

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	Sumit Dookia
Project title	Participation of local villagers in conservation of Indian Gazelle or Chinkara (<i>Gazella bennettii</i>) in Thar Desert of Rajasthan, India.
RSG reference	Ref. 13.10.05
Reporting period	May 06 to May 07
Amount of grant	£5000
Your email address	sdookia_gazelle@rediffmail.com
Date of this report	20 July 2007

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. Systematic survey of Chinkara presence in That Desert of Rajasthan, India.		Yes, because of large field area.		The project area was large in size, to cover every part, was impossible through the limited fund, so Secondary information was used for those areas, as presence of Chinkara.
2. Suitable habitat availability documentation.			Yes	Wherever Chinkara encountered during the project survey, its preferred habitat was documented for future conservation measures.
3. Local network creation			Yes	A strong network of community people, wildlife researcher, field biologists and students were built, for conservation work.
4. Workshop organization, for awareness			Yes	A series of local workshops was organized by our team at various localities, covering all age group and village elders for awareness generation.
5. Community Involvement in conservation			Yes	Various local communities gave us overwhelming support during the project work and promised for continues for future too. This was our biggest successful step for conservation of Chinkara.

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

Luckily our groundwork for survey work was done well in advance; team members were coming from different background, but with one theme for conservation work.

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

- First time documentation and mapping of Chinkara distribution at Taluka level, with high, medium and low population status in Thar Desert of Rajasthan.
- Formation of 10 community level field groups for conservation of Chinkara, along with other threatened wildlife of this region.
- Chinkara/ Indian Gazelle popularized, and associated with the rural deity for giving it high conservation importance.

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

Ethically some tribes of western Rajasthan worship these animals as close associated with their God and during project this message disseminated as its conservation importance for desert ecosystem. Local communities were sensitized for conservation values of these endangered animals.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes, as in the end of this project, we also came to know about the status of poaching of these animals. Now working for strengthen the undercover information network for helping anti-poaching team of Govt., through community participation. Habitat restoration program is also planned at some locations along with its population dynamics study for long term conservation.

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

Through our project material, local workshops and report, if more interested then site visit can be done with us.

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

This RSG was used for 13 months, and we took only one month extra. A detailed report is already submitted with the relevant photographs and publicity material.

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
Equipments One Binocular (8mm X 40mm)	175	172	+ 3	One binocular and One GPS unit was purchased from the RSG, exclusive for field use. Topo-sheets were purchased for better understanding of the topography and habitat attributes.
One GPS (12 Channels)	250	252	-2	
Topo-sheets	125	125	0	
Per diem for the investigator @ £ 5/- X 240 days	1200	1200	0	6 months were spent in the field work by the Investigator.
Travel (Intensive survey, Campaign & Monitoring)	1493	1495	-2	A team of 1 PI, 2 Field Assistants and 4 community volunteers were formed a survey cum campaign team, this team moved in four-wheeler and covered a vast landscape for this project.
Field Assistant 2 X 180days X @ £ 2/- per day	720	720	0	These two FA, were initially trained and later on helped in various ways for the success of the project.
Preparation of Campaign material and Communication	475	480	-5	Publicity brochures and campaign banners were printed and used for dissemination of conservation message of the project.
Living expenses and contingency	342	338	+4	This amount was used for all kind of field expenses including unforeseen expenditure too.

Report Writing	220	218	+2	A coloured/black and white report was published in 20 copies for submission at various Govt. and NGO's working for the same. The same is also sent through the soft-copy format to other interested persons, including RSG recipients too.
TOTAL	5000	5000	0	* Exchange rate for 1 £ = 78 2006.

By the end of the project tenure the budget get adjusted, and complete £ 5000 were utilized for the project purpose.

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

Our team members are very enthusiastic and devoted for the conservation of Chinkara as indicator species of desert. Along with the target species, we were also raising awareness for other threatened species. Similarly, providing under-cover information of localized poaching of all 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?

We used exclusively the RSGF logo on all the publicity material, 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. This RSG boost our morale and we added so many sensitive people in our team, directly or indirectly for conservation of threatened species.