

The Rufford Foundation Final Report

Congratulations on the completion of your project that was supported by The Rufford 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	Honnavalli N. Kumara
Project title	Development of a conservation strategy for a newly discovered lion- tailed macaque <i>Macaca silenus</i>
RSG reference	Our ref: 07.05.07
Reporting period	September 2007-May2009
Amount of grant	£4987
Your email address	honnavallik@gmail.com
Date of this report	May 2009

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. (a). Mapping of the distribution of the Sirsi-Honnavara LTM population, (b). Mapping of the administrative and forest boundaries, (c). Mapping of the villages with croplands, (d). Mapping of the possible boundary for the proposed conservation area				As mentioned in the proposal, mapping of required boundaries were prepared, in addition to this mapping of related environmental parameters were also prepared
II. Feasibility study to assess the possibility of joining Sirsi-Honnavara to the neighbouring Sharavathi Valley Wildlife Sanctuary, including an evaluation of the different existing threats to this sanctuary				Study has been conducted, and considering the facts, the mapping for the boundaries were prepared to propose the area for new conservation Reserve or Wildlife Sanctuary

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

The proposed project period was two years. And matching grants were asked from many funding agencies. Due to one or other reason, there was a delay in receiving the money. Hence there was a delay in progress of the project. However, later money was received and work went properly. Yet to finish the first phase of the work we need another six months of data.

Another funding agency insisted to include couple of more objectives which are related to GIS. But unfortunately with the existing funding it is difficult to active all those objectives. However, one subject expert voluntarily has come forward to support at technical level. Hopefully those objectives will also be addressed.

Taking the final out put to higher officials and Government is a difficult task, and usually they are not easily available. Since I was able convince the local forest department officers and locally influential

persons, they have also involved in the project work and also they took an initiation to take the matter at higher level.

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

- Baseline data like the status of lion-tailed macaque was assessed and collected the data on coordinates for location of each group, group size, and data on human population, villages and threats were collected through field surveys.
- First time local people, forest department staff and many active conservationists were involved in the data collection. They were also made realised the value of the region and making the area as protected area, for the further support in the future.
- With the above information conservation and management plan has been prepared, with all necessary maps, information on buffer and core area, and highlighting the biodiversity of the region (which has added the value for the conservation of the region).
- Through the Deputy Conservator of Forests and Conservator of Forests, the plan was forwarded to the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and to Government. Present Government has formed a Committee to manage the Western Ghats i.e. “Western Ghats Task Force Committee”. The plan was also presented to the task force, made them to have the protection of the region in their agenda. Further the local politicians were also made aware of the importance of the present findings and protection of the region. Surprisingly, the protection of the lion-tailed macaque population of Sirsi-Honnavara has become in their agenda in ongoing parliamentary election. With all these effort, all our documents have gone to Government and also same has become important matter for stakeholders.

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

Since our major objective is to support forming the new protected area for lion-tailed macaque, in the first phase of the study we emphasised to prepare a required document for official process. This involves the main stakeholder and policy makers i.e. department officials, politicians and members of different committee. They have totally involved in the different phases of the project. Apart from that, about twenty local people involved during the field work.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes. Now the conservation plan has been prepared based on the population data. However, to manage the area data will be required on various aspects e.g. (a). Feeding ecology of lion- tailed macaque and NTFP collection by local people is most important to regulate the NTFP collection based on the important food trees of the monkeys, (b). We have come across many highly endemic and endangered plant and amphibians in the region, the proper biodiversity assessment to increase the conservation value of the region has to be documented, (c). Long term monitoring of the lion-tailed macaque population is also required

I have a plan to take up the above issues in the coming years as phase wise to support the management of the population and region.

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

- a. Plan has been prepared and submitted to stakeholders
- b. The information has been shared with the stakeholders, scientists during different conferences and workshops
- c. The same plan has been submitted to all the funding agencies (technical report 1) as first interim report. If the same is uploaded to respective websites, the entire world can access to it
- d. Scientific papers will be published in peer reviewed journals
- e. The plan also has been circulated to many related bodies. Based on this, other government organization is coming with a mega project to support the conservation activity in the region with the plan to support the local people under alternative livelihood programme (CEE-Centre for Environment Education)
- f. Forest department has got prepared the audio-visual documentary on our studies to convince the stakeholders

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

Proposed period was 12 months, but RSG was used for 18 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
Equipment	769	895	-126	
Supplies	64	64		
Sustenance	4154	4154		
TOTAL	£4987	£5113	-126	Since the GPS vale had gone very high, the amount was adjusted from the other funding

Projected sustenance for PI (myself) was partially utilized, since I have received the fellowship from the Government as young scientist, however the same money was utilised to support the Research fellow and field assistant for additional six months.

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

To bring out proper management plan based on reasons from the scientific study, another three to five year of proper study on various aspects is required. Accordingly, I am also planning my research and also conservation activity to ensure the long survival of the population and region.

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?

The logo has been used in all the presentations, and the logo will be printed in the Final Technical Report. Yes people are aware of it.

11. Any other comments?

Many times we project time period for the project, but in reality it gets hampered due to various reasons like permission process and rain pattern. Hence, little flexibility in time scale may support the work.

Since, the present study spans over two years (as projected in the proposal), final technical report will be submitted by end of this year. However I submit another Interim Report in couple of months.