

Project Update: March 2020

Timeline	Planned Work	Update
December 2019	Buying equipment required for field work	35 AudioMoth acoustic recorders, 35 MicroSD cards, 200 AA batteries and custom cases were bought.
January 2020	Testing of recorders, meeting collaborators and planning my field work schedule	Recorders were configured and tested in Bengaluru, India. I traveled to Tirupati, India to meet a collaborator (Dr Robin Vijayan) and discussed the proposed plan for field work.
February 2020	Recce of field sites in Valparai (Anamalai hills)	A total of 60 sites across the Valparai plateau were visited. These included actively restored forest fragments and passively restored forest fragments. Permits to enter protected area sites were obtained from the Tamil Nadu Forest Department.
March 2020	Field Work – Summer 2020 – across Valparai	Acoustic recorders were deployed across 45 sites in the Valparai plateau. This included 15 actively restored forest fragments, 13 passively restored forest fragments and 17 benchmark sites (within protected areas). A recorder was deployed at each site for 7 consecutive days (4 min ON; 1 min OFF).
April 2020	Season 1 (Partial Data Collected)	One entire cycle of data collection is complete. However, due to external circumstances associated with COVID-19, all field work associated activities had to be halted immediately as a result of the same.

Next Steps:

Analysis:

I am working with collaborators at the Nature Conservation Foundation (in Valparai, Tamil Nadu) and the Indian Institute of Science, Education and Research (Tirupati) to analyse the data that has been collected.

Outreach:

I am presently working on a popular science article that conveys the importance of using acoustic data to monitor biodiversity across human-modified landscapes.

I am curating a list of annotated sounds of birds that will be used at the EcoQuest Nature Discovery Center to showcase the soundscapes of the Anamalais (of the Western Ghats).

Field Work:

Partial data has been collected during the first season of field work (as mentioned above). Depending on the external circumstances revolving around COVID-19, field work for this season will be continued accordingly. In the meantime, I will analyse the data collected so far (as mentioned above).

These pictures have been taken by Vijay Ramesh, unless otherwise specified. Top: 28916-1A restored rainforest fragment that sits amidst a tea plantation. Middle: 28916-1A acoustic recorder tied to a tree. Bottom: 28916-1A view of a rainforest within a protected area.



