

## The Rufford 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. 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. 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**

Grant Recipient Details	
<b>Your name</b>	Ramachandran R.
<b>Project title</b>	Understanding the Dynamics and Market of Illegal Hunting for Conservation of Wetlands and Waterfowl in Human Dominated Agricultural Landscapes of Southern India
<b>RSG reference</b>	17831-1
<b>Reporting period</b>	October 2015 to October 2016
<b>Amount of grant</b>	£4999
<b>Your email address</b>	Ramachandranr.pccf@yahoo.co.in
<b>Date of this report</b>	26 <sup>th</sup> October 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
Assessment of spatio-temporal distribution and scale of illegal hunting to map hunting hotspots and facilitate enforcement.			Y	
Identification of the factors that initiate and sustain illegal hunting to device appropriate conservation action plans to curb the same.			Y	
Quantifying the market of illegal hunting and identifying the drivers and key players of the market to determine the targetable areas of the demand-supply chain.			Y	
Assessment of the impacts of illegal hunting on waterfowl communities to identify the most impacted species and prioritize future conservation action.		Y		Although the overall impact of hunting on waterfowl communities have been assessed, we are yet to identify the most impacted species. We expect to complete the analysis by December 2016 to identify the most impacted species
Creating awareness regarding the importance of wetlands and wetland biodiversity among the regional populace through workshops and a short documentary film.		Y		The workshops intended to create awareness regarding the importance of wetlands and wetland biodiversity were conducted successfully. However, the short documentary film could not be completed due to hunters disallowing filming.

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

There was above normal, incessant rains and subsequent flooding of the study area during the first 2 months of field work. This caused delays in conducting the work.

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

The three most important outcomes of the project are:

1. The determinants of illegal waterbird hunting have been unravelled.  
Hunting was found to be driven by demand. Fuelled by lack of systematic enforcement and weak policy, waterbird hunting has increased over the past decade and is continuing in the same trend. The potential legal consequences of the illegal hunting was considered to be meagre by stakeholders relative to the financial benefits.
2. The demand-supply chain of illegal waterbird trade has been mapped.  
The demand was found to be driven by the middlemen who were most benefitted in monetary terms. Enforcement on hunting has been minimal, and focuses almost entirely on the hunters. Neither middlemen nor consumers appear to be targeted by legal authorities for unknown reasons.
3. The dynamics, size, players and drivers of the illegal waterbird trade have been determined to an extent.  
The illegal waterfowl trade was found to be driven by commerce and not due to subsistence needs. The players of the trade involve a large section of the society. The hunters primarily belonged to socially and economically backward class, while the middlemen and consumers were affluent. Additionally, the trade likely thrives due to lack of awareness regarding the importance of biodiversity conservation and the consequence of biodiversity loss.

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

The local communities actively participated in the workshops that were conducted to raise awareness regarding the importance of wetlands and wetland biodiversity. The workshops enriched their understanding of the importance of biodiversity conservation. The children who participated in the workshops were motivated and

pledged to support biodiversity conservation. We believe this will have a long-term impact on the survival of biodiversity locally.

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

Yes, we are planning to continue this work by utilising the knowledge gained through this project. Future work will focus explicitly on minimizing, and subsequently eradicating, illegal waterbird hunting.

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

The findings of the study will be published in a peer reviewed journal to ensure scientific validity of the methods and results. The findings will also be submitted to the regional forest department as a technical report.

### 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 14 months, while the anticipated length of the project was 12 months. The extension of the project length by a month was necessitated due to rains and flooding of the study area.

### 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
Communications (telephone/internet/postage)	300	300	0	
Field Equipment: 1 external hard disk, 2 Garmin GPS , 2 Binoculars, 1 Spotting Scope, 1 Range Finder, 1 voice recorder, 1 compass	500	482	-18	All the equipment except the voice recorder and the compass was purchased. Instead, we used apps in our android phones for the voice recorder and compass.
Camping Equipment: 1 Two-man	450	333	-117	The torches and headlamps

tent, 3 Sleeping Bags, 3 Torches and Headlamps, 3 Sets of field clothing				were not purchased. Instead, they were donated by a regional enterprise by name "Technosys"
Vehicle hire for 270 days at £2 per day	540	217	-323	The vehicle was not hired as it worked out cheaper to buy a used vehicle and resell it after field work.
Accommodation for team members and local guides at £1.2 per day X 270 days X 3 people	972	999	+27	The additional expenses was incurred due to flooding, which increased field time.
Food for team members and local guides at £1.2 per day X 270 days X 3 people	972	1198	+226	The field work had to be extended due to above-average rains and flooding, which added to the expenses towards food for the team members. There was a substantial increase in food prices for about two weeks during the floods.
Travel and local transportation (including fuel) for 3 people at \$0.10 per kilometer X 12500 kilometers	1250	1350	+100	The extended field work and hike in local transport prices during flooding added to the expenses towards travel and transportation.
Contingency	15	120	+105	Two of our local guides fell ill during the work, and their medical expenses had to be borne through the grant. Also the team's laptop computer suffered damages during the flooding and the repair costs are added up in contingency.
Totals	4999	4999	0	
Local exchange rate used: 100 Indian Rupees to £1				

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

Looking ahead, the important next steps are:

1. Taking up large scale awareness in the region to garner public support to reduce, and eventually stop, the illegal hunting.
2. Capacity building of enforcement agencies to equip them to efficiently tackle wildlife crime.
3. Expanding the study both geographically and taxonomically in order to fully comprehend the dynamics of the illegal wildlife trade outside protected areas in India.

**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?**

No materials were produced in the project. However the logo will be used in all the reports that will be submitted to the regional NGOs and the Forest Department.

**11. Any other comments?**

We hereby acknowledge the support of all individuals and organisations in executing this project; including, Nature Conservation Foundation; International Crane Foundation; Dr. K.S. Gopi Sundar; N. Lakshminarayanan; Amogha Varsha S.; Anokh N. Joshi; Arun H.R.; Bhartish B. Shetty; Kishore S.; Nandan B.; Nitesh B.V. and Vimal Raj.