

## 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](mailto:jane@rufford.org).

Thank you for your help.

**Josh Cole, Grants Director**

Grant Recipient Details	
Your name	G. Srinavas
Project title	Assessing the status and distribution of large mammals in Highwavy and its environs, Southern Western Ghats
RSG reference	9513-1
Reporting period	April 2011 TO December 2012
Amount of grant	£4988
Your email address	<a href="mailto:sriniherp@gmail.com">sriniherp@gmail.com</a>
Date of this report	2 <sup>nd</sup> April 2013

**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
Baseline data on the distribution and status of mammals in the Highway environs will be prepared spatially			Yes	We could establish status and distribution for about 20 species and also few unrecorded species were recorded to the hill.
Quantitative data such as abundance will be collected for selected mammal species.			Yes	The status data on major mammals including elephants, gaur, sambar, southern red muntjac, chital, Indian chevrotain, lion-tailed macaque, Nilgiri langur, tufted grey langur and bonnet macaque was established.
Degree of anthropogenic pressure (factors) and their effects on the distribution and abundance of mammals will be addressed.			Yes	For above said species this has been established.
Conservation zones will be identified for selected mammal species using Ecological Niche Modelling approaches (maximum entropy algorithm) and site occupancy model.			Yes	Occupancy for nine important mammal species at grid level was established and based on the occupancy rate the grids were prioritised for conservation. With this fact we proposed some of the region for conservation reserve, extending the existing protected area and restoration of the corridor.
Wildlife corridors/eco-sensitive areas (in terms of large mammals) that connect the Palni Hills and Periyar-Agastiyamalai Corridor will be identified for effectively managing this unique landscape.			Yes	The corridor was identified and also the persistence of the mammals on the corridor was established. The suggestion was given for the restoration of the same.
Small tract of Highway environ is recently declared as Megamalai Wildlife Sanctuary but large tract of natural forests remains falling			Yes	The baseline data on population status of some of the species was achieved, and also proposed conservation strategies. These points are mentioned above.

under non-protected category and the proposed study will identify the biological value of these forests for developing appropriate conservation strategies.				
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**2. Please explain any unforeseen difficulties that arose during the project and how these were tackled (if relevant).**

Due to highly undulating terrain and remote areas some grids were unsampled. However, many of the grids were sampled with the help of few volunteers.

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

- Distribution pattern based on elevation, forest type and disturbance level was achieved.
- Conservation zones at outside the protected area were identified.
- Persistence of animals and their movement in the critical link was identified.

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

In the present project, local community involvement was not proposed.

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

Yes, we have plan of continuing the work in the plantation (privately owned) and in non protected area. We have a plan of taking up conservation initiatives in the area.

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

We periodically met the park managers and discussed observation of animals in estates and non protected area. Also, we took class for the forest officials and volunteers about the area and presence of animals.

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

RSG from April 2011 the grants were used till the end of March 2013.

**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
Vehicle	1160	1160	0
Camera trap	1450	1450	0
Computer	261	261	0
Printer	145	145	0
GPS	464	464	0
Shoes and bag	116	116	0
Part time employee	667	667	0
Other professional charges	725	725	0
Total	4988	4988	0

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

Unprotected area around the Highway environs has to be included in the with the existing Megmalai Wildlife Sanctuary or new conservation reserve can be created to protect the wildlife

**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?**

In couple of presentations the logo has been used.