

## The Rufford Small Grants Foundation

### Final Report

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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](mailto:jane@rufford.org).

Thank you for your help.

**Josh Cole, Grants Director**

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Grant Recipient Details	
Your name	Aishwarya Maheshwari
Project title	An investigation of carnivore-human conflicts in Kargil and Drass areas of Jammu and Kashmir, India
RSG reference	31.04.08
Reporting period	September 2008 to December 2009
Amount of grant	£4,708
Your email address	<a href="mailto:aishwaryamaheshwari@gmail.com">aishwaryamaheshwari@gmail.com</a>
Date of this report	5th April 2010

**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. Surveys for the occurrence and distribution of snow leopard and other large carnivores and their prey			√	
2. To estimate abundance of prey species			√	
3. To study food habits of snow leopard and other carnivores based on scat analysis			√	
4. To study the of carnivore – human conflicts			√	
5. To study the socio-economic conditions of rural community and develop local awareness programme			√	

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

Well!!! Since this was the first scientific survey in Kargil therefore in the starting phase it was very difficult to get the support of locals or manpower in field surveys but after telling them the importance of wildlife and these surveys it was possible to get their support in this work.

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

1. First baseline scientific surveys to document the occurrence and distribution of snow leopard, associated species and large carnivore-human conflicts in the battlefield (Kargil and Drass) of India.
2. This survey confirmed the presence of snow leopard from Kargil areas of Ladakh and occurrence and distribution of snow leopard, Tibetan wolf, Himalayan brown bear, Asiatic ibex and Ladakh urial was also established. The preliminary findings of large carnivore-human conflicts showed that locals are primarily concerned for livestock depredation by snow leopard and Tibetan wolf.
3. Two conservation awareness workshops were organised for the first time ever in Kargil; one for District Officials including both civil and defence departments and one for the locals including students, teachers and villagers of Kargil. In these workshops, locals talked about the illegal wildlife hunting in their areas without knowing the fact that it is a crime under Indian Wildlife Protection Act (IWPA). Therefore, information about the basic concerns on wildlife such as occurrence and distribution of snow leopard and associated species and IWPA was spread among Administrative and locals of Kargil.

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

The local communities were involved in the conservation awareness workshops and it is hoped to get the grant to mitigate the carnivore-human conflicts to get them benefitted.

## 5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes, there is great need to continue this work as planned. Now, it is documented that large carnivore-human conflicts recorded from Kargil and the basic causes of these conflicts such as lack of awareness among rural communities and lack of proper infrastructure to maintain the domestic livestock. Therefore, to mitigate these conflicts mitigation strategies have developed and a project proposal is planned for submission to Rufford Small Grants Foundation.

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

Results of this project have been shared with the Department of Wildlife Protection, Government of Jammu and Kashmir to formulate and implement the guidelines to document the important population estimation of snow leopard and associated species, and mitigate carnivore-human conflicts. In addition, the results will also be utilised to propose protected areas in Kargil and Drass. The results will also be shared with Government of India to include the Kargil in the Government's "Project Snow leopard" to secure the future of snow leopard and associated species in co-ordination with locals.

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

This project was proposed for a period of 8 months (May to December 2008) but due to some border tensions (proximity to the international border between India and Pakistan) the project did not start until February 2009 after a long procedure of getting all the necessary permissions from civil and defence departments. But this period of time did not affect the actual work rather I received proper time to complete the overall project successfully.

## 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
Engagement of one Junior Research Fellow (JRF) @ Rs. 12,000/- for 08 months	1221.4	1221.4	Nil	
Engagement of one field assistant @ Rs. 3000/- per month	305.3	305.3	Nil	
Hiring of one four wheel drive vehicle, and P.O.L. @500/ day (for 150 days)	954.2	954.2	Nil	
Hiring of accommodation @ Rs. 1000/- per month	101.8	101.8	Nil	
Travelling expenditure for researcher	508.9	508.9	Nil	
Communication costs (telephone, courier, fax, e-mail, postal charges)	25.5	25.5	Nil	
Field gear and consumables	508.9	508.9	Nil	
Preparation of reports	190.8	190.8	Nil	

Contingencies / unforeseen expenses	254.5	254.5	Nil	
Awareness workshop	636.1	636.1	Nil	
<b>Grand Total (Rs.)</b>	<b>4707.4</b>	<b>4707.4</b>	Nil	

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

On the basis of the findings I feel the following steps should be taken:

- Mitigate the carnivore-human conflicts by providing the basic infrastructure such as predator-proof corrals pens to avoid the livestock depredation by Tibetan wolf, snow leopard and Himalayan brown bear.
- Create more conservation awareness among the locals of remote areas of Kargil.
- To establish useful population estimation of snow leopard and gather status data on large mammals to identify the protected areas in Kargil.

### 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?

The first sight record of snow leopard from Kargil was actually served as the confirmation of snow leopard from Kargil. This news / story was published on the following websites and support from RSGF was mentioned in all of these:

- Capturing the elusive cat. Newspaper: DNA Mumbai. June 21st 2009.
- Eye witness-Tracking the elusive snow leopard in India's Kargil. WWF-USA. July 20th 2009. Available at:  
<http://www.worldwildlife.org/who/media/press/2009/WWFPresitem13037.html>
- Capturing the elusive cat. Snow Leopard Network. Available at:  
<http://www.snowleopardnetwork.org/newsblog/?p=137>
- Elusive snow leopard documented in Kargil, India. Available at:  
[http://www.wwfindia.org/about\\_wwf/what\\_we\\_do/tiger\\_wildlife/news\\_species/snow\\_leopard\\_kargil/](http://www.wwfindia.org/about_wwf/what_we_do/tiger_wildlife/news_species/snow_leopard_kargil/)
- The conservation awareness workshop, October 2009 was covered by the All India Radio, District Kargil.

### 11. Any other comments?

To achieve the above mentioned "next step" a detailed project proposal will be submitted to get the Second Rufford Small Grant.