

Project Update October 2025

Rufford I.D.: 47895-1

Project Title: Conserving the Rhino-Horned Lizard and Montane Biodiversity Through Community-Led Schoolyard Conservation in Nuwara Eliya

Update:

A quick field update from Sri Lanka:

- We completed our first field visit from September 25–27.
- Conducted the orientation program at Paynter Memorial School. During the session, we discussed biodiversity and lizards in Sri Lanka, with a special focus on the Rhino-Horned Lizard that the students can find right in their schoolyard, and introduced them to the project timeline. The children were super enthusiastic and curious, and we had 75 students from Grades 6, 7, 8, and 9, and 5 teachers participating.
- Marked transects in the anthropogenic area for our lizard data collection, and carried out a rough field analysis to ground-truth our approach.
- Visited two of the four additional schools where we plan to conduct the upcoming workshops and began scheduling with their principals.

Our next field visit, scheduled for October 24–25, will focus on conducting a one-day workshop with the students and teachers to explore biodiversity issues in greater depth, introduce storytelling and empathy for nature, and prepare them for the upcoming fieldwork phase.