

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. The Final Report must be sent in **word format** and not PDF format or any other format. 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. Please note that the information may be edited for clarity. 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	Sumit Dookia
Project title	Conservation of Indian Gazelle or Chinkara through community support in Thar Desert of Rajasthan, India- an extension project.
RSG reference	15.10.09
Reporting period	April 2010 - September 2012
Amount of grant	£ 12,000
Your email address	sdookia_gazelle@rediffmail.com
Date of this report	7 th Jan. 2013

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
1. Population dynamics study of clustered population.			YES	It was achieved and population trend was generated since these sites are under the project from 2006 onwards. Population size is reduced, habitat quality is degraded, land use is changing due to rapid urbanization and group size of chinkara herds was declined from with a mean of 12 to 5 individuals in these areas.
2. Special awareness programme for the poaching communities for controlling local hunting.		YES		These communities are very non-cooperative, though few are ready to intervene. Various talks with the male of these communities organised, they need a long time follow ups through successive attempts.
3. Strengthening the network of volunteers, students, researchers and field biologist for conservation awareness and anti-poaching activities.			YES	Old network was strengthened through regular feedback and awareness workshops. It is actively working in the area and supporting the State Forest Departments Anti-poaching squad through tip-off information. At various levels, expert services and advices were also given about the <i>modus operandi</i> of local poachers and their movement was tracked with the help of this network. Currently it is active in 8 out of 12 districts of Western Rajasthan, where chinkara population thrive.
4. Local workshops for students, researchers and field biologist for disseminate the conservation awareness message.			YES	It was the main activity of this project and message was disseminated among various communities and age groups. All the volunteers are invited, experience sharing session and group discussion was organised, which leads them with full of enthusiasm to convey it further among the target groups.
5. Community involvement for the chinkara conservation, in Thar Desert of Rajasthan, India.			YES	The entire project is designed in such a way the local community people were involved in each and every step. All the volunteers are from local communities and also local of these areas. This was the biggest asset in the course of project.

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

Since this project is started way back in 2006 and step by step issue was addressed. There were no so caused difficulties, though the issue of “local poaching community” dealing was a bit tricky and still that objective is not fully achieved. These communities are fully nomads, highly secretive, very aggressive, serial offender and various persons are booked many times under various acts of Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 and other criminal offences. It needs more time to get full confidence on the project team as leave the hunting.

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

The major outcomes are

- (i). Declaration of two conservation reserves during the tenure of this project, namely “Guda Bishnoian Conservation Reserve” and “Gogelao Enclosure Conservation Reserve”. These two areas were also our primary study sites and under “Chinkara’s Clustered Population” in Population Dynamic Studies. It was possible due to our constant documentation and liaison with the authorities.
- (ii). Continuously supporting local forest department, through tip-off, with the help of “Anti-poaching Network” of local communities constituted, a network of more the 500 active workers in 8 districts out of 12 in Western Rajasthan, under this project.
- (iii). PI was nominated as a “member of Desert Biodiversity Working Group”, a network of 10 National and International agencies working in this area.

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

We have selected chinkara/ Indian gazelle as a target species to deliver conservation message to the locals, as it is the highly worshiped and widely distributed animals in this landscape. Association with the communities and chinkara is the key theme for awareness campaign and conservation message. This had helped us to make it as a keystone species in this desert ecosystem.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

The entire landscape is been under rapid urbanisation, which is converting the suitable habitat of this species as well as all other important endangered species of Thar Desert of Rajasthan, India. Along with this the poaching community work is still need a full-time concentration. Changes in the feeding behaviour, group size, social life of this animal is directly indicating a large scale habitat modification, which means we need to liaison with locals, poaching communities, forest department, and other relevant agencies to keep a large area free and safe for these endangered animals.

A community level rescue centre and mobile animal ambulances are also required to give a proper first aid to the injured chinkara and other wildlife of this landscape.

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

Through all the project publicity material, in print and electronic media, and scientific papers.

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

This RSG is used for 30 months. The time frame kept long as to achieve anti-poaching objective. Successfully the project helped in six seizures, through tip-off to tracking the movements and raids to curb crime.

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
Per diem for the investigator @ £ 7/- X 240 days	1680	1120	+560	PI has taken <i>per diem</i> for 160 days only. The excess money was used in anti-poaching activities and workshops
Travel (Intensive survey, Campaign & Monitoring)	2510	2630	-120	For population dynamics study and campaign, this was used.
Strengthening Anti-poaching network (communication and individual field mobility)	1510	1830	-260	It was a major objective, and a large part of budget was adjusted in this.
Local workshops (Community level and for anti-poaching)	1600	1780	-180	To strength the network and follow up was the major work under this.
Field Assistant 5 X 180days X @ £ 3/- per day	2700	2700	0	Five field assistants were involved in population monitoring work at all five study locations.
Preparation of Campaign material and Communication	830	830	0	Publicity brochures and campaign banners were printed and used for dissemination of conservation message of the project
Living expenses and contingency	850	840	0	This amount was used for all kind of field expenses including unforeseen expenditure too.
Report Writing	320	310	0	A coloured/black and white report was published in 30 copies for submission at various Govt. and NGO's working for the same. The same is also sent through the soft-copy format by e-mails to other interested persons.
Total	£ 12,000	£12,000	0	

* Exchange rate for 1 £ = 67 INR as on 22nd March 2010.

Since the project time duration was extended upto 30 months, the budget get adjusted, and complete £ 12,000 were utilized for the project purpose.

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

The conservation of this species and its habitat will be possible only, when a greater number of protected areas come up in this landscape. For this PI and project team is continuously working and by the consistent efforts, three “conservation areas” already been declared and five more areas have been identified for the same. These areas will surely control the alteration in the habitat and land use changes.

Along with this localised poaching and habitual poacher’s needs to be addressed, this was initiated during this project.

A community based “rescue centre” and “animal ambulance” is also required, which can help to give first aid and other medial facilities in the remote areas.

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?

We used exclusively the RSGF logo on all the publicity material, group discussions, workshop banners and during the community forums. Various other peoples were also come forward and took assistance from me (Principal Investigator of RSG) for discussion on similar issues and during preparation of other RSG projects.

11. Any other comments?

Last but not the least, I would like to thank RSGF for providing us funding for our conservation project since 2006. Due to this, we were able to raise the conservation issues in this area, successfully liaison with the stakeholders and govt. agencies and declaration of three “Conservation Reserve” in Western Rajasthan. It boosts our morale and we added so many sensitive people in our team, directly or indirectly for conservation of threatened species.