

## Project Update January 2026

**Rufford I.D.:** 45249-1

**Project Title:** Ecology and Conservation of *Diospyros crumenata*, a Critically Endangered Tree in the Western Ghats Biodiversity Hotspot

### Update:

We have completed almost 10 months of the project period

1. We have located and mapped all the populations of the target species (*Diospyros crumenata*) in Kerala and Karnataka parts of the Western Ghats biodiversity hotspot.
2. We have recorded in situ constraints/threats faced by the species.
3. We have sequenced this species and are working on its genetics.
4. We have studied the impact of climate change on this species using MaxEnt-based ecological niche modeling. We have found that there will be a shrinkage of ecologically suited areas for this species in the near future. We have **published these results in the Integrated Environmental Assessment and Management Journal (Impact Factor- 8.4)**. Citation- Jose, J. K., Saranya, K. R. L., & Surveswaran, S. (2025). Climate change impact on the niche dynamics of *Diospyros crumenata*, a critically endangered tree species in Western Ghats-Sri Lanka Biodiversity Hotspot. *Integrated Environmental Assessment and Management*, vjaf179. (Article attached).
5. We have initiated collaborations in Sri Lanka to conserve this species there.
6. Seeds were collected for germination studies.
7. Got collaborations from the Royal Botanic Garden, Kew and the University of Connecticut for the genetic works.