

I have very good relationship with Gaoligongshan Nature Reserve and FFI. We are going to develop a national conservation action plan for hoolock gibbon in China. I am the chief gibbon expert and will provide information of gibbon ecology to the action plan. Only after I finish the comparative research in another site without cardamom plantation can we understand the effects of cardamom plantation on gibbon behaviour. I will continue my gibbon research in China, and I hope RSGF can continue support my research in the future.