

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	Madhuri Ramesh
Project title	Marine Turtle Conservation In Odisha, India: To Demarcate Or Diversify?
RSG reference	14560-2
Reporting period	Feb 2014 To Apr 2016
Amount of grant	£5952
Your email address	Madhurir@Hotmail.Com
Date of this report	June 29 th 2016

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. Practices of conservation actors and challenges faced			yes	Hard to access certain government agencies but interviewed retired officials instead
2. Social consequences of conservation practice		Yes		There are ongoing welfare interventions so could get a good overall perspective but not complete details
3. Effectiveness of conservation in dealing with current, nonlocal threats			Yes	

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

One of the objectives was to document the social consequences of conservation. I had planned to do socioeconomic surveys in a few villages near turtle nesting sites. But the unforeseen difficulty was that the state government in the meanwhile had renewed land acquisition efforts for port construction in the region. There is recurrent grassroots opposition in many places and people were suspicious of any village-level questions on socioeconomic status because they thought it was part of the land acquisition efforts. As a result I could not do these surveys and instead, relied on narratives and focus group discussions.

Also, there are several ongoing welfare and alternative livelihoods schemes – the same field-level officer was often in charge of multiple efforts so it was hard to disaggregate this information. Moreover since these projects have not yet been completed in most coastal villages, no stabilised numbers were available so I did not attempt to analyse the effect of these within the time period of the current study.

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

- In-depth information on practical challenges faced by key conservation actors, especially the Forest Department, in implementing marine conservation.
- Documentation of the social consequences of turtle conservation in protected and non-protected areas, including the role of scientists in each.
- A macro-analysis of whether increasing the number of MPAs in Odisha will indeed improve protection of turtles.

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

The involvement of communities was mostly in the role of respondents, but many felt the qualitative approach I took provided space for their voices and experiences to be heard. Similarly, the perspectives of field-level government staff are also poorly known so they too were most willing to talk once they had been assured of confidentiality.

I also undertook an additional assignment for Dakshin Foundation to record the perspectives of women from the fishing communities because an overwhelming majority of conservation actors in this region are male and social barriers prevent women from speaking up. Finally, at the request of some local conservation NGOs, I helped to conduct two turtle monitoring workshops.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes. I have linkages with conservation NGOs in the region, the main one being the Dakshin Foundation which has worked for over a decade in Odisha. I provide informal help with their research studies and outreach/interventions.

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

I will translate parts of my detailed report into Oriya and circulate it via existing networks including the OMRCC (Odisha Marine Resources Conservation Consortium), with the help of Dakshin Foundation. I have also written a short article on the perspectives of fisherwomen and submitted it to the newsletter of the International Collective in Support of Fish workers. I am attempting to find a journalist from Odisha to co-author with me a series of two to three newspaper articles on the intensive industrial development of the coast and its implications for people and

marine fauna. Finally, I will also write the usual crop of peer-reviewed journal articles and present my work in academic fora.

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

The grant was used over a 2-year period as anticipated in the proposal.

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
Personnel	4517	4426	(+91)	Did not have to use an extra local translator as anticipated since most people were multilingual
Travel from Bengaluru to field site	248	214	(+ 33)	
Travel and accommodation within Odisha	495	591	97	Had to make many more trips to Bhubaneswar than anticipated, to interview government officials
Consumables and communication	150	178	28	
Institutional overheads	542	542	0	
Total	5952	5952	0	

Note: 1 GBP = INR 102.06

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

I'd like communicate the results of my study to many of the local NGOs I interacted with and explore ways to maintain my links with Dakshin and OMRCC's work in Odisha.

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?

Yes, I used the logo during the training workshops I conducted in Odisha. And RSGF is also mentioned in my institutional web page (<http://www.atree.org/mramesh>). I will also acknowledge RSGF in all publications derived from this study.