

Final Evaluation Report

Your Details	
Full Name	Anisha Padur Sankaranarayanan
Project Title	Plastic, as an outlander in the diet of Asian Elephant <i>Elephas maximus</i> at Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve (NBR), Tamil Nadu, India.
Application ID	39655-1
Date of this Report	26.05.2024

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
Assessing the spatial pattern of garbage dumping sites in the study area				The study area is vast and we are still trying to map it with the aid of government.
Assessing the plastic ingestion behaviour of elephants by means of dung survey				All the samples that were analysed and some of the representative samples are processed for advanced analysis. Hence, the extended report will be submitted after further analysis.
Sensitizing the native people about plastic awareness				Sensitisation was achieved by the combined action of native people, NGOs and several officials. The information is disseminated to the local department for the same action.

2. Describe the three most important outcomes of your project.

- a).** Adversity of the plastic pollution in an ecologically important landscape is documented.
- b).** The documentation aids in preparing effective action plan to deal with plastic pollution.
- c).** All the important stakeholders such as native people, NGOs and several officials were brought together under single umbrella to fight against increasing plastic pollution.

3. Explain any unforeseen difficulties that arose during the project and how these were tackled.

People's perception was not the same in different study areas about plastic pollution. The severity of the plastic pollution was more due to tourists, who were very hard to be convinced not to use plastics. Sensitisation of the native people was much easier than to deal with the moving population of tourist who come, pollute and go. The sensitisation that we give to the tourists needs to be 24/7 for effective implementation of the plastic ban. But there lies number of potential constraints in dealing with it and to materialise it.

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

Through this study we have interacted with several stakeholders such as native people, government officials and NGOS. We have bridged the gap among all three and they are now actively on their fight towards plastic pollution. They are sensitised about "Waste to Wealth" concepts and they are taught about a means to deal with plastic pollution.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes, I have been actively working on plastic ban in several hill stations and natural habitats. So, far with the aid of teachers and students we have made 40 school campuses plastic-free. The seeds of conservation and the need to not use plastic has been seeded in the minds of several hundreds of students and teachers.

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

1. Disseminating the report to all the stakeholders and among scientific community.
2. Interact and conduct series of workshops for park managers and other stakeholders in a Phase-II, as I have pointed out in my proposal.
3. Publish articles in daily papers and peer reviewed journals.

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

The possible plastic items that need to be banned further and recommendation that needs to be provided to shop keepers and resort owners in this regard, are under preparation. Measures need to be taken to remove and reuse the plastic waste in cement factories, to completely remove the plastic waste from the ecologically important landscapes

8. 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 banners print for workshop and rallies were having the Rufford Foundation logo and publicity was taken to several hundreds of people. I have used the banner with logo several times, during all the stakeholder meeting and awareness activities.

9. Provide a full list of all the members of your team and their role in the project.

Prof. P. Thiruchenthil Nathan- Guide of the project

P.S.Anisha- Team lead

S. Mehabharathi- Field Assistant

P.S.Karthiyani- Public Relations

10. Any other comments?

Although, I am submitting this report as a final one as per Rufford guidelines, I will be submitting the extended report after having the interaction meetings with managers and remaining study is completed.