

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.

Thank you for your help.

Josh Cole, Grants Director

Grant Recipient Details	
Your name	Jayanta Das
Project title	Strengthening the Hoolock gibbon conservation program in newly declared Dehing Patkai Wildlife Sanctuary, Assam: a preliminary approach of conservation intervention through community education and extensions.
RSG reference	04.11.05
Reporting period	April 2006 to October 2007
Amount of grant	£ 4975
Your email address	gibbonconservation@yahoo.com
Date of this report	31.01.08

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
Strengthening basic infrastructure for patrolling and other facilities			Yes	As mentioned in the proposal we have provided all the materials to the frontline staff in both the Forest Divisions of Dibrugarh and Digboi under Dihing Patkai Wildlife Sanctuary. 15 sets of field kits were distributed to each of the forest Divisions.
Facilitating first-hand knowledge on the legal aspects of PAs and anti-poaching training to lower forest staffs engaged in patrolling.			Yes	We have taken one advocate from Tinsukia and conducted in-house training of the frontline forest staff in Huguripathar camp of Dihing Patkai WLS. This was basically on how to prepare offence report. Range officers talked about different methods of anti-poaching patrols.
Extensive conservation Education campaign to discourage forest destruction and motivate community to take active part in Hoolock gibbon conservation.			Yes	Two Awareness camps were conducted 3days each, in Namrup and Margherita College. In Namrup camp (from 11.10.06 to 13.10.06) participants were pooled from fringe area schools and colleges. Total participants were 40. Out of that 5 were teachers of the local colleges. This include nature walk, bird watching, faunal diversity of Dihing Patkai WLS and lectures on biodiversity. The next camp was from 11.03.07 to 13.03.07 at Margherita college. More than 70 participants from fringe school and college attended the camp. Both the camp were organized by Primate Research Centre and collaborated with Margherita College, Dibru Saikhowa Wildlife Conservation Society and Zoo Outreach Organization.
Facilitation of sustainable livelihood practice.	Not			Only one camp was organized for the training of the fringe villagers but unfortunately this has to be postponed due to unfavourable local political situation.

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

The project cannot be completed in time as some unfavourable political scenario in the region. Although it was supposed to be completed in one year but I have to take 2 years for the proper

completion of the work. Still I could not fulfil one objective – i.e. training of the fringe villagers on alternative livelihoods.

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

Awareness for wildlife conservation particularly in Margherita College was the most important outcome of entire study. The trained personals conducted several training programme and expeditions in wilderness areas.

The frontline staff of the forest department does not get such benefits from the department. The materials we provided were very beneficial for them and helped then in patrolling duty. After the creation of the park it was the first kind of support by any external organization. The training on the legal aspect and anti poaching patrol were very helpful for them.

Primate Research Centre has developed very good report with the Margherita College and Dibru Saikhowa Wildlife Conservation Society. We received the education materials from Zoo Outreach Organization free of costs.



Left: Invited Faculties besides instructors from Primate Research Centre. Right: Game on Hoolock gibbon conservation



Left: Environmental game. Right: Environmental game.



Lecture on Hoolock gibbon

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

Students from the local community (90% of the total participants) attended the awareness camps. In the evening we discussed sustainable livelihood and possible alternative livelihood in an around Dihing Patkai WLS.



Left: Group photograph of the Namrup participants. Right: Group photograph of the Margherita Participants



Left: Field observation. Right: Environmental game.



Left: Participants hearing lectures. Right: Participants hearing lectures.



Left: Drama by the participants. Right: Field visits in the Sanctuary.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

I and Primate Research Centre have long-term plans for the conservation of Dihing Patkai WLS. I now work in Wildlife Areas Development and Welfare Trust. Recently we are doing behavioural study on Hoolock Gibbon and for anti poaching patrols we are constructing one anti poaching camp in the Sanctuary. The programme is supported by US Fish and Wildlife Service.

If I get next opportunity I want to work on the herpetofauna of Dihing Patkai WLS.

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

We have helped in preparation of the Management plan for the Dihing Patkai WLS. Even we have provided the department with the photographs of the Sanctuary which was displayed in the Jokai Botanical Garden, Dibrugarh and it was inaugurated by the Honourable Chief Minister of Assam. As we have received the education materials on non human primates from Zoo Outreach Organization we have submitted photographic reports to them, where we duly acknowledged Rufford's contribution.

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

The project was to complete in one year but we have taken 1.5 years from April 2006 to October 2007 due to political unrest in the region.

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
Per Diem	£ 1060	£ 1160	+ £ 100	As the project was extended we have to keep our field assistants for longer duration than anticipated.
Travel	£ 500	£ 500		
Accommodation	£ 100	£ 50	- £ 50	Forest Department has given few free accommodations.
Materials	£ 1655	£ 1655		
Facilitation	£ 350	£ 300	- £ 50	We were not able to conduct training on alternative livelihood programme.
Awareness	£ 500	£ 500		
Rental	£ 150	£ 150		
Miscellaneous	£ 130	£ 130		
Administrative costs	£ 368	£ 368		
Total	£ 4973	£ 4973		

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

As it is a new protected area more such support are required and many staffs die of malaria. Sometimes the staffs are very afraid of performing their duty in the interior camps. If we can provide them weekly healthcare particularly in summer and rainy season it will boost the morale of the staff.

As the park is continuous with Arunachal Pradesh, the area is very rich in biodiversity. Immediately herpetofauna study can be initiated in the area. As this year is year of Amphibians the study will be very beneficial.



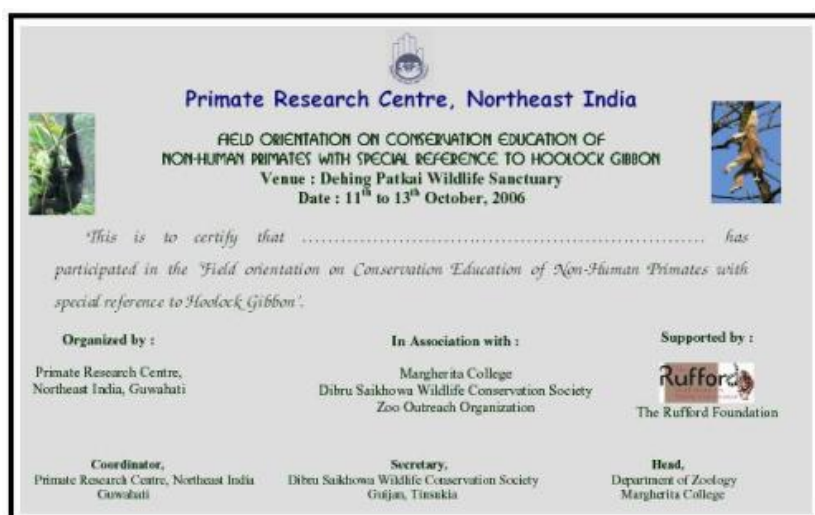
Left: Distribution of field kits to the forest staff. Right: Distribution of field kits to the forest staff.



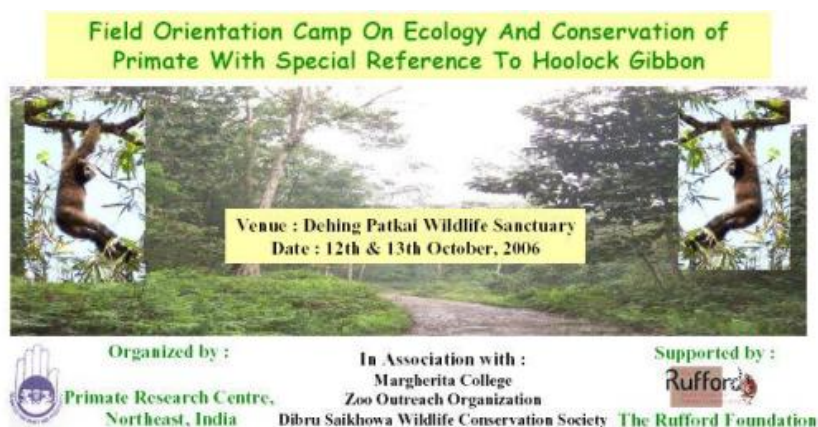
Forest staff with the field kits

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?

In all our banners and certificates we produced we have used the logo of RSGF.



Certificate



Banner

11. Any other comments?

From this project I have learnt one thing that in the present situation of Assam I have to apply for at least one year to complete the project and two more months for the report preparation.