Project Update: September 2018

During June and July 2018, the questionnaire survey was carried out in the agricultural and protected area landscape along the riparian zones of Cauvery River. Household survey was conducted in 24 villages, of which 12 in the agricultural landscape and 12 in the protected area landscapes (Table 1). Four interviews per village was carried out in each landscape. Respondents included farmers and forest dwelling communities.

Table 1: Study villages in riparian landscape

Agricultural landscape villages	Protected area landscape villages
1. Bettasoge	1. Soligaradoddi
2. Abbur	2. Muthathi
3. Ballur	3. Hosadoddi
4. Hadya	4. Madivala
5. Bylapura	5. Koggedoddi
6. Chandagalu	6. Kuppedoddi,
7. Mandyakoppalu	7. Cheelanadoodi
8. Mahadevpura	8. Hulyahosadoddi
9. Sosale	9. Ganigamangala
10. Rangasamudra	10. Chikkalu
11. Belakavadi	11. Silvaipura
12. Sathegala	12. Hiremadivala

In August and September 2018, the questionnaire data was entered into MS Excel and secondary data related to villages was sourced from literature and websites. Data on villages willing to take part in restoration efforts has been shared with Nityata Foundation. They will be taking up the restoration of riparian banks in the headwaters of Cauvery River in the coming months.

Field observations

In the agricultural landscape, communities mostly depended on the riparian zone for fuelwood and grazing, while in protected area it was honey, fuelwood and rarely mushroom. In Muthathi, one of the religious places, ritualistic and other solid waste was dumped along the river bank by visitors.

Outreach:
- A poster presentation entitled 'Riparian buffers and Pollination service: A case study from coffee-agrosystem along river Cauvery, south India' was delivered at Student Conference on Conservation Science (SCCS-Bengaluru 2018)' held at Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, India, 27th-30th September 2018. I also attended four workshops during the conference.

- An oral presentation entitled 'Assessing ecosystem services and community perception towards riparian ecosystems along River Cauvery, South India' delivered at The Rufford India Conference: Fostering grass-roots conservation in India – A Rufford Initiative organised by Foundation for Ecological Research and Advocacy and Learning (FERAL) and The Rufford Foundation, UK at Goa, India, 18th-21st September 2018. Participating in the conference was a good opportunity to interact with other grantees and also receive comments about my work.

Figure 1: Household survey in one of the riparian forest dependent villages

Figure 2: Services provided by riparian buffers along river Cauvery

Figure 3: Riparian forest along river Cauvery

Figure 4: Along with other team member, the research findings were presented at the "Student Conference on Conservation Science (SCCS-Bengaluru 2018)" held at Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, India on 27th-30th September 2018.