

The Rufford Foundation

Final Report

Congratulations on the completion of your project that was supported by The Rufford 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	Murali Krishna
Project title	Investigating the foraging patterns and distribution of nocturnal frugivores with special focus on their conservation threats in Namdapha National Park
RSG reference	13411-1
Reporting period	1 year
Amount of grant	£5850
Your email address	murali7murali@gmail.com
Date of this report	8 th January 2015.

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
Foraging and distributional patterns of nocturnal frugivores in Namdapha National Park.				The objective on feeding was obtained for various nocturnal frugivores on seasonal basis but the data is limited.
Drivers involved in hunting of nocturnal frugivores in Namdapha National Park				This objective was partially obtained as the village heads (Goan Bhuras) of the surrounding villages have set up a ban on hunting and thus the people were not interested in answering to the enquires. However, we managed the work with few contacts.
Status of few nocturnal frugivores (additional objective)				This objective was added as the trail surveys yielded the data on encounter rates thus partially helping in understanding the status of the species.

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

Most of the villagers were uninterested in answering to our enquires with regard to hunting and use pattern of the nocturnal frugivores due to ban of hunting laid down by the Goan Bhuras (village head person) in the villages and apart due to strict notice from the forest department. However, we managed to get some information with regard to use pattern through those traditional healers who have left the occupation.

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

- 1.) The data on the feeding habits of the nocturnal frugivores was collected suggesting that most of the species depend on fruit matter.
- 2.) The species of interest do have few ethnozoological use especially the red giant gliding squirrel's urine used in treatment of kidney stones and the skin and hair of slow loris in treating the wounds.
- 3.) The nocturnal species especially the civets appear in low numbers.

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

The local communities were screened with few video clips in the houses using the self-projectable handycam. Locals especially the children, young women and few men have shown immense interest in watching the clips in the villages just bordering the park. They reportedly asked about the species names. Few locals assisted us in the field trips and stayed and helped us in the camps and in surveys.

They were thought of how to conduct spotlighting to check the nocturnal mammal presence. Also, we knew that they took few tourists for the night walks around the camps and have started guiding the tourists thus benefiting themselves economically.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Based on the funding opportunity, definitely the work will be carried out in the near future. However, poor presence of animals is the main drawback to study ecology as of now due to hunting which happened previously.

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

The results will be shared as newspaper and magazine articles. Also, the report will be published as scientific paper in reputed journals in future. A part of this work was presented in the Society for Conservation Biology Asia - 2014 conference held at Malacca, Malaysia in August 2014 as a poster. This travel was funded by the organising committee of the conferences.

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

This was the only source of our financial support to conduct the work as the major funding which we applied for under Ministry of Environment & Forests (MOEF), Government of India was rejected. Thus we were not able to achieve the whole objectives completely. We tried our level best to generate data using this project funding alone. However, the Idea wild equipment grant has helped us partially.

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 for researchers (@£ 60 per month for 12 months)	720	720	-	
Salaries for field assistants (2 @ £60per month for 8 months)	960	1000	-40	Small incentives were given for their laborious work and thus the difference.
Field Laptop	750	760	-10	
Portable Hard disk (1TB)	60	60	-	
Field tents (2 nos)	200	165	+35	Some amount was left over as the tents were bought than the expected price
Spot lights (3 nos)	300	300	-	
Head lamps (4 nos)	200	200	-	
Solar Charger (for charging spot lights and laptop)	200	180	+20	Some amount was left over as the solar charger was bought than the expected price
Battery charger with batteries	30	35	-5	Slightly better ones were

				bought
Travel to field site & return (@ £250 per trip for 4 trips)	1000	1120	-120	Expenses have increased due to higher fuel prices in the beginning of the year.
Field boots (3 pairs including field assistants)	75	75	-	-
Rain Coats (3 pairs including field assistants)	55	60	-5	-
Local travel (@ £50 per month for 8 months)	400	400	-	-
Medical expenses for researcher and field assistants (@ 25 per month for 8 months)	200	180	+20	-
Communication: Internet and telephone (@ £25 per month for 12 months)	300	330	-30	Slightly overused
Contingency	400	400	-	-
Total	5850	5985	135	

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

Looking ahead for funding, a long term study will be planned and unemployed locals will be turned into field guides. Conservation awareness programs and eco-tourism development are the activities that are to be taken up.

10. Did you use The Rufford Foundation logo in any materials produced in relation to this project? Did the RSGF receive any publicity during the course of your work?

We have not used the logo. But the name is used in a newspaper article and poster presented at Society Conservation Biology Asia - 2014 conference. Young researchers at the conference who work in the field of conservation biology were interested in applying for grant. Also, we will be using the logo in the reports and scientific communications in coming days.

11. Any other comments?

This grant was very much useful in understanding such lesser known species ecology. My articles which will come up in future especially in the magazines will hopefully bring awareness and spread a word which might intensify tourism thus bringing in the economic bloom in these communities and thus their interest in this process will develop a love towards conservation of the species.