

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	Oinam Sunanda Devi
Project title	Assessment of biome restricted and globally threatened avian species and their conservation awareness programs at Yangoupokpi-Lokchao WLS, a data deficient IBA
RSG reference	12112-1
Reporting period	1 st August 2012 to 31 st July 2013
Amount of grant	£5893
Your email address	sunan_o@rediffmail.com
Date of this report	08/09/2013

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. Current abundance and status of endemic and threatened birds		Yes		So far only five globally threatened birds were encountered during the study. The study site has an undulating terrain and larger portions of the site are inaccessible. Thus, long term continued surveys will be required to confirm their exact status in the sanctuary.
2. Abundance and distribution of endangered green peafowl		Yes		The study reveals the existence of this bird in the sanctuary but due to remoteness of the site and the current insurgency problems larger part of the sanctuary are still inaccessible. Long-term continued surveys will be required to confirm the bird's exact status in the sanctuary.
3. Awareness Campaign involving local people			Yes	The work itself was one of first time in the area and people were more concern about border trade as the site falls in Indo-Myanmar International Border area. To aware the people about the Sanctuary, the threatened birds and other wildlife were the toughest tasks. With continued effort, they were able to understand the importance of the sanctuary in their day to day life and now they eagerly participate in the conservation campaigns and few local youths were trained to use field equipments and bird monitoring and identification for long-term monitoring of the threatened birds and their associated habitats.

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

Unexpected bandhs and strikes affected some planned field trips. Surprised encounters with military patrolling parties during surveys inside the Sanctuary needs lots of explanations to be done regarding the equipment (GPS, etc.) we carry as the site suffers from insurgency and illegal trade, being at the international border. Some parts of the sanctuary were not allowed to enter due to security reasons. Great difficulties were faced during installation of camera traps as they were stolen

and after losing three, I dropped the idea of installing another. But other than these, the work continues smoothly.

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

The three most important outcomes of the project are:

1. A total of 169 bird species belonging to 37 families were documented during the study period including five globally threatened and 17 migrant species. *Pavo muticus*, *Turdoides longirostris*, *Syrmaticus humiae*, *Arborophila atrogularis* and *Buceros bicornis* are the five globally threatened species. Of the total, 71 are resident rare species and 98 were common species. In terms of feeding guild, 41 are frugivorous, 14 are carnivorous, 16 are omnivorous, four piscivorous, five are grainivorous and 89 are insectivorous species.
2. The study revealed that few fragmented population of the endangered green peafowl *Pavo muticus* are still thriving inside the sanctuary.
3. With the help of the study the local people are now aware of the sanctuary and its importance to the existing wildlife and their livelihood, which in turn help in their active participation in the initiative conservation campaigns.

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

The local people eagerly participated in the awareness workshops and community meetings. The village chiefs were now well aware of the condition of the IBA and its associated biodiversity and they assure me that they will not allow hunting and selling of endangered and threatened birds in their village premises.

Ten local youths were now well trained in bird survey techniques and using of binoculars and GPS in the field. Some of them are very good at bird identification. They monitor the IBA in my absence and they will hopefully help me in my future conservation and research works. Other than these, the school children were aware of their resources and local social organisations will also help in any future conservation works of the IBA.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes, I will continue my research work in this IBA. I will continue my survey until December 2013 as I have extended the FES project duration till December.

Apart from these, hopefully I will continue my research works in Yangoupokpi Lokchao WLS and four other Data Deficient IBAs of Manipur for my DST Women Scientist Program (Post Doctoral Research) for another 3 years more from January 2014 to December 2016.

As the study site covers about 184 km², I feel the need for continuing the work for another 3 years or more to cover most of the habitat. One year is just not enough to survey the entire area and for confirming the status of some rare and elusive birds.

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

I will submit the final report to respective funding agencies and also to the State Forest Department and my three referees. I will also publish the findings in reputed scientific journals. I have already written articles in local newspapers and social website "e-pao.net" for awareness and information sharing. Apart from these, an article is due to publish on "MISTNET" Magazine of IBCN (Bombay Natural History Society) soon.

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 a period of 1 year starting from 1st August 2012 to 31st July 2013. The grant covers a major portion of the project duration as I have planned it for 2 years starting January 2012 to December 2013. With FES covering the initial stage of the project and at post RSG stage I will be able to complete two years survey within the IBA. The grant was of great help in involving the local people in the research work as and when necessary during the peak survey period.

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.

Items	Budgeted Amount (£)	Actual Amount (£)	Difference (£)	Comments
2 local guides @ 40£/month for 1 year	560	960	(-) 400	Differences adjusted with FES funding
1 Digital Camera	467	700	(-)233	Differences adjusted with FES funding
4 Camera trapping devices @133.3£/set	533	552	(-)19	Due to price differences in the market, only three camera trapping device sets were bought, and difference is adjusted with FES funding.
Hiring Vehicle @ 40£ with POL for 65 days	1933	2800	(-)867	Frequent bandhs and blockades cause increase in POL prices and vehicle hiring charges. Thus, differences are adjusted with FES funding.
Field Training of Local youths	480	900	(-) 420	Differences adjusted with FES funding
Awareness Programme	879	1633	(-)754	Differences adjusted with FES funding and extra funding amount increase due to increase in local exchange rate.
Printing cost of leaflets in local language@0.33£/leaflet	200	230	(-)30	Differences adjusted with other consumable expenditures

Printing cost of Pamphlets@0.46£/pamphlet	467	480	(-) 13	Differences adjusted with FES funding
Consumables etc.	267	600	(-)333	Adjusted with FES funding and extra funding amount increase due to increase in local exchange rate.
Report Preparation	107	200	(-)93	Differences will be adjusted with FES funding
Total	5893	9055	(-)3162	The actual budget of the project anticipated was £8560 which was shot up to £9055 so far due to unseen expenditures incurred during field surveys like extra field help, increased petrol and vehicle hiring charges and organising awareness campaigns etc. The differences were cover up so far with FES funding and extra funding amount increment due to increase in local Exchange rate.

* Exchange rate @ 1£ = 86.7 Rupees.

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

The important next steps required immediately are:

1. Continue the field surveys to assess the rare and elusive birds for at least 3 years or more.
2. Continued monitoring of the endangered and threatened birds along with their associated habitats.
3. Continue the conservation awareness programs and generating alternate source of income for the communities inside the sanctuary.

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, I have used the RSGF logo in the awareness poster, Leaflets, certificates of the essay and painting competition for school children, banners for the competitions and awareness workshop and field training banners.

Yes, the RSGF received publicity during my entire course of the work. The RSGF and the work in the area were new to the people and research students of our state, thus so when I interact with them, they enquire about the foundation. Also, some research students enquire about the procedures to apply for the grant.

The news items in local newspapers after the awareness events also mentioned about the RSGF and the FES (Foundation for Ecological Security). Both the funding agencies will be mentioned in the acknowledgement sections of all my future research papers and articles of this IBA.

11. Any other comments?

There was also an unconfirmed record of the elusive and threatened bird Manipur bush quail *Perdica manipurens* from the site. The field surveys will continue till December 2013 to confirm the report. Once confirmed it will be immediately share with the foundation.