

Final Evaluation Report

| Your Details | |
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| Full Name | Md Tarik Kabir |
| Project Title | Community-based conservation and population assessment of Endangered Western hoolock gibbon (<i>Hoolock hoolock</i>) in Bangladesh |
| Application ID | 33003-1 |
| Grant Amount | £5,950 |
| Email Address | tarikkabir84@gmail.com |
| Date of this Report | 30 March 2022 |

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 |
|---|--------------|--------------------|----------------|--|
| To assess of the population information of the Western hoolock gibbon including age-sex and group composition at all the gibbon habitats of Bangladesh | | | | Baseline population information of the gibbons at almost known and unknown gibbons' habitats were collected. |
| To conduct habitat restoration programs at the highly threatened gibbon habitat site at newly established Sheikh Jamal Inani National Park, Cox's Bazar | | | | 5,200 seedlings were planted instead of 3,000. |
| To assess seasonal variation of the food items at Lawachara National Park | | | | |
| To conduct an awareness development program at Inani, Dhopachari-Dudpukuria, Bangdehepa, Rema-Kalenga, Lathitila and Adampur | | | | |
| To conduct capacity building of the local community for sustaining the project | | | | |
| To prepare and conduct a public celebration of the International Gibbon Day on 24 October 2021 at Kaptai. | | | | |

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

Western hoolock gibbon of Bangladesh is distributed in the northeast, southeast and southern Bangladesh, covering a huge landscape. It is quite difficult to cover all the gibbon habitats with limited funding and time. Although, the project has collected the baseline population information at almost all the known and unknown gibbon habitats with direct involvement of the community people.

Implementation of the project activities had been negatively affected by COVID-19. The project costs were also increased due to maintain the social distancing and hygiene.

Setting up field activities for assessment of the seasonal variation of the food item of the gibbons was not possible at Lawachara National Park due to limited funding. For this reason, it was conducted at Raghunandan Reserved Forest to minimise field costs.

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

a) Population census

Population census was conducted at all known and unknown gibbon habitats of Bangladesh except for some remote areas of the Chittagong Hill Tract due to military insurgency. So far, this initiative has identified more than ten previously unknown gibbon habitat sites in southeast, southern, and northeast Bangladesh. Possible gibbon habitats were identified by published literature and consultation with the local communities. Awareness and public consultation programmes were the main sources of the information to identify unknown gibbon habitats. This project has already collected baseline population data at almost all known and unknown gibbon habitats of Bangladesh with the participation of local peoples during the population census and monitoring.



Western hoolock gibbon at unknown gibbons' habitats of Bangladesh

B) Habitat Restoration Program

Habitat restoration has conducted at the highly degraded gibbon habitats of Sheikh Jamal Inani National Park, Cox's Bazar, formerly known as Inani Reserved Forest and declared as a national park in 2019. This area is devoid of any large and medium trees but the western hoolock gibbon still survives there. About 5,200 seedlings of 13 trees species were planted here with the support from this grant. The planted seedlings in 2021 included species from *Ficus benjamina*, *Ficus benghalensis*, *Syzygium* sp., *Artocarpus chama*, *Mangifera longipes*, *Garcinia cowa*, *Bombax* sp.,

Anthocephala chinensis, *Albizia sp.*, *Elaeocarpus tectorius* and *Protium serratum*. The local community was actively involved in the various tree planting activities, in monitoring and maintenance of then plantations, and as daily laborers for maintenance works such weeding of the existing plantations.



Nursery and seedlings plantation activities at Sheikh Jamal Inani National Park.

C) Community Outreach Program

The International Gibbon Day 2021 was organised and celebrated at the Kaptai National Park in October in the framework of this project, which is consider as the significant gibbon habitats of Bangladesh. It was arranged in the form of public consultation and open discussions with involvement of forest department officials, leading gibbon experts, local forest department officials and local communities. Souvenirs such as gibbon t-shirts and calendars were distributed among the participants.

Furthermore, four consultation meetings, 20 awareness campaigns, and 16 school education programmes were conducted at the areas adjacent to major gibbon habitats of southeast, northeast, southern Bangladesh. During these outreach programs, 160 t-shirts and 2000 calendars were distributed among the participants and local communities.

Capacity building is a major aspect for sustainability of gibbon conservation. Nine local community members were trained by this project, and they are now successfully conducting the population census and monitoring and raise awareness among other locals towards the sustainable gibbon conservation.

The project also provided small-scale support to two hunters to discourage them from hunting and they are involved in the project as local research assistants.

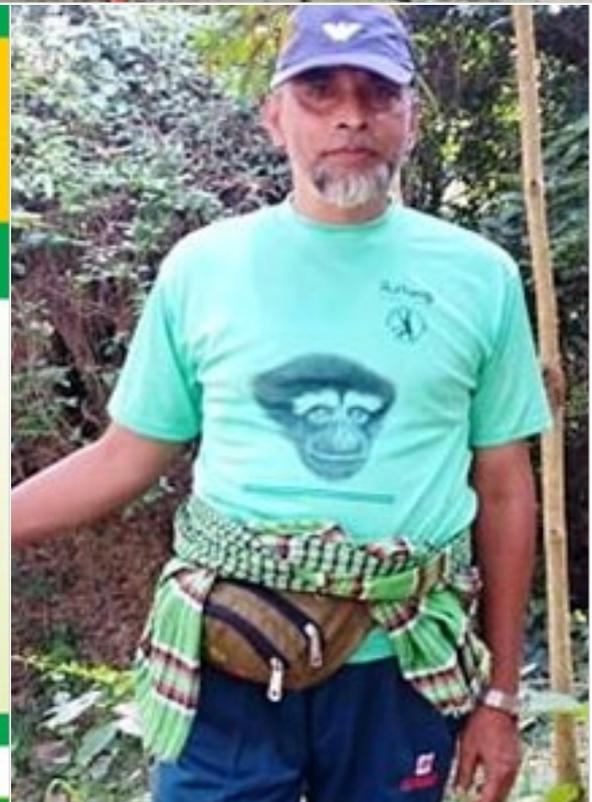



তিগু (Western Hoolock Gibbon) বিলাক তিগু মীচু হাৰা পৰিষ্কাৰ কৰাৰ ব্যৱস্থাপন কৰিব লাগিব।
এই ব্যৱস্থাপনাৰ এটা অংশ হৈছে তিগুৰ প্ৰতি সন্মান।
আজিৰ দিনত তিগুৰ সংখ্যা কমি গৈছে। তিগুৰ সংখ্যা বৃদ্ধি কৰাৰ বাবে তিগুৰ প্ৰতি সন্মান কৰিব লাগিব।
তিগুৰ প্ৰতি সন্মান কৰাৰ বাবে তিগুৰ প্ৰতি সন্মান কৰিব লাগিব।

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Supported by Rufford Foundation Small Grant
Implemented by Western Hoolock Gibbon Conservation Project of Bangladesh

Prepared awareness materials.

4. What do you consider to be the most significant achievement of this work?

5. Briefly describe the involvement of local communities and how they have benefited from the project.

Local communities were directly involved in population census and monitoring, conducting habitat restoration program and maintenance works of the habitat restoration programme. Local communities also provided support to raise awareness among the local communities and forest dependant peoples. They were involved as research assistants and local research assistants. Nine local communities had trained up and they have been successfully conducting the project activities including population monitoring and development of the awareness among the local communities and forest dependant.

6. Are there any plans to continue this work?

This project is a long-term conservation initiative for the western hoolock gibbon in Bangladesh. Community-based western hoolock gibbon conservation activities should continue to get the positive output of the conservation activities of the western hoolock gibbon in Bangladesh. Along with community-based western hoolock gibbon conservation, assessment of the reproductive outputs of the gibbons and preparation of Western Hoolock Gibbon Conservation Action Plans could be very effective for future conservation approach.

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

Project published a scientific paper in Journal of Threatened Taxa entitle "Population assessment of the endangered Western Hoolock Gibbon Hoolock Harlan, 1834 at Sheikh Jamal Inani National Park, Bangladesh, and conservation significance of this site for threatened wildlife species". Project has also plan to share the outputs of the project to a peer-reviewed journal preferable primatological journal.

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

Project has implemented between December 2020 to March 2022. Covid-19 has adversely affected to implement the project activities.

9. 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 | Comments |
|--|-----------------|---------------|------------|---------------------------------------|
| Miscellaneous cost | 200 | 118 | -82 | |
| T-shirt | 100 | 100 | | Prepare extra 10 T-shirt |
| Poster/handout (2000 pieces lump-sum) | 200 | 293 | +93 | 2000 pcs calendar instead of 1000 pcs |
| Celebration of International Gibbon Day 2021 | 300 | 329 | +29 | |
| Honorarium for field investigators | 500 | 528 | +28 | |
| Honorarium for local research assistant | 600 | 680 | +80 | |
| Capacity building programs | 200 | 208 | +8 | |
| School Education programs | 400 | 315 | -85 | |
| Awareness development programs | 400 | 445 | +45 | |
| Consultation meeting | 200 | 193 | -7 | |
| Meals | 500 | 512 | +12 | |
| Accommodation | 650 | 672 | +22 | |
| Travel | 550 | 563 | +13 | Including local travels |
| Habitat Restoration Program | 850 | 920 | +70 | |
| Honorarium for volunteers | 300 | 254 | -46 | |
| Total | 5950 | 6130 | 180 | |

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

Community-based Western hoolock gibbon conservation, assessment of the reproductive variants of the western hoolock gibbon in Bangladesh and preparation of Western hoolock gibbon Conservation Action Plan are the priority works to save the threatened wildlife species of Bangladesh as well as globally.

11. 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?

Project used the logo of Rufford Foundation in scientific publication, banners, t-shirts and souvenirs (calendars).

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

Md Tarik Kabir- Principal Investigator and Field Investigator

Dr. Nadine Ruppert- Supervisor

Dr. Shahrul Anuar Mohd Shah- Co-supervisor

Dr. Thad Q Bartlett- Research Adviser

Dr. Susan Lappan- Research Adviser

Dr. Susan M Cheyne- Research Adviser

Dr. M Farid Ahsan- Research Adviser

Ayesha Khatoon- Research Assistant

M Mizanur Rahman- Research Assistant

Sakib Ahmad- Research Assistant

13. Any other comments?

I have been conducting the western hoolock gibbon research and conservation activities in Bangladesh since 2017. Western hoolock gibbon is a Critically Endangered wildlife species of Bangladesh but the gibbon habitats are rapidly declining due to loss of habitats. The project was also reported the gibbons trade and hunting. The project applicant is conducting conservation activities to minimise the threats to the western hoolock gibbon with direct involvement of the community peoples. It is very urgent to maintain the sustainability of the conservation activities of the gibbons of Bangladesh to get positive output of the conservation of the western hoolock gibbon in Bangladesh.

It would be quite impossible to identify new gibbon habitats of Bangladesh without the support from The Rufford Foundation which will also contribute to further conservation of the western hoolock gibbon in Bangladesh as well as globally.



Unknown gibbons' habitats of Bangladesh.



Implementation of various project activities.