

Final Project Evaluation Report

Your Details	
Full Name	Subhajit Saha
Project Title	Assessment of Human-Nonhuman Primate Conflict in the Askot Landscape with Implications for Conservation of the Askot Assamese Macaque (<i>Macaca assamensis</i>)
Application ID	21113-1
Grant Amount	£5,000
Email Address	ssaha88@gmail.com
Date of this Report	5 October 2018

1. 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
1. Socio-economic assessment				The socio-economic assessment of the local inhabitants of the study area has been done as targeted, with some initial difficulties in conducting field-work. The questionnaire-based survey has been done through traditional paper form method initially, and later using software-based mobile data collection tool (KoBo Toolbox), which sped-up the data collection process.
2. Human-nonhuman primate conflict assessment				Data have been collected on parameters directly or indirectly linked with human-non-human primate conflict in the area, as well as perception of local inhabitants towards nonhuman primates. Questionnaire-based survey and direct field observations have been used for the objective, which maximised our data collection.
3. Conflict-mapping				Field data have been collected through representative habitat sampling and participatory mapping. GIS tools have been used to prepare a comprehensive spatial database of landscape features, socio-economic aspects, primate occurrence and conflict parameters.
4. Conflict mitigation measures				This objective has been partially completed as the development of conflict mitigation measures requires a greater understanding of the conflict scenario by the project team members. Participatory rural appraisal and group discussion, along with questionnaire survey have been used to generate some basic data in this regard. This objective will be carried forward to the next part of the project with additional funding.

5. Outreach and capacity building			<p>Outreach and capacity building activities were a major part of the project since the beginning, and were conducted optimally with resource and time availability. Workshops, seminars, group discussions, PRA, audio-visual methods, quiz competitions, drawing competitions, distribution of t-shirts and other project outreach materials, youth training workshops etc. were conducted as part of the outreach programme. The objective has been partially completed, as felt by the team members, because we think that there is more to do in this regard along with a greater focus on women and children/young adults. The outcomes from the study already conducted, as well as the development of conflict mitigation measures, will greatly help in imparting our ideas to the local people. Therefore, the team will conduct such activities in the next part of the project with a greater focus.</p>
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2. Please explain any unforeseen difficulties that arose during the project and how these were tackled.

The project fieldwork was delayed initially due to official problems regarding permissions, which was solved with active support from the Forest Department of Uttarakhand. Later, during the monsoon, 2017, the field work got disrupted due to connectivity issues which persisted for a considerable time after the monsoon got over. This was tackled by the team with a greater effort in fieldwork as well as by deploying more people (including project interns) for data collection. The local people were initially hesitant about the intentions of the team members in the field, which was tackled by an emphasis on mutual strengthening of trust among the local people and the team, with great helps from the local team members and supporters who reside in the study area.

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

1. The project was able to prepare a comprehensive database of local socio-economics, human-non-human primate conflict scenario and landscape features (spatial database) through the utilised time. This was originally envisioned to serve as a baseline on which future project objectives could be developed and the ultimate objective of conflict mitigation could be formulated. This has been achieved.

2. The project team has been able to build a local support system during the 1.5 years of study which was necessary for the viability of the project in the long run as well as for an effective implementation of conflict mitigation and conservation measures in future.
3. Through the outreach activities, the team has influenced the targeted local inhabitants in imbibing an eco-friendly attitude and a greater tolerance for wildlife and nature.

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

The local communities have been the most important part of the project, as they are the direct stakeholders in the conflict issues. All of the project objectives involved the local inhabitants (socio-economic assessment, conflict assessment, participatory mapping, development of mitigation measures, and outreach/capacity building activities). Although the final aim of the project, i.e., mitigation of human-non-human primate conflict, will take time to be implemented, which will directly benefit the local people as targeted, the immediate benefit to them through the completed part of the project has been the outreach activities. Through the outreach, the team helped the local communities to be sensitive towards their surrounding nature. This will help them better utilise their natural resources and ecosystem services and gradually transform their use more sustainable.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

As originally planned, this work was the first leg of the long-term project on the mitigation of human-nonhuman primate conflict as well as primate conservation in the area, namely, the Askot Primate Project (APP). Therefore, the project team is definitely aiming to further the planned objectives of the larger project through future funding and involvement of newer people in the team. The second part of the project has been already chalked out by the team, which is planned for the next 1-1.5 years of time.

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

The results of the project will be shared through reports (the Forest Department and concerned organisations/institutions), outreach materials (local communities and laymen), scientific articles/papers (for the scientific community) and popular articles/blogs/videos (for a general audience).

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

The actual timeline of the project differed from the planned timeline due to the above mentioned difficulties. Originally, the project was planned for 14 months (January, 2017 to February, 2018). But, the actual duration spanned 17 months (March, 2017 to July, 2018)

8. **Budget:** 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. It is important that you retain the management accounts and all paid invoices relating to the project for at least 2 years as these may be required for inspection at our discretion.

Item	Budgeted Amount	Actual Amount	Difference
1. Stipend for field assistants	1800	2250	450
2. Digital camera	400	375	- 25
3. Vehicle hire	830	950	120
4. Fuel for vehicle	200	250	50
5. Daily field allowance	960	1200	240
6. Outreach materials	300	400	100
7. Workshop and capacity building expenses	200	380	180
8. Communication	50	60	10
9. Dissemination of findings	180	0	- 180
10. Consumables	80	110	30
Total	5000	5975	975

Comment: The increase in expenses was due to the lengthening of the project time period. The camera was bought for a cheaper price than anticipated (balance of GBP 25). There was no expenses for the dissemination of findings (GBP 180) as it will be done in the coming days after a detailed analysis of the project findings. The overall balance amount (extra expenses, GBP 975)) were covered from the second grant to the project from the Primate Conservation, Inc. (February, 2018).

Exchange rate used (at the time of the receiving the grant): 1 GBP = 82 INR

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

The important next steps would be,

- a. Understanding the relation between habitat characteristics and the prevalence of human-nonhuman primate conflict in different land-use types.
- b. Analysing the data generated from different aspects of the study to understand the causes of conflicts.
- c. Developing mitigation measures for such conflicts.
- d. Implementation of the mitigation measures developed.

e. Formulating strategies for primate conservation in the area.

10. Did you use The Rufford Foundation logo in any materials produced in relation to this project? Did the Foundation receive any publicity during the course of your work?

The Rufford Foundation logo was used prominently in every outreach and project material produced. We also specifically mentioned the support from the Rufford Foundation in every outreach activities and other promotional occasions, including presentations.

11. Please provide a full list of all the members of your team and briefly what was their role in the project.

Team members:

Manish Kaneria, M.Sc.: He was responsible for the outreach activities and the production of outreach materials.

Bhawan Singh Airy, M.A., B.Ed.: He is the present village council head (Sarpanch) of the Guinyaa village in the study area. He was our field manager and outreach coordinator.

Rizwan Khan, M.Sc.: He handled the field habitat assessment and vegetation data collection.

Surajit Dutta, Ph.D. (past member): He handled the spatial database management till September, 2017.

Subhasis Mahato, Ph.D.: He is presently handling the spatial database management.

Showkat Aziem, M.Sc.: He helped in socio-economic, conflict and vegetation data collection process.

Student interns:

Aman Kumar, M.Sc. & Muzamil Ahmad Mir, M.Sc.

Field assistants:

Bhupendra Singh Dhami & Suresh Singh Airy

Local support:

Murli Dhar Bhatt, retired Range Officer of the Forest Department of Uttarakhand

External project adviser:

Sabyasachi Dasgupta, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Tripura University

12. Any other comments?

The project has been fruitfully conducted so far. Given its success, the team wishes to engage in future targets of the project with greater enthusiasm. With the anticipated support from the Rufford Foundation and other funding agencies, the team is determined to reach its goal in reducing human-nonhuman primate conflict in the Askot Landscape and help protect the unique primates in the study area.