

## Project Update January 2026

**Rufford I.D.:** 46271-1

**Project Title:** How Do Habitat Covariates and Human Disturbance Influence the Distribution of the Endangered and Endemic Banasura Laughingthrush?

**Update:**

we hired a field coordinator for the project (who is a Keralite). The monsoon and the following post-monsoon showers were unusually long this year, and we did not get a break from the rains. Even though our team was geared up to start the first bout of fieldwork by August–September, the rains continued till November.

Instead of waiting for the rains to subside, we diverted 2–3 months of effort to coordinate the Wayanad Bird Festival, the first of its kind, themed around the Banasura Laughingthrush and the Wayanad landscape as a whole. A detailed report is being prepared on this and will be shared along with the final report. Down To Earth has covered this festival in detail, and I am attaching the [link](#) here for your reference.

The Hume’s Centre for Ecology and Wildlife Biology, in coordination with the Kerala Biodiversity Board, has also selected the Banasura Laughingthrush as the bird of Wayanad, highlighting its critical ecological role and the need for active conservation of both the landscape and the species.

During these months, we have also trained two tribal personnel to track bird nests and conduct line transects. We have now completed a few rounds of reconnaissance surveys after laying grids and points across the field study area. The fieldwork will start in full swing from January and will continue for a year.

In parallel, we will also organise other outreach programs as mentioned in the proposal.