

## 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](mailto:jane@rufford.org).

Thank you for your help.

**Josh Cole, Grants Director**

Grant Recipient Details	
<b>Your name</b>	Aishwarya Maheshwari
<b>Project title</b>	Living with large carnivores: Mitigate large carnivore-human conflicts in Kargil, Ladakh, India.
<b>RSG reference</b>	8296-2
<b>Reporting period</b>	October 2010 to September 2012
<b>Amount of grant</b>	£5908
<b>Your email address</b>	<a href="mailto:amaheshwari@wwfindia.net">amaheshwari@wwfindia.net</a>
<b>Date of this report</b>	11th September 2012

**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. To study relative abundance of snow leopard through camera trapping			Fully Achieved	We have identified two unique snow leopards in the camera trapping.
2. To undertake measures for mitigating pressures and snow leopard human conflicts: construction of corrals			Fully Achieved	Two corral pens were constructed and appreciated by local communities. We are accepting more requests for constructing corral pens. The benefitted local communities also avoided retaliatory killing of snow leopard and Tibetan wolf in Kargil.

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

There are always be some constraints in the field projects but earlier understanding and experience in the same study area helped me a lot to tackle some difficulties.

1. The work was hampered due to the severe cloud burst in Ladakh during August, 2010 (night of 6<sup>th</sup> August 2010). It did not only have an effect on our field work but had severe impact on entire life of Ladakh. Tremendous and continuous efforts by several agencies supported Ladakh to recover from this trauma and these relief programmes are still continuing in Ladakh.
2. Proper camera trapping was hampered due to the lack of manpower, inaccessibility and sensitivity in Southern Kargil during winters.
3. Four camera traps were not sufficient to cover such a vast landscape. Therefore, we decided to sample a smaller area and opted an opportunistic technique of camera trapping.

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

There were three most important outcomes of this project are:

1. Camera photo trapping delivered photo captures of snow leopard from Kargil. Particularly it also confirmed the presence of snow leopard from the Line of Control (LOC) i.e. an International border between India and Pakistan.
2. Predator proof corral pens actually generated the positive attitude for snow leopard and other carnivores in Kargil and one local said, *"Now we need not to sleep in the open to guard our livestock from snow leopard, Tibetan wolf and we will also stop to retaliate them"*.
3. I proposed one corral pen in the proposal but with the help of local communities who voluntarily involved in the construction work and two corral pens were constructed

successfully in place of one corral pen. Now the peoples from other villages are also requesting to construct corral pens for them.

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

The predator proof corral pens were constructed in coordination with the local communities and their participation is appreciated. The local communities will maintain their livestock in these corral pens. These corral pens are designed in such a way that snow leopard and Tibetan wolf cannot enter inside and the livestock will be saved in these corral pens. Furthermore, two field assistants were hired for monitoring the work and remunerated well for their engagement for two years. These two persons were also trained in the snow leopard surveys, questionnaire and interviews of locals, thus will be engaged for a longer duration with this project in Kargil, if we secure funding. In addition, we also organised some more wildlife conservation awareness meetings similar to previous years for local communities in Kargil.

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

Now we are so much involved in Kargil towards snow leopard conservation that we have to continue this work and above all, we want to continue our efforts. We will be preparing a larger proposal for the Rufford Booster Grant along with a workplan so that we can maintain the initiatives to conserve the entire high altitude ecosystem in a harmonious environment with the local communities in Kargil.

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

We keep updated information on different sources such as Rufford Small Grant (donor), WWF-India and other sources around the world covered the news of camera trapping of snow leopard in Kargil. In addition to this, the scientific findings will be published in peer reviewed journal. Also National and International conferences will also be targeted to share the findings of this work.

**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 12 months (October 2010-September 2011) but due to some unappreciated common interest between locals and Government, this work was hampered in Eastern Kargil. Also our work hampered due to the severe cloud burst in Ladakh during August, 2010. But this period of time did not affect the actual work rather I received proper time to complete the overall project successfully. Also the effective working period in Kargil is almost 7 months from April to October and rest duration from November to March was difficult in access during harsh winter and snow limits the movements and work.

**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 Field Officer @ GBP 74 for 12 months	888	1776	888	Additional amount was provided by WWF-India
P.O.L. for one four wheel drive vehicle @ GBP 7 / day (for 100 days)	700	1400	700	Additional amount was provided by WWF-India
Hiring of accommodation @ GBP 29 per month for 12 months	348	348	0	
Travelling expenditure for Principal Investigator	441	500	59	Additional amount was provided by WWF-India
Communication costs (telephone, courier, fax, e-mail, postal charges)	74	124	50	Additional amount was provided by WWF-India
Purchasing of camera traps; four units and batteries	1471	1846	375	Additional amount for batteries was provided by WWF-India
Preparation of reports	221	221	0	
Contingencies / unforeseen expenses	294	394	100	Additional amount for ration and consumables was provided by WWF-India
Support for predator proof corral pens	1471	1506	35	Interest gained on principal amount
<b>Total</b>	5908	<b>8115</b>	2207	

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

The most important next step will be to make a work plan for next 2-3 years under following goals:

- a. To raise funding support for snow leopard conservation in Kargil.
- b. To collect credible data on snow leopard through camera photo trapping.
- c. To support local communities against retaliatory killing of wildlife.
- d. To strengthen Department of Wildlife Protection, Kargil through training, capacity building and workshop.
- e. To maximise the efforts and repeat similar site based exercises in other areas of Ladakh towards snow leopard 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, in the publication material, the corral pen board we have put the RSGF logo. Further, in each media release both print and electronic, we have mentioned about the generous support from RSG. Also we are committed to acknowledge RSGF in our future scientific and general publications.

**11. Any other comments?**

We are extremely grateful to Rufford Small Grant for the support in this work. With all support, we were able to achieve two phase and the set goals towards conservation of snow leopard and associated species in Kargil. Since we are continuing the efforts in Kargil, the hope of restoration of wildlife and co-existence with local communities and wildlife has become our priority. Therefore, we look forward to Rufford Small Grant for parallel support in these ventures.