

Project Update: June 2021

I got two Rufford Small Grants in 2012-2015 to work with local communities to manage *Lantana camara*.

You can see the long-term outcome of the project in the central London parks now. The 125 life sized *Lantana* elephants as a part of the Coexistence Exhibition we (The Real Elephant Collective, a non-profit company we founded later) are doing with Elephant Family. I don't think people often track what happens with projects in the long term as the early funders are forgotten, but I thought this would be a nice case study.

The artisans who were trained then now make the elephants. The £10,000 investment has partly contributed to 70 indigenous artisans being employed for 4 years, with a total income of over £180,000 and the whole project is likely to raise in excess of £1 million for conservation.

More about the project at www.coexistence.org and @therealeleco and @coexistence.story on social media.

We are also using *Lantana* to make pre-fabricated covid isolation huts for indigenous communities in remote villages who have no space for sick people to isolate:

<https://youtu.be/XeG99thSs0w> and

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Coimbatore/isolation-centres-coming-up-in-tribal-villages/article34609676.ece>