

Interim report

1. Project title: Conservation and ecology of Buff-throated partridge, in Yajiang county, Ganzi Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, Sichuan, P.R. China.

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3. Project sponsors: Rufford Small Grant-UK **RSG reference:** 10.03.08

4. Project start and end dates: 1st April 2008 to 30th March 2009

5. Reporting dates: 3rd December 2008 to 9th January 2009

6. Project objectives as stated in final endorsed version of the proposal

Nan Yang and Yu Xu carried out field surveys in winter (3rd December 2008 to 9th January 2009). The objectives of the surveys were to (1) collect data about the buff-throated partridge for estimating the relative abundance in the sacred and non-sacred areas, and (2) record the bird species in the sacred and non-sacred areas, and (3) find threat factors to species, other birds and habit.

(1). Estimate the relative abundance

In the results, signs were encountered less frequently in deciduous broad-leaved and coniferous mixed forests (DBCF) and oak forests (OF) than the other two vegetation types in the two areas. And encountered efficiency in DBCF in the non-sacred area was less than that in the sacred area, while for vegetation types there were not obvious differences in encountered efficiency between the two areas. The result showed that average encountered efficiency in the sacred area was slightly higher than in the non-sacred area.

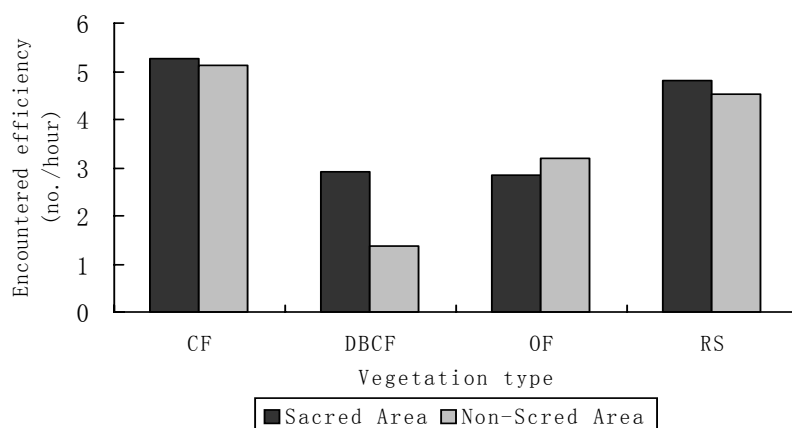


Fig.1 Encountered efficiency in different habitats in the Sacred and Non-sacred Areas, CF= Coniferous forests, DBCF=Deciduous broad-leaved and coniferous mixed forests, OF=Oak forests, RS= Rhododendron shrubberies.

(2). Survey bird species

Because of hard weather in the study area in this period, we just found 15 species in Scared Area and Non-scared Area. From table-1, we can see the species of the birds in the Scared Area were more than the Non-scared Area.

Table 1 bird species recorded in the scared and non-scared areas of Pamuling in 3rd December 2008 to 9th January 2009

Order	Family		Species	
	Sacred Area	Non-sacred Area	Sacred Area	Non-sacred Area
FALCONIFORMES	1		1	
GALLIFORMES	2	1	5	3
PASSERIFORMES	7	4	8	6
Total	9	5	14	9

COMMENT: Summer: 1st June to 31st September Winter: 1st October to 30th November (Because of hard weather in the study area we defined 1st October to 31st April as winter)

(3). Pressures that they face

We found two threat factors or pressures that they faced in this area. Such as (1) forest exploitation for fuelwood in non-scared area (Fig. 1, Fig. 2, Fig. 3 and Fig. 4), and (2) Tibetan people always set fire when they work in the field (Fig. 5 and Fig. 6)



Fig.1



Fig.2



Fig3



Fig.4



Fig.5



Fig.6

7. Expenditure: Tick which applies (3rd December 2008 to 9th January 2009)

	Item	Amount	Comments
1	consumables	£10	including batteries: £5, note book and pen: £5
2	field work subsistence	£120	£120: including accommodation and foods
3	local twon subsistence	£50	£30: including accommodation and foods
4	long-distance travel	£70	domestic bus Chengdu to Yajiang County and foods, 2 people
5	local travel	£60	£45: from Yajiang County to Pamuling Monastery, 2 times
	Total	£310	

8. Immediate future plans include:

- (1) Compile public education materials including poster flyers and brochures in January 2009 and distribute these education materials to government agencies, local NGOs, local communities, local school and tourists in March 2009;
- (2) Collect data of buff-throated partridges and survey bird species in February 2009;
- (3) Carry out publicize activities in local school;
- (4) Organize another meeting with the Yajiang forestry Bureau and Pamuling Monastery Wildlife Conservation Association, assess the conservation value of the culturally protected forest at Pamuling and development a management action plan for the future years.

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Annex Figures:



Plate 1 Mr Nan Yang was watching Buff-throated Partridge;



Plate 2 Mr. Yu Xu was collecting field data in Pamuling;



Plate 3 Heavy snow at Pamuling in December 2008;



Plate 4 Mr.Xu Yu was explaining the importance of the Sacred Forest to Lama of Pamuling Monastery



Plate 5 The Lama of the Pamuling was making a speech about the value of the Sacred Forest to the younger monks and Tibetan people.



Plate. 6 The Blood Pheasant in Pamuling Monastery.