

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	Ambika Aiyadurai
Project title	Traditional Ecological Knowledge in the Mishmi Hills: Its use in wildlife conservation in the Eastern Himalayas.
RSG reference	12697-2
Reporting period	12 months
Amount of grant	£5890
Your email address	aiyadurai@gmail.com
Date of this report	31 March 2014

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
Ethno-botany			Yes	
Ethno-zoology			Yes	
Perceptions of Nature			Yes	

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

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

- a) The project documents the people views on wildlife present in Dibang Valley, what they think of wildlife, how does wildlife feature in their mythology, folk stories and daily lives. In addition to this, the hunting practices and local taboos of Idu people were also recorded.
- b) Relationship of Idu with nature/environment and wildlife was studied to understand how Idu perceive their environment in different ways.
- c) The utilitarian and cultural value of local wild animals and plants were documented.

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

I worked with the help of field assistants from the Idu community. I lived with Idu families in Koronu and Kongo where I observed the local customs very closely and participated in daily activities of villagers to understand people's way of living, and more importantly the use of forest resources. The outcomes of this work are constantly being shared with the local villagers, especially with the host families and key resource persons with whom there were regular consultations during this research.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

This work is part of an ongoing long-term research in Arunachal Pradesh to understand people-nature relationship. I plan to continue this work in the future with Idu and other clans. I also plan to extend this work on non-Mishmi population who live in the Mishmi hills.

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

The results of this work will be shared with others through publications in the form of peer-reviewed papers and popular articles.

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

The project took 15 months to complete the work, instead of 12 months. An extension of 3 months was requested to document information regarding wildlife hunting during the winter months.

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
2 Field Assistant Salary	800	818	18	
1 Research Assistant Salary	830	818	-12	
Porters	105	126	21	
Travel	400	363	-37	
Hotel stay	560	454	-106	
Local stay	395	681	286	The study area has frequent road blocks which led to the increase in essential items like food and fuel.
Vehicle hire	1000	992	-8	
Field gear	495	771	276	Additional sleeping bags, gum boots, shoes were required for porters. These items are very expensive in the study area
Equipments	560	534	-26	
Field consumables	405	528	123	
Communication and stationary	140	45	-95	
Contingency	200	0	-200	
	5890	6130	240	

1 GBP= INR 88

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

I will be writing research papers and articles based on this work and share the materials with the local community and with other researchers.

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?

I have not produced any materials from this work yet but when they are produced I will use the RSGF logo wherever possible.