

Grant Recipient Details

Your name	Pratyush P. Mohapatra
Project title	SETTING UP SNAKE HELP-LINE CLUBS IN FOUR TOWNS OF ORISSA, INDIA
RSG reference	RSG 34.02.06
Reporting period	
Amount of grant	£4932
Your email address	snakehelpline@yahoo.com
Date of this report	3 rd March 2008

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
Snake rescue			Applicable	Depending on the area, the snake rescue operation was carried out with maximum care towards the conservation these fascinating reptiles.
Relocation of the rescued snake			Applicable	Though relocation of the rescued snakes and treatment of injured snakes were carried out successfully we wanted to study on the status of the released snakes, which was not possible looking at the time constraint during that period. We hope to carry out such research activities in near future.
Public awareness			Applicable	This objective was fully achieved by the team, as a result of which we are getting more calls day by day regarding snake rescue and fast-aid measures after snakebite. The effect of such awareness programs can be felt within few years, when there will be more numbers of volunteers coming out in doing better practices of snake rescue and relocation. We will also be happy in looking foreword the reduced cases of snakebite casualty in the state. The only thing we could not do was the colour dossiers on "Snakes of Orissa" in the local language, due to financial constraint, which we are looking foreword in near future.

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

Accidents:

Snakebite:

No such cases of serious snakebite happened to any of our team members, except for minor incidences with Pratyush Mohapatra and Prasad Kumar Dash (got bitten by a Spectacled cobra and Russell's viper respectively) while transporting the snakes for relocation. Afterwards the venomous snakes were transported by well ventilated plastic buckets to the relocation site.

Malaria: Mr Pratyush P. Mohapatra suffered twice from Cerebral malaria and Typhoid during the project period.

Changes in the team members:

There were certain changes in the team member lists (as given in the proposal). We replaced Suvendu Mallick, Ashok Kumar Mallick, Janmenjaya Sethy and Rajesh Kumar Prusty and the new members added were Satya Narayan Mishra, Prasad Kumar Dash, Dipak Kumar Singh, Mitu Sahu, Sanjib Kumar Sahoo and Biswabandan Satapathy. The changes were made as per the wish of the team members.

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

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

- ☞ During the project period the team has succeeded in rescuing more than 2, 400 snakes from different localities of Orissa (including the cases outside the study sites).
- ☞ The team has conducted 140 awareness campaigns in schools, colleges and villages.
- ☞ The team has counseled more than 300 snake bitten victims and followed up their health check ups either personally at the hospitals or over telephonic conversation.
- ☞ The team could reach to more than 1, 000 villages across the state spreading the awareness messages, which has benefited at least 10, 00, 000 individuals in the state through our presence by spot education or by distribution of the leaflets and posters.
- ☞ The team members were interviewed many times in several television channels, All India radio and once in BBC radio news channel regarding the snake

awareness, which has probably influenced uncountable number of individuals watching or listening to the media.

- ☛ The team has reached in many places during emergency situation like flood and helped the public and Government in tackling the snake related situations in the state.
- ☛ During the study period the team leader has recorded 8 species of snakes earlier not reported from the State. This is also a great achievement for the field of herpetology and the team is grateful towards the funding agency.
- ☛ This grant is a great source of inspiration for the youngsters and the pro-wildlife persons of the state and we hope it will continue as a trend in the field of wildlife conservation in the state.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes

The team plans to take up the following activities in near future

- ☛ **The Snake Helpline Clubs can be taken as a model for snake conservation by involving the snake charmer community of Orissa.** Snake charmers can better utilize the multidimensional aspect of the work in conservation of the reptiles as well as to solve a major part of their rehabilitation. For developing the idea of institutionalizing the rehabilitation for the snake charmers, the team is now working on the rehabilitation model and is in constant touch with the state Government to solve the issue.
- ☛ **Setting up Snake rescue Center;** Rescue center is a temporary shelter for animals found in distressed condition. In Orissa there is urgent need for a rescue center, which can be started up as the snake rescue center, with the State Forest Department.
- ☛ **Setting up Mini Snake Interpretation Centers** in village level; The team has already started operating in various parts of the state and aims at educating the public by providing basic knowledge about snakes through posters and leaf lets. We want to reach most of the village level clubs and in each club volunteers will be trained with the basic skill of snake rescue. The volunteers will also be provided with literature and will be expertise in field studies to have additional knowledge about snakes and they can act as key persons in reaching a larger forum.
- ☛ **Formation of a Rapid action Snake Rescue Team** for controlling snake menace during floods. It is observed that the snakebite casualty increases many folds

during floods and monsoon seasons. So the team plans to set up a group of volunteers to counteract the snakebite casualty in the flood affected areas.

- ☛ **Database management on availability of anti snake venom in the hospitals of Orissa.** After snakebite, the victim is often confused in getting proper medical treatment. The database will be prepared for directing the snake bitten victim to the nearest hospital having ASV for treatment after the advocacy of the first aid measures. In the database we planned to have the contact information for all the hospitals and medicine stores having Anti Snake Venom. After getting phone calls from a snake bitten victim (which is a regular case for the Snake helpline), we want to advice them for the nearest hospital for treatment.
- ☛ We want to do **advocacy with the state government for better treatment of the snake bitten victims and also want to highlight on free supply of antivenin for the people Bellow Poverty Line.**
- ☛ **Publication of a book on Snakes of Orissa;** the team leader is currently carrying out higher study on Systematics and Biogeography of Snakes of Eastern Ghat ranges of Orissa, India, under the guidance of Prof. S. K. Dutta at North Orissa University. The endeavor can be published in a form of book, which will be informative for any group of people interested to know about the snakes. The most important objective is publishing the book in English and Oriya (local language) to reach all classes of people. The book can be sold with a nominal price for the sustenance of the Snake Helpline Clubs in a longer run.

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

Through scientific journals

- ☛ The final result of the report will be sent to a local journal for publication
- ☛ The dossier is already sent to Zoos Print for publication, which is carrying the RSG logo
- ☛ The range extension of 8 species of the snakes will be sent to various national and international scientific journals, where due acknowledgement will be given to RSG program.

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

After getting the confirmation the team felt to start the work immediately from June 2006 and the project period was extended till December 2007.

As there was no formal time frame of the project, the work continued as a pilot project throughout the period, i.e. the rescue and relocation of snakes was a day to day service. The field surveys were conducted in intervals for selecting the snake relocation habitats.

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
Fuel for one bike to carry out rescue and relocation work, as per meter reading @ £20 in an average per month = (£20 x 12 months)	£240 x 4 = £960	£920	+ £40	The amount for the fuel charge was settled against bills, which comes £920
Arrangement of awareness campaign , at least twice a month in schools/ colleges/ villages by hiring LCD projector @ £7 and refreshment for the organizers @ £5 = £12 per show = (£12 x 2 x 12 months)	£288 x 4 = £1152	£1085	+ £67	The remaining excess amount was resulted due to availability of the LCD projector of Vasundhara, for use in some awareness campaigns
Equipment: Local hand made snake sticks (2 nos.) @ £13; specially designed snake bags (15 nos.) @ £25; snakebite first aid kit (2 sets) for emergency @ £25; big buckets with covering lid (4 nos.) for temporary keeping of snakes @ £20; hunter shoes for rescuers (2 pairs) @ £30; torchlight (2 nos.) @ £15; weighing machines @ £5; measuring tape @ £2 = (£13 + £25 + £25 + £20 + £30 + £15 + £5 + £2)	£135 x 4 = £540	£ 540	Nil	The buying of equipments were adjusted according to the budgeted amount
Materials for public distribution; Printed colour leaflets (3,000 nos.) @ £75; Wall painting (of 8'x8' size at three different locations) @ £115; banner to be displayed while carrying out awareness campaigns @ £5; laminated pictograms to be displayed at the snake help-line clubs (20 nos. of 8"x10" size, only development and lamination charges) @ £65 and 500 numbers of data-sheets to be photocopied to record each rescue and relocation @ £5 = (£75+ £115+ £5 + £65 + £5)	£265 x 4 = £1060	£1245	-£185	Looking foreword the increasing popularity of the SHLC in Orissa, we have to made more numbers of coloured printed materials for public distribution. Instead of wall painting, we prepared big hoarding on the Venomous snakes of Orissa and distributed in different schools and colleges.
Maintenance of the club @ £15 per year	£15 x 4 = £60	£60	Nil	The full amount was used in the maintenance of the clubs

Medical emergency for the rescuers @ £65	£65 x 4 = £260	£295	-£35	The actual amount exceeded the budgeted amount because of our unforeseen idea regarding medical insurance, which will be taken care of during the fore-coming programs.
Travel to the snake help-line club operating areas and for field research for 2 days per month to each area (8 days per month to visit the 4 clubs) by bus or bike @ £5 per to and fro for 48 times a year = (£5x 48)	£240	£248	-£8	
Daily allowance for food and refreshment during the 96 field research (8 field days per months x 12 months of project period) @ £3 per day (= £3 x 96)	£288	£288	Nil	The full amount was exhausted during the study period
Equipments for field research: One GPS is already possessed by the team leader to document the snake rescue and relocation sites as per recorded in the data-sheet; one digital camera for photo documentation of the snake species and the study @ £155; photo development @ £30; battery and camera accessories @ £15; a pair of shoes for field research @ £12; sleeping bag @ £13 (=£155 + £30 + £15 + £12 + £13)	£225	£185	+£40	The excessive money was the outcome from the buying of camera accessories, shoes and sleeping bags.
Reference materials: Books and other printed documents @ £45; Field note books and other accessories @ £7; communication with people and organizations doing snake rescue @ £15 (=£45+ £7 + £15)	£67	£52	+£15	The remaining money was resulted due to use of Vasundhara Library.
Report preparation and dissemination of findings @ £35	£35	Nil	+£35	The report was prepared in Vasundhara office.
Contingent and other unseen expenditures @ £45	£45	£15	+£30	Only a little amount of contingent money was spent on hosting awareness campaigns at village levels
TOTAL	£4932	£4933	+£1, adjusted in making one snake bag.	

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

The follow up steps are discussed in 5th point of the format.

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, the logo was used in the two types of posters on “Venomous snakes of Orissa” (50 copies each), in the leaflets on “Does and Don’ts incase of snakebite” in English and Oriya (having the phone numbers of the rescuers) (total 40,000 copies) and also in the dossier on “Snakes of Orissa, a brief portrayal” (20, 000 copies).

In the dossier we have also used the logo of Vasundhara, an organization working on democratization of natural resource governance and they helped us in publishing extra 10,000 copies of the dossier in English.

11. Any other comments?

We are thankful to the funding agencies for providing the opportunity to reach out millions of public of Orissa, towards a noble cause.

12. I agree to this report being published on the Rufford Small Grants website

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Pratyush P. Mohapatra', is written over a light blue, irregularly shaped background that resembles a stamp or a piece of paper.

Signed (or print name)

Pratyush P. Mohapatra