

## Project Update September 2025

**Rufford I.D.:** 46392-1

**Project Title:** Behavioural Ecology and Social Dynamics of Wild Camels (*Camelus ferus*) in the Gobi A Desert (Mongolia)

**Update:** In April, shortly before the official approval of the grant, I had the opportunity to visit the Great Gobi Strictly Protected Area. As this period coincided with the planned start of data collection outlined in my grant application, I was able to initiate part of the fieldwork earlier than anticipated. I wish to inform you of this adjustment to the timeline and trust that it will not cause any difficulties.

Thanks to your support, I am now able to conduct a high-quality field study beginning next spring, building upon the work already undertaken. The preliminary fieldwork provided valuable insights and, importantly, enabled me to establish strong connections with local communities. It also yielded the first dataset and led to the preparation of a manuscript entitled "Parturition in the Wild Camel (*Camelus ferus*): The First in Situ Observation"—a case study that I intend to submit to a peer-reviewed journal in the near future. In addition, I collected further behavioural data that will serve as the foundation for the continuation of this research.

The work outlined in my grant application will proceed in accordance with the original objectives, now strengthened by first-hand knowledge of the terrain and a deeper understanding of local conditions and opportunities. This initial visit has provided a strong foundation for the upcoming field season and will allow me to approach the study more effectively, in closer cooperation with local stakeholders and with improved methods of data collection.