

Final Evaluation Report

Your Details	
Full Name	Arup Kumar Das
Project Title	Strengthening conservation of wildlife corridors within Brahmaputra riverine landscape of Orang Tiger Reserve and surrounding areas.
Application ID	37922-1
Date of this Report	01/08/2023

1. 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
Assess the presence of wildlife species in the riverine landscape of Orang Tiger Reserve.				The delay in research permission received from the forest department caused a hold up in conducting field activities by few months.
Evaluate habitat and connectivity corridors within the study area.				
Evaluate threats in the study area.				
Conduct conservation education awareness to local communities for enhancing human wildlife coexistence.				As suggested by the park manager to conduct the awareness activities in the fringe of Orang National Park and Tiger Reserve and not inside the riverine landscape of the project site due to eviction drive. Hence, the project conducted nine awareness programmes in educational institutions. The selected community people had been invited for the interactions during the valedictory session of the awareness programme along with the park officials, students and teachers.

2. Describe the three most important outcomes of your project.

- a). Identified the presence of wildlife species in the study area.
- b). Training and capacity building of frontline forest official on the use of GPS for monitoring and conservation.
- c). Creating awareness among the local youth on importance of wildlife and their habitat and protected area with special reference to Orang NP & TR.

3. Explain any unforeseen difficulties that arose during the project and how these were tackled.

The permission provided by the forest department for carrying out field activities took longer than expected, owing to delayed start of the field activities.

Due to eviction drive conducted in the selected study area, the community awareness drives were organised for people living along the fringe of Orang NP rather than those living at the riverine landscape.

4. Describe the involvement of local communities and how they have benefitted from the project.

The local communities were consulted on wildlife movement in their area.

Competitions based on wildlife and their conservation was organised at educational institutions for the local youth, where brochures, books on wildlife were presented to them.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

The study area selected for this research work was previously under human habitation/encroached, but with recent government interventions, the area has become encroachment free. We thus have plans to continue the work along the riverine landscape towards east of the current study area, which includes the area adjacent to Laokhowa-Burhachapori Wildlife Sanctuary, as well as within the protected area.

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

We plan to publish research papers and news article in local media based on the results.

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

The study area has recently been made encroachment free, thus, a follow-up study based on the findings of this research can be conducted to assess changes to the corridor status as well as to the land use/cover and threats to wildlife.

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

Yes, the logo of The Rufford Foundation was used in the banners used for training and awareness activities organised at the educational institutions and in the brochure based on Orang NP.

The information about GPS training conducted for forest frontline staff was shared in all social media handles of Aaranyak with acknowledgements about the support

from The Rufford Foundation. The information on awareness activities conducted at the educational institutions too was shared at all social media handles of Aaranyak. The same were also shared for media updates, the links of which are mentioned below:

<https://www.assam.awazthevoice.in/india-news/orang-national-park-s-conservation-awareness-campaign-among-future-supervisors-7752.html>

<https://assam.nenow.in/forest-conservation-awareness-campaign-among-future-caretakers-around-orang-national-park/>

<https://neindiabroadcast.com/2023/06/27/future-stewards-around-the-orang-tiger-reserve-were-sensitised-on-conservation-by-aaranyak/>

https://www.nezine.com/contents_byline/TXpNMA==/future-stewards-around-the-orang-tiger-reserve-were-sensitised-on-conservation-by-aaranyak

<https://thehillstimes.in/assam/future-stewards-sensitised-on-conservation-efforts-around-orang-tiger-reserve>

https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=pfbid0H7uXgGq7sBHcvqXUSDijnCo3a8KgMsRaivDgr2kfc5fyb9fKAMuFje9VbzaRmqacI&id=100064749518561&mibextid=Nif5OZ

https://www.instagram.com/p/Ct_LSGXsvD1/?igshid=MzRIODBiNWFIZA==

<https://twitter.com/aaranyak/status/1673613322019823617?s=20>

<https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:7079376655495905281>

<https://wenaturalists.com/post/649a9fd1a609793a17fd13d8>

9. Provide a full list of all the members of your team and their role in the project.

Arup Kumar Das: Overall execution of the project that includes apply of research permission, liaising with forest officials, field survey, involved in GPS training to forest officials, awareness activities and GIS based analysis.

Madhumita Borthakur: Liaising with forest officials and conducting awareness activities.

Avishek Sarkar: Conducted field survey for collecting data on wildlife signs, status of current corridors, threats to wildlife and further mapping the data in GIS platform. Helped plan and manage the awareness activities and drafted content for media outreach and final report.

Pranab Kumar Goswami: Preparation of awareness materials that includes brochures, leaflet etc.

Avishek Sarkar: one of the team members of the project prepared a short video documentation of the project for the Rufford Small Grants.

10. Any other comments?