

The Rufford Small Grants 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. 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	Sindhu Radhakrishna
Project title	Population survey and conservation of two little-known primates, <i>Macaca munzala</i> and <i>Nycticebus bengalensis</i> in Arunachal Pradesh, India
RSG reference	9452-1
Reporting period	March 2011 – September 2012
Amount of grant	£5985
Your email address	sindhu@nias.iisc.ernet.in
Date of this report	November 14, 2012

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
(i) Survey for the presence of the Bengal slow loris and the Arunachal macaque in certain unexplored forest areas of Arunachal Pradesh.			✓	Although we could not survey Yordi Rabe Supse WLS, and Mouling National Park as originally intended due to logistical difficulties, we included several other locations such as Moralali RF, Mebo RF and Poba RF in order to cover a wider range of survey sites.
(ii) Estimate the abundance of the two species in government-protected forest areas and community forest lands.		✓		We sighted only one troop of the Arunachal macaque, and all our sightings of the Bengal slow loris occurred in government protected forest areas. Although secondary information indicated that Bengal slow lorises do occur in community forest lands, we did not see any there, and hence could not make a comparison of abundances between government protected forest areas and community forest lands
(iii) Assess the nature and extent of survival threats to existing populations of the two species in the state.		✓		The results of our investigation provided us with sufficient information on the survival threats affecting the slow loris. However, we were unable to collect new information on the distribution of the Arunachal macaque. Although our study indicates that hunting in general affects macaque species greatly, we could not be more specific about the nature of threats affecting the Arunachal macaque as we did not have more information regarding its distribution.

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

We experienced logistical difficulties in accessing certain areas for the survey such as Yordi Rabe Supse WLS, and Mouling National Park. We decided that instead of losing valuable time, we would not survey these two locations and instead would survey other areas that had been suggested by our local contacts as potential survey sites.

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

The most important outcome of our project was an understanding of the distribution pattern of the Bengal slow loris in the state of Arunachal Pradesh. Secondly, we obtained important insights on the nature of threats affecting the macaque populations and slow loris populations in Arunachal Pradesh and Manipur. Thirdly, both through the conservation education programs that we conducted and the attitude survey in Manipur, our study revealed people's awareness of primate species and their attitudes towards primate conservation.

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

We conducted a number of formal and informal conservation education programmes aimed at children and adults in Arunachal Pradesh. Students involved in these education workshops responded well to them and expressed an interest in wildlife conservation activities. Additionally, we also partnered with a local NGO in one of our study sites to conduct a clean-up drive. Students took part in the drive and so enthusiastically embraced the idea that the NGO was convinced that they should conduct such drives at regular intervals and across a larger number of villages.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Our research efforts in north-eastern India have focussed on documenting ecological information about its little-known primate species, particularly the Bengal slow loris. We have completed surveys in Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, and now Arunachal Pradesh. In the next phase we hope to extend our efforts to the remaining states of north-eastern India in order to obtain a broader picture of the distribution patterns of the Bengal slow loris in India.

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

I am working on the publication of two papers describing the results of our studies in Arunachal Pradesh and Manipur. I have already presented some of the preliminary results of my study in a talk at the 24th Congress of the International Primatological Society in August 2012. The abstract of my talk has been published in the Abstracts of the Congress Programme.

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

The RGS funds were used during the period March 2011-September 2012. In the original timeline for the project, which only included a distributional survey in the state of Arunachal Pradesh, it was anticipated that work would complete in 12 months, by February 2012. The study in Arunachal Pradesh did complete by this time, but as there were some balance unused funds, I requested that I may be allowed to use this to complete a study on primate species presence and conservation status in the northeastern state of Manipur. This study completed by September 2012; hence the present study report spans the period March 2011-September 2012.

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
Travel	£1980	£2182	-£202	The second phase of the study was a new and additional component that involved much travelling. Hence, we expended more than anticipated in the original budget.
Living Expenses	£3520	£3358	+£162	Student volunteers from Manipur were involved in the second phase of the study. This decreased the cost of living expenses in this part of the study.
Field Equipment	£300	£395	-£95	Many of the survey locations did not have electricity, forcing us to buy large number of alkaline batteries rather than use rechargeable batteries. Hence, we expended more for field equipment than budgeted for originally.
Other expenses (Stationery, communication)	£185	£66	+£119	The stationery and communication expenses were much less than anticipated
Total	£5985	£6001	-£16	

The grant received in Indian rupees equivalent to GBP 5985 was INR 4,33,194. Hence the exchange rate was calculated to be 1 GBP = INR 72.38

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

The next important steps are to (i) extend the study across the remaining states of north-eastern India in order to obtain a more holistic picture of the distribution of the Bengal slow loris, and (ii) to set in place stable and long-term conservation education programs, particularly in the hilly and forested regions of Arunachal Pradesh and Manipur.

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?

We used the RSGF logo in certificates that we awarded to students for their participation in the conservation education programs that we conducted in Arunachal Pradesh. I also acknowledged the funding support provided by RSGF when I presented the results of this study at the 24th Congress of the International Primatological Society in Mexico in August 2012.