

## 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	
<b>Your name</b>	Namita Brahma
<b>Project title</b>	Conservation of critically endangered Bengal florican through population and habitat monitoring and by strengthening community participation in Manas National Park
<b>RSG reference</b>	10001-1
<b>Reporting period</b>	1 year
<b>Amount of grant</b>	£5900
<b>Your email address</b>	<a href="mailto:namitabrahma@gmail.com">namitabrahma@gmail.com</a>
<b>Date of this report</b>	31 August 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
Survey of Bengal Florican in Manas National Park			Fully achieved (95%)	
Monitoring of Bengal Florican population in territories and its habitat characteristics		Partially achieved (80%)		Severe flood in the study area during April 2012 through June 2012, had affected the field work. It was very difficult in accessibility to many parts of the Manas National Park. So, monitoring of Bengal Florican territories was not possible in some areas.
Education, outreach and capacity building of local community			Fully achieved (95%)	

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

N/A

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

- (1) **Bengal florican population of Manas National Park-** In the entire Manas National Park we have recorded 27 confirmed Bengal florican territories in eight different sites. Six individual Bengal floricans were sighted in two sites in the western part of Manas National Park during the survey. A map of Bengal florican distribution was prepared showing past records and current territory sites.
- (2) **Information on Bengal florican habitat-** The height of ground vegetation inside the territory of Florican is significantly smaller than that of outside territory ( $t = 5.25$ ,  $p < .0001$ ,  $df = 858$ ). A total of 59 plant species was identified belonging to 13 families in florican habitat of Manas. For food availability study we sampled insect availability in the Bengal florican habitat. Grasshoppers are found to be most abundant in Bengal Florican habitat. Maximum diversity of grasshoppers was shown by family Acrididae (90 %) representing 4 species.
- (3) **Education, outreach and capacity build programme-** Through awareness programmes, we were able to spread the message of conservation of Bengal florican and its habitat among fringe villages mainly targeting women. During the awareness programme we also consulted with women and stressed on taking up diversified livelihood options to minimise pressure on Bengal Florican habitat. A total of five awareness programmes were organised where 132 women participated. After consultation we found an active women group already existed but were unable to get support from development agencies because of remoteness. So, we decided to support this woman Self Help Group of 14 women members to support with threads for weaving through this project.

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

Through this project awareness programmes were conducted in the fringe villages near Bengal florican habitat. Ninety percent of the people were not aware that Bengal Florican is a threatened bird and why we need to conserve it. However information of Bengal Florican and its importance to conserve the species and habitat were shared with the fringe villagers. In addition we also informed about the threats that Bengal Florican and its habitat is facing. We informed that intensive thatch collection and grazing by livestock is a major threat to Bengal Florican habitat.

The people in the fringe villages are economically backward and many families earn their living by selling thatch, fuel wood and other natural resources from grassland. So, during the awareness programmes while discussing with the women we realised that in order to minimise the dependency we must provide them some alternative livelihood options While discussing with them they told that weaving is a traditional activity of the local women but since they are very poor they were not able to continue their activity. After consultation we found an active women group already existed but were unable to get support from development agencies because of remoteness. For this reason we decided to support this woman Self Help Group of 14 women members with threads for weaving through this project under activity 3 (capacity building of local community).

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

Yes, we want to continue this work mainly the community outreach programme for women.

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

The result will be shared with the Park Authority of Manas National Park in the form of report. The report will also be shared with local NGOs and Institutions working in Manas landscape.

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

The RSG was used for the period of one year.

**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
Honorarium to field researcher @ £ 150 for 6 months	900	850	-50	1£ sterling =70 INR 50£ was used for community work for supporting women.
Honorarium to field assistants @ £4 for 2 persons for 75 days	600	600		
Vehicle hire and fuel @ £20 for 65 days	1300	1300		

Elephant Hiring @ £7 for 25 days	175	175		
Lodging for 4 persons @ £3 per day for 50 days	600	600		
Food and refreshment for 4 persons @ £3 per day for 75 days	900	900		
GIS Mapping (species distribution and habitat)	400	400		
Awareness campaigns with women groups (5 x £ 50)	250	<b>250</b>		
Hoardings in public places in Manas (5 x £ 50)	250	<b>250</b>		
Datasheets, office stationary, herbarium sheets, measuring tape (lumsun)	100	<b>100</b>		
Reference collection	65	<b>65</b>		
Communication (Telephone, fax, Internet, postage etc.)	70	<b>70</b>		
Contingency (Unseen expanses and health insurance)	150	<b>90</b>	-60	60£ was used for community work for supporting women folks for livelihood
Report preparation and dissemination of findings	140	<b>140</b>		
<b>Total</b>	5900	<b>5790</b>	-110	

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

- a) Diversified livelihood options to minimize dependency on Bengal florican habitat.
- b) Exposure trips of selected women from Self Help Groups to profit making entrepreneurship.
- c) Develop education materials on Bengal florican 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, hoardings in English and local language with Bengal florican conservation message were prepared and installed in strategic places in the project site where the RSGF logo were used. In addition during awareness campaigns the RSGF logo was used in the banner.

### 11. Any other comments?

In addition to proposed objectives of the project, we also studied association of Bengal Florican with other birds sharing the same habitat. In the habitat inside Manas National Park it was found that Bengal Florican has close association with Indian peafowl (*Pavo cristatus*). However, in the habitat outside the National Park which is adjacent to the eastern side of Manas National Park. This area is known as Koklabari Agricultural Farm which is cultivation area. In Koklabari area, it was found that Bengal Florican has a close association with Red Wattled Lapwing (*Vanellus indicus*).